

3.10 Land Use

This supplemental environmental impact report (SEIR) addresses proposed modifications to the B.F. Sisk Dam Safety of Dams Modification Project, which was previously evaluated in the B.F. Sisk Dam Safety of Dams Modification Project Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (2019 EIS/EIR). The project addressed in the 2019 EIS/EIR is referred to herein as the Approved Project; the Approved Project with proposed modifications identified since certification of the 2019 EIS/EIR is referred to herein as the Modified Project.

This section describes the existing land use and planning conditions of the Modified Project site and vicinity, identifies associated regulatory requirements, evaluates potential impacts, and identifies any applicable mitigation measures related to implementation of the Modified Project.

3.10.1 Existing Conditions

The area of analysis for land use includes areas where construction and operations of the proposed changes to the Approved Project of the 2019 EIS/EIR would take place and could result in effects related to resulting changes in existing land use or inconsistency with adopted plans, policies, and regulations guiding land use in the Modified Project area. These areas include land directly surrounding San Luis Reservoir, including the San Luis Reservoir State Recreation Area (SRA) and O’Neill Forebay, as well as the additional San Luis Creek Day Use Area and proposed campground area along O’Neill Forebay. The unincorporated area surrounding the SRA is mostly undeveloped and primarily owned by the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation). However, some of the surrounding land is owned or managed by other agencies. These areas include Pacheco State Park (owned and managed by the California Department of Parks and Recreation [CDPR]) and Upper and Lower Cottonwood Wildlife Areas (owned and managed by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife [CDFW]). As shown in Figure 3.10-1, Land Management and Ownership Status, Reclamation-owned lands within and surrounding the San Luis Reservoir SRA are managed by CDFW, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), and CDPR (Reclamation and CDPR 2013).

3.10.1.1 Merced County

Although the local land use designations per Merced County (County) do not apply to state or federally owned lands (i.e., the Modified Project site), this information is provided for context and setting, and applies to lands within Merced County adjacent to the Modified Project site. Land in Merced County is divided into zones to regulate land use, allow for planned development, and to implement the Merced Vision 2030 General Plan (Merced County General Plan). These zones include agricultural, residential, commercial, mixed-use, industrial, special planning, and planned development zones. Most of land within the county is zoned as General Agriculture or Exclusive Agriculture. The Exclusive Agriculture zone corresponds to the Merced County General Plan land use designations of Agriculture (0–0.025 dwelling units per acre [du/ac]), Agriculture Residential (0–0.33 du/ac), Urban Reserve, and Foothill Pasture (0–0.0125 du/ac). The General Agriculture (A-1) zone corresponds with the Merced County General Plan land use designations of Agriculture (0–0.05 du/ac), Agriculture Residential (0–0.33 du/ac), and Urban Reserve. The General Agriculture (A-1-40) zone is the same as General Agriculture except the allowable density for Agriculture is 0–0.025 du/ac. Most land in the county is designated in the Merced County General Plan as Agriculture or Foothill Pasture land and lies outside of existing cities, separated from Rural Centers, Urban Communities, and Highway Interchange Centers (Merced County 2013).

While Merced County land use controls do not apply to the federal lands of the San Luis Reservoir SRA and the Modified Project site, the SRA and Modified Project site are zoned Exclusive Agriculture by the County and designated in the Merced County General Plan as Foothill Pasture land, except for the northernmost area of O’Neill Forebay, which is zoned General Agriculture (A-1) and designated as Agriculture in the Merced County General Plan. Per the Merced County General Plan, County land surrounding the reservoir and the San Luis Reservoir SRA is primarily within the Foothill Pasture land use designation (see Figure 3.10-2, General Plan Land Use). Lands to the southeast of the reservoir include privately owned ranchlands, agricultural lands, public utility uses, and other scattered nonresidential uses (Reclamation and CDPR 2013). While Merced County General Plan land use designations are not enforceable within the San Luis Reservoir SRA and Modified Project site, the designations applied by the County to the SRA and surrounding areas reflect the County’s intent for future development in the area and are generally considered in making land use decisions within the SRA in accordance with the San Luis Reservoir State Recreation Area Resource Management Plan/General Plan (San Luis Reservoir SRA RMP/GP) (Reclamation and CDPR 2013), which is discussed further in Section 3.10.1.2, below.

As portrayed by the County zoning and Merced County General Plan land use designations, the California Department of Conservation Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program (FMMP) data also shows that most lands in the county are suitable for agricultural use. The FMMP rates land according to soil quality and irrigation status in order to produce maps and statistical data pertaining to California’s agricultural resources. Table 3.10-1 summarizes the land use acreages in the county according to FMMP data.

Table 3.10-1. Summary of Land Use Acreages in Merced County by Category

Agricultural Land	Urban and Built-Up Land	Other Land	Water Area
1,158,655	38,737	51,568	16,674

Source: DOC 2015.

3.10.1.2 San Luis Reservoir State Recreation Area

CDPR, in partnership with Reclamation, has developed and adopted the San Luis Reservoir SRA RMP/GP, in order to direct the future development, operations, and maintenance of the SRA. The plan was officially adopted in 2013 with a planning horizon of 25 years. CDPR and Reclamation continue to collaborate on the San Luis Reservoir SRA RMP/GP to guide future growth and development within the SRA. Compared to the Merced County General Plan, the San Luis Reservoir SRA RMP/GP focuses solely on the San Luis Reservoir SRA. The plan area of the San Luis Reservoir SRA RMP/GP consists of 27,000 acres owned by Reclamation and includes the water surfaces of San Luis Reservoir, O’Neill Forebay, Los Banos Reservoir, and adjacent recreation lands in the vicinity of Los Banos.

