

**Proposed Slurry Fine  
Disposal Sites:**

Matilija Dam Ecosystem  
Restoration Project

*Design Oversight Group  
Coordination Meeting  
August 7, 2008*

# HISTORY AND OVERVIEW

- Matilija Dam removal was addressed in the Draft EIR/EIS
- Sediment fines accumulated over time behind the dam require disposal
- Methods to dispose of sediment were evaluated in the Draft EIR/EIS, Feasibility Study and Report on Slurry Fine Disposal/Habitat Restoration Sites (Report on Slurry Fine Disposal)
- Methods for disposal discussed includes transportation of sediment to a disposal site via trucks, disposal of sediment in the floodplain and disposal of sediment in adjacent upland areas
- Aspen brought on-board to prepare an overall characterization of the two top candidate sites selected from the Report on Slurry Fine Disposal.
- Goal to reach a decision on the preferred location of sediment disposal

# Candidate Sites for Disposal of Sediments

Five individual sites (as part of the top two combination of sites) were looked at along the Ventura River. The five sites from north to south:

## 1) **MODA site**

- Eastern portion
- Western portion

## 2) **BRDA sites**

- Subsite 1
- Subsite 2
- Subsite 3
- Subsite 4

# Site Assessment Methods

- Reconnaissance Surveys of Adjacent Land Uses
- Reconnaissance Level Biological Surveys
- Review of Existing Data (EIR/EIS, Feasibility Study, etc.)
- Coordination with Ventura County and USACE

# MODA SITE

- Size: ~ 76 acres
- Location: East of Rice Road and South of Fairview Road, on East side of Ventura River Channel
- Roughly 3.0 miles south of Matilija Dam
- Multiple current landowners
- Land Use: Open Space (Ventura River Preserve); Recreation (equestrian use and hiking)
- Storage Volume 2,339,000 cy

# MODA SITE

## BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

- Portions Located on Upper Terraces/Historic Agriculture
- Vegetation
  - Dominated by Non-Native Annual Grassland with scattered Oaks
  - Coastal Sage Scrub/Alluvial Fan Scrub, Mulefat Scrub
  - Oak Woodlands, Ruderal
- Potential Sensitive Wildlife
  - Raptors and Songbirds (no Vireo Expected)
  - Silvery legless lizard, coast horned lizard, two-striped garter snake, Bell's sage sparrow, loggerhead shrike, San Diego desert woodrat
- Habitat Functions:
  - Foraging and Nesting habitat
  - Storm refugia

# MODA SITE

## BENEFITS

- *Single Disposal Site*
- *Closest site to Dam*
- *Could maintain current use of the property after project*
- *Access to vehicles and Equipment*
- *Some disturbed habitat*
- *Maintains buffer from river*
- *Reduces length of pipeline and number of pumping stations*

## CONSTRAINTS

- *Portions managed by Ojai Conservancy*
- *Potential noise conflicts with nearby residences*
- *Recreation impacts (mitigation addressed in EIR/EIS)*
- *Large numbers of Oaks over 7" dbh (57)*
- *Cozy Dell Creek bisects site*
- *Western site supports good quality habitat*

# BRDA SUB-SITE 1

- Size: 50 acres
- Location: North of Highway 150 / Baldwin Road, on East side of Ventura River channel
- Roughly 4.6 miles South of Matilija Dam
- One private landowner
- Land Use: Floodway / Floodplain
- Storage Volume: 800,000 cy

# BRDA SUB-SITE 1

## BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

- Portions of Site within Active Channel of River
- Vegetation
  - Dominated by the Active channel, Coastal Sage Scrub and Alluvial Fan Scrub
  - Non-Native Annual Grassland and Mulefat Scrub
  - Oak Woodlands (44 trees (10"dbh+))
- Potential Sensitive Wildlife
  - Steelhead, Raptors, and Songbirds
  - Silvery legless lizard, coast horned lizard, coast patch-nosed snake, Bell's sage sparrow, loggerhead shrike, San Diego desert woodrat
- Habitat Functions:
  - Active River channel (migratory pathway)
  - Foraging and Nesting habitat
  - Storm refugia

# BRDA SUB-SITE 1

## BENEFITS

- *Access via existing roads*
- *Pipeline located on same side of the river*
- *Reduced conflicts with recreation*
- *Limited visibility*

## CONSTRAINTS

- *Ojai Valley Land Conservancy*
- *Good quality habitat and active river channel*
- *Large numbers of mature oak trees (44)*
- *Increased pipeline and pump requirements*

