*Final*

# IID/SDCWA Water Conservation and Transfer Project EIR/EIS

## Scoping Summary Report

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Approved

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# Contents


| Section | | | Page |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | **Introduction and Background** | | 1-1 |
| 2 | **Scoping Process** | | 2-1 |
| | 2.1 | Purpose and Notification | 2-1 |
| | 2.2 | Scoping Meetings | 2-1 |
| 3 | **Scoping Comments Received** | | 3-1 |
| | 3.1 | Number of Comments | 3-1 |
| | 3.2 | Summary of Comments | 3-3 |
| | | 3.2.1 Water Quantity/Water Quality | 3-3 |
| | | 3.2.2 Water Rights | 3-4 |
| | | 3.2.3 Water Use | 3-4 |
| | | 3.2.4 Groundwater | 3-4 |
| | | 3.2.5 Air Quality | 3-4 |
| | | 3.2.6 Biological Resources | 3-5 |
| | | 3.2.7 Land Use | 3-5 |
| | | 3.2.8 Recreation | 3-5 |
| | | 3.2.9 Energy (Public Services and Utilities) | 3-6 |
| | | 3.2.10 Socioeconomics | 3-6 |
| | | 3.2.11 Cost | 3-6 |
| | | 3.2.12 Growth-Inducing Impacts | 3-6 |
| | | 3.2.13 Cumulative Impacts | 3-6 |
| | | 3.2.14 Mitigation/Monitoring | 3-7 |
| | | 3.2.15 Alternatives | 3-7 |
| | | 3.2.16 Miscellaneous | 3-7 |
| 4 | **Proposed Scope of the Draft EIR/EIS and General Responses to Comments** | | 4-1 |
| | 4.1 | Proposed Scope | 4-1 |
| | 4.2 | General Responses | 4-2 |
| | | 4.2.1 Water Rights | 4-2 |
| | | 4.2.2 Socioeconomics | 4-4 |
| | | 4.2.3 Transboundary Issues | 4-5 |
| | | 4.2.4 SWRCB Proceeding | 4-5 |
| | | 4.2.5 Other Projects Related to the Proposed Project | 4-6 |
| | | 4.2.6 Alternatives to the Proposed Project | 4-7 |
| | 4.3 | Issues not to be Considered in the Draft EIR/EIS | 4-8 |

# Tables


3-1 Number of Commenters Submitting Oral or Written Comments..... 3-1

3-2 Number of Comments by Resource Category..... 3-2

4-1 Colorado River Rights Apportionment and Priorities..... 4-3


# Figures


1-1 Vicinity Map..... 1-3


# Appendixes


A NOI/NOP Notification

B Notices of Public Scoping Meetings

C Public Scoping Meeting Sign-In Sheets

D Public Scoping Meeting Transcripts

10/12/99 ..... Brawley, California

10/13/99 ..... Salton City, California

10/14/99 ..... El Centro, California

10/18/99 ..... Las Vegas, Nevada

10/19/99 ..... Carlsbad, California

10/20/99 ..... San Diego, California

E Scoping Meeting Handouts and Materials

F Speaker Cards

G Written Comments and Letters

H Methodology for Categorizing Scoping Comments

I Scoping Comments Database

J Draft EIR/EIS Outline

K Summary of Issues Determined to be Outside the Proposed Scope of the Draft EIR/EIS

# Acronyms

| | |
|---|---|
| AF | acre feet |
| af/yr | acre-feet per year |
| CDFG | California Department of Fish and Game |
| CEQ | Council on Environmental Quality |
| CEQA | State of California Environmental Quality Act |
| CVWD | Coachella Valley Water District |
| Draft EIR/EIS | Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement |
| IID | Imperial Irrigation District |
| Key Terms | Key Terms for Quantification Settlement Among the State of California, IID, CVWD, and MWD |
| MWD | Metropolitan Water District |
| NEPA | National Environmental Policy Act |
| NOI/NOP | Notice of Intent/Notice of Preparation |
| proposed Project | IID/SDCWA Water Conservation and Transfer Project |
| Reclamation | U.S. Bureau of Reclamation |
| SDCWA | San Diego County Water Authority |
| SWRCB | State Water Resources Control Board |
| TDS | total dissolved solids |

SECTION 1

# Introduction and Background

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and the Imperial Irrigation District (IID) are preparing a joint Draft Environmental Impact Report/ Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIR/EIS) to assess the potential environmental impacts of the IID/San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA) Water Conservation and Transfer Project (proposed Project). The Project Vicinity Map is shown in Figure 1-1. The Draft EIR/EIS is being prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the State of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The proposed Project consists of the conservation by IID of up to 300,000 acre-feet per year (af/yr) of Colorado River water and the subsequent transfer of all or a portion of the conserved water to SDCWA, and under certain circumstances, other designees. Reclamation is the federal Lead Agency under NEPA, and IID is the state Lead Agency under CEQA.

The purpose of this Scoping Summary Report is to provide a summary of the proposed scope of the environmental analysis to be included in the Draft EIR/EIS, which is based, in part, on input received during the scoping process. This report also includes a summary of the comments received during the scoping process and presents responses to the comments that, among other things, identify how the issues raised will be addressed in the Draft EIR/EIS.

This report includes an introduction (Section 1), an overview of the purpose of the scoping process (Section 2), and a summary of the number and nature of comments received (Section 3). It also includes a section identifying how the issues raised in the scoping comments will be addressed in the Draft EIR/EIS and provides general responses to commonly raised issues (Section 4). In some cases, a determination has been made that the issues raised by certain comments are beyond the proposed scope of the environmental assessment required for the proposed Project; therefore, those issues will not be addressed in the Draft EIR/EIS. Issues of this type can generally be characterized by one of the following designations:

(1) The issue does not identify an "environmental impact" associated with the proposed Project;

(2) The issue identifies a potential environmental impact, but the Lead Agencies have determined that it is not "potentially significant;"

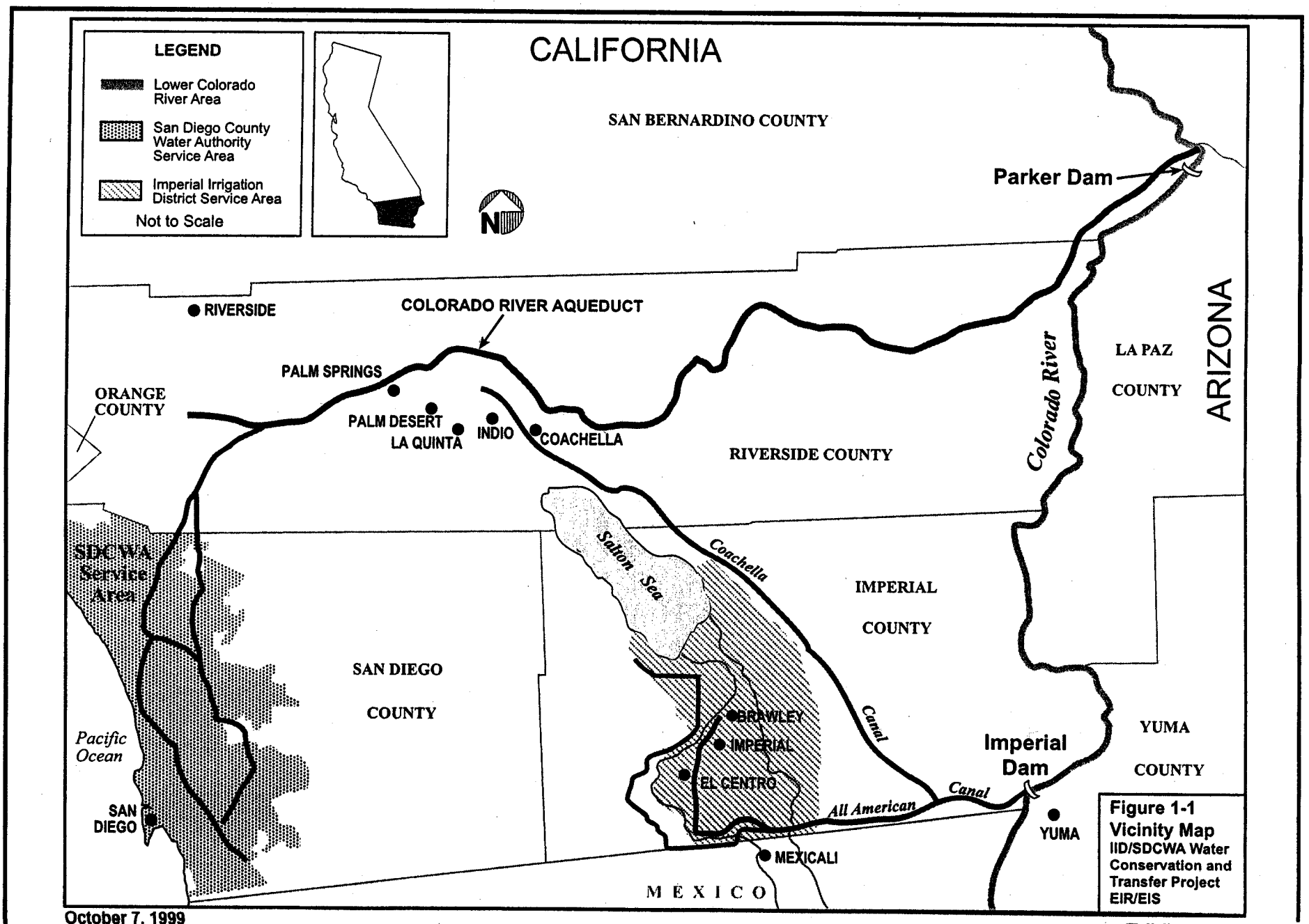
(3) The issue refers to a separate, unrelated project; or

(4) The issue makes a general information request.

For each issue determined to be outside the scope of the Draft EIR/EIS, an explanation is provided in Section 4.3 and Appendix K.

This report also provides the following supporting information, included as appendixes to this report:

| | |
|---|---|
| Appendix A: | Notice of Intent/Notice of Preparation (NOI/NOP) Notification |
| Appendix B: | Notices of Public Scoping Meetings |
| Appendix C: | Public Scoping Meeting Sign-In Sheets |
| Appendix D: | Public Scoping Meeting Transcripts |
| Appendix E: | Scoping Meeting Handouts and Materials |
| Appendix F: | Speaker Cards |
| Appendix G: | Written Comments and Letters |
| Appendix H: | Methodology for Categorizing Scoping Comments |
| Appendix I: | Scoping Comments Database |
| Appendix J: | Draft EIR/EIS Outline |
| Appendix K: | Summary of Issues Determined to be Outside the Proposed Scope of the Draft EIR/EIS |


LEGEND
Lower Colorado River Area
San Diego County Water Authority Service Area
Imperial Irrigation District Service Area
Not to Scale
N
CALIFORNIA
SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY
Parker Dam
RIVERSIDE
COLORADO RIVER AQUEDUCT
PALM SPRINGS
ORANGE COUNTY
PALM DESERT
LA QUINTA
INDIO
COACHELLA
RIVERSIDE COUNTY
Colorado River
LA PAZ COUNTY
ARIZONA
SDCWA Service Area
Salton Sea
Coachella Canal
IMPERIAL COUNTY
SAN DIEGO COUNTY
Pacific Ocean
BRAWLEY
IMPERIAL
EL CENTRO
All American Canal
Imperial Dam
YUMA COUNTY
SAN DIEGO
YUMA
MEXICALI
MEXICO
Figure 1-1
Vicinity Map
IID/SDCWA Water Conservation and Transfer Project EIR/EIS
October 7, 1999
CH2MHILL
SCO155202.02.06 IIDVicinityMapColor.FH8 03/00

SECTION 2

# Scoping Process

This section presents the purpose of the scoping process for the proposed Project, identifies the notification process that was implemented for the scoping meetings, the details of the meeting locations, and meeting attendance.

## 2.1 Purpose and Notification

The scoping process for the proposed Project was designed to solicit input from the public; from federal, state, and local agencies; and from other interested parties on the scope of issues that should be addressed in the Draft EIR/EIS and to identify significant issues related to the proposed Project. The scoping meetings were attended by groups interested in potential water delivery system and on-farm conservation methods, and other aspects of the proposed Project, including potential impacts to the Lower Colorado River, the Salton Sea, and the SDCWA and IID service areas.

The NEPA NOI was published in the *Federal Register* on September 27, 1999, and the CEQA NOP was distributed by the State Clearinghouse on September 29, 1999. Copies of the NOI and NOP are in Appendix A. Additional notification was provided by publishing public notices in newspapers of general circulation. The public scoping meetings were advertised in six local newspapers: *Imperial Valley Press, Desert Sun, San Diego Union Tribune, Los Angeles Times, El Sol del Valle,* and *Las Vegas Review-Journal/Sun.* Appendix B contains the public scoping meeting notices published in each newspaper.