The San Luis Reservoir SRA RMP/GP defines distinct geographic divisions, or management zones, based on physical, social, and management characteristics (Reclamation and CDPR 2013). Land uses in each of the management zones include the following:

- **Administration and Operations Zone.** This zone accommodates staff administrative, operations, and maintenance activities, as well as limited staff-supported public uses.
- **Frontcountry Zone.** This zone accommodates most visitor facilities and activities, as well as camping and concessions.
- **Backcountry Zone.** This zone accommodates resource management actions, less-intensive recreation, and limited facilities for camping and mixed-use trails.

Figure 3.10-3, Land Management Zones, shows the management zones around San Luis Reservoir and O'Neill Forebay.

3.10.1.3 Project Site

As described previously, the San Luis Reservoir SRA RMP/GP defines land management zones based on physical, social, and management characteristics. This includes the Administration and Operations zone, the Frontcountry zone, and the Backcountry zone. The Modified Project includes components in all three of these land management zones. Figure 3.10-3 shows the land management zones around the reservoir and within the Modified Project boundary, including Modified Project components added subsequent to the 2019 EIS/EIR.

Table 3.10-2 summarizes the location and acreages of the land management zones within and near areas where construction and operation would occur, including both existing components from the Approved Project and new components included under the Modified Project.

Table 3.10-2. Land Management Zones Around and Within the Modified Project Boundary

Management Zone/Reservoir Areas	Location
Approved Project Components	
Administration/Operations Zone	
San Luis Reservoir	Northeast side of San Luis Dam
Frontcountry Zone	
Basalt Use Area	Southeast side of San Luis Reservoir
Medeiros Use Area	South side of O'Neill Forebay
Off-Highway Vehicle Use Area	South of SR-152 and Gonzaga Road, east of Headquarters office
Backcountry Zone	
Medeiros Use Area	South of Medeiros Frontcountry Zone and north of SR-152
Basalt Hill Borrow Area	South side of San Luis Reservoir
Borrow Area 6	South side of O'Neill Forebay, north of SR-152
Modified Project Components	
Administration/Operations Zone	
Additional Staging and Stockpiling Areas	West of the Gianelli Pumping-Generating Plant; southeast corner of San Luis Reservoir
Additional Temporary Haul Road Area	Southeast corner of San Luis Reservoir
Borrow Area 12	Southeast of San Luis Reservoir, south of O'Neill Forebay
Frontcountry Zone	
Additional Staging and Stockpiling Areas (partially)	Southeast side of San Luis Reservoir
Borrow Area 14	East of San Luis Reservoir, east of Basalt Road
San Luis Day Creek Use Area Improvements	West side of O'Neill Forebay
Proposed Campground Areas	West side of O'Neill Forebay, north of San Luis Creek Day Use Area
Backcountry Zone	
Additional Staging and Stockpiling Areas (partially)	Southeast side of San Luis Reservoir

Source: Reclamation and DWR 2019.

Note: SR = State Route.

3.10.2 Relevant Plans, Policies, and Ordinances

3.10.2.1 Federal

There are no federal plans, policies, or ordinances related to land use that are relevant to the Modified Project.

3.10.2.2 State

San Luis Reservoir State Recreation Area Resource Management Plan/General Plan

As described in the 2019 EIS/EIR, the San Luis Reservoir SRA RMP/GP was prepared for the San Luis Reservoir SRA and adjoining Reclamation land (Reclamation and CDPR 2013). These areas are managed by state agencies including CDPR, DWR, and CDFW, in association with Reclamation. Elements of the plan include limiting areas of future development and avoiding environmentally sensitive areas; goals for the protection, management, and restoration of vegetation and wildlife; and goals and guidelines related to recreation, public utilities, services, and power.

As noted in Section 3.10.1.2, San Luis Reservoir State Recreation Area, CDPR developed the San Luis Reservoir SRA RMP/GP in partnership with Reclamation, and adopted the 25-year plan in 2013. CDPR and Reclamation continue to collaborate on the San Luis Reservoir SRA RMP/GP, with CDPR managing most of the plan area in partnership with Reclamation. The CDPR planning process is integrated with Reclamation’s resource management planning process.

The San Luis Reservoir SRA RMP/GP consists of 27,000 acres owned by Reclamation and includes the water surfaces of San Luis Reservoir, O’Neill Forebay, Los Banos Reservoir, and adjacent recreation lands in the vicinity of Los Banos. The plan area is part of the water storage and delivery system of reservoirs, aqueducts, power plants, and pumping stations operated under the California State Water Project and CVP. Lands managed by CDPR for recreation are part of the state park system and comprise the SRA. The San Luis Reservoir SRA RMP/GP’s primary objective is to identify general areas in which future development may occur for recreation management. The plan includes an overview of existing conditions, including a summary of opportunities and constraints, a plan for future use and management of the plan area, and the associated environmental analysis pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act and California Environmental Quality Act (Reclamation and CDPR 2013).

Land use goals and guidelines included in the San Luis Reservoir SRA RMP/GP that are applicable to the Modified Project include the following (Reclamation and CDPR 2013):

Interagency Cooperation (REG-C)

Goal REG-C1: Develop cooperative relationships with adjacent landowners, and local, state, and federal agencies (including Reclamation, CSP, DFW and DWR) to share resources and coordinate implementation of Plan Area management actions.

