Appendix A
Public Participation Program

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Appendix A.	Publi	c Participation Program	A-1
	A.1	Public Participation Program	A-1
		A.1.1 Scoping with Stakeholders	
		A.1.2 Public Scoping Meetings	
		A.1.3 Public Workshop on Alternatives	
	A.2	Public Scoping Issues Identification	
		A.2.1 Land Use	
		A.2.2 Recreation	
		A.2.3 Traffic and Transportation	A-4
		A.2.4 Biological Resources	
		A.2.5 Cultural Resources	
		A.2.6 Water Resources	
		A.2.7 Energy	A-6
		A.2.8 Air Quality	
	A.3	Public Agency Meeting Notes and Open House Comment Forms	A-7
Attachmen	ts		
A-1	Note	s from Public Agency Meeting, March 20, 2001	
A-2	Com	ments from Public Open House, April 19, 2001	
A-3		ed Evaluation of Alternative Features from Public Workshop, mber 16, 2004	

This document is a summary of the public participation process in place for the Millerton Lake Resource Management Plan (RMP). The Issues Identification Task in the initial scope for the Millerton Lake RMP called for the identification and prioritization of issues that will be addressed in the RMP. Issues include (1) "problems" that need to be addressed immediately, (2) long-term concerns that will require further study and coordination, (3) "wishes" by the parties that would improve conditions at the Recreation Area, and (4) controversial issues that may involve significant conflicts or differences of opinion among the parties. It is anticipated that there will be additional workshops and opportunities for public input.

Section A.1 briefly describes the public participation programs conducted to date where issues of concern for the RMP were identified. In Section A.2, the issues that have been identified are summarized by resource category. Finally, notes from the public agency meeting, comment forms from the public open house, and the tallied evaluation of alternative features are included in Attachments A-1, A-2, and A-3, respectively.

A.1 PUBLIC PARTICIPATION PROGRAM

A.1.1 Scoping with Stakeholders

As part of the continuing public participation program, a meeting was held in the spring of 2001 to identify and prioritize issues for the RMP. This meeting was a facilitated workshop held on March 20, 2001, at the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's (Reclamation's) Fresno office with stakeholders in the project area. The workshop included participants from several agencies and groups, including:

- U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
- U.S. Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
- California Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks), San Joaquin District
- California Department of Fish and Game
- Friant Water Users Authority
- Sierra Foothill Conservancy
- San Joaquin River Parkway Trust

A.1.2 Public Scoping Meetings

Two additional scoping meetings were held for the general public. The first was a public open house held at the Millerton Courthouse on April 19, 2001. In addition to representatives from Reclamation, State Parks, and BLM, several homeowners from around Millerton Lake attended as well as members from interest groups representing yachting, backcountry horseback riding, fly fishing, bass fishing, and water skiing. Seven individuals submitted written comments, and the open house organizers summarized some additional oral comments.

The second was a public scoping meeting held at the Friant Elementary School on February 27, 2003, sponsored by Reclamation and State Parks. This scoping meeting provided the opportunity to give comments or concerns regarding the many natural resources in the area

around Millerton Lake. A brief formal presentation was made by Reclamation, State Parks, and the project environmental planners, who were present to answer questions and take comments.

A.1.3 Public Workshop on Alternatives

A public workshop was held on December 16, 2004, at the Friant Elementary School to present preliminary alternatives for the Natural Resource Management Plan and General Plan, also sponsored by Reclamation and State Parks. Preliminary alternatives had been developed as a result of the previous public meetings where issues and potential opportunities were discussed. Participants were asked to indicate their preferences for key features associated with each alternative.

Copies of the workshop notes, the public open house comments, and the tallied evaluation of alternative features are included in Attachments A-1, A-2, and A-3, respectively.

A.2 PUBLIC SCOPING ISSUES IDENTIFICATION

From the information gathered in the public meetings, several issues came to light. The following sections summarize the written and oral comments made at the public meetings and from other concerns and issues raised by the public, agency personnel, and other groups. An initial attempt to prioritize these issues will not be made at this time because the process of developing the RMP is ongoing, and some priorities may change. Of the many resources in the Millerton Lake area, issues were expressed regarding: land use, recreation, traffic and transportation, biological resources, cultural resources, water resources, energy issues, and air quality.