In accordance with NEPA and CEQA guidelines, a 30-day comment period on the NOI/NOP was established that would end on October 27, 1999. The purpose of this 30-day comment period is to provide ample opportunity for the public, agencies, and other interested parties to evaluate and comment on environmental issues related to the proposed Project, while providing a definitive time frame for the Lead Agencies to receive public reactions to the issues raised. This schedule facilitates the Lead Agencies' efforts to evaluate and respond to the comments in an efficient manner and to identify the proposed scope of the Draft EIR/EIS. A 30-day extension to the comment period was requested and granted, which extended the official comment period to November 27, 1999. The Lead Agencies will continue to coordinate with the public, agencies, and other interested parties to consider comments throughout the environmental review process.

## 2.2 Scoping Meetings

The Lead Agencies conducted six public scoping meetings between October 12 and October 20, 1999, to solicit input from the public on potential environmental impacts, the significance of impacts, the appropriate scope of the environmental assessment, proposed mitigation measures, and potential alternatives to the proposed Project. In general, the scoping process resulted in good participation by a cross section of the general public, including local business communities and special interest and environmental groups, as

well as federal, state, and local agencies. The meetings were held at the following locations on the following dates. The number of attendees at each meeting is noted in parentheses.

1) Northern Imperial Valley
(27 attendees)
Elks Lodge #1420
161 South Plaza
Brawley, CA 92227
Tuesday, October 12, 1999

2) Salton Sea Area
(88 attendees)
Salton Sea Community Service District
2098 Frontage Road
Salton City, CA 92275
Wednesday, October 13, 1999

3) Southern Imperial Valley
(28 attendees)
Board of Supervisors' Board Room
640 West Main Street
El Centro, CA 92243
Thursday, October 14, 1999

4) Lower Colorado River Region
(8 attendees)
Clark County Library
1401 East Flamingo Road
Las Vegas, NV 89119
Monday, October 18, 1999

5) Northern San Diego County
(13 attendees)
Carlsbad Senior Center
799 Pine Avenue
Carlsbad, CA 92008
Tuesday, October 19, 1999

6) Southern San Diego County
(22 attendees)
SDCWA Building
3211 Fifth Avenue
San Diego, CA 92103
Wednesday, October 20, 1999

According to sign-in sheets, approximately 186 people attended the scoping meetings. Appendix C contains sign-in sheets from the scoping meetings. All six scoping meetings were recorded by a certified court reporter who provided written transcripts of the proceedings. Appendix D contains copies of the transcripts from the scoping meetings. In addition, for the two scoping meetings held in the Imperial Valley (Brawley and El Centro, California), a certified Spanish interpreter was present to provide simultaneous interpretation. The following documents were also made available as handouts at each scoping meeting.

- Scoping meeting agenda
- Project schedule
- NOI/NOP (in English and Spanish)
- Proposed Project map
- Written comment card
- Speaker card

Appendix E contains copies of the scoping meeting handouts and materials.

SECTION 3

# Scoping Comments Received

This section presents a summary of the number and general content of the comments received during the scoping process. The majority of comments received will be addressed or considered in the Draft EIR/EIS.

## 3.1 Number of Comments

Of the 186 persons who attended the six scoping meetings, 49 provided oral testimony. Those who chose to speak at the scoping meetings were asked to fill out speaker cards to document the oral comments received during the scoping process. While not all oral commenters submitted speaker cards, Appendix F presents the 36 speaker cards that were received. In addition, a total of 44 written comment forms and letters were also received during the scoping comment period. See Appendix G for copies of the written comments. A breakdown of the number of commenters who provided written and/or oral testimony is presented in Table 3-1.

**TABLE 3-1**
Number of Commenters[1] Submitting Oral or Written Comments

| | Federal Agency | State Agency | Local Agency | Special Interest/ Environmental Group | Individual | Local Business | Total |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Public Scoping Meeting Commenters | 0 | 1 | 8 | 4 | 33 | 3 | 49 |
| Written Comments and Letters | 3 | 6 | 12 | 8 | 15 | 0 | 44 |
| **Total** | **3** | **7** | **20** | **12** | **48** | **3** | **93** |

[1] Each comment letter or oral comment received from an agency, individual, or other interested party was counted as one, although numerous issues within one letter or oral comment may have been raised.

A review of the comment letters and meeting transcripts indicated that some of the commenters raised multiple issues during their testimony and/or in their written comments and letters. As a result, a total of 341 issues were identified during the scoping process. After reviewing the 341 issues, it was determined that many of them could be combined into overlapping comment categories because of the common issues raised. See Appendix H for a discussion of the methodology for categorizing and combining scoping comments. As a result of combining like comments, 122 issues were identified. See Appendix I, Scoping Comments Database, for a detailed discussion of the 122 issues.

The Lead Agencies received three comment letters from federal agencies during the scoping process. Five California state agencies and one Arizona state agency participated in the scoping process, submitting six comment letters and one oral comment on issues ranging

from biological and air resources to recreation. Eleven local agencies submitted written comment letters, and eight local agencies submitted oral comments on various issues. Special interest/environmental groups submitted 12 comments primarily concerned with impacts to biological resources. Forty-eight individual comments raised issues on socioeconomic impacts and the health of the Salton Sea. Local businesses contributed three oral comments on the impact of the proposed Project on the local economy.

To facilitate the assessment of comments, those comments with common themes that raised similar issues or questions were organized and combined. Comments have been organized in the following categories: Water Quantity/Quality, Water Rights, Water Use, Groundwater, Air Quality, Biological Resources, Land Use, Recreation, Energy, Socioeconomics, Cost, Growth-Inducing Impacts, Cumulative Impacts, Mitigation/Monitoring, Alternatives, and Miscellaneous. The number of comments in each category is summarized in Table 3-2.

**TABLE 3-2**
Number of Comments by Resource Category

| Resource Category | Total Number of Comments Received | Number of Issues |
|---|---|---|
| Water Quantity/Water Quality | 63 | 17 |
| Water Rights | 26 | 13 |
| Water Use | 35 | 18 |
| Groundwater | 14 | 4 |
| Air Quality | 9 | 1 |
| Biological Resources | 46 | 8 |
| Land Use | 12 | 3 |
| Recreation | 7 | 3 |
| Energy (Public Services and Utilities) | 4 | 2 |
| Socioeconomics | 35 | 11 |
| Cost | 22 | 10 |
| Growth-Inducing Impacts | 9 | 3 |
| Cumulative Impacts | 13 | 3 |
| Mitigation/Monitoring | 12 | 6 |
| Alternatives | 11 | 4 |
| Miscellaneous | 23 | 16 |
| **Total** | **341** | **122** |

## 3.2 Summary of Comments

This section summarizes the content of the written and oral comments submitted during the scoping process. The first part of this section presents a summary of the comments organized by the applicable resource category. For each resource category, a summary of the commenters' concerns is presented. This is followed by a discussion of the ways in which the comments were combined to account for common issues within each resource category. The comment responses reflect the Lead Agencies' preliminary direction for how to address the issues in the Draft EIR/EIS.

The combined comments for each resource category are presented in detail in Appendix I, Scoping Comments Database. Comments raising issues that have been determined to fall outside the scope of the Draft EIR/EIS are addressed in Section 4.3.

Generally, commenters were primarily concerned with impacts to hydrology and water quality, biological resources, and socioeconomics. The letters from federal agencies raised issues with respect to impacts to hydrology, water quality, biological resources, and the ways in which the proposed action could affect various federal regulations, treaties, and water rights. State agency comments from California and Arizona raised issues covering impacts to biological resources, air quality, recreation, and growth. State agencies were also concerned about cumulative impacts and the plans of the proposed Project for mitigation and monitoring. Local agencies expressed concern about the impact of the proposed Project on the local economy and the cost of both cumulative impacts and mitigation and monitoring. Special interest and environmental groups primarily commented on impacts to biological resources. Oral comments and written letters from individuals of the general public raised a variety of issues. Concerns about the impact of the proposed Project to socioeconomic conditions in the Imperial Valley and biological impacts to the Salton Sea were commonly raised. Impacts to the local economy were of great concern to local businesses.

### 3.2.1 Water Quantity/Water Quality

Sixty-three water quantity/water quality comments that raised common issues or concerns were combined to identify 17 issues. These issues primarily concerned the effect of the proposed Project on the water quality and quantity of the Salton Sea, Colorado River, the Delta in Mexico, and other potentially affected streams and watercourses.

Overall, commenters stated that the EIR/EIS must contain an appropriate level of environmental analysis for impacts to water quality and quantity. It was requested that all beneficial uses of Colorado River water be analyzed by addressing the compliance of the proposed Project with surface and instream water quality standards established by federal, state, tribal, and local agencies. Several commenters asked that the EIR/EIS address the impacts of the proposed Project at different levels of water transferred (i.e., at 100,000 af/yr, 200,000 af/yr, and 300,000 af/yr) in order to adequately identify all potential impacts. A comparative water quality analysis was requested to evaluate the current water supply received by SDCWA (a combination of State Water Project and Colorado River Water) and the anticipated supply from the proposed Project, which the commenter suggested could contain a higher level of total dissolved solids (TDS) and affect current treatment and distribution practices in the San Diego area.

A number of commenters requested clarification on the relationship of the proposed Project to the Salton Sea Restoration Project and whether the proposed Project would be beneficial to the Salton Sea (i.e., whether the Salton Sea would receive fresh water as a direct result of the proposed Project to reduce salinity levels). Several commenters suggested providing SDCWA with desalinated ocean water as an alternative to the water transfer from IID. Concerns were raised about whether sufficient water supplies for cities and districts in both the Imperial County and SDCWA service area could be guaranteed after the proposed Project is implemented.

### 3.2.2 Water Rights

Twenty-six water rights comments that raised common issues or concerns were combined to identify 13 issues. These issues expressed concern primarily over present and future water rights allocation and the relationship of the proposed Project to the California 4.4 Plan. Commenters requested clarification of relevant water rights laws, the Colorado River allocation process and regulations, and the history of water rights and the water supply allocation within the Project area. The desire to maintain IID's current and historic Colorado River priorities and water rights was expressed. It was also requested that the proposed Project description be revised to ensure conformance with the results of the recently announced "Quantification Settlement."

### 3.2.3 Water Use

Thirty-five water use comments that raised common issues or concerns were combined to identify 18 issues. These issues were primarily concerned with on-farm conservation methods and the assessment and monitoring of water management once the transfer to SDCWA occurs. Commenters stressed that the proposed Project should be in compliance with existing urban and agricultural water conservation plans. A few commenters suggested that SDCWA obtain needed water through a conservation plan within San Diego County rather than from the Imperial Valley. Overall, the majority of comments received asked for clarification on how the water would be conserved both on-farm and within the irrigation delivery system in Imperial Valley. Some commenters suggested the reuse of seepage and return flows and the use of unused gates in the Imperial Valley drainage system to conserve water. Additional comments received concerned Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) water rights, importing sea water from the Gulf of Mexico, obtaining water supplies from central California to serve SDCWA, and the relationship of the proposed Project to the All American and Coachella Canals Lining Project.

### 3.2.4 Groundwater

Fourteen groundwater comments that raised common issues or concerns were combined to form four issues. These issues primarily concerned the impacts of the proposed Project on the availability of groundwater in the vicinity of the Salton Sea, near the Colorado River, in San Diego County, and in Mexico. Commenters from the Imperial Valley are interested in the impact to their aquifer after the water transfer to SDCWA occurs.

### 3.2.5 Air Quality

Eight air quality comments that raised common issues or concerns were combined to identify one issue concerning potential impacts to air quality. Commenters stated that

potential increases in particulate matter could be caused by the decreasing elevation of the Salton Sea, land fallowing and other agricultural activities, and the increased use of desert landscape to conserve water. Commenters remarked on the importance of monitoring to establish baseline conditions and health risk studies. The need for integration of findings from the California Air Resources Control Board and the Salton Sea Science Subcommittee was also stressed.

### 3.2.6 Biological Resources

Forty-six biological resources comments that raised common issues or concerns were combined to identify eight issues. The majority of these issues were raised by federal and state agencies and environmental groups. The main concerns of these commenters were the potential impact of the proposed Project on rare, threatened, and endangered species; on wetland habitats; and on proposed mitigation measures to reduce the impacts to a level of insignificance. Particular species of concern include black rail (*Laterallus jamaicensis*), Yuma clapper rail (*Rallus longirostris yumanensis*), desert pupfish (*Cyprinodon macularius*), brown pelican (*Pelicanus occidentalis*), razorback sucker (*Xyrauchen texanus*), Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard (*Uma inornata*), Coachella Valley milk vetch (*Astragalus lentiginosus* var. *coachellae*), flat-tailed horned lizard (*Phyrnosoma mcalli*), Palm Springs ground squirrel (*Spermophilus teritaudus chlorus*), Palm Springs pocket mouse (*Perognathus longimembris bangsi*), crissal thrasher (*Toxostoma crissale*), LeConte's thrasher (*Toxostoma lecontei*), burrowing owl (*Speotyto cunicularia*), and Peninsular bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis cremnobates*). Commenters raised concerns over inflows of high TDS entering the Salton Sea, resulting in impacts to fish and wildlife. Commenters also remarked on potential impacts to the rate of succession and conversion of wetland habitat to upland terrestrial habitat. The relationship and resulting cumulative impacts to other water supply and ecosystem restoration projects in the region seemed of particular importance.