Guidelines:

- Continue to work with California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (Cal Fire) for emergency, rescue, fire, or other incidents requiring mutual aid.
- Continue the regular forum of information exchange initiated in the planning process so that appropriate agencies are aware of issues and projects and how they affect Plan Area resources and facilities.

Regional Plans (REG-P)

Goal REG-P1: Provide information to local governments on regional planning initiatives and surrounding development to assist in making them consistent with the Plan Area purpose and vision.

Guidelines:

- As staff time allows, regularly review applications to Merced or Santa Clara County for development in the vicinity of the Plan Area and coordinate planning for common features such as access roads and related infrastructure.
- Review and comment where applicable on Merced or Santa Clara County General Plan updates and regional projects such as the high-speed rail and other future projects.

3.10.2.3 Local

Merced County Zoning Code

On October 22, 2019, the Merced County Board of Supervisors adopted a new zoning code (Title 18). The Merced County Zoning Code (Zoning Code) is intended to carry out the policies of the Merced County General Plan, to guide the future growth and development of the county, to protect the character of various areas within the county, to prevent danger to public safety, and to prevent overcrowding and congestion on the land (Merced County 2020). The Zoning Code applies to all uses of land, structures, subdivisions, and development in the unincorporated area in the county, regardless of ownership. The county is divided into zones to allow for the orderly, planned development of the county and to implement the Merced County General Plan. Per the Zoning Code, every parcel in unincorporated Merced County shall have a base zone that establishes the primary type and intensity of land use allowed, along with development regulations for that type and intensity of land use. These zones include agricultural, residential, commercial, mixed-use, industrial, special planning, and planned development zones. The Modified Project site is mostly within the Exclusive Agriculture zone, with half of the proposed campground area within the General Agriculture (A-1) zone. The Zoning Code permits public parks and recreational areas (i.e., campgrounds) in all agricultural zones of the county.

Merced Vision 2030 General Plan

As required by state law, Merced County has adopted a general plan to guide land use decisions within the county. The general plan provides goals, policies, standards, and implementation programs to guide the physical development of a county. At a minimum, the general plan must address the topics of land use, transportation, housing, conservation, open space, noise, and safety. The Merced Vision 2030 General Plan (Merced County General Plan), adopted in 2013, has established the year 2030 as the plan’s time horizon. The Merced County General Plan includes central ideas that represent the County’s philosophy about growth and development (“guiding principles”) formulated through outreach efforts within the county. The five guiding principles of the County are as follows (Merced County 2013):

1. **Agriculture.** Agriculture is the backbone and essential part of Merced County’s economy. It is a way of life that must be supported, and protected to assure the industry’s continued vitality.
2. **Economic Development.** Merced County must seek methods to expand and diversify its local economy in order to create and sustain employment and business opportunities that enable existing and future residents to improve their quality of life.

3. **Environmental Quality.** The natural resources of Merced County, including air, water, energy, wildlife, and scenery, must be protected to assure a high quality of life for Merced County residents today and in the future.
4. **Public Facilities and Services.** New growth and development in Merced County must be responsible for, have access to, and fully fund all essential public facilities and services, including water, sewer, storm water drainage, roadways, schools, government centers, and recreation.
5. **Transportation.** The Merced County transportation system, including freeways, highways, streets, bike and pedestrian pathways, mass transit, airports, and rail, must be coordinated, networked, adequately constructed, and maintained to meet the needs of residents and businesses.

Additionally, the Merced County General Plan establishes land use designations with different development standards to guide growth in the county in a way that upholds the above guiding principles.

Specific land use policies included in the Merced County General Plan for these designations include the following (Merced County 2013):

- **Policy LU-2.1: Agricultural Designation:** Apply the Agricultural land use designation as the primary designation in the County to support productive agricultural lands and promote the agricultural industry.
- **Policy LU-2.2: Foothill Pasture Designation:** Apply the Foothill Pasture land use designation on agricultural and open space lands located on the eastern and western edges of the County which are recognized for their value as grazing, cropland, and open space.
- **Policy LU-2.3: Land Use Activity Limitations:** Limit allowed land use within Agricultural and Foothill Pasture areas to agricultural crop production, farm support operations, and grazing and open space uses.
- **Policy LU-2.4: Secondary Uses in Agricultural Areas:** Except as otherwise provided by law, limit ancillary uses in Agricultural and Foothill Pasture areas to include secondary single-family residences, farm worker housing, agricultural tourism related uses, and agricultural support services, provided that such uses do not interfere with historic agricultural practices, result in adverse health risks, or conflict with sensitive habitats or other biological resources.

3.10.3 Thresholds of Significance

The following significance criteria from the 2019 EIS/EIR are used for the purposes of analysis in this SEIR. These criteria, which have not changed from the 2019 EIS/EIR, are identified in Chapter 17, Land Use, of the 2019 EIS/EIR. A significant impact related to land use and planning would occur if the Modified Project would:

1. Physically divide an established community.
2. Conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the Modified Project (including, but not limited to, the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environment effect.
3. Conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan.

3.10.4 Impacts Analysis

Threshold 1

Would the Modified Project physically divide an established community?

2019 EIS/EIR Impact Determination	Modified Project Impact Determination	New Significant Increase in Impact Severity?
Less than Significant	Less than Significant	No

Campground Construction and Day Use Area Improvements

The Modified Project would construct a new permanent campground on the northwestern shoreline of O’Neill Forebay and make improvements to the existing San Luis Creek Day Use Area along the western shoreline of the forebay and within the existing SRA. The facilities would be managed by CDPR as part of the San Luis Reservoir SRA. Disturbance associated with the Modified Project would be limited to areas receiving the improvements, as subject to additional planning and design by DWR and CDPR. The total area of disturbance associated with these improvements would not exceed 5 acres.

