UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

AUG 02 2013

Mr. David Woolley
Bureau of Reclamation
South-Central California Area Office
1243 N Street
Fresno, CA 93721

Subject: San Luis Reservoir State Recreation Area Final Resource Management Plan and Final Environmental Impact Statement, Merced County, California (CEQ# 20130187)

Dear Mr. Woolley:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed Final Resource Management Plan (RMP) and Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for the San Luis Reservoir State Recreation Area pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act, Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

EPA supports the development of a comprehensive RMP to guide future management actions. We understand that the FEIS is programmatic in scope, and subsequent project-level analysis will be completed, as appropriate. EPA is supportive of measures within the FEIS to protect natural resources, including efforts to cluster new facilities near areas that are already developed.

EPA provided comments on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) on October 4, 2012. We appreciate the changes between the DEIS and FEIS that address our concerns. For example, the FEIS more fully discloses potential impacts to air quality by providing estimates for future off-highway vehicle (OHV) and boat emissions. The FEIS also more fully explains the methodology for projecting OHV and boating usage. In addition, we are pleased to see the new commitment to use cleaner diesel or electric technologies for construction, to the extent feasible. The water quality portion of the FEIS was also strengthened with the addition of indicators for monitoring water quality in Table 4-4, and new discussion of cumulative impacts in Section 5.9. Finally, we recognize that the project team conducted further outreach in April 2013 to key contacts suggested by the Native American Heritage Commission.

We appreciate the opportunity to review this FEIS. If you would like to discuss our comments, please contact Jen Blonn, the lead reviewer for this project, at 415-972-3855 or blonn.jennifer@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

Connell Dunning

For Kathleen Martyn Goforth, Manager
Environmental Review Office