### 3.2.7 Land Use

Twelve land use comments that raised common issues or concerns were combined to identify three issues. These issues primarily concerned the impact of the proposed Project on the productivity of Imperial Valley cropland and on agricultural resources and operations. Commenters expressed concern about the use of crop rotation and land fallowing to meet conservation requirements for the proposed Project. Interest in the evaluation of impacts to agricultural resources and operations as a result of the use of these methods was high. Commenters stressed the importance of compliance of the proposed Project with existing regional and local land use plans.

### 3.2.8 Recreation

Seven recreation comments that raised common issues or concerns were combined to identify three issues. These issues primarily concerned the impact of the proposed Project to navigation and boating (recreation) on the Colorado River and in the Salton Sea area. A potential reduction in the elevation of the Salton Sea level caused concerns about impacts to recreation in the Salton Sea area. Concern over the construction of new canals or pipelines through state park or wilderness lands was also expressed.

### 3.2.9 Energy (Public Services and Utilities)

Four energy comments that raised common issues or concerns were combined to identify two issues. These issues requested the Draft EIR/EIS to address potential impacts to energy resources. Commenters raised concern over the potential incompatibility of the proposed Project with existing energy conservation plans as a result of increasing the amount of energy required for groundwater pumping as water levels decline. Commenters stated that the diversion of water upstream of hydroelectric power facilities along the Colorado River could result in a reduction of hydropower generation at Parker Dam. One comment suggested the use of solar-powered sodium removal and sodium hypochlorite generation facilities to reduce impacts to energy resources and reduce salt levels in the Salton Sea.

### 3.2.10 Socioeconomics

Thirty-five socioeconomic comments that raised common issues or concerns were combined to identify 11 issues. These issues primarily concerned the impact of the proposed Project on the residents and local economy of the Salton Sea and Imperial Valley. However, one comment requested an analysis of impacts on cities such as Mecca, Thermal, Indio, Palm Desert, and La Quinta. It was requested that impacts to residents of Imperial Valley and the Salton Sea area be treated with equal concern as impacts to individual or corporate water rights holders. Numerous commenters asked that the potential impacts to the agricultural economy of the Imperial Valley be addressed in the EIR/EIS. Specifically, impacts to farm workers' jobs and labor skills, and on-farm-related businesses such as impacts to fertilizer, pesticides, seeds, equipment, and mechanic companies were emphasized. Also of concern were impacts to Indian Tribes and environmental justice issues affecting minority communities and low-income populations.

### 3.2.11 Cost

Twenty-two comments that raised common issues or concerns on Project costs were combined to identify 10 issues. These issues focused on the distribution of economic incentive benefits for conservation efforts and distribution of the revenue generated from the proposed Project. Comments pertaining to the cost of environmental mitigation and increases to SDCWA water rates were also raised. One comment requested a reduction in the cost of litigation associated with past and future water transfers in the Imperial Valley.

### 3.2.12 Growth-Inducing Impacts

Nine comments on growth-inducing impacts that raised common issues or concerns were combined to identify three issues. These issues concerned the impact of the proposed Project on growth in San Diego County and the Salton Sea area. Commenters requested that the EIR/EIS analyze the potential impact on growth in the Salton Sea area if sea levels drop and more land becomes available for development.

### 3.2.13 Cumulative Impacts

Thirteen comments on cumulative impacts that raised common issues or concerns were combined to identify three issues. These issues primarily concerned the relation of the proposed Project to the Salton Sea Restoration Project and potential direct, indirect, third-party, and cumulative impacts. One commenter emphasized the importance of the

evaluation of the effects of similar, cumulative actions in addition to the proposed Project that would reduce Colorado River flows.

### 3.2.14 Mitigation/Monitoring

Twelve mitigation/monitoring comments that raised common issues or concerns were combined to identify six issues. These issues suggested that appropriate mitigation measures be developed and monitored and that mitigation responsibilities be appropriately assigned. Commenters emphasized that mitigation measures and mitigation monitoring and reporting for the proposed Project should fulfill requirements set by the California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG). The commenters also requested that the selected mitigation measures emphasize the evaluation and selection of alternatives that avoid or otherwise minimize impacts of the proposed Project. It was suggested that additional work might be needed to develop appropriate measures to mitigate adverse air quality effects resulting from the proposed Project. One commenter asked that specific mitigation measures be developed to address increasing salinity concentrations in agricultural soils.

### 3.2.15 Alternatives

Eleven comments on alternatives that raised common issues or concerns were combined to identify four issues that will be addressed in the Draft EIR/EIS. These issues generally requested that reasonable alternatives to the proposed Project, including alternative feasible water transfer mechanisms, be addressed in the Draft EIR/EIS. Commenters suggested that the Draft EIR/EIS consider the following alternatives to the proposed Project:

- No Action Alternative
- No Project Alternative
- Providing water to SDCWA from an alternate water supplier
- Water rationing
- Water conservation in the SDCWA service area
- Growth control in San Diego County
- Return of recycled water to the Colorado River by a canal or aqueduct
- Desalination of ocean water

In addition, one commenter requested that the Draft EIR/EIS consider a range of water transfer mechanisms to transport the water from the Imperial Valley to SDCWA, including tunneling or installing a pipeline or canal.

### 3.2.16 Miscellaneous

Twenty-three miscellaneous comments were received that raised common issues or concerns that could not be categorized under the first 15 resource issues. These 23 comments were combined to identify 16 general issues. In general, these issues requested: (1) extensions to the official comment period, (2) copies of the Public Notice, and (3) proper referencing of environmental documentation within the Draft EIR/EIS. In addition, commenters requested that public meetings concerning the proposed Project also be held in Calexico, California, and Yuma, Arizona. In addition, Salton Sea area residents requested additional opportunities to participate in the proposed Project environmental review process. One commenter was concerned that despite the terms of years written into the proposed Project definition, a water transfer of the magnitude of the proposed Project will

become a permanent and irreversible transfer but not be assessed as such in the Draft EIR/EIS. Another commenter requested that after the Draft EIR/EIS is issued, the reviewing public be given definition of the exact purposes for which the Lead Agencies and other responsible agencies will use the assessment.

SECTION 4

# Proposed Scope of the Draft EIR/EIS and General Responses to Comments

As discussed above in Section 3.1, comments received during the scoping process identified 122 issues that federal, state, and local agencies; special interest and environmental groups; individuals; and businesses felt should be addressed in the Draft EIR/EIS. After thorough consideration of these issues, an initial determination concerning the scope of the Draft EIR/EIS has been made. The categorization of comments facilitated the identification of potentially impacted resource categories and helped to determine the scope of the Draft EIR/EIS. A detailed discussion of the proposed scope of the Draft EIR/EIS is presented in Section 4.1, and an outline of the Draft EIR/EIS is included as Appendix J.

The Lead Agencies' initial responses to the issues raised by the comments received are set forth below and in Appendix I. General responses addressing the following resources include water rights issues, socioeconomics issues, transboundary issues, the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) proceeding in connection with the proposed Project, other projects related to the proposed Project, and alternatives to the proposed Project. In addition, issues that are not answered by the general responses have been responded to on an individual basis in Appendix I, Scoping Comments Database. The responses are intended to provide the public with a greater understanding of how specific issues will be addressed in the Draft EIR/EIS.

## 4.1 Proposed Scope

The proposed scope of the Draft EIR/EIS has been determined after review and consideration of the written and oral comments received during the scoping process. These comments, in addition to feedback that will be received during agency consultation and coordination, will help determine the final scope of the Draft EIR/EIS. The preliminary scope of the Draft EIR/EIS is discussed below.

Chapter 1 of the Draft EIR/EIS will present a general introduction and overview of the proposed Project including background information. Chapter 1 will cover the consultation and coordination process, including the scoping process conducted with the public and the consultation and coordination conducted with Responsible, Cooperating, and Trustee Agencies, and Indian Tribes. The purpose and need for the proposed Project will also be presented in Chapter 1.

Chapter 2 of the Draft EIR/EIS will provide a detailed description of the proposed Project, including Project location and study area and identification of Project components. A discussion of Project alternatives will be presented, including the screening process for selection of alternatives according to the NEPA and CEQA requirements for alternatives.

Chapters 3 and 4 will present the environmental setting and the environmental impacts and subsequent mitigation measures for the following resources: Hydrology and Water Quality,

Geology and Soils, Transportation and Traffic, Noise, Air Quality, Biological Resources, Aesthetics, Land Use and Planning, Agricultural Resources, Recreational Resources, Public Services and Utilities, Socioeconomics, Public Health and Environmental Hazards, Cultural Resources, Indian Trust Assets, and Transboundary Effects. The resources to be addressed in Chapters 3 and 4 were identified and refined after considering issues raised during the scoping process.

Chapter 3 presents the environmental setting for each resource category. This includes a description of the environmental baseline conditions and characteristics of the study region and Project area as they relate to each resource. Chapter 4 will identify potential environmental impacts and proposed mitigation measures. Unavoidable significant impacts of the proposed Project and alternatives, including the No Project/No Action Alternative, will be addressed. The methods of assessment, significance criteria, and regulatory setting of each resource will also be presented.

Chapter 5 will discuss other CEQA and NEPA topics, such as the relationship between short-term uses of the environment and the maintenance and enhancement of long-term productivity. Chapter 6 will analyze the cumulative impacts of the proposed Project and alternatives. The analysis will include a listing of the projects considered for the cumulative analysis. A detailed outline of the table of contents proposed for the Draft EIR/EIS is included as Appendix J of the scoping summary report on the Project web site.

## 4.2 General Responses

The Lead Agencies have developed the following general responses to issues raised by questions and comments on the following issues: water rights issues, socioeconomic issues, transboundary issues, the SWRCB proceeding in connection with the proposed Project, other projects related to the proposed Project, and alternatives to the proposed Project. These general responses were developed to address these issues because they were commonly raised during the scoping process. Comments or questions that raised other issues are responded to in Appendix I, Scoping Comments Database.

### 4.2.1 Water Rights

Several comments received during the scoping process requested clarification on the nature of the Colorado River water rights held by IID and others, and the effects of the proposed Project on those rights. The following background information is provided in response to those comments.

IID holds very senior rights to Colorado River water, which are respected under both state and federal law, known as the "Law of the River." Beginning in 1885, IID's predecessor started acquiring rights to Colorado River water under state law. Then, under the 1922 Colorado River Compact and the 1928 Boulder Canyon Project Act, California, Nevada, and Arizona (referred to as the Lower Basin States) were apportioned a total of 7.5 million acre feet (AF) of Colorado River water per year. This allocation is apportioned among those states as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| California | 4,400,000 AF |
| Nevada | 300,000 AF |
| Arizona | 2,800,000 AF |

The 7.5 million-AF allocation to the Lower Basin States does not include surplus water, which is apportioned 50 percent to California, 4 percent to Nevada, and 46 percent to Arizona.

California's apportionment of Colorado River water is divided among entitlement holders in accordance with a schedule of priorities agreed to in the 1931 Seven-Party Agreement. Each holder can divert Colorado River water, in priority order, up to the maximum amount stated for that priority, to the extent water is available. The apportionments and priorities are presented in Table 4-1 below.

**TABEL 4-1**
Colorado River Rights Apportionment and Priorities

| Priority | Holder | Maximum Amount (Af/Yr) |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | Palo Verde Irrigation District—gross area of 104,500 acres | |
| 2 | Yuma Project (Reservation District)—not exceeding a gross area of 25,000 acres | |
| 3a | IID and lands in Imperial and Coachella Valleys to be served by the All American Canal | 3,850,000 |
| 3b | Palo Verde Irrigation District—16,000 acres of mesa lands | |
| 4 | Metropolitan Water District and/or City of Los Angeles and/or others on coastal plain | 550,000 |
| | **SUBTOTAL** | **4,400,000** |
| 5a | Metropolitan Water District and/or City of Los Angeles and/or others on coastal plain | 550,000 |
| 5b | City and/or County of San Diego | 112,000 |
| 6a | IID and lands in Imperial and Coachella Valleys | 300,000 |
| 6b | Palo Verde Irrigation District—16,000 acres of mesa lands | |
| 7 | Agricultural use | all remaining water |
| | **TOTAL** | **5,362,000** |

This schedule shows that the holders of Priorities 1 through 3 (referred to as the "agricultural users") can divert, in priority order, up to an aggregate maximum amount not to exceed 3,850,000 af/yr. The historical average annual use for Priorities 1 and 2 is approximately 420,000 af/yr. CVWD's entitlement under Priority 3 is subordinated to IID's Priority 3 entitlement, pursuant to a 1934 agreement between the parties. This schedule does not reflect the entitlement of Indian or miscellaneous present perfected right holders to the Colorado River.