There are no established communities present within the area of the proposed campground and facility improvements. The closest developed community, Santa Nella, is approximately 1.5 miles east of O’Neill Forebay. Campground construction activities would not physically divide the community of Santa Nella, or any other towns in the county. Thus, campground construction and improvement activities would have **no impact** related to physical division of an established community.

Changes in Borrow Area Location

The Modified Project has identified two additional borrows, Borrow Area 12 and Borrow Area 14, for potential material extraction for dam construction. Borrow Area 12 and Borrow Area 14 are within the overall construction footprint identified by the 2019 EIS/EIR, but were identified in that document and analyzed as anticipated contractor staging areas. Material would be extracted from these borrow areas and used to reinforce the existing B.F. Sisk Dam. Once sufficient material has been extracted, the borrow areas would be graded and restored back to natural landform.

There are no communities present in the vicinity of Borrow Area 12 or Borrow Area 14. The closest developed community, Santa Nella, is approximately 1.5 miles east of O’Neill Forebay and 3.2 miles northeast of the new borrow area locations. Changes in borrow area locations and associated changes in haul routes included in the Modified Project would not physically divide the community of Santa Nella or result in a physical division of any other established communities. Thus, the changes in borrow area location would have **no impact** related to physical division of an established community.

Minor Additions to Contractor Work Area

The Modified Project includes minor temporary and permanent expansions of contractor work areas downstream of the dam that were not part of the original study area addressed in the 2019 EIS/EIR. The additional contractor work areas include areas at the foot of the dam covered by new stability berms, newly identified borrow and staging areas, areas where the roadway would be widened, the proposed new campground, and improvements to the San Luis Creek Day Use Area.

There are no communities present at or near the contractor work areas; the closest developed community is Santa Nella approximately 1.5 miles east of O’Neill Forebay and over 2 miles northeast of the additional contractor work areas. Minor additions to the contractor work area would not physically divide the community of Santa Nella or any other established communities in the vicinity of the Modified Project. Thus, the minor additions to contractor work areas would have **no impact** related to physical division of an established community.

Additional Construction Assumptions

Additional construction assumptions include changes to the construction schedule, the inclusion of the campground development and improvement, and dewatering specifications for proposed excavations at the base of the dam. These construction assumptions would not involve any changes to land use and thus would not physically divide the community of Santa Nella or any other towns in the county. Thus, there would be **no impact** related to physical division of an established community.

Cumulative Impacts

The area of analysis for cumulative land use impacts includes San Luis Reservoir, including the SRA, O’Neill Forebay, and Merced County as a whole. As shown, the Modified Project would generate no short-term or long-term impacts related to division of an established community in the area of analysis. The new components proposed under the Modified Project would take place on land owned and/or managed by Reclamation, CDFW, DWR, and CDPR. Development within the Modified Project boundary would not result in any effects to established communities, such as Santa Nella located approximately 1.5 miles east of O’Neill Forebay, more than 2.0 miles east across O’Neill Forebay of the proposed campground site and the San Luis Creek Day Use Area, and approximately 3.2 miles northeast of the new borrow area locations. Cumulative projects, such as the B.F. Sisk Dam Raise and Reservoir Expansion Project (reservoir expansion project) put forth by the San Luis & Delta–Mendota Water Authority and those mentioned in the 2019 EIS/EIR, would not combine with the Modified Project to create a cumulatively significant impact. Additionally, any future growth and development in the area of analysis would undergo environmental review with mitigation for significant land use impacts related to division of established communities, as required. The Modified Project would result in **no considerable contribution to cumulative impacts** related to division of an established community.

Comparison to 2019 EIS/EIR

The additional project components analyzed above would result in no impacts and therefore impacts of the Modified Project would not result in a significant increase in the severity of impacts as determined in the 2019 EIS/EIR. Impacts of the Modified Project would remain less than significant.

Threshold 2

Would the Modified Project conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the Modified Project (including, but not limited to, the general plan, specific plan, local coastal program, or zoning ordinance) adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environment effect?

2019 EIS/EIR Impact Determination	Modified Project Impact Determination	New Significant Increase in Impact Severity?
Less than Significant	Less than Significant	No

Campground Construction and Day Use Area Improvements

Lands at the reservoir are owned by a combination of Reclamation and CDFW and are managed by a combination of CDPR, DWR, and CDFW. In compliance with the San Luis Reservoir SRA RMP/GP, the Modified Project would continue the cooperative relationships between local, state, and federal agencies (including Reclamation, CDPR, DWR, and CDFW) to share resources and coordinate implementation of management actions, per Goal REG-C1 in the San Luis Reservoir SRA RMP/GP. Additionally, Goal REG-P1 of the San Luis Reservoir SRA RMP/GP sets a goal for Reclamation and CDPR to provide information to local governments on regional planning initiatives and surrounding development to assist in making them consistent with the San Luis Reservoir SRA RMP/GP purpose and vision. Overlapping planning efforts can cause oversight of important issues relevant to the plan area planning. The Modified Project would not overlap with any planning efforts that would conflict with the purpose and vision of the San Luis Reservoir SRA RMP/GP. This includes the reservoir expansion project put forth by the San Luis & Delta–Mendota Water Authority directly atop a portion of the Modified Project site (refer to the cumulative analysis provided in this section and throughout this SEIR). Reclamation, CDFW, CDPR, and DWR would continue their cooperative relationships and would ensure that projects overlapping with the Modified Project would be consistent with each other and with the goals of the San Luis Reservoir SRA RMP/GP.

