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Peck Road Park Lake
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Peck Road Park Lake is located south of Live Oak Avenue and west of Peck Road in south Monrovia. The water body is a reservoir for the runoff flowing down the Santa Anita Wash, which runs from the foothills of Arcadia to the reservoir. The lake covers approximately 103 acres, with a cement river basin leading from the reservoir eventually connecting with the Los Angeles River and flowing to the port of Los Angeles.

The observations were taken on November 5th, 2006 from 11:30am to 12:30pm. The weather was reported as 88° F, with clear skies no rain for at least three weeks. My observations are divided into four sections, each representing a different shoreline of the lake.

Northern edge of reservoir (near the inlet for the Santa Anita Wash)

Observations:

Algae covered approximately 80% of the wash bottom entering the reservoir, with water levels at about ½ inch deep and very low trickle of water movement. Animal waste was also visible along the upper portions of the reservoir, which would easily be washed into the lake water during the first heavy rain.

Trash, including human induced waste such as styrofoam cups and coolers, baby strollers, and various other household items along the shoreline of the reservoir. Within

the water stryrofoam was visible, along with aluminum cans, cigarettes, and a shopping cart. The turbidity of the water along this edge was very high, with algae and suspended solids visible along the shoreline.

Western edge of reservoir (adjacent to outfall connecting to Los Angeles River)

Observations:

Visible trash floating along the edge of the reservoir, including coffee cups, aluminum cans, and general trash like plastic bags. The water was extremely murky, with high levels of algae along the edges. A variety of bird species were visible above the water, but I was unable to see any aquatic life below the surface.

South and eastern edges of reservoir

Observations:

Observations were similar to the other two sites around the reservoir. Trash was visible floating along the edge of the water, with animal feces found along the southeastern edge of the reservoir. Again the water was turbid, with no way of seeing much deeper than 6 to 12 inches. There were also 8 people fishing from a variety of sights along these stretches of the reservoir. I was not able to see if they had caught any fish.

The water within the reservoir was stagnant, with limited movement caused mainly by the birds entering and leaving the water. There were no noticeable odors along the sections of the reservoir that were observed. The 303(d) list published by the Los

Angeles Regional Water Quality Control Board for 2002 listed DDT, Chlordane, and lead as pollutants within the reservoir. The DDT and Chlordane are listed as tissue, leading one to believe low levels of each have been found in the tissue of the reservoirs fish. Since there are already warning against swimming and wading in the reservoir, studies should be conducted to determine the actual levels of these pollutants within the water and whether warnings should be posted against fishing within the reservoir. Based on my observations of the water body, a trash TMDL should also be established for the Peck Road Park Reservoir due to the high amount of visible trash around the reservoir.

Trash found within the Peck Road Park Lake

- Baby stroller
- Styrofoam
- Plastic tarps
- Coffee cup
- Cigarettes (waters edge)
- Shopping cart
- Aluminum cans
- Plastic bags
- Fishing line
- Shoes
- Kids toys (in water and along the shore)

Along with

- Animal feces (outer edge)
- Algae
- Suspended solids

Figure 1: Google image of the Peck Road Park Reservoir.

Figure 2: Western edge of Reservoir.

Figure 3: Northern Shore.