A.2.1 Land Use

Land management and ownership around Millerton Lake are critical issues both for public agencies and private landowners. Reclamation and the Bureau of Land Management are adjacent land managers in the Millerton Lake and Squaw Leap Management areas. There is some question about actual survey boundaries in several places, and the management of some parcels could change from what it is at present. It will be important to address the land management issue in the RMP.

In addition to the public management of much of the land surrounding Lake Millerton, there are private landowners with land use issues as well. Better access to and from adjacent properties at Winchell Cove was an issue that was raised by local homeowners. Trespassing across private property and from public land onto private property is another issue to address in the RMP.

A.2.2 Recreation

Millerton Lake is a very popular lake for recreation use, primarily due to its proximity to Fresno. The outdoor recreation activities at Millerton Lake are water dependent or water enhanced. Such activities include boating, fishing, swimming, camping, hiking, hunting, and interpretive programs.



A.2.2.1 Boating

Starting in 2001, entrance fees and boating fees were lowered at Millerton Lake. Although this was anticipated to increase boating use, this was not the case. It will be important to compare this use with historical trends, and as needed, adjusted boating use may be an issue to address in the RMP.

Waterskiing is a boat-related use, and as such, there is an issue with the local ski club needing access to Millerton Lake and the need for alternative ski courses at different reservoir levels.

Additional concerns raised regarding boating included the need for improved coordination between a local yacht club, the State Park, the marina operators, and the concessionaire at Winchell Cove. These current issues will be addressed in the RMP. Future issues could include the re-operation of the reservoir and the effects that would have on the marina and other boat launching facilities, and these issues will be addressed in the RMP in a programmatic way.

A.2.2.2 Fishing

Fishing is a popular activity at Millerton Lake. The American Bass Association holds tournaments on Millerton Lake, and they increase the day use during their tournaments. At the public open house they requested their need for a pavilion for their fish weighing. Another issue regarding fishing is the quality of the experience. Members of the public mentioned a low catch per hour concern. In an effort to improve habitat for juvenile fish, willow cuttings were planted in draws of Millerton Lake. Fishing issues, such as the need to improve fish habitat, provide for quality fishing experiences, and accommodate fishing tournaments will all be addressed in the RMP.

A.2.2.3 Swimming

Only one issue was raised regarding swimming. There are some areas in Millerton Lake where there is submerged rail fencing that could pose a swimming hazard. In general, swimming accessibility and safety are concerns that will be addressed in the RMP.

A.2.2.4 Camping

At the public agency workshop, several issues regarding camping emerged. Future camping plans include moving the Temperance Flat campground to the south side of the lake and include some primitive campgrounds midway along the trail between Millerton Lake and the Squaw Leap Management Area. These and the need for additional future camping sites will be addressed in the RMP.

In addition to lowering park entrance fees in 2001, camping fees were also lowered. Again, it was anticipated that camping use would increase, but volumes actually decreased. The need to address the camping capacity of the park will be an issue to address in the RMP.

The operation of the reservoir affects camping and general public safety because in the mid to late spring and early summer the reservoir may be so high as to flood certain camp sites and roads. The park either has to close off parts of the park or add staff to ensure that there are no



accidents due to the high water. Coordination of reservoir management and park operations is an issue that should be addressed in the RMP.

A.2.2.5 Hiking

The trail system is very popular at Millerton Lake. In the future it is anticipated that the San Joaquin River Parkway Trust will develop an interpretive trail from State Highway 99 in the north to Friant Dam at Millerton Lake. Their trail will connect with trails around Millerton Lake through to Squaw Leap Management Area. From there, the Bureau of Land Management will work with the U.S. Forest Service to connect this trail with the John Muir Trail. Concerns regarding the construction and maintenance of trails will be addressed in the RMP, in particular on Reclamation land, but overall, the entire trail system will be reviewed.

Hikers as well as mountain bikers and equestrians use the trail system. The trail system needs to include loop trails as well as trails that connect two areas. A mountain biker at the public open house raised the issue that better and/or more access to trails was needed. Concerns were raised regarding trail etiquette, and the need to coordinate among the various users is important to address. Issues such as improving/adding access to trails, closing gates, not littering, and watching out for others enjoying the trails will be addressed in the RMP.