The Modified Project would not require any property acquisitions of land outside of the San Luis Reservoir SRA, including adjacent lands under the jurisdiction of the County, and would require no change in land use designations in adjacent areas under County jurisdiction. The campground construction and improvements to the San Luis Creek Day Use Area would not affect existing adjacent land uses under the jurisdiction of the County or preclude the County’s ability to implement its General Plan. The campground would not be adjacent to existing agricultural uses on adjacent lands under County jurisdiction and would not interfere with such uses. The campground would not result in adverse health or safety risks and would result in no conflict with sensitive habitats or other biological resources. Therefore, the Modified Project would not conflict with the Merced County General Plan or relevant policies discussed above.

As described above, campground construction and improvement activities would be temporary and would be carried out consistent with the policies set forth in the San Luis Reservoir SRA RMP/GP. Buildings and offices within the San Luis Reservoir SRA RMP/GP Administration and Operations zone would remain intact and operational during and after the proposed construction period. Furthermore, the Modified Project would not interfere with any agriculture practices consistent with Merced County General Plan Policies LU-2.1 and LU-2.4. Additionally, potential impacts resulting from the Modified Project are analyzed throughout Chapter 3, Environmental Analysis, of this SEIR; where potentially significant impacts would occur, mitigation to the extent feasible is incorporated into the Modified Project consistent with applicable plans, policies, or regulations. Therefore, campground construction and improvement activities would not result in impacts related to conflicts with an applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environment effect.

Operation of the Modified Project would generally be consistent with the current operations of the water supply infrastructure at San Luis Reservoir. New components proposed under the Modified Project, such as the proposed campground and other improvements, would not result in any substantial impact to current land use plans. Thus, there would be no substantial change from the existing conditions or any new or more severe impact than identified in the 2019 EIS/EIR. Therefore, operation of the Modified Project would not result in impacts resulting from conflicts with an applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation adopted for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environment effect. Operation of the Modified Project would have a **less-than-significant impact** on land use.

Changes in Borrow Area Location

The two additional borrow areas, Borrow Area 12 and Borrow Area 14, would not result in any changes to land use that would conflict with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation. Borrow Area 12 and Borrow Area 14 are within the overall construction footprint identified by the 2019 EIS/EIR, but were identified in that document and analyzed as anticipated contractor staging areas. The Modified Project site would continue to include open space areas for both recreational uses and wildlife preservation, and the new borrow area sites would not result in a significant conflict with these uses. After materials extraction is complete at Borrow Areas 12 and 14, the sites would be graded to achieve a natural appearance and topography and would be revegetated per a remediation plan. Thus, there would be no operational impacts on land use resulting from the Modified Project-related borrow area use. As stated in the above discussion for the campground construction, the Modified Project would also not conflict with the policies of the San Luis Reservoir SRA RMP/GP. Additionally, potential impacts to environment resulting from the Modified Project are analyzed throughout Chapter 3 of this SEIR; where potentially significant impacts would occur, mitigation to the extent feasible is incorporated into the Modified Project consistent with applicable plans, policies, or regulations. Therefore, changes in borrow area location would not impact land use by conflicting with an applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation for the purpose of avoiding or mitigating an environment effect. The impact would be a **less than significant**.

Minor Additions to Contractor Work Area

The Modified Project boundary includes minor temporary and permanent expansions of contractor work areas downstream of the dam that were not part of the original study area addressed in the 2019 EIS/EIR. The additional contractor work areas include areas at the foot of the dam covered by new stability berms, newly identified borrow and staging areas, and areas where haul routes would be widened. These minor additions to contractor work areas would result in no change in impacts evaluated in the 2019 EIS/EIR for temporary construction effects on recreational and open space uses of the SRA. As stated in the above discussions, the Modified Project would not conflict with the policies of the San Luis Reservoir SRA RMP/GP. Additionally, potential impacts to environment resulting from the Modified Project are analyzed throughout Chapter 3 of this SEIR; where potentially significant impacts would occur, mitigation to the extent feasible is incorporated into the Modified Project consistent with applicable plans, policies, or regulations. Therefore, minor additions to the contractor work area would result in no impacts associated with any conflict with applicable land use plans, policies, or regulations intended to avoid any environmental impacts. The impact would be **less than significant**.

Additional Construction Assumptions

Additional construction assumptions include changes to the construction schedule, the inclusion of the campground development and improvement, and dewatering specifications for proposed excavations at the base of the Dam. Additionally, potential impacts to environment resulting from the Modified Project are analyzed

throughout Chapter 3 of this SEIR; where potentially significant impacts would occur, mitigation to the extent feasible is incorporated into the Modified Project consistent with applicable plans, policies, or regulations. These construction assumptions would result in no conflict with any applicable land use plans or regulations not evaluated in the 2019 EIS/EIR; impacts would be **less than significant**.