The proposed Project includes a voluntary commitment by IID to limit its Priority 3 Colorado River water diversions to 3.1 million af/yr during the term of the Project. IID intends, by this limitation, to ensure that the proposed water transfers will not adversely

impact junior water rights holders. In particular, when Priorities 1 and 2 use their historical average, this limitation would make available 330,000 af/yr of Priority 3 water to CVWD, an amount equal to CVWD's recent historical average use of Colorado River water. State and federal water regulators will consider impacts on such junior water rights holders in connection with various federal and state implementation agreements and/or approvals required for the proposed Project.

The proposed Project, if viewed under state law, involves a transfer of conserved water, not a transfer of IID's water rights. The transfer is contingent upon the confirmation of all state regulatory authorities that the conserved water will retain its character as water diverted by IID and that the transfer will not change IID's Priority 3 right to the water (subject to the 3.1 million-AF limitation described above). The proposed Project, if viewed under federal law, involves the temporary limitation of IID's Priority 3 right to 3.1 million AF, and the agreement of IID to refrain from ordering an amount of water equivalent to that conserved by IID in accordance with the IID/SDCWA transfer agreement. The Secretary will, under federal law, deliver that water for SDCWA's use at the Colorado River Aqueduct and account for it accordingly during the term of the IID/SDCWA agreement and in accordance with an Implementation Agreement pursuant to the Quantification Settlement Agreement. It is an important objective of IID to retain its historic and senior water rights. The Secretary will agree that IID's right to the delivery of Priority 3 water will survive the termination of the IID/SDCWA transfer agreement. It is also an important objective of SDCWA that the transferred water be Priority 3 water in order to gain the benefit of seniority and reliability in times of shortage.

### 4.2.2 Socioeconomics

Several questions and comments were received concerning the impact of the proposed Project on the agricultural resources and socioeconomic attributes of the Imperial Valley. The following is provided in response to those comments.

The number of farmable acres in the Imperial Valley has remained relatively constant at approximately 480,000 acres, with total acreage in cultivation during any given year ranging from 450,000 to 470,000. Cropping patterns and frequencies within the valley have remained fairly constant over the past 10 years, with annual fluctuations being driven by anticipated changes in market prices based on short-term projections. The proposed Project assumes that the historic patterns of total irrigated acres in production, cropping patterns, and cropping frequencies will remain within the range of historical fluctuation. A discussion of the data used to identify the historic patterns will be included in the Agricultural Resources section of the EIR/EIS.

The Draft EIR/EIS will assess the potential socioeconomic impacts of the proposed Project in conformance with NEPA and CEQA requirements. Potential impacts to the regional economy will be identified at the County level. The County-level unit of analysis is used because this is generally the smallest unit of measurement for which economic data are collected and reported. Overall economic impacts of the proposed Project will be identified and assessed for aggregated sectors such as Agriculture, Manufacturing and Government (in terms of changes in employment), and personnel income and economic output for each aggregated sector. A full disclosure of the sources of data used and assumptions employed in the analysis will be provided in the EIR/EIS.

As an intermediate step in identifying the County-level regional economic impacts, changes in the costs of production and farm-level revenue streams will be identified. The Agricultural Resources section will provide a description of the assumptions used to identify impacts to farm-level economics, including the costs of production, values used for anticipated crop yields and prices, and any revenues received from the sale of conserved water. An analysis of the impact of the proposed Project on farm and nonfarm land values will be included in the EIR/EIS, including a qualitative discussion regarding the impacts to future nonagricultural economic development.

The potential impacts of the proposed Project on the Torres-Martinez Tribe and the trust responsibilities of the Department of Interior will be addressed within the Indian Trust Assets section of the EIR/EIS. An analysis of the potential Project impacts on low-income and minority populations will be conducted as part of the Socioeconomics section of the EIR/EIS.

### 4.2.3 Transboundary Issues

Within the context of the Draft EIR/EIS, transboundary issues refer to effects to Mexico caused by the proposed Project. The Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ), a branch of the Executive Office of the United States President, issued a recommendation stating that to be consistent with NEPA, transboundary effects to the environment resulting from proposed federal actions taking place in the United States should be considered. The guidance pertains to all federal agency actions that are normally subject to NEPA, whether covered by an international agreement or not. This guidance is a result of negotiations with the governments of Mexico and Canada to develop an agreement on transboundary environmental impact assessment authorized in Section 10.7 of the North American Agreement on Environmental Cooperation. The analysis should include reasonably foreseeable transboundary effects of federal actions. Impacts in Mexico are subject to Mexican laws and regulations. The federal actions for the Project are related to the change in the point of diversion on the Lower Colorado River. Direct and indirect effects of the federal action will be evaluated in the Draft EIR/EIS.

Transboundary effects may occur in any of the resource areas considered in the Draft EIR/EIS. The Draft EIR/EIS will address potential transboundary effects. Transboundary effects will also be cross referenced, as appropriate, to other resource sections that assess specific environmental resource issues (e.g., migratory birds, socioeconomic effects, water quality, and air quality).

### 4.2.4 SWRCB Proceeding

Several comments received during the scoping process requested information about the purpose of the SWRCB proceeding in connection with the proposed Project. IID believes the SWRCB proceeding is necessary under state law in order to implement the proposed Project. IID and SDCWA have requested SWRCB, among other things: (1) to approve the water transfer under Section 1011 of the California Water Code, (2) to confirm that the conserved water retains the same priority as IID's senior water rights, and (3) to make a determination that the transfer establishes reasonable and beneficial use of Colorado River water by IID. SWRCB's determination of these matters, as requested, must be obtained before IID and SDCWA will proceed with the proposed Project.

In reviewing this request, SWRCB will assess the impact of the transfer on the holders of Colorado River rights, which are junior to those of IID. As described in Section 4.2.1, Water Rights, the proposed Project includes a commitment by IID to limit its annual Priority 3 Colorado River water diversion to 3.1 million AF, for the benefit of junior rights holders, in order to facilitate SWRCB's approval.

### 4.2.5 Other Projects Related to the Proposed Project

Several commenters remarked on agreements, transfers, and other projects related to the proposed Project, including the Salton Sea Restoration Project, the California 4.4 Plan, the Quantification Settlement between IID, CVWD, and Metropolitan Water District (MWD), the All American and Coachella Canal Lining Projects, and Coachella Valley Resources. General responses that address these are discussed in more detail below.

**Salton Sea Restoration Project.** The Salton Sea Restoration Project is a separate project from the proposed Project and is authorized by 1998 legislation passed by Congress. The Salton Sea Reclamation Act directs Reclamation and the Salton Sea Authority to study potential solutions to improve the current conditions at the Salton Sea. The Salton Sea Authority is the state lead agency, and Reclamation is the federal lead agency. IID is a member of the Salton Sea Authority. A joint EIR/EIS is being prepared for the Salton Sea Restoration Project, and the Draft EIR/EIS was released in January 2000. The Lead Agencies for the proposed Project are coordinating with the project team for the Salton Sea Restoration Project in an effort to coordinate scientific analyses and to ensure that the EIR/EIS for the proposed Project includes an appropriate assessment of related and cumulative impacts to the Salton Sea.

**California 4.4 Plan.** The schedule of priorities and apportionments among California users of Colorado River water, which is shown Table 4-1, indicates that if the holders of Priorities 1 through 4 diverted their total entitlement (a total of 4.4 million af/yr), then California's nonsurplus allocation (also 4.4 million af/yr) would be exhausted, and no further water would be available to holders of lower priorities, including the holder of Priority 5, whose use is on the southern California coastal plain.

For many years, California has been diverting approximately 5.2 million af/yr, which was possible because Nevada and Arizona were not using their total apportionments and because surplus water has been available. Arizona and Nevada are now approaching the diversion of their full apportionments, and the future availability of surplus water is uncertain. Thus, there is a serious risk of a water shortage to California as a result of California's diversions declining from 5.2 to 4.4-million af/yr. The Colorado River Board of California, the agency comprised of California Colorado River water right holders, is preparing a framework plan called the "California 4.4 Plan," which is designed to bring California water use within the state's 4.4 million-AF apportionment. The California 4.4 Plan includes the Quantification Settlement, which provides for the satisfaction of miscellaneous and Indian present perfected right entitlements within California's 4.4 million-AF apportionment. The proposed conservation and transfer by IID of up to 300,000 af/yr for a substantial time period is a key component of the proposed Plan. By conserving water used in the IID area and transferring it for use to more urban areas, which previously depended on the availability of surplus water above 4.4 million af/yr, California is able to more easily live within its legal allocation.

**Quantification Settlement.** On October 15, 1999, the negotiating teams for IID, CVWD, and MWD executed a document titled "Key Terms for Quantification Settlement Among the State of California, IID, CVWD, and MWD" (Key Terms), which sets forth the key material terms of a proposed settlement relating to use of Colorado River water. The Key Terms will be used as the basis for drafting the legal documents that will set forth all of the definitive terms and conditions of the Quantification Settlement. The parties currently anticipate that the complete legal documents will not be available until April 2000.

Based upon the Key Terms, the settlement, to which the United States is not a party if written in terms of state law, would provide for, among other things: (1) IID's voluntary commitment to limit its annual Priority 3 water diversions to 3.1 million AF (a commitment that is also included in the proposed Project); (2) the transfer of 130,000 to 200,000 af/yr of the water conserved by IID as part of the proposed Project to SDCWA; (3) the transfer of up to 100,000 af/yr of the water conserved by IID, as part of the proposed Project, to CVWD and/or MWD; and (4) various other transfers and allocations of Colorado River water among other right holders. The Quantification Settlement will be contingent upon the Secretary of the Interior's contractual agreement under federal law to deliver Colorado River water in accordance with the terms of the settlement.

As the terms of the Quantification Settlement become more defined, the Lead Agencies for the proposed Project will coordinate with the parties to the proposed Quantification Settlement in order to ensure consistent and comprehensive environmental review of both projects, including related and cumulative impacts.

**All American and Coachella Canal Lining Projects.** The All American and Coachella Canal Lining Projects are separate projects that are not included in the proposed Project but are components of the overall water delivery network. An EIR/EIS has been prepared for the All American Canal Lining Project by Reclamation. A separate EIR/EIS is also being prepared for the Coachella Canal Lining Project. Environmental impacts of both canal lining projects, and any mitigation measures required, will be fully evaluated in the respective joint environmental documents.

The potential effects of the proposed Project on the operation of the All American and Coachella Canals will be addressed in the Draft EIR/EIS.

**Coachella Valley Resources.** Impacts of the proposed Project to the resources of the Coachella Valley will be addressed at a programmatic level within the Draft EIR/EIS. Project-level impacts of the proposed Project will be addressed separately in an EIR being prepared by CVWD.

### 4.2.6 Alternatives to the Proposed Project

Several comments received during the scoping process suggested providing SDCWA with water supplies from sources other than the Imperial Valley. Suggested alternatives to the proposed Project received during the scoping process include providing SDCWA with desalinated ocean water, water supplies from central California, or through the implementation of a water conservation program within San Diego County.

As set forth in the IID/SDCWA Water Conservation and Transfer EIR/EIS Public Participation Plan, which is available on the Project web site (http://www.is.ch2m.com.iidweb), the next step in the EIR/EIS process is to identify a

reasonable range of alternatives to the proposed Project. The Draft EIR/EIS will assess and compare the environmental impacts of these alternatives, as well as those of the proposed Project. Comments received during the public scoping process relating to alternatives, such as comments on various conservation methods/programs and alternative water supplies for San Diego, will be considered during the alternatives development process. The public will be kept informed as alternatives are identified and evaluated. An Alternatives Report will be prepared that summarizes the process, meetings, and methodology used to arrive at the final set of alternatives that will be evaluated in the EIR/EIS. At least one public meeting will be conducted to review the Alternatives Report.

## 4.3 Issues not to be Considered in the Draft EIR/EIS

A small number of comments during the scoping process raised issues that have been determined to fall outside the proposed scope of the Draft EIR/EIS. These include: issues that do not identify an "environmental impact" associated with the proposed Project; issues that identify a potential environmental impact, but the Lead Agencies have determined that it is not "potentially significant;" issues regarding a separate, unrelated project; and comments that requested general information. These issues, and the explanations of why they are outside the scope of the proposed Project, are presented in Appendix K.

# APPENDIX A
## NOI/NOP NOTIFICATION

# Appendix A
# NOI/NOP Notification

# DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Reclamation

Imperial Irrigation District/San Diego County Water Authority Water Conservation and Transfer Project

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Reclamation, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR)/ Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and notice of public scoping meetings on the Imperial Irrigation District/San Diego County Water Authority Water Conservation and Transfer Project.

