



## San Fernando Valley Audubon Society

Incorporated as California Audubon Society 1913

P.O. Box 7769 Van Nuys, CA 91409-7769

*"For nature education and the conservation of wildlife"*

June 13, 2016

Attn. Mr. Kenneth Wong  
Kenneth.wong at usace.army.mil

Re: SEPULVEDA DAM BASIN VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PLAN -  
Draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment

Dear Mr. Wong:

The San Fernando Valley Audubon Society recommends the selection of Alternative 4 (South Marsh Alternative) for the following reasons:

1. It will do the least damage to existing natural habitats.
2. It will authorize the creation and return of a small but valuable ecosystem that no longer exists within the San Fernando Valley.
3. It will continue to emphasize the removal of invasive non-native plants.
4. It will allow re-vegetation and seed dispersal of appropriate native plants to improve biodiversity.
5. It will meet all USACE goals and requirements for flood risk management, site security, public access and safety, vehicular access, and environmental stewardship.

Additional comments:

1. It must be noted that Alternative 1 (No Action) is not a true no action alternative. In fact, it may be the most intensive action alternative in that it calls for mowing nearly the entire area every year instead of every 4 years as in Alternative 4. It also calls for tree removal, tree trimming, herbicide application, and vehicle access improvement and maintenance. This "no action" would thereby be the most destructive to the native vegetation and wildlife.
2. Although Alternative 4 is the preferred alternative, we believe that it also calls for overly intensive physical "management" of the area and we would prefer that the mowing activities not take place for 1 year between each 4 year cycle (creating a 5 year cycle) of mowing/brush clearance. This year could be spent focusing on removing non-native trees and vegetation along the included section of Haskell Creek and replacing those with native plants (as described in the "Plan" but not scheduled). And unless I am mistaken, the current Master Plan actually calls for a 5 year VMP.

Thank you for consideration of our comments.

Sincerely,  
Kris Ohlenkamp  
Kris.ohlenkamp at sbcglobal.net