A.2.2.6 Hunting

Hunting is allowed in the park on a very limited basis. There is a six-week archery-only turkey hunt where only two people per week are allowed. In the past, the hunt has not been very successful, and the turkey populations continue to increase. Concern about the turkey hunt taking place during their breeding season was raised at the public open house, and perhaps the need to eliminate turkey hunting in the park needs to be considered. The need to review past hunting policies and possible future strategies will be addressed in the RMP.

A.2.2.7 Interpretive Programs

The interpretive/outreach programs are very popular in the park. Included are tours (bald eagle, Millerton Courthouse, Friant Dam, Fort Miller site), campfire programs, vernal pool viewing, family camp programs, and special tours. Any issues regarding these programs and possible "wish list" future programs will be addressed in the RMP.

A.2.3 Traffic and Transportation

Traffic is a major concern around Millerton Lake. Because of the reduced entrance fees in 2001, it was anticipated that the park would receive more visitors than in previous years. As with boating and camping, the park did not receive more visitors. However, traffic has increased dramatically outside the park on the roads to and around Millerton Lake due to housing developments and Table Mountain Casino. The management of these roads is outside Reclamation's jurisdiction, but the concern about managing traffic and transportation should be included in the RMP.



A.2.4 Biological Resources

Issues regarding biological resources fall into the following categories: invasive species, special status species/habitats, riparian and wetland habitats, wildlife, and vegetation mapping.

A.2.4.1 Invasive Species

At the public agency workshop concerns were raised about the introduction of invasive species and non-native plants to the Millerton Lake area. At the public open house one participant suggested that the equestrian users of the park's trails should feed their horses weed-free alfalfa to reduce the introduction of invasive species from the horse manure. Millerton State Park, as well as the Sierra Foothill Conservancy, is currently conducting studies using cattle grazing as a tool to control non-native plant species. The Sierra Foothill Conservancy has information on thistles, such as yellow star thistle and Italian thistle. The RMP will address concerns regarding invasive species and strategies to reduce them and/or limit their introduction to the park.

A.2.4.2 Special Status Species/Habitats

The California Natural Diversity Database has information regarding special status species in the Millerton Lake area. Bald eagle telemetry surveys have been conducted for the past three seasons using local VHS as well as satellite technology that can follow the birds from their wintering habitat at Millerton Lake to the north for summer breeding. Issues relating to bald eagles and other special status species, including the western mastiff bat, and unique habitats, such as vernal pools, will be addressed in the RMP. In addition, consultation with the Endangered Species Recovery Program will occur to ensure that the data collection and issue identification tasks are current.

A.2.4.3 Riparian and Wetland Habitats

Wetland and riparian habitat information will be gathered from satellite imagery, as available. Issues related to riparian and wetland habitats will be addressed in the RMP.

A.2.4.4 Wildlife

The California Natural Diversity Database has information regarding other wildlife species in the Millerton Lake area. Issues related to general wildlife will be addressed in the RMP.

A.2.4.5 Vegetation

Current vegetation of Millerton Lake will be gathered from Reclamation and through the UC Santa Barbara GAPVEG internet database, as available. Prescribed burning is being conducted with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection for fuels management and vegetation composition. Issues related to vegetation will be addressed in the RMP.

A.2.5 Cultural Resources

At the public open house, participants commented that it is important to locate important archeological sites and historic mining sites. (The open house was held at Millerton Courthouse,



an historic site that was moved to its current location before the reservoir was inundated). In addition, the Squaw Leap Management Area currently has a cultural resources program that emphasizes the use of native plants, recreates a native village, and at times demonstrates to school children what an archeological survey might involve. The RMP will address issues and concerns regarding cultural and historic resources.

A.2.6 Water Resources

Millerton Lake is operated by Reclamation to store and divert water to the Madera and Friant-Kern canals for irrigation and municipal and industrial water supplies in the eastern portion of the San Joaquin Valley and for flood protection. Several reservoirs in the upper portion of the San Joaquin River watershed, including Edison, Florence, Huntington, Mammoth Pool, and Shaver Lake, owned by Southern California Edison and Pacific Gas & Electric Company and are primarily used for hydroelectric power generation. The operation of these reservoirs affects the inflow to Millerton Lake. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has jurisdiction over the flood control operations and reserves up to 390,000 acre-feet per year for flood control storage. Each year Millerton Lake is operated to deliver all or most of the conservation storage to the irrigation contractors. The lake is refilled in the winter and spring from rain and snowmelt.

