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■ The two Projects components described in this proposal are eligible for public training, outreach, and awareness bonus points because the Project status and updates will be made public via both existing and separately funded programs.

■ Giant reed removal and well installation will promote increased awareness of ecosystem and water management practices by way of the existing Matilija Public Outreach Group, the Project website, local media, and several independent entities. Independent entities include: the Ventura County Resource Conservation District (RCD), the Matilija Coalition (a subsidiary of the Surfrider Foundation), the Matilija Environmental Science Area Society (MESA) program, University of California research programs, community events, and VCWPD-sponsored monitoring actions. Local media have provided regular coverage of the Project and its status since the beginning of the Feasibility Study phase of the Project; this is expected to continue over the life of the Project. The VCWPD and USACE Public Affairs Office will provide Project status updates and outcomes of both Projects components to the local media in Ventura County, and technology or information transfers for research purposes will be made available to university research teams and nonprofit organizations.

The Matilija Coalition was founded by local advocates for ecologically sensitive, cost effective and timely implementation of the Project and all of its components. Coalition members are active participants in the Environmental Working Group and other technical committees, and serve as a link between the public, government and the scientific community. The Coalition provides Project updates and technical information via print and electronic media, and has developed programs that promote community participation. The MESA program focuses on outreach and awareness in local schools. MESA has also developed printed and electronic informational materials that are disseminated to area residents, business, industry, and government agencies throughout Ventura County. The RCD has also constructed a kiosk adjacent to the Ventura River levee in Casitas Springs for posting printed material and Project updates. The Matilija Coalition (via the Surfrider Foundation) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

■ The overall Project, including the two Project components described in this proposal, will be a multi-year effort and has attracted the interest of a wide range of United States government agencies, the international community, nongovernmental organizations, university researchers, nonprofit organizations, other interested parties. The overall Project has several years of planning and construction, 10 years of monitoring and adaptive management, and a 50-year expected life for many components. Public outreach will occur most within the next 15 years. Project components and anticipated outcomes of the overall Project have been presented in a variety of public forums including an international conference in Japan (presented by a founder of the Matilija Coalition), University symposia, technical conferences, public meetings, water purveyors, and agricultural organizations (RCD, Farm Bureau). Information dissemination beyond the Project team has occurred via a variety of venues resulting in extensive interest. The VCWPD and USACE as well as participating entities on the stakeholder committee welcome and encourage continued participation of the entities that have expressed an interest in long-term studies of the Project components and outcomes in a scientifically rigorous and objective manner. It is expected that results of government and University sponsored studies of the Project will be made available to the public through organizations like the Matilija Coalition, MESA, the RCD, local media, reports to funding and regulatory agencies, University symposia, conferences, and in peer reviewed journals. It is anticipated that the Project and its component parts, and its execution will be used as a model for other large-scale ecosystem restoration projects in the United States and elsewhere in the future.