

Archaeology and Paleontology, and the Southern California Water Education Center), a youth camp, and recreational water use at the eastern end of the lake. Although future recreation uses for the western portion of the site, which may possibly be affected by the HCLE Corridor project, are contemplated, there are no plans approved or being developed at this time for such use.¹ The western boundary of Diamond Valley Lake land abuts Route 79. Although the eastern terminus of HCLE alternatives 5a, 5b, 5c, 5d, 5e, 6a, and 6b encroach onto MWD land, it has been determined that the affected portion of land consists of an access road and non-recreational uses.

3.6.2 National and State Parks

There are no national parks within or adjacent to the HCLE Corridor alternatives. There is one State recreation area, as described below.

3.6.2.1 Lake Perris State Recreation Area

Lake Perris State Recreation Area, owned by the State of California, lies within the study area. Formed by Perris Dam, Lake Perris is a 810 ha (2,000 ac) reservoir that offers water recreation, including swimming, fishing (shore, pier, and boat), boating, sailing, waterskiing, and a special area for scuba diving. Wildlife includes ducks and Canadian geese. Anglers can find rainbow trout, catfish, and Alabama spotted bass. The area also offers opportunities for hikers, bikers, and equestrians. Rock climbing is featured in an area south of the dam. The Ya' Heki' Regional Indian Museum is also in the area.

3.6.3 Conservation Areas/Wildlife Areas

Conservation areas are listed in Table 3.6.B and discussed in more detail below.

3.6.3.1 Lake Mathews Ecological Reserve

The Lake Mathews reservoir was completed in 1939 by MWD as the western terminus of the Colorado River Aqueduct. Since that time, the lands immediately surrounding the lake have been held by MWD, and human intrusions have been few. As Riverside County continued to grow during the latter part of the century, surrounding areas began to be developed primarily with custom built homes on small ranchettes. Additionally, since the 1930s, many of the surrounding lands were—and continue to be—used for citrus agriculture. As part of a mitigation plan for its water projects, and recognizing the value to wildlife of such a large open source of water, MWD lands (approximately 1,620 ha [4,000 ac]) surrounding the lake were formally designated as a State ecological reserve in 1982.

¹ Telephone conversations: Mr. Leslie Barrett, Senior Engineer, MWD, June 17 and 28, 2002.