At the public open house, one participant raised the concern about water transfers from the lake to the new owners in the Brighton Crest area. Regarding water quality, another participant suggested that all boat operators should use bilge pillows to absorb fuel leakage and reduce pollution to the lake.

Issues regarding water supply and water quality will be important to address in the RMP, both for the near-term and for the future. The near-term issues will be addressed directly in the RMP. If in the future there were to be a re-operation of the reservoir, it could affect both water supply and water quality. In addition, if Friant Dam were raised to increase the storage capacity, that issue would need to be discussed in a programmatic way in the RMP. Currently, Reclamation is contracting a Plan of Study for the Friant Dam enlargement or equivalent feasibility investigation.

A.2.7 Energy

There are a total of three hydroelectric power plants located at the base of Friant Dam. A fourth, much smaller power plant is located slightly downstream at a fish hatchery. They generate hydroelectric power from the water released from Friant Dam. Currently, energy is a very important issue, not only at Millerton Lake but throughout the state. Creating and maintaining a steady supply of energy will be an important issue to address in the RMP.

A.2.8 Air Quality

Because boating fees were lowered in 2001, it was anticipated that boating use would increase on Millerton Lake. One participant at the public open house expressed concern about the increased air pollution this increased use could cause. In addition, there is noise pollution from the personal watercraft and powerful ski boats that could increase. Noise pollution from remotecontrolled airplanes, jet skis, and car rallies is also a concern. The RMP will address issues related to air quality.



A.3 PUBLIC AGENCY MEETING NOTES AND OPEN HOUSE COMMENT FORMS

The notes from the public agency workshop, held on March 20, 2001, are presented in Attachment A-1. The comment forms from the public open house, held on April 19, 2001, are presented in Attachment A-2. A tallied evaluation sheet of alternative features from the public open house held on December 16, 2004, is presented in Attachment A-3.

Attachment A-1 Notes from Public Agency Meeting, March 20, 2001

Millerton Lake Natural Resource Management Plan Notes from the agency meeting, March 20, 2001

Meeting began at 10:00 a.m. in the conference room at U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's (Reclamation's) offices in Fresno (1243 N Street). Attendees signed in (see attached list).

Bob Epperson (Reclamation) greeted everyone and discussed the authority and need for a Resource Management Plan (RMP), funding for the RMP, and the need to get input from all agencies/groups with an interest in Millerton Lake and surrounding areas.

Steve Kellogg (URS) pointed out the study area and surrounding watershed on the maps. Chuck Peck (Sierra Foothills Conservancy) gave us a copy of an updated map of their lands. Steve also discussed the planning process, from the public participation through the environmental review of the RMP/EIR/EIS.

Bob then invited everyone to review the issues list and asked for comments.

- Debbie North and Dave Koehler (San Joaquin River Parkway Trust) said that the Trust had developed a Master Plan in 1996.
 - 1. Their overall goals are to preserve natural areas along the river, provide public access to some sites, and to develop a continuous multiple-purpose trail from Friant Dam to State Highway 99.
 - 2. The planning horizon for their plan is open-ended because they do not know when the trail will be completed. They currently have (manage?) approximately 6,000 acres.
 - 3. Their plan to get the trail around the dam may include plans previously drawn up by the state in the late 80s (but never implemented).
 - 4. Interpretive/outreach programs include guided canoe tours, bald eagle tours, and programs (camping?) on Scout Island.
- Scott Wassmund (Millerton State Park) said that he would send URS a copy of the California Code of Regulations (CCR) and posted orders because that is what they use to "manage" the park.
 - 1. They currently have two big concession contracts one with the Marina and one for operating water sports.
 - 2. Trespass issues are a major concern in the park (can also increase erosion and introduce exotic plants), and is increasing with more developments around the lake. Kesterson is developing a 2,000-acre piece in the northwest area of the lake, and the county has plans in the Finegold area.
 - 3. Trails are also important in the park. Users include hikers, mountain bikers, and equestrians so many different trails are needed (loops as well as linking).
 - 4. Park has grazing leases in the Table Top area and has 3-5 years of data collected in the test areas. He is also collecting grazing data on Kennedy Table (private property).
 - 5. Hunting is allowed on a very limited basis in the park. There is a six-week archery-only hunt where 2 people per week can hunt turkeys. The hunt has not been very successful.