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**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to section 102 (2) (c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the State of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the

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Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and Imperial Irrigation District (IID or District) will prepare a joint EIR/EIS to assess the impacts of the proposed IID/San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA) Water Conservation and Transfer Project. The proposed project consists of the conservation by IID of up to 300,000 acre-feet of Colorado River water per year (af/yr), and the subsequent transfer of all or a portion of the diverted water to the SDCWA and, under certain circumstances, other designees. IID and Reclamation are holding public scoping meetings soliciting input from the public on the types of issues and extent of analysis that should be contained in the EIR/EIS.

**DATES:** Written comments on the NOI will be accepted until October 25, 1999. Public scoping meetings will be held at the following locations (both written and oral comments will be accepted at the public scoping meetings):

1. Northern Imperial Valley--Elks Lodge #1420, 161 South Plaza, Brawley, CA 92227, Tuesday, October 12, 1999, 7 PM to 9 PM.
2. Salton Sea Area--Salton Sea Community Service District, 2098 Frontage Road, Salton City, CA 92275, Wednesday, October 13, 1999, 7 PM to 9 PM..
3. Southern Imperial Valley--IID Board Room, 1285 Broadway, El Centro, CA 92243, Thursday, October 14, 1999, 7 PM to 9 PM.
4. Lower Colorado River Region--Clark County Library, 1401 East Flamingo Road, Las Vegas, NV 89119, Monday, October 18, 1999, 7 PM to 9 PM.
5. Northern San Diego County--Carlsbad Senior Center, 799 Pine

Implementation of the proposed project will require certain state approvals, including approval by the State Water Resources Control Board and compliance with CEQA and the California Endangered Species Act. Implementation will also require certain federal approvals, including approval of the proposed transfer between IID and SDCWA, compliance with NEPA, the federal Endangered Species Act and other related federal environmental laws, statutes, Executive Orders, and regulations. Reclamation will act as the federal lead agency pursuant to NEPA because certain actions taken to facilitate the transfer will require approval by the Secretary of the Interior. Such actions could potentially include amendments to IID's contract with the Secretary, change in the point of diversion of Colorado River water, change in type of use, change in place of use, verification or concurrence in the amount of water conserved by this Project, and verification of beneficial use of Colorado River water. Reclamation is therefore seeking comments from the public on the scope of the issues and extent of analysis that should be evaluated in the EIR/EIS.

Additional information can be obtained from the project website at http://www.is.ch2m.com/iidweb.

Alternatives

The EIR/EIS will evaluate other feasible project alternatives, including a range of alternative conservation measures, water supply and transfer alternatives, and various alternative measures in addition to the No Project/No Action Alternative.

Potential water supply alternatives that will be considered in the EIR/EIS include the following:

<bullet> Additional water conservation in the San Diego service area
<bullet> Additional water repurification and recycling
<bullet> Desalination
<bullet> Additional water transfers from Northern California
<bullet> Transfer of water conserved in another agricultural region with conveyance through the State Water Project and Metropolitan Water District system

Potential Environmental Effects

The full range of environmental impacts has not been quantified temporally and spatially. Until specific conservation alternatives have been developed, potential environmental effects could include the following:

Lower Colorado River Area

<bullet> Reduction in Colorado River water flows between Parker and Imperial Dams
<bullet> Impacts to Colorado River water quality
<bullet> Impacts to wildlife, protected species and their habitats
<bullet> Cumulative impacts to water quality

San Diego County

<bullet> Growth-inducing impacts
<bullet> Salton Sea
<bullet> Effects on water levels, salinity, and water quality

<bullet> Effects on fisheries habitat
<bullet> Impacts to wildlife, protected species and their habitats
<bullet> Impacts to recreational uses

Imperial Valley

<bullet> Impacts to water flow and quality
<bullet> Effects on selenium, boron, and pesticide concentrations
<bullet> Impacts to wildlife, protected species and their habitats
<bullet> Socio-economic impacts
<bullet> Air quality impacts

The draft EIR/EIS is expected to be completed by a target date of April 3, 2000. Availability of the draft EIR/EIS for public review and comment will be announced and noticed in the local media and by a Federal Register Notice.

Dated: September 23, 1999.
Steven Richardson,
Chief of Staff, Bureau of Reclamation.
[FR Doc. 99-25187 Filed 9-24-99; 8:45 am]
billing code 4310-94-p

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

# Governor's Office of Planning and Research
## State Clearinghouse

Gray Davis
GOVERNOR

STREET ADDRESS: 1400 TENTH STREET ROOM 222 SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814
MAILING ADDRESS: P.O. BOX 3044 SACRAMENTO, CA 95812-3044
916-445-0613 FAX 916-323-3018 www.opr.ca.gov/clearinghouse.html

Loretta Lynch
DIRECTOR

**Notice of Preparation**

OCT 1999
Received
Water Admin.
Services

September 29, 1999

To: Reviewing Agencies

Re: IID/SDCWA Water Conservation and Transfer Project
SCH# 99091142

Attached for your review and comment is the Notice of Preparation (NOP) for the IID/SDCWA Water Conservation and Transfer Project draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

Responsible agencies must transmit their comments on the scope and content of the NOP, focusing on specific information related to their own statutory responsibility, within 30 days of receipt of the NOP from the Lead Agency. This is a courtesy notice provided by the State Clearinghouse with a reminder for you to comment in a timely manner. We encourage other agencies to also respond to this notice and express their concerns early in the environmental review process.

Please direct your comments to:

**Steven Knell**
**Imperial Irrigation District**
**333 East Baroni Boulevard**
**Imperial, CA 92251**

with a copy to the State Clearinghouse in the Office of Planning and Research. Please refer to the SCH number noted above in all correspondence concerning this project.

If you have any questions about the environmental document review process, please call the State Clearinghouse at (916) 445-0613.

Sincerely,

TR for MB
Mosie Boyd
State Clearinghouse

Attachments
cc: Lead Agency

# Document Details Report
## State Clearinghouse Data Base

**SCH#** 99091142
**Project Title** IID/SDCWA Water Conservation and Transfer Project
**Lead Agency** Imperial Irrigation District

**Type** nop Notice of Preparation

**Description** IID was oragnized in 1911 to deliver Colorado River water to lands within the Imperial Valley, California for agricultural, domestic, industrial, and other beneficial uses. Water is delivered via the All American Canal and flows through the Colorado River at Imperial Dam based upon water rights obtained prior to the beginning of this century under state law, pursuant to a 1932 water delivery contract for permanent service, for potable and irrigation purposes within the boundaries of the District, with the Secretary of the Interior under Boulder Canyon Project Act of 1928 [45 Stat. 1057, as amended, 43 U.S.C. 617 et seq.], and pursuant to appropriations applications filed with the state between 1933 and 1936. Water flows through the Imperial Valley in a complex system of delivery canals, laterals, and drains serving over 450,000 acres of some of the most intensively farmed land in the nation. Agricultural drainage water flows into the New and Alamo Rivers and into the Salton Sea, a designated reservoir for irrigation drainage.

## Lead Agency Contact

**Name** Steven Knell
**Agency** Imperial Irrigation District
**Phone** 760-339-9266 **Fax**
**email**
**Address** 333 East Baroni Boulevard
**City** Imperial **State** CA **Zip** 92251

## Project Location

**County** Riverside, Imperial, San Diego
**City** Imperial, San Diego
**Region**
**Cross Streets**
**Parcel No.**
**Township** **Range** **Section** **Base**

## Proximity to:

**Highways** 10
**Airports**
**Railways**
**Waterways** Colorado River
**Schools**
**Land Use** Agricultural / Residential

**Project Issues** Aesthetic/Visual; Agricultural Land; Air Quality; Archaeologic-Historic; Coastal Zone; Drainage/Absorption; Economics/Jobs; Fiscal Impacts; Flood Plain/Flooding; Geologic/Seismic; Noise; Population/Housing Balance; Public Services; Recreation/Parks; Soil Erosion/Compaction/Grading; Toxic/Hazardous; Traffic/Circulation; Vegetation; Water Quality; Water Supply; Wetland/Riparian; Wildlife; Growth Inducing; Landuse; Cumulative Effects

**Reviewing Agencies** Resources Agency; Office of Historic Preservation; Department of Parks and Recreation; Department of Water Resources; Department of Health Services; Department of Fish and Game, Region 5; Department of Fish and Game, Region 6; Native American Heritage Commission; Public Utilities Commission; State Lands Commission; Colorado River Board; Caltrans, District 8; Caltrans, District 11; State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Water Rights; Regional Water Quality Control Board, Region 7; Regional Water Quality Control Board, Region 9

Note: Blanks in data fields result from insufficient information provided by lead agency.

***Date Received*** 09/28/1999 ***Start of Review*** 09/28/1999 ***End of Review*** 10/27/1999

Note: Blanks in data fields result from insufficient information provided by lead agency.

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707/944-5518 Fax 707/944-5563

[ ] **William Laudermilk (Region 4)**
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Fresno, CA 93710
559/243-4005 Fax 559/243-4022

[X] **SandyPeterson (Region5)**
Department of Fish and Game
Habitat Conservation Program
4949 Viewridge Avenue
San Diego, CA 92123
619/467-4234 Fax 619/467-4299

[X] **CherylAvants (Region6)**
Department of Fish and Game
Habitat Conservation Program
330 Golden Shore, Suite 50
Long Beach, CA 90802
562/590-5159 Fax 562/590-5192

[ ] **AlanPickard (Inyo & Mono)**
Department of Fish and Game
Habitat Conservation Program
407 West Line Street, Room 8
Bishop, CA 93514
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**Independent Commissions/Agencies**

[ ] **Greg Newhouse**
*California Energy Commission*
1516 Ninth Street, MS-15
Sacramento, CA 95814
916/654-5000 Fax 916/654-3882

[X] **Debbie Treadway**
*Native American Heritage Comm.*
915 Capitol Mall, Room 364
Sacramento, CA 95814
916/653-4082 Fax 916/657-5390

[X] **Andrew Barnsdale**
*Public Utilities Commission*
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102
415/703-3231 Fax 415/703-1184

[X] **Betty Silva**
*State Lands Commission*
100 Howe Avenue, Suite 100-S
Sacramento, CA 95825
916/574-1872 Fax 916/574-1885

[X] **Gerald R. Zimmerman**
*Colorado River Board*
770 Fairmont Avenue, Suite 100
Glendale, CA 91203-1035
818/543-4676 Fax 818/543-4685

[ ] *Tahoe Regional Planning Agency*
P.O. Box 1038
Zephyr Cove, NV 89448
775/588-4547 Fax 775/588-4527

[ ] **John Rowden, Manager**
*Office of Emergency Services*
11030 White Rock Road, Ste.110
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670
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[ ] **Debby Eddy**
*Delta Protection Commission*
P.O. Box 530
Walnut Grove, CA 95690
916/776-2290 Fax 916/ 776-2293

[ ] **PaulEdelman**
*Santa Monica Mountains Conservancy*
5750 Ramirez Canyon Road
Malibu, CA 90265
310/589-3200 Fax 310/589-3207

**Department of Transportation**
**District Contacts**

[ ] **IGR/Planning**
*Caltrans, District 1*
1656 Union Street
P.O. Box 3700
Eureka, CA 95502-3700
707/441-5812 Fax 707/441-5869

[ ] **Vicki Roe**
Local Development Review
*Caltrans, District 2*
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530/225-3089 Fax 530/225-3271

[ ] **Jeff Pulverman**
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916/327-3859 Fax 916/323-7669

[ ] **Jean Finney**
*Caltrans, District 4*
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510/286-5572 Fax 510/286-5513

[ ] **Lawrence Newland**
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[ ] **Marc Birnbaum**
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[ ] **Stephen J. Buswell**
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213/897-4429 Fax 213/897-9210

[X] **Mike Sim**
*Caltrans, District 8*
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909/383-4808 Fax 909/383-5936

[ ] **Robert Ruhnke**
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[ ] *Caltrans, District 10*
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[X] **Lou Salazar**
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[ ] **Sandy Hesnard**
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[ ] **Lt. Dennis Brunette**
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[ ] **Ron Helgeson**
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916/653-9966 Fax 916/653-0001

**State and Consumer Services**

[ ] **Robert Sleppy**
*Dept. of General Services*
*Environmental Services Section*
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Sacramento, CA 95814
916/324-0214 Fax 916/445-3556

**California Environmental Protection Agency**

[ ] **Kim Heroy-Rogalski**
*Air Resources Board*
2020 L Street (PO Box 2815)
Sacramento, CA 95814 (95814-2815)
916/327-2200 Fax 916/322-3646

[ ] **Jeanie Blakeslee**
*Integrated Waste Management Board*
8800 Cal Center Drive
Sacramento, CA 95826
916/255-4708 Fax 916/255-4216