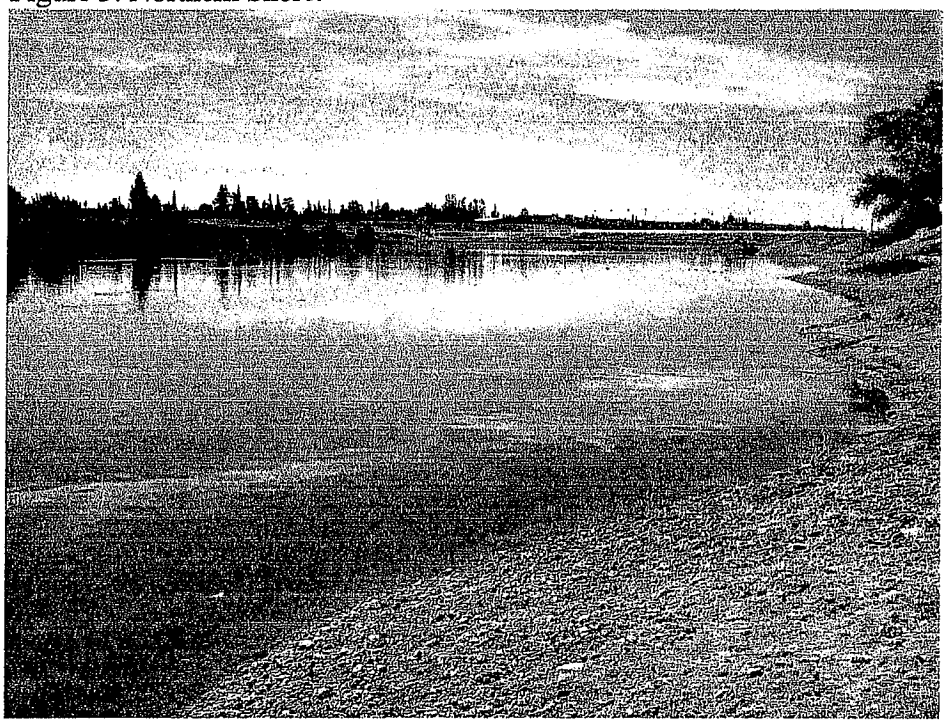

Figure 4: Man Fishing on Eastern Shore.

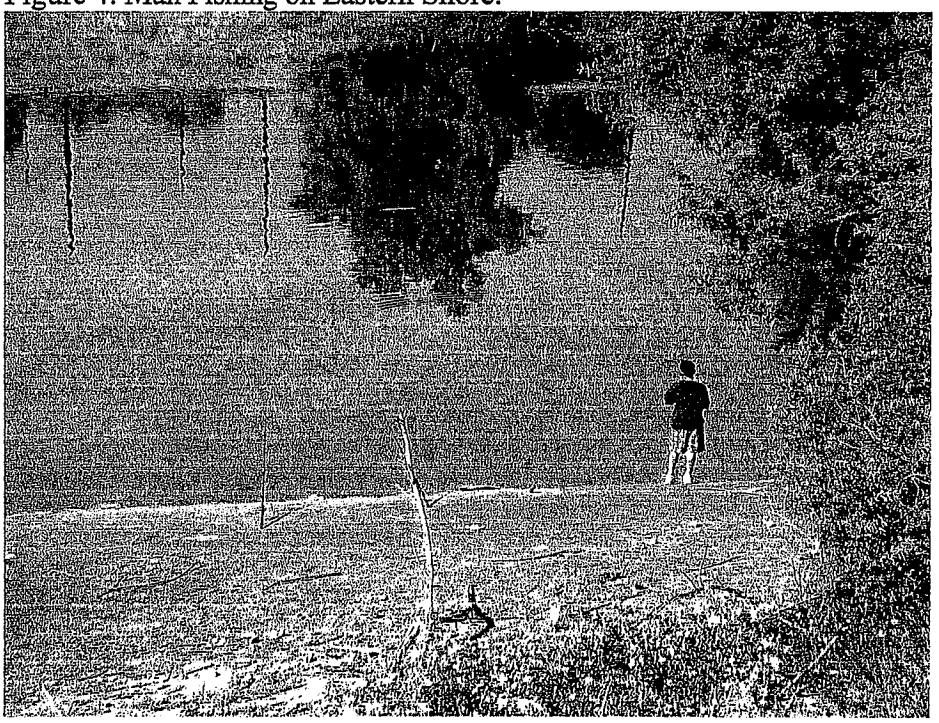

Figure 5: Santa Anita Wash inlet.