Cumulative Impacts

The area of analysis for cumulative land use impacts includes San Luis Reservoir, including the SRA, O'Neill Forebay, and Merced County as a whole. As shown, the Modified Project would generate no short-term or long-term impacts on land use in the area of analysis and would not conflict with any applicable land use plans or policies. The new components proposed under the Modified Project would take place on land owned and/or managed by Reclamation, CDFW, DWR, and CDPR, and these agencies would continue their cooperative relationships in coordinating implementation of the Modified Project, consistent with the San Luis Reservoir SRA RMP/GP goals. The Modified Project would continue to supply open space lands for active and passive recreational activities and for land/wildlife conservation purposes, and would not interfere with historic or current agricultural practices or conflict with existing zoning or land use designations or policies set forth in the Merced County General Plan for adjacent land uses. The Modified Project would not result in impacts associated with inconsistencies with adopted land use plans or policies and would not result in a considerable contribution to cumulative impacts that could result from inconsistencies or conflicts with adopted plans and policies for the purposes of avoiding environmental impacts. Cumulative projects, such as the reservoir expansion project proposed by the San Luis & Delta–Mendota Water Authority and those mentioned in the 2019 EIS/EIR, would not combine with the Modified Project to create a cumulatively significant impact, as consistency with land use plans and policies would be evaluated on a project-by-project basis. Other foreseeable projects in the region would be analyzed for consistency with land use plans in appropriate environmental impact documents and impacts would be mitigated as required to comply with applicable plans, policies, and regulations for the protection of resources and avoidance of environmental impacts. Thus, the Modified Project would not result in cumulatively considerable contribution to impacts resulting from any conflict with land use plans or policies. As such, there would be no contribution to cumulative effects and **no impact** related to conflict with land use plans or policies.

Comparison to 2019 EIS/EIR

The additional project components analyzed above would result in less-than-significant impacts and therefore impacts of the Modified Project would not result in a significant increase in the severity of impacts as determined in the 2019 EIS/EIR. Impacts of the Modified Project would remain less than significant.

Threshold 3

Would the Modified Project conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan?

2019 EIS/EIR Impact Determination	Modified Project Impact Determination	New Significant Increase in Impact Severity?
No Impact	No Impact	No

Campground Construction and Day Use Area Improvements

Merced County, including the San Luis Reservoir region, is within the plan area for Pacific Gas and Electric Company's (PG&E's) San Joaquin Valley Operations and Maintenance Habitat Conservation Plan (PG&E 2006), and there is a PG&E easement under the transmission line that crosses the Modified Project site at Borrow Area 6 and the San Luis Creek Use Area. Further discussion of consistency of the Modified Project with PG&E's habitat conservation plan is provided under Threshold 6 in Section 3.9, Biological Resources, which concluded that the Modified Project would not result in impacts from any conflict or inconsistency with the habitat conservation plan. Therefore, the Modified Project would have **no impact** from any conflict with an adopted conservation plan.

Minor Additions to Contractor Work Area

The additional contractor work areas evaluated under this SEIR do not include any PG&E lands or easements and **no impact** would result from a conflict or inconsistency with an adopted conservation plan.

Additional Construction Assumptions

As described previously, additional construction assumptions do not affect any areas subject to PG&E's habitat conservation plan. Further discussion of consistency of the Modified Project with the PG&E's habitat conservation plan is provided under Threshold 6 in Section 3.9, which concluded that the Modified Project would not result in impacts from any conflict or inconsistency with the habitat conservation plan. **No impact** would occur from any conflict or inconsistency with an adopted conservation plan.

Cumulative Impacts

Because there would be no impacts to habitat conservation plans or natural community conservation plans as a result of the Modified Project, there would be **no contribution to cumulative effects**.

Comparison to 2019 EIS/EIR

The additional project components analyzed above would result in no impacts and therefore impacts of the Modified Project would not result in a significant increase in the severity of impacts as determined in the 2019 EIS/EIR. Impacts of the Modified Project would continue to result in no impact.