[ ] **Diane Edwards**
*State Water Resources Control Board*
*Division of Clean Water Programs*
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Sacramento, CA 94244-2120
916/227-4572 Fax 916/227-4349

[ ] **Phil Zentner**
*State Water Resources Control Board*
*Division of Water Quality*
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916/657-0912 Fax 916/657-2388

[X] **Mike Falkenstein**
*State Water Resources Control Board*
*Division of Water Rights*
901 P Street, 3rd Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814
916/657-1377 Fax 916/657-1485

[ ] **Vicky Whitney**
*State Water Resources Control Board*
*Bay-Delta Unit*
901 P Street, Third Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814
916/653-2516 Fax 916/657-1485

[ ] **Dept. of Toxic Substances Control**
*CEQA Tracking Center*
400 P Street, Fourth Floor
P.O. Box 806
Sacramento, CA 95812-0806
916/324-3119 Fax 916/324-1788

**Regional Water Quality Control Board**

[ ] **North Coast Region (1)**
Cathy Goodwin
5550 Skylane Blvd., Suite A
Santa Rosa, CA 95403
707/576-2220 Fax 707/523-0135

[ ] **San Francisco Bay Region (2)**
Environmental Document Coordinator
1515 Clay Street, Suite 1400
Oakland, CA 94612
510/622-2300 Fax 510/622-2460

[ ] **Central Coast Region (3)**
81 Higuera Street, Suite 200
San Luis Obispo, CA 93401-5427
805/549-3147 Fax 805/543-0397

[ ] **Los Angeles Region (4)**
Jonathan Bishop
320 West 4th Street, Suite 200
Los Angeles, CA 90013
213/576-6600 Fax 213/576-6640

[ ] **Central Valley Region (5)**
3443 Routier Road, Suite A
Sacramento, CA 95827-3003
916/255-3000 Fax 916/255-3015

○ **Fresno Branch Office**
3614 East Ashlan Avenue
Fresno, CA 93726
559/445-5116 Fax 559/445-5910

○ **Redding Branch Office**
415 Knollcrest Drive
Redding, CA 96002
530/224-4845 Fax 530/224-4857

[ ] **Lahontan Region (6)**
2501 Lake Tahoe Boulevard
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150
530/542-5400 Fax 530/544-2271

○ **Victorville Branch Office**
15428 Civic Drive, Suite 100
Victorville, CA 92392-2359
760/241-6583 Fax 760/241-7308

[X] **Colorado River Basin Region (7)**
73720 Fred Waring Drive, #100
Palm Desert, CA 92260-2564
760/346-7491 Fax 760/341-6820

[ ] **Santa Ana Region (8)**
3737 Main Street, Suite 500
Riverside, CA 92501-3339
909/782-4130 Fax 909/781-6288

[X] **San Diego Region (9)**
9771 Clairemont Mesa Blvd., Suite B
San Diego, CA 92124-1324
619/467-2952 Fax 619/571-6972

SCH 8/31/99

# Appendix B
# Notices of Public Scoping Meetings

Imperial Valley Press

PROOF OF PUBLICATION

(2015.5 C.C.P.)

This space is for County Clerk's Filing Stamp

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

County of Imperial

I am a citizen of the United States and a resident of the County aforesaid; I am over the age of eighteen years, and not a party to or interested in the above entitled matter. I am the principal clerk* of the printer of the

IMPERIAL VALLEY PRESS

a newspaper of general circulation, printed and published daily in the City of El Centro, County of Imperial and which newspaper has been adjudged a newspaper of general circulation by the Superior Court of the County of Imperial, State of California, under the date of October 9, 1951, Case Number 26775; that the notice, of which the annexed is a printed copy, has been published in each regular and entire issue of said newspaper and not in any supplement thereof on the following dates, to-wit:

3752

Sept 28, 1999

all in the year 1999

I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Justina Cruz

SIGNATURE

*Printer, Foreman of the Printer, or Principal Clerk of the Printer.

Date 10-19-99 19.....

El Centro, California

SEAT PRINTERS

PROOF OF PUBLICA

Proof of Publication of

**LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT**

**Notice of Public Scoping Meetings to Solicit Comments on the Imperial Irrigation District/San Diego County Water Authority Water Conservation and Transfer Project**

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**PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING DATES:** Public scoping meetings will be held at the following locations (both written and oral comments will be accepted at the public scoping meetings):

**Northern Imperial Valley***
Elks Lodge
161 South Plaza
Brawley, CA 92227
Tuesday, October 12, 1999
7 PM to 9 PM

**Salton Sea Area**
Salton Sea Community Service District
2098 Frontage Road
Salton City, CA 92275
Wednesday, October 13, 1999
7 PM to 9 PM

**Southern Imperial Valley***
IID Board Room
1285 Broadway
El Centro, CA 92243
Thursday, October 14, 1999
7 PM to 9 PM

**Lower Colorado River Region**
Clark County Library
1401 East Flamingo Road
Las Vegas, NV 89119
Monday, October 18, 1999
7 PM to 9 PM

**Northern San Diego County**
Carlsbad Senior Center
799 Pine Avenue
Carlsbad, CA 92008
Tuesday, October 19, 1999
7 PM to 9 PM

**Southern San Diego County**
SDCWA Board Room
3200 5th Avenue
San Diego, CA 92103
Wednesday, October 20, 1999
7 PM to 9 PM

Please notify the Bureau of Reclamation if you have special needs for this meeting two (2) weeks prior to the event. Contact Ms. Molly Sweat at (702) 293-8415 or through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339

*A Spanish interpreter will be present.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments will be accepted until October 25, 1999. Send written comments to:

Bureau of Reclamation
Lower Colorado River Region, Boulder Canyon, Operations Office, PO Box 61470, Boulder City, NV 89006-1470, Attn: William Rinne, BC-00-1000

or to:

Imperial Irrigation District
333 E. Barioni Blvd
PO Box 937
Imperial, CA 92251
Attn: Steven R. Knell

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. William Rinne, at the Bureau of Reclamation (702) 293-8414; or Mr. Steve Knell, Special Projects Coordinator, Imperial Irrigation District, at (760) 339-9266. Further information can also be obtained in the Federal Register published on Monday September 27, 1999, or on the project website at: http://www.is.ch2m.com/iidweb.

S792/N018 S28,30, O4,6,12,13,14

(2015.5 C.C.P.)

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N018

Sept 28, 1999

all in the year 19.....

I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

SIGNATURE

* Printer, Foreman of the Printer, or Principal Clerk of the Printer.

Date ..... 10-19-99 ....., 19.....
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333 E. Barioni Blvd
PO Box 937
Imperial, CA 92251
Attn: Steven R. Knell

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Justina Cruz

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Date 10-19-99 19

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SDCWA Board Room
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or to:
Imperial Irrigation District
333 E. Barioni Blvd
PO Box 937
Imperial, CA 92251
Attn: Steven R. Knell

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(2015.5 C.C.P.)

STATE OF CALIFORNIA

County of Imperial

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N018

Oct 4, 1999

all in the year 19 99

I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

SIGNATURE

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Date 10-19-99, 19.....
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2098 Frontage Road
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Wednesday, October 13, 1999
7 PM to 9 PM

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IID Board Room
1285 Broadway
El Centro, CA 92243
Thursday, October 14, 1999
7 PM to 9 PM

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**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** William Rinne, at the Bureau of Reclamation (702) 293-8414; or Steve Knell, Special Projects Coordinator, Imperial Irrigation District, at (760) 339-9266. Further information can also be obtained in the Federal Register published on Monday, September 27, 1999, on the project website http://www.is.ch2m.com

**PROOF OF PUBLICATION**

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STATE OF CALIFORNIA

County of Imperial

I am a citizen of the United States and a resident of the County aforesaid; I am over the age of eighteen years, and not a party to or interested in the above entitled matter. I am the principal clerk* of the printer of the

IMPERIAL VALLEY PRESS

a newspaper of general circulation, printed and published daily in the City of El Centro, County of Imperial and which newspaper has been adjudged a newspaper of general circulation by the Superior Court of the County of Imperial, State of California, under the date of October 9, 1951, Case Number 26775; that the notice, of which the annexed is a printed copy, has been published in each regular and entire issue of said newspaper and not in any supplement thereof on the following dates, to-wit:

5792:

Oct 14, 1999

all in the year 19 99

I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Justine Coy

SIGNATURE

* Printer, Foreman of the Printer, or Principal Clerk of the Printer.

Date 10-19-99 19.....
at El Centro, California.

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Proof of Publication of

**LEGAL ADVERTISEMENT**
**Notice of Public Scoping Meetings to Solicit Comments on the Imperial Irrigation District/San Diego County Water Authority Water Conservation and Transfer Project**

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to section 102 (2) (c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the State of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and Imperial Irrigation District (IID or District) will prepare a joint EIR/EIS to assess the impacts of the IID/San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA) Water Conservation and Transfer Project. The proposed project consists of the conservation by IID of up to 300,000 acre-feet of Colorado River water per year (af/yr), and the subsequent transfer of all or a portion of the diverted water to the SDCWA. IID and Reclamation are holding public scoping meetings soliciting input from the public on the types of issues and extent of analysis that should be contained in the EIR/EIS.

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IID Board Room
1285 Broadway
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7 PM to 9 PM

**Lower Colorado River Region**
Clark County Library
1401 East Flamingo Road
Las Vegas, NV 89119
Monday, October 18, 1999
7 PM to 9 PM

**Northern San Diego County**
Carlsbad Senior Center
799 Pine Avenue
Carlsbad, CA 92008
Tuesday, October 19, 1999
7 PM to 9 PM

**Southern San Diego County**
SDCWA Board Room
3200 5th Avenue
San Diego, CA 92103
Wednesday, October 20, 1999
7 PM to 9 PM

Please notify the Bureau of Reclamation if you have special needs for this meeting two (2) weeks prior to the event. Contact Ms. Molly Sweat at (702) 293-8415 or through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339
*A Spanish interpreter will be present.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments will be accepted until October 27, 1999. Send written comments to:

Bureau of Reclamation
Lower Colorado River Region, Boulder Canyon, Operations Office, PO Box 61470, Boulder City, NV 89006-1470, Attn: William Rinne, BC-00-1000

or to:

Imperial Irrigation District
333 E. Barioni Blvd
PO Box 937
Imperial, CA 92251
Attn: Steven R. Knell

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S792/N018 S28,30, O4,6,12,13,14

**PROOF OF PUBLICATION**

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IMPERIAL VALLEY PRESS

NORTH COUNTY EDITION

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N018

Oct 14, 1999

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I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

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Imperial Irrigation District
333 E. Barioni Blvd
PO Box 937
Imperial, CA 92251
Attn: Steven R. Knell

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S792/N018 S28,30, O4,6,12,13,14

Desert Sun

# PROOF OF PUBLICATION
## (2015.5.C.C.P)

This is space for County Clerk's Filing Stamp

**STATE OF CALIFORNIA**
**County of Riverside**

**I am a citizen of the United States and a resident of the County aforesaid; I am over the age of eighteen years, and not a party to or interested in the above-entitled matter. I am the principal clerk of a printer of the, DESERT SUN PUBLISHING COMPANY a newspaper of general circulation, printed and published in the city of Palm Springs, County of Riverside, and which newspaper has been adjudged a newspaper of general circulation by the Superior Court of the County of Riverside, State of California under the date of March 24, 1988. Case Number 191236; that the notice, of which the annexed is a printed copy (set in type not smaller than non pariel, has been published in each regular and entire issue of said newspaper and not in any supplement thereof on the following dates, to wit:**

**September 29th, October 1st, 3rd, 5th, 7th, 9th, 13th**

**All in the year 1999**

**I certify (or declare) under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.**

**Dated at Palm Springs, California this 13th day of October, 1999**

Debbie Flake

**Signature**

No.2716

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Salton Sea Community Svc. Dist.
2098 Frontage Road
Salton City, CA 92275
Wednesday, October 13, 1999
7 PM to 9PM

**Lower Colorado River Region**
Clark Cty. Library
1401 East Flamingo Road
Las Vegas, NV 89119
Monday Oct. 18, 1999
7 PM to 9 PM

**Southern Imperial Valley***
IID Board Room
1285 Broadway
El Centro, CA 92243
Thursday, October 14, 1999
7 PM to 9 PM

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Carlsbad Senior Center
799 Pine Avenue
Carlsbad, CA 92008
Tuesday Oct. 9, 1999
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333 E. Barioni Blvd.
PO Box 937
Imperial, CA 92251
Attn: Steven R. Knell

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PUB: 9/29, 10/1, 3, 5, 7, 9, 13, 1999

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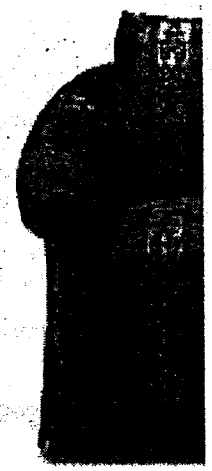
Bureau of Reclamation
Lower Colorado River Region, Boulder Canyon Operations Office
P.O. Box 61470
Boulder City, NV 89006-1470
Attn: William Rinne, BC-00-1000

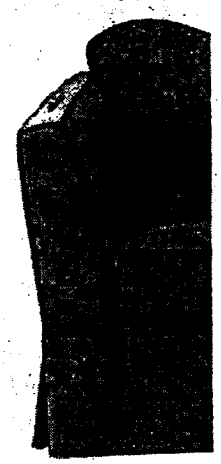
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10/5, 10/7, 10/9, 10/11 (47107)







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prces.