- 6. The interpretive/outreach programs are very big at the park. Included are tours (bald eagle, courthouse, dam, fort), campfire programs, vernal pools, family camps, and special tours. The state also conducts tours of the fish hatchery.
- 7. Due in part to lowering the entrance, camping, and boating fees, it is anticipated that some carrying capacity studies will have to be done. The camping capacity was almost at maximum during the previous weekend. The park has years of visitation numbers that they will provide, and with the changes occurring this year, they will have data from this year and next to include as well.
- 8. Personal watercraft also impact boating capacity; studies will need to be done for that as well.
- 9. Camping plans are in the works to move Temperance Flat camp to south side of lake. There will probably need to be some midway camps (primitive) to connect the Finegold area with Squaw Leap.
- 10. Reservoir water levels are really a problem for recreation. Roads and campsites can be flooded, especially at high visitation use times. Public safety can be involved as well (wanting to watch the water spill over the dam), so the park either has to close or add more staff.
- 11. OHVs are not a problem on park lands.
- Chuck Peck said the SFC has grazing data and a plan that URS can use.
 - 1. They manage their lands by incorporating grazing (fire alone won't keep out the non-native species). Fencing does not appear to be an impediment to wildlife migration in this area.
 - 2. They are just starting a literature search on grazing.
 - 3. Trespass is also an issue for them, including dogs and feral cats.
 - 4. Their education/outreach includes programs for local students, interpretive hikes, public classes (geology, astrology), and research areas for college students.
 - 5. Table Mountain Rancheria may restore the officer's quarters site that is on their land.
 - 6. They can provide lists of plants and animals for their lands.
- Tracy Rowland (BLM, Squaw Leap) mentioned that land acquisition could be incorporated into this RMP. This idea was discussed, and while the values that are associated with certain land areas will be discussed, there will be no mention of acquiring land/swapping ownerships in the RMP.
- Kathy Wood? (Reclamation) wanted to know if other, future water development projects would be included (raising Friant Dam, developing the Finegold area) in the RMP. They will probably be dealt with in a programmatic way since they are mostly speculative right now.
- John Hervey (BLM, Squaw Leap) mentioned that boundary issues are currently a concern (they are surveying now).

- 1. The BLM will have part of the trail system that links Millerton trails to the John Muir Trail.
- 2. There is a public safety issue with people camping/living in the caverns on BLM lands.
- 3. There are feral pigs on Squaw Leap land. They do not appear to be resident, but they are there. Hunting is allowed on BLM property.
- 4. Cultural resources are very important at Squaw Leap. There is a Native American leading the program; there are native plants, trails, town replica, and a museum. The BLM wants to expand the program to include more natural resource needs.

GPO 792-493

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GPO 792-493

MP-748 (6/72)

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Attachment A-2 Comments from Public Open House, April 19, 2001

OTHER RESOURCES/ISSUES

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Name: Fred ILLohert
Address: 2613 Greenwood
City, State, Zip: Madera CA 93637
Phone: <u>559</u> 674-6280
Email:FMI@WEBTV, NET

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Name: GREG GATZIGA	
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Mail to

Bob Epperson

US Bureau of Reclamation

1243 N Street

Fresno, Q 93721-1813

OTHER RESOURCES/ISSUES

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OTHER RESOURCES/ISSUES

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Name: Way Coly
Address: 20200 WMMell Core Rd
City, State, Zip: POBN 729 From 93626
Phone: 822-3387
Email: (dax (a) aol, (an)

MAIL TO

Bob Epperson

U.S. Bureau of Redamation

1243 N Street

Fresno, A 93721-1813

OTHER RESOURCES/ISSUES

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Address: 434 W. SHAW	DEOCH
City, State, Zip: FRESNO CA	BUREAU OF RECLAMATION GCAO FRESHO CA
Phone: (559) 2262211	
Email:	2007 BAT 4 A 11: 38

Bob Epperson

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

1243 N. Street

Fresno, (A

93721

Environmental

- Air Quality
- Cultural Resources
- Biology
- Erosion Control
- Geology/Seismology/Soils
- Water Resources
- Fire Suppression
- Hazardous Materials

Socio-Economic

- Development
- Grazing/Agricultural Lands
- Land Use
- Transportation
- Utilities