## **BRDA SUB-SITE 2**

- Size: 25 acres
- Location: South of Highway 150 / Baldwin Rd
- Roughly 5.3 miles South of Matilija Dam
- Owner: County of Ventura
- Land Use: Floodway / Floodplain
- Storage Volume: 500,000 cy

# BRDA SUB-SITE 2

## BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES

- Portions of Site within Active Channel of River, Large Disturbed Upland Area
- Vegetation
  - Dominated by Non-Native Annual Grassland, Coastal Sage Scrub, Alluvial Fan Scrub, and Mulefat Scrub
  - Oak Woodlands (13 trees (10"dbh+))
- Potential Sensitive Wildlife
  - Steelhead, Raptors, and Songbirds (Vireo)
  - Silvery legless lizard, coast horned lizard, coast patch-nosed snake, Bell's sage sparrow, loggerhead shrike, San Diego desert woodrat
- Habitat Functions:
  - Active River channel (migratory pathway)
  - Foraging and Nesting habitat
  - Storm refugia

# BRDA SUB-SITE 2

## BENEFITS

- *Access via existing roads*
- *Pipeline located on same side of the river*
- *Low visibility from some areas*
- *Large disturbed area*

## CONSTRAINTS

- *Potential Noise conflicts with nearby residences*
- *Portions of site could support vireo*
- *Portions within active channel*
- *Oak trees*
- *Increased pipeline and pump requirements*

# BRDA SUB-SITE 3

- Size: 11 acres
- Location: East of Burnham Rd, West of active channel
- Roughly 6.5 miles South of Matilija Dam
- Three private landowners (separate parcels)
- Land Use: Floodway / Floodplain
- Storage Volume: 240,000 cy

# BRDA SUB-SITE 3

- Site Adjacent to Active Channel
- Vegetation
  - Dominated by Coastal Sage Scrub/Alluvial Fan Scrub, and Mulefat Scrub
  - Oak Trees (8 trees (10"dbh+)) and Black Walnuts (5)
- Potential Sensitive Wildlife
  - Raptors, and Songbirds (Vireo)
  - Silvery legless lizard, coast horned lizard, coast patch-nosed snake, Bell's sage sparrow, loggerhead shrike, San Diego desert woodrat
- Habitat Functions:
  - Foraging and Nesting habitat
  - Storm refugia

# BRDA SUB-SITE 3

## BENEFITS

- *Access via existing roads*
- *Outside active channel*
- *Reduced recreation related conflicts*

## CONSTRAINTS

- *Potential Noise conflicts with nearby residences*
- *Potential Aesthetics/Visual conflicts for nearby residences*
- *Good quality habitat, black walnuts/oaks*
- *Potential for Vireos*
- *Ojai Raptor Center*
- *Requires pipeline to cross active channel*
- *Increased pipeline and pump requirements*

# BRDA SUB-SITE 4

- Size: 32 acres
- Location: East of Santa Ana Rd, South of Santa Ana Blvd, West of active channel
- Roughly 7.5 miles South of Matilija Dam
- Three private landowners (separate parcels)
- Land Use: Pasture; Floodplain
- Storage Volume: 700,000 cy

# BRDA SUB-SITE 4

- Active Pastureland
- Vegetation
  - Dominated by Ruderal habitat with large stands of oaks and Sycamores
  - Adjacent to dense Riparian Forests and Oak Creek Drainage
  - Barren areas within northern area, numerous large oak/sycamores trees
- Potential Sensitive Wildlife
  - Raptors, and Songbirds (Vireo), red-legged frogs (?)
  - Pond turtle, bats, two-striped garter snake
- Habitat Functions:
  - Foraging and Nesting habitat for numerous raptors

# BRDA SUB-SITE 4

## BENEFITS

- *No recreation related conflicts*
- *Ruderal habitat*
- *Low visibility to most residents*
- *Large area*
- *Maintains buffer area between active channel*

## CONSTRAINTS

- *Potential Noise conflicts with nearby residences/active pasture*
- *Pipeline access would require disturbance to riparian habitat*
- *Requires pipeline to cross active channel*
- *Increased pipeline and pump requirements*
- *Potential for vireo and other sensitive wildlife*

# COMPARISON OF PROPOSED SLURRY FINE DISPOSAL SITES

## **MODA SITE**

- *Short distance from Dam and single disposal area*
- *Some areas of disturbed habitat*
- *Distance from active channel*

## **BRDA SITES**

- *No recreation related issues*
- *Sites are not as highly visible*
- *Potential noise issues for adjacent residences  
Requires multiple work areas and longer pipeline*
- *Some areas within active portion of channel*
- *Varied habitats*
- *Greater potential for sensitive species*