Fed policy-makers on Tuesday decided not to raise interest rates for now. But expressing concerns that the tight labor market could lead to inflation down the road, they left open the possibility of a third rate increase later this year.

In September, manufacturers, who have seen demand for their products rebound somewhat from a global financial crisis that began in 1997, lost an additional 21,000 jobs.

The hurricane — along with a drought — took a bite out of the nation's soybean and cotton crops. The Agriculture Department yesterday lowered its forecast of this year's cotton crop by 6 percent to 16.4 million bales and reduced its estimate for soybeans by 3 percent to 2.7 billion bushels. The government expects soybean prices to go up, but didn't estimate the impact on cotton prices.

completed its $74 billion purchase of Ameritech, a merger of Baby Bells that creates the nation's largest local phone company.

The deal, cleared by federal regulators two days earlier, cuts the number of regional Bell monopolies to four, down from the original seven created by the 1984 breakup of AT&T. SBC already had acquired one of the original seven, Pacific Telesis, while another, Nynex, was acquired by Bell Atlantic.

The new SBC provides local phone service in most of the Southwest, Midwest and California with 59 million access lines. It also be-

the biggest local phone company for long. The FCC still is reviewing Bell Atlantic's proposed deal with GTE. If allowed to combine, those two companies would trump SBC as the nation's largest local phone company.

The FCC adopted several conditions to ensure the SBC-Ameritech deal would serve the public interest. The new SBC must enter 30 new markets within 30 months to compete with established local phone companies. SBC is also required to provide deep discounts on key pieces of its local access lines to rivals who want to lease them.


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10/5, 10/7, 10/9, 10/11 (47107)

...within two years, he ... alone pioneer. Plenty of other firms

son — who remains on the chain's board — says McCown's offer was particularly attractive because McCown committed to invest $500 million to expand into Tokyo, Taipei, Manila and Seoul.

The quick flip in Hong Kong caused a rift between Wilson and Sunchi Capital, which had a 5 percent stake in the chain. Sunchi is now working with George Jackson, who runs Gold's Gym in San Diego, to take his chain to Asia.

The atmosphere is so competitive that Wilson is threatening legal action over alleged disclosure of financial information and trade secrets. Sunchi officials say they have revealed no confidential information.

Wilson's current focus is South America. Over the past few months, he's had scouts looking for sites in Buenos Aires, Santiago and Sao Paolo. Wilson says most South America gyms are outdated. "They don't have the kind of equipment we have here," he says. To Wilson, that makes the market more attractive, since he'll be able to outpace the competition.

Jon Dyer, who's checking out the South American market for Sunchi, agrees that there is a lot of potential.

"Argentina, for instance, has the highest incidence of plastic surgery anywhere in the world," he says. "But exercising in a gym is a helluva a lot better way to keep your looks than going under the knife."

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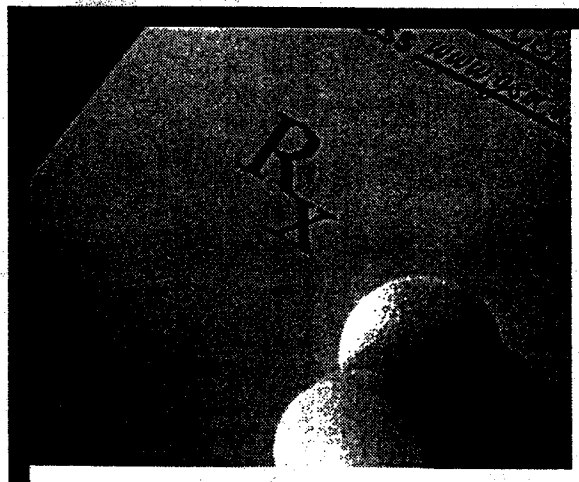
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10/5, 10/7, 10/9, 10/11 (47107)


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## Money to build hotels is becoming more scarce

*Continued from C-1*

in the supply of hotel rooms," Fox says.

Nationwide, average daily room rates will grow from $111.87 to $117.44 over the three-year period. San Diego's rates will grow from $120.23 to $133 in the same period, PKF says.

For several years, leisure, corporate and convention travelers have willingly paid 5 percent to 8 percent more each year for hotel rooms, but now they are holding their ground in negotiating rates, or seeking cheaper accommodations, PKF says.

Hotel capital is a problem, Fox says.

"On Wall Street, the bloom is off the rose on financing the hotel industry," he says. The real estate investment trusts were buying existing hotels, but that has slowed to a crawl. The hotel REITs now have multiple problems, including very weak stocks.

But Wall Street "was also raising capital for (hotel) developers," Fox says, and now that has slowed down sharply, although there are hotels going up in some markets.

Convention planners are driving harder deals. And so are leisure travelers.

"Unlike the business traveler, who has to go to a specific location, the leisure traveler or convention booker or planner can go to another city or another location," he says. So the bargaining is intense.

The convention center business is highly competitive, Fox says: "With the extensive amount of development of convention centers, one wonders if it can all be supported," he says.

Jerry Morrison of Morrison & Co., a prominent San Diego hotel consulting firm, says, "tighter pricing exists already" in the convention business. However, he says, "I have great confidence in San Diego's ability to market itself because of the type of destination we are and the success we have had in the past."

Morrison predicts that the overall San Diego hotel occupancy rates the year 2000, depending on how the economy does next year, of course.

Room rates will go up substantially this year, but "will go up very, very little" in the year 2000, Morrison predicts.

### TOT guarantee

Morrison says that the proposal to have the port finance the hotel at the Campbell Shipyard site is "preposterous, a misuse of public funds."

The city wanted developer Doug Manchester to guarantee 10 years of transient occupancy tax revenues for the hotel at the Campbell site, and wants the same guarantee from the port because of the difficulty in satisfying bond rating agencies.

"I don't think any developer would give a 10-year guarantee on TOT revenues," Morrison says. "Certainly, no one that I ever advised would do it."

**Don Bauder's e-mail address is don.bauder@uniontrib.com**

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## Merck, CVS to team for Internet sales

ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — Merck & Co., the nation's largest pharmaceutical company, and CVS Corp. the nation's largest pharmacy chain, said yesterday they will work together to sell drugs over the Internet.

CVS.com will be the exclusive Internet provider of over-the-counter medicines and other health products for the 51 million consumers who get their drug coverage through Merck's Merck-Medco, the nation's largest pharmacy benefit firm.

CVS will become the only pharmacy to accept prescription orders from Merck-Medco's customers over the Internet. Merck-Medco members ordering prescription drugs will have the choice of picking their order up at a CVS store or receiving it from a Merck-Medco mail service pharmacy.

## Notice of Public Scoping Meetings to Solicit Comments on the Imperial Irrigation District/San Diego County Water Authority Water Conservation and Transfer Project

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to section 102 (2) (c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the State of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and Imperial Irrigation District (IID or District) will prepare a joint EIR/EIS to assess the impacts of the IID/San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA) Water Conservation and Transfer Project. The proposed project consists of the conservation by IID of up to 300,000 acre-feet of Colorado River water per year (af/yr), and the subsequent transfer of all or a portion of the diverted water to the SDCWA. IID and Reclamation are holding public scoping meetings soliciting input from the public on the types of issues and extent of analysis that should be contained in the EIR/EIS.

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**Northern Imperial Valley***
Elks Lodge
161 South Plaza
Brawley, CA 92227
Tuesday, October 12, 1999
7 PM to 9 PM

**Salton Sea Area**
Salton Sea Community Service District
2098 Frontage Road
Salton City, CA 92275
Wednesday, October 13, 1999
7 PM to 9 PM

**Southern Imperial Valley***
IID Board Room
1285 Broadway
El Centro, CA 92243
Thursday, October 14, 1999
7 PM to 9 PM

**Lower Colorado River Region**
Clark County Library
1401 East Flamingo Road
Las Vegas, NV 89119
Monday, October 18, 1999
7 PM to 9 PM

**Northern San Diego County**
Carlsbad Senior Center
799 Pine Avenue
Carlsbad, CA 92008
Tuesday, October 19, 1999
7 PM to 9 PM

**Southern San Diego County**
SDCWA Board Room
3211 5th Avenue
San Diego, CA 92103
Wednesday, October 20, 1999
7 PM to 9 PM

Please notify the Bureau of Reclamation if you have special needs for this meeting two (2) weeks prior to the event. Contact Ms. Molly Sweat at (702) 293-8415 or through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

*A Spanish interpreter will be present.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments will be accepted until October 27, 1999. Send written comments to:

Bureau of Reclamation
Lower Colorado River Region, Boulder Canyon Operations Office
P.O. Box 61470
Boulder City, NV 89006-1470
Attn: William Rinne, BC-00-1000

or to:
Imperial Irrigation District
333 E. Banoni Blvd.
P.O. Box 937
Imperial, CA 92251
Attn: Steven R. Knell

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. William Rinne, at the Bureau of Reclamation (702) 293-8414; or Mr. Steve Knell, Special Projects Coordinator, Imperial Irrigation District, at (760) 339-9266. Further information can also be obtained from the Notice of Intent published in the Federal Register on Monday, September 27, 1999, or on the project website at: http://www.is.ch2m.com/iidweb.

# Fendi sold in $900 million deal

## Prada and LVMH buy controlling stake

**By Noelle Knox**
ASSOCIATED PRESS

NEW YORK — The Fendi family is selling control in the fashion house known for "baguette" handbags and extravagant fur coats to a joint venture of two other luxury marques — Prada SpA and LVMH Moet Hennessy Louis Vuitton SA.

Terms of the deal were not disclosed in yesterday's announcement, but a person familiar with the deal said the 51 percent interest in Fendi was sold for about $900 million.

The agreement ended a bidding contest for the Italian company. The Fendi family rejected lower bids by Gucci and Texas Pacific Group, a U.S. investment firm.

"We see Fendi as, if you wish, a company that was like Prada or Gucci five years ago," said Bernard Arnault, chairman of French-based LVMH. "There is a very high potential for growth."

LVMH plans to expand the number of Fendi stores worldwide, while Italy's Prada will focus on improving Fendi's purchasing and manufacturing operations.

"It's a perfect fit," said Kurt Barnard, president of *Barnard's Retail Trend Report*, an industry newsletter. "They apparently are planning to put money into this venture; it's going to go great guns."

The Rome-based design house was founded in 1925 by Edoardo and Adele Fendi and has been owned by their five daughters since the 1980s. Today, Fendi is one of the most chic names on the catwalks, and sales of its eyeglasses, perfume, clothing, shoes and watches are expected to hit $490 million this year.

The sale of Fendi is just the latest in a frenzy of deals that are realigning the trendsetters in fashion.

Earlier this year, Prada purchased Jil Sander and Helmut Lang. Gucci was acquired by Pinault-Printemps-Redoute, and Valentino was snapped up by HdP.

Last week, Calvin Klein put himself on the sale rack. The New York designer hired an investment bank to look for a buyer or strategic partner to expand his product line and open new stores.

Calvin Klein, Moet & Chandon, but while they revere it they seem to be buying less of it," Barnard said.

At the same time, increased competition is forcing luxury companies to become more efficient. And that often means finding a partner.

LVMH has been an aggressive buyer. The company makes Hennessy cognac, Moet & Chandon champagnes and Louis Vuitton luggage. In the fashion world, LVMH owns the Celine, Givenchy and Kenzo lines.


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2098 Frontage Road
Salton City, CA 92275
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7 PM to 9 PM

**Northern San Diego County**
Carlsbad Senior Center
799 Pine Avenue
Carlsbad, CA 92008
Tuesday, October 19, 1999
7 PM to 9 PM

**Southern Imperial Valley***
IDD Board Room
1285 Broadway
El Centro, CA 92243
Thursday, October 14, 1999
7 PM to 9 PM

**Southern San Diego County**
SDCWA Board Room
3211 5th Avenue
San Diego, CA 92103
Wednesday, October 20, 1999
7 PM to 9 PM

**Lower Colorado River Region**
Clark County Library
1401 East Flamingo Road
Las Vegas, NV 89119
Monday, October 18, 1999
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Attn: William Rinne, BC-00-1000

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333 E. Banoni Blvd.
P.O. Box 937
Imperial, CA 92251
Attn: Steven R. Knell

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10/13 (47108)




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10/19 (47109)

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crest were the only communities experiencing declines compared to the same period last year.