3.10.5 Mitigation Measures

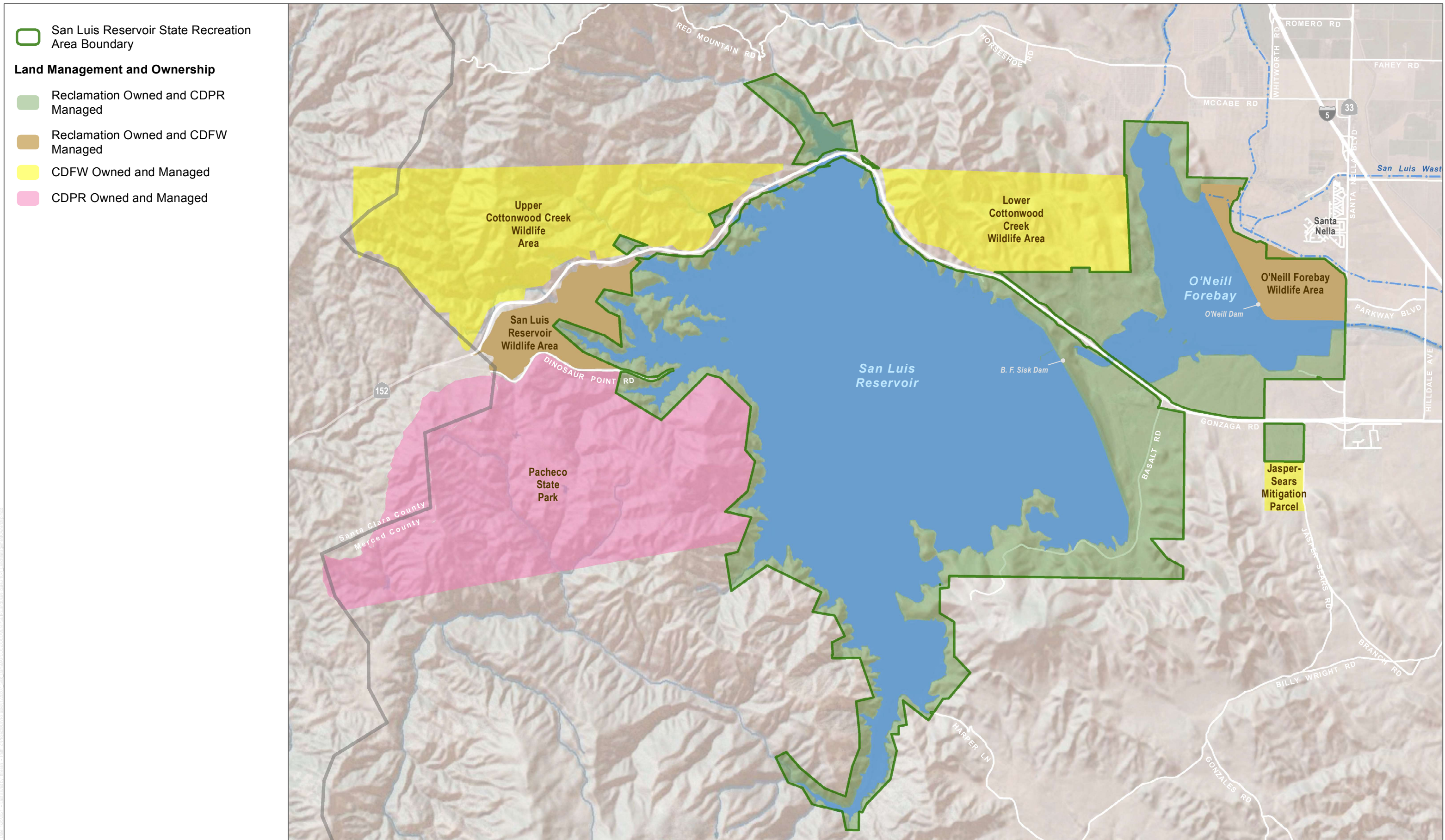
No mitigation measures are required.

3.10.6 Level of Significance After Mitigation

The Modified Project would result in a less-than-significant impact with respect to physically dividing a community. No mitigation is required.

The Modified Project would result in a less-than-significant impact with respect to conflicting with any applicable land use plan, policy, or regulation of an agency with jurisdiction over the Modified Project. No mitigation is required.

The Modified Project would result in no impact with respect to conflict with any applicable habitat conservation plan or natural community conservation plan. No mitigation is required.



