



October 25, 2006

Mr. Pete Famolaro
Sweetwater Authority
Robert A. Perdue Water Treatment Plant
100 Lakeview Avenue
Spring Valley, CA 91977

Reference: Sweetwater Vernal Pool Restoration Progress Report (RECON Number 3967B)

Dear Mr. Famolaro:

Per your request, I have prepared a brief summary of the work performed to date for the vernal pool restoration at the Sweetwater Reservoir site.

In March 2004, RECON biologists reviewed the area and determined potential sites for vernal pool restoration, identified problematic weeds, and began collecting seed from the plants to be used for restoration of these sites.

In August 2004, existing topographic data was collected and analyzed to aid in vernal pool creation/enhancement planning. This data was analyzed using a geographic information system (GIS) to determine pool configuration and watershed size to meet permit obligations. Initial preparation of the site was also implemented at this time, through dethatching weed material using line trimmers, hand pulling, and raking. All exotic material was removed from the site and transported to a landfill. These weed control measures continued through October 2004.

Vernal pool grading was scheduled to begin in October 2004; however, heavy early season rains occurred with almost five inches falling in October. Rains were consistent throughout the season and the site did not dry sufficiently during the winter to allow grading without damaging the existing surrounding vernal pools.

In November 2004, weed maintenance was initiated through application of Aquamaster herbicide to newly germinating species.

In January 2005, topographic data was further analyzed to revise final vernal pool design.

In March and April 2005, weed spraying resumed under the supervision of a biologist.

In June 2005, weed control continued by means of weed whipping, hand pulling, and spraying, under the supervision of a biologist.

In July 2005, all relevant data were analyzed to create a vernal pool grading plan. Site preparation continued through weed control.

From August through October 2005, spraying and hand pulling of weeds resumed under supervision of a biologist. In September, the pool sites were marked and staked using the final design/grading plan. The pools were graded the last week of September.

In November 2005, the created pool topography was adjusted through final grading. Planting of the restoration areas was scheduled for the winter of 2005. Since the site is not irrigated and no budget was available for supplemental watering, planting needed to coincide with forecast rain events. Significant rainfall did not occur until late in the season (February 2006) and rainfall was sporadic through the spring. The San Diego region received less than half normal rainfall for the year. Since supplemental irrigation was not available, the restoration biologists recommended holding off on planting until the fall of 2006 to ensure that plantings could become established and survive to meet the required success criteria.

In February and in March 2006, crews hand seeded the vernal pools with seed collected from the site and from pools near Otay Lakes.

In May and July 2006, weed whipping, hand pulling, and herbicide applications resumed under the supervision of a biologist.

Container plants will be installed in the project area in the late fall or early winter of 2006. If the region experiences late season rains or continues drought conditions, the site will receive supplemental water using a water truck, when needed, to ensure container plant survival. No further delays in planting will occur.

If you require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at (619) 308-9333 or rmacaller@recon-us.com.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robert MacAller", followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Robert MacAller
Principal

RTM:ash