As usual, Rancho Santa Fe was the most expensive place to buy. The 93 resales were down 17 percent, but prices were up 10.7 percent, to a median of $1.53 million, over the same period last year.

One historically significant nugget hidden in the Acxiom/DataQuick compilation was that, for the first time, no neighborhood in San Diego County reported a median resale, single-family-home price below $100,000.

The southeastern San Diego area was the last to turn in a six-figure median, $108,500, up 26.2 percent from the same period last year. Pierre Frazier, whose Solomon Realty Services has completed several in-fill housing projects in the neighborhood just north of National City, said the price rise simply reflects San Diego's overall housing market.

"Housing in that community is certainly trying to keep pace with appreciation in the rest of the city and the county," Frazier said. "There have been several new housing developments that have helped bolster the rising cost."

Reuters contributed to this report.

amount you are owed. The Claim Form must be returned to Gilardi & Co. no later than December 1, 1999, to receive payment of your claim.

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SDCWA Board Room
3211 5th Avenue
San Diego, CA 92103
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7 PM to 9 PM

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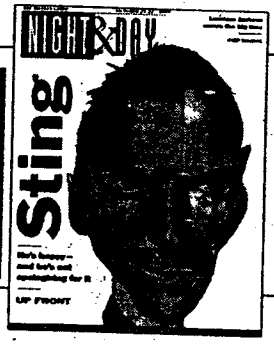
or to:
Imperial Irrigation District
333 E. Banoni Blvd.
P.O. Box 937
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County of Los Angeles

HOWARD MORRISON *of said County and State, being duly sworn, says:*

*That he is and at all times herein mentioned was a citizen of the United States, over 21 years of age, and not a party to nor interested in the above entitled matter; that he is a principal clerk of the printers and publishers of the LOS ANGELES TIMES a newspaper printed and published daily in the said Los Angeles County; that the*

LEGAL NOTICE

*in the above entitled matter of which the annexed is a printed copy, was published in said newspaper*

LOS ANGELES TIMES

TIMES MIRROR SQUARE
LOS ANGELES CA, 90053

*on the following days, to-wit:*

WEDNESDAY OCTOBER 6, 1999

FRIDAY OCTOBER 8, 1999

SUNDAY OCTOBER 10, 1999

TUESDAY OCTOBER 12, 1999

Howard Morrison

*Subscribed and sworn to before me, this* NOV 10 1999 *day of* _____ *19*__

Alicia D. Burruel

Notary Public in and for the County of Los Angeles, State of California

ALICIA D. BURRUEL
Comm. # 1196929
NOTARY PUBLIC - CALIFORNIA
Los Angeles County
My Comm. Expires Sept. 26, 2002

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Wednesday, October 13, 1999
7 PM to 9 PM

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IID Board Room
1285 Broadway
El Centro, CA 92243
Thursday, October 14, 1999
7 PM to 9 PM

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Clark County Library
1401 E. Flamingo Rd.
Las Vegas, NV 89119
Monday, October 18, 1999
7 PM to 9 PM

**Northern San Diego County**
Carlsbad Senior Center
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Carlsbad, CA 92008
Tuesday, October 19, 1999
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Lower Colorado River Region,
Boulder Canyon
Operations Office
PO Box 61470
Boulder City, NV 89006-1470
Attn: William Rinne, BC-00-1000

or to:

Imperial Irrigation District
PO Box 937
Imperial, CA 92251
Attn: Steven R. Knell

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TIMES MIRROR SQUARE
LOS ANGELES CA, 90053

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THURSDAY OCTOBER 14, 1999

Howard Morrison

*Subscribed and sworn to before me, this* NOV 10 1999 *day of* *19*

Alicia D. Burruel
Notary Public in and for the County of Los Angeles, State of California

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TIMES MIRROR SQUARE
LOS ANGELES CA, 90053

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SATURDAY OCTOBER 16, 1999

Howard Morrison

*Subscribed and sworn to before me, this* NOV 10 1999 *day of* _____ *19*__

Alicia D. Burruel

Notary Public in and for the County of Los Angeles, State of California

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NOTARY PUBLIC - CALIFORNIA
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My Comm. Expires Sept. 26, 2002

**Notice of Public Scoping Meetings to Solicit Comments on the Imperial Irrigation District/San Diego County Water Authority Water Conservation and Transfer Project**

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to section 102 (2) (c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the State of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and Imperial Irrigation District (IID or District) will prepare a joint EIR/EIS to assess the impacts of the IID/San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA) Water Conservation and Transfer Project. The proposed project consists of the conservation by IID of up to 300,000 acre-feet of Colorado River water per year (af/yr), and the subsequent transfer of all or a portion of the diverted water to the SDCWA. IID and Reclamation are holding public scoping meetings soliciting input from the public on the types of issues and extent of analysis that should be contained in the EIR/EIS.

**PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING DATES:** Public scoping meetings will be held at the following locations (both written and oral comments will be accepted at the public scoping meetings):

**Southern San Diego County**
SDCWA Board Room
3211 5th Ave.
San Diego, CA 92103
Wednesday, October 20, 1999
7 PM to 9 PM

Please notify the Bureau of Reclamation if you have special needs for this meeting two (2) weeks prior to the event. Contact Ms. Molly Sweat at 702/293-8415 or through the Federal Relay Service at 800/877-8339

*A Spanish interpreter will be present.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments will be accepted until Oct. 27, 1999. Send comments to:

Bureau of Reclamation
Lower Colorado River Region,
Boulder Canyon
Operations Office
PO Box 61470
Boulder City, NV 89006-1470
Attn: William Rinne, BC-00-1000

or to:

Imperial Irrigation
District
PO Box 937
Imperial, CA 92251
Attn: Steven R. Knell

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. William Rinne, at the Bureau of Reclamation (702) 293-8414; or Mr. Steve Knell, Special Projects Coordinator, Imperial Irrigation District, at (760) 339-9266. Further information can also be obtained from the Notice of Intent published in the Federal Register on Monday, Sept. 27, 1999, or on the project website at http://www.is.ch2m.com/iidweb.*

**El Sol del Valle**

# Aviso Público

## Habrá reuniones publicas para solicitar comentarios sobre el Proyecto de Conservación y Transferencia de Agua del Distrito de Irrigación de Imperial y la Autoridad del Agua del Condado de San Diego.

**SUMARIO:** Conforme a la sección 102 (2) (c) del Decreto sobre la Póliza Nacional Ambiental (NEPA) y el Decreto Ambiental del Estado de California (CEQA), el Buró de Reclamación (Reclamation) y el Distrito de Irrigación de Imperial (IID or District) prepararán un Reporte de Impacto Ambiental y un Informe de Impacto Ambiental (EIR/EIS) para evaluar los impactos del Proyecto de Conservación y Transferencia de Agua entre el IID y la Autoridad del Agua del Condado de San Diego (SDCWA). El proyecto propuesto consiste en la conservación por parte del IID, de más de 300,000 acres/pies de agua anualmente del Río Colorado y la subsecuente transferencia al SDCWA de toda o de una porción del agua conservada. El IID y el Buró de Reclamación estarán celebrando reuniones de alcance al público para solicitar aportación de ideas de parte del público en los asuntos representados y en el alcance del análisis que deber estar contenido en el EIR/EIS.

**FECHAS DE LAS REUNIONES DE ALCANCE AL PUBLICO:** Estas reuniones se llevarán a cabo en los siguientes lugares ( se aceptarán comentarios orales y escritos de parte del público en estas reuniones):

**Norte del Valle Imperial***
**Elks Lodge**
**161 S. Plaza**
**Brawley,Ca. 92227**
**Martes 12 de octubre de 1999**
**7 p.m. a 9 p.m.**

**Area del Salton Sea**
**Distrito de Servicios Comunitarios Salton Sea**
**2098 Frontage Road.**
**Salton City, Ca. 92275**
**Miércoles 13 de octubre de 1999**
**7 p.m. a 9 p.m.**

**Sur del Valle Imperial***
**Salón de Juntas del IID**
**1285 Broadway St.**
**El Centro,Ca. 92243**
**Jueves 14 de octubre de 1999**
**7 p.m. a 9 p.m.**

**Region del Bajo Colorado**
**Biblioteca del Condado de Clark**
**1401 East Flamingo Rd.**
**Las Vegas, Nevada 89119**
**Lunes 18 de octubre de 1999**
**7 p.m. a 9 p.m.**

**Area Norte del Condado de San Diego**
**Centro para Ancianos en Carlsbad**
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**Carlsbad, Ca. 92008**
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**7 p.m. a 9 p.m.**

Por favor notifique al Buró de Reclamación si usted tiene necesidades especiales para estas reuniones, dos (2) semanas antes del evento. Contacte a Ms. Molly Sweat al teléfono (702) 293-8415 o a través del Servicio Federal de Relevo al Tel. (800) 877-8339.

*** Habrá un intérprete para personas que hablan español**

**DIRECCIONES: Comentarios por escrito serán aceptados hasta el 27 de octubre de 1999. Envíe sus comentarios a estas dos direcciones.**

**Bureau of Reclamation**
Lower Colorado River Region, Boulder Canyon
Operations Office
PO Box 61470
Boulder City, NV 89006 - 1470
Attn: William Rinne, BC-00-100

O si prefiere a:

**Imperial Irrigation District**
333 E. Barioni Blvd.
PO Box 937
Imperial, Ca. 92251
Attn: Steven R. Knell

PARA MAYORES INFORMES CONTACTE: William Rinne al Buró de Reclamación Tel. (702) 293-8414 , o con Steve Knell, Coordinador de Proyectos Especiales, Distrito de Irrigación de Imperial al (760) 339-9266. Más información puede ser obtenida también del Aviso de Intención publicado en el Archivo Federal el lunes 27 de septiembre de 1999 o en el Proyecto Website en : http:/www.is.ch2m.com/iidweb

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**SUMARIO:** Conforme a la sección 102 (2) (c) del Decreto sobre la Póliza Nacional Ambiental (NEPA) y el Decreto Ambiental del Estado de California (CEQA), el Buró de Reclamación (Reclamation) y el Distrito de Irrigación de Imperial (IID or District) prepararán un Reporte de Impacto Ambiental y un Informe de Impacto Ambiental (EIR/EIS) para evaluar los impactos del Proyecto de Conservación y Transferencia de Agua entre el IID y la Autoridad del Agua del Condado de San Diego (SDCWA). El proyecto propuesto consiste en la conservación por parte del IID, de más de 300,000 acres/pies de agua anualmente del Río Colorado y la subsecuente transferencia al SDCWA de toda o de una porción del agua conservada. El IID y el Buró de Reclamación estarán celebrando reuniones de alcance al público para solicitar aportación de ideas de parte del público en los asuntos representados y en el alcance del análisis que deber estar contenido en el EIR/EIS.

**FECHAS DE LAS REUNIONES DE ALCANCE AL PUBLICO:** Estas reuniones se llevarán a cabo en los siguientes lugares ( se aceptarán comentarios orales y escritos de parte del público en estas reuniones):

**Area Sur del Condado de San Diego**
**Salon de Juntas del SDCWA**
**3211 5th Ave.**
**San Diego, Ca. 92103**
**Miércoles 20 de octubre de 1999**
**7 p.m. a 9 p.m.**

Por favor notifique al Buró de Reclamación si usted tiene necesidades especiales para estas reuniones, dos (2) semanas antes del evento. Contacte a Ms. Molly Sweat al teléfono (702) 293-8415 o a través del Servicio Federal de Relevo al Tel. (800) 877-8339.

*** Habrá un intérprete para personas que hablan español**

**DIRECCIONES: Comentarios por escrito serán aceptados hasta el 27 de octubre de 1999. Envíe sus comentarios a estas dos direcciones.**

**Bureau of Reclamation**
Lower Colorado River Region, Boulder Canyon
Operations Office
PO Box 61470
Boulder City, NV 89006 - 1470
Attn: William Rinne, BC-00-100

O si prefiere a:

**Imperial Irrigation District**
333 E. Barioni Blvd.
PO Box 937
Imperial, Ca. 92251
Attn: Steven R. Knell

PARA MAYORES INFORMES CONTACTE: **William Rinne al Buró de Reclamación Tel. (702) 293-8414 ; o con Steve Knell, Coordinador de Proyectos Especiales, Distrito de Irrigación de Imperial al (760) 339-9266. Más información puede ser obtenida también del Aviso de Intención publicado en el Archivo Federal el lunes 27 de septiembre de 1999 o en el Proyecto Website en : http:/www.is.ch2m.com/iidweb**

Las Vegas Review-Journal/Sun

SCO/LAW2028.DOC/003670510
02/07/00

of Nevada made application to the State Engineer of Nevada for permission to appropriate .