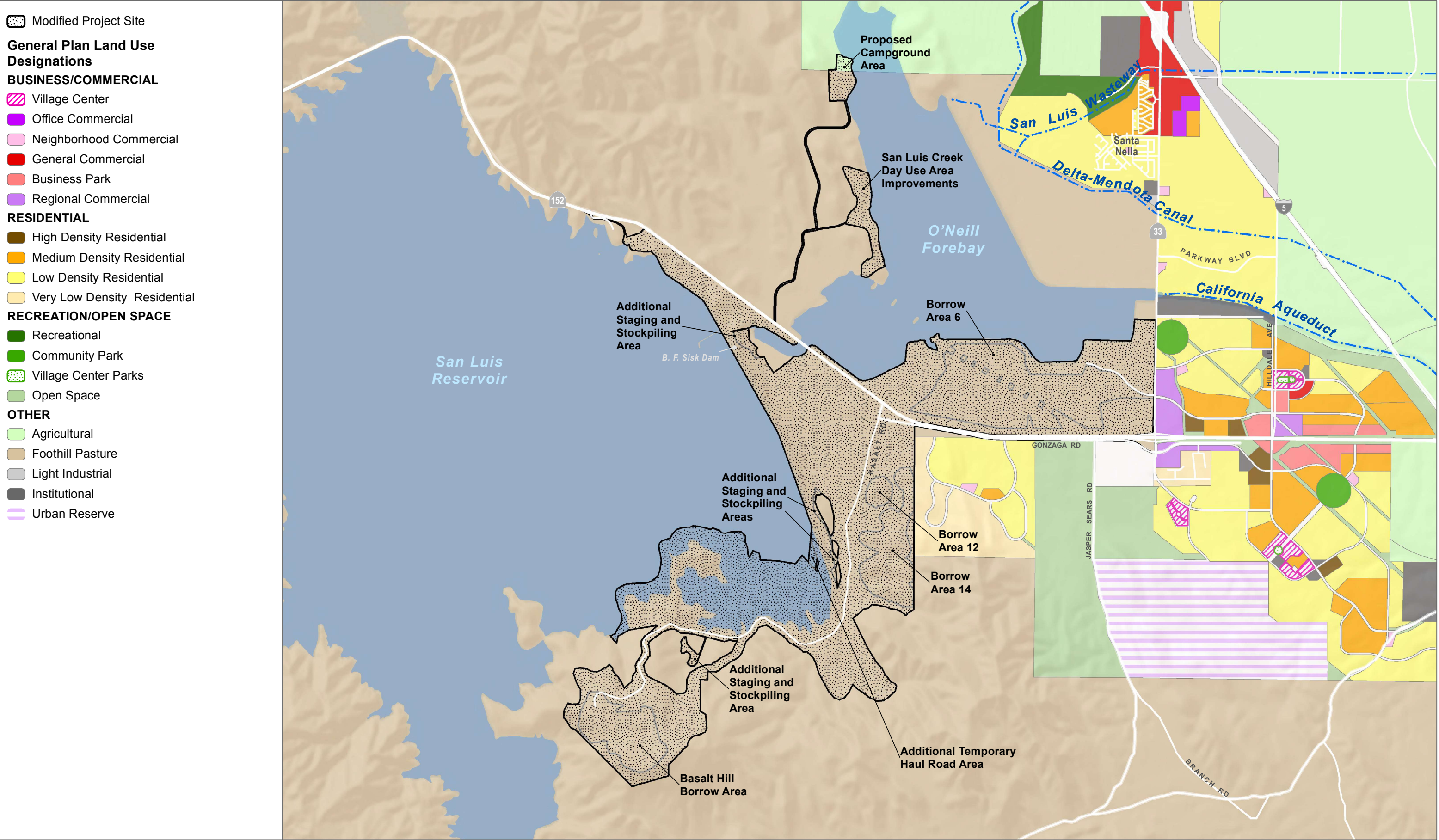
SOURCE: CPAD 2019

FIGURE 3.10-1

Land Management and Ownership Status

B.F. Sisk Dam Safety of Dams Modification Project SEIR

INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK

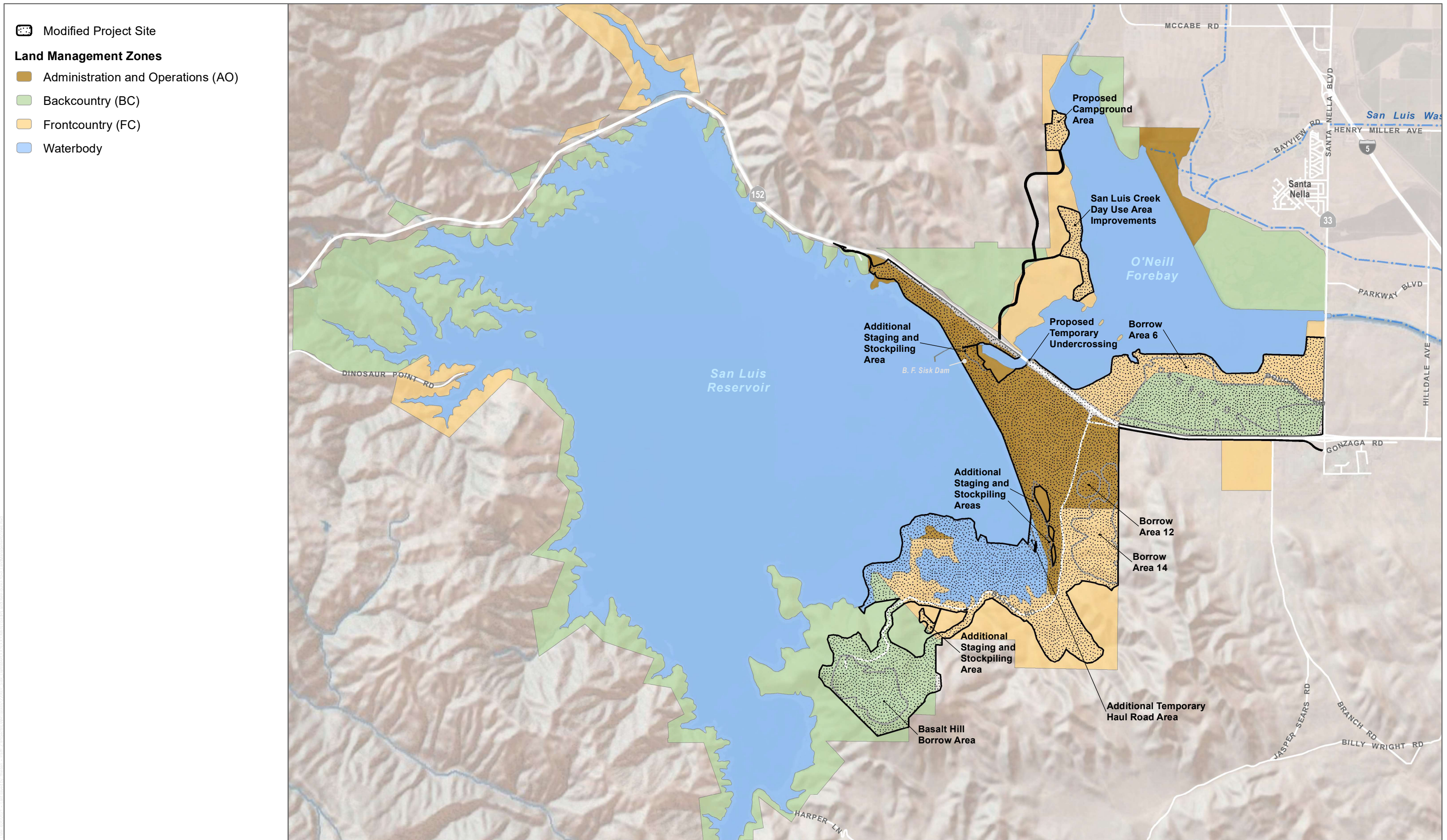


SOURCE: General Plan Land Use: Merced County, 2017



FIGURE 3.10-2
 General Plan Land Use
 B.F. Sisk Dam Safety of Dams Modification Project SEIR

INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK



SOURCE: Reclamation and CPDR 2013



FIGURE 3.13-3

Land Management Zones

B.F. Sisk Dam Safety of Dams Modification Project SEIR

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