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## California Environmental Quality Act

### Notice of Completion of a Final Program Environmental Impact Report

Date: August 14, 2020

To: Commenting Public Agencies

Subject: Notice of Completion of a **Final Program Environmental Impact Report for the San Jacinto Wildlife Area Land Management Plan** (2016061018) Unincorporated Riverside County and cities of Moreno Valley and Beaumont, County of Riverside

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Notice is hereby given that the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has prepared a Final Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) that is being distributed in accordance with Public Resources Code Section 21092.5, which requires copies of written responses to comments and the Final EIR be forwarded to commenting public agencies at least 10 days prior to certification of the PEIR.

The Final PEIR, including written responses to comments, is available for review online on CDFW's website at:

<https://wildlife.ca.gov/Lands/Planning/San-Jacinto-Valley-WA>

Project Location:

The SJWA project area is currently composed of approximately 20,126 acres of land located in Southern California within central Riverside County. The SJWA consists of three noncontiguous land areas: the Davis Unit (two land areas) and the Potrero Unit. The Davis Unit generally consists of approximately 10,996 acres in the San Jacinto River Valley. The larger portion of the Davis Unit is located east of Lake Perris, and a smaller portion of land is located west of Lake Perris. The Potrero Unit consists of approximately 9,130 acres in the foothills of the San Jacinto Mountains (also referred to as "the Badlands").

The Lake Perris State Recreation Area shares a boundary along the western edge of the Davis Unit. Most of the Davis Unit is located within unincorporated Riverside County, but a small portion of the northern edge of the Davis Unit is located within the incorporated City of Moreno Valley, which lies to the north

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and west of the Davis Unit. The cities of Hemet and San Jacinto are located to the east, and the unincorporated rural Riverside County communities of Lakeview and Nuevo are located south of the Davis Unit.

The Potrero Unit is located approximately 3 miles east of the Davis Unit. The vast majority of the Potrero Unit is located within the City of Beaumont, with a portion on the western edge located in unincorporated Riverside County. The Potrero Unit is bordered on the east by Bureau of Land Management land and to the southeast by the Soboba Indian Reservation. The Potrero Unit is located approximately 3 miles south of Interstate 10 (I-10), and portions of its western boundary are defined by State Highway 79 (SR-79) (also referred to as Lamb Canyon Road).

Purpose of the Land Management Plan:

CDFW has prepared the LMP to help guide its future planning and management operations for the SJWA. The general purpose of the SJWA is to protect and enhance habitat for plant and wildlife species and to provide the public with compatible, related recreational uses. The existing operation of the SJWA includes public uses, which are incorporated into the LMP. Public uses that would continue to be permitted under the LMP include waterfowl and upland game hunting, bird watching, hiking, hunting dog training, horseback riding, nature study, photography, and mountain biking. The specific purposes of the SJWA LMP are as follows:

To guide the management of habitats, species, and programs described herein to achieve the CDFW's mission to protect and enhance wildlife values.

To serve as a guide for appropriate wildlife-associated and other public uses of the property.

To serve as a descriptive inventory of fish, wildlife, and native plant habitats that occur on and use this property.

To provide an overview of the property's operation and maintenance and personnel requirements to implement management goals and objectives.

To provide a description of potential and actual environmental impacts and subsequent mitigation that may occur during management, and to provide environmental documentation to comply with state and federal statutes and regulations.

The LMP identifies goals and actions for the management of the SJWA, which are broadly designed to manage and enhance biological resources while providing wildlife-compatible public use. Management is categorized in three

hierarchical levels: elements, goals, and tasks. The elements are the management categories or considerations; the goals identify the conditions management is designed to achieve; and tasks are the steps that will be taken to attain the goals. The management goals and actions of the SJWA LMP include biological and public uses.

#### Summary of Project Description:

The proposed project consists of an LMP for the approximately 20,126-acre SJWA, which is managed by CDFW. The LMP guides the management of habitats, species, and programs to achieve the CDFW's mission to protect and enhance wildlife values and serves as a guide for appropriate public uses of the property. The LMP provides an overview of the property's operation and maintenance and personnel requirements to implement management goals and objectives.

As Lead Agency under CEQA, CDFW has prepared this document pursuant to CEQA Guidelines § 15132, which specifies a Final EIR consist of the following elements:

- a) The Draft EIR or a revision of the draft.
- b) Comments and recommendations received on the Draft EIR, either verbatim or in summary.
- c) A list of persons, organizations, and public agencies commenting on the Draft EIR.
- d) Responses of the Lead Agency to significant environmental points raised in the review and consultation process.
- e) Any other information added by the Lead Agency.

The Final EIR has been prepared in accordance with CEQA and CEQA Guidelines.

For additional information, please contact Richard Kim, Senior Environmental Scientist, [Richard.Kim@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:Richard.Kim@wildlife.ca.gov).