Recreation

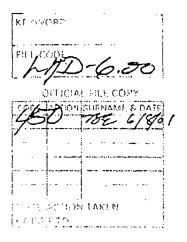
- Recreational Uses
- Concessions
- American Disabilities Act
- Squaw Leap

Enclosure - Issues and Concerns

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Bob Epperson US Bureau of Reclamation 1243 N. First Street Fresno, CA 93721 P.O. Box 427 4664 Millerton Road Friant, CA 93626-0427 May 29, 2001



Dear Mr. Epperson,

I attended your "Open House" at Millerton Lake a few weeks ago. We appreciate the opportunity to meet you and your staff and to learn about the Bureau of Reclamation's role in our local area.

First, a little about me so you will know where I am coming from. My wife and I live at Millerton Lake, in one of the houses between the south shore of Millerton Lake near the courthouse and Millerton Road. We have been here for over 15 years. I am a member of the Fresno Yacht Club and have been sailing at Millerton Lake for over 20 years. We also have a cabin at Huntington Lake and sail and fish there. It has been interesting to compare and contrast the management of the both areas. It is interesting to see how various branches of our government administer these areas.

I very much support multiple use of our country's land assets. It distresses me to see interest groups try to restrict areas of our country to their exclusive use. By in large, it seems that most branches of government have resisted the pressure of these interests. I think it exceedingly important not to bend to the pressure of environmentalists who want to limit access to large areas of land to people who can walk there. Similarly, we cannot let the lumber industry clear cut areas, which basically turns that land into their exclusive use. I don't think we need to protect every species on this earth from extinction. Extinction is an integral part of the natural history of the earth. Species have been coming and going for many thousands of years before man inhabited this earth.

I watched yesterday as thousands of people enjoyed sailing, swimming, walking, boating, picnicking etc. Last night, the area became quiet and returned to an essentially uninhabited state. When you live here you see that year around 98% of the time there are no people running around having adverse effect on the area. In fact, I think the State Park Service has done much to over restrict access to this area. Year around the south shore of the park and access to the lake is limited to about half the time. The rest of the time it is closed to the public. I know of few public bodies of water that are closed to the public at night. Huntington Lake isn't. The Pacific Ocean isn't. It seems to me that the State Park System is more interested in law enforcement than promoting use and understanding of the area. Witness the fact that they feel the need to carry guns. A few years ago, I was in

training to help out on the eagle tours. When given the opportunity, one young child questioned the ranger as to why he needed to carry a gun on the eagle tour.

I think that there are plenty of ways that we can expand the use and enjoyment of the Millerton area without having significant adverse impact on the ecology. I would venture a guess that the adverse impact on local air quality by the power boaters and personal watercraft is negligible when compared to that generated by the traffic going to and from the Table Mountain Rancheria Casino.

I would hope that you will work with the various groups that utilize the area in addition to the State of California. In my case, I would hope you can work with the Fresno Yacht Club to improve utilization of the lake area by sailors. Thank you for the opportunity to learn about your developing plans for the area and the opportunity to express my opinion.

Sincerely,

Nathaniel Gildersleeve Jr. MD

MP-748 (6/72)	Meeting Attendance Record U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Mid-Paci	ing Attendance Record Reclamation, Mid-Pacific Region	c Region
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Attachment A-3
Tallied Evaluation of Alternative Features from Public Workshop,
December 16, 2004

Millerton Lake RMP and GP Public Workshop on Alternatives December 16, 2004

Name:	
Affiliation:	
Address:	
Phone:	
Email:	

Indicate your preference for key features (described at Stations 2 through 4) associated with each Alternative by a + or -:

Key Features	Altern	ative 1	Alterna	ative 1a	Altern	ative 2	Altern	ative 3
Temperance Flat Camping	1+	5-	2+	5-	8+	2-	6+	3-
Trail Development	2+	3-	2+	3-	6+	2-	3+	4-
Trail Management Plan		5-		5-	6+	2-	5+	2-
Boating Density		6-	2+	4-	4+	2-	4+	3-
Boat Speeds	2+	3-	2+	4-	5+	1-	5+	2-
Boat Types	1+	4-	2+	4-	6+	1-	5+	2-
Marina Addition	2+	4-	1+	6-	6+	1-	6+	1-

Comments on other features or issues that could help distinguish Alternatives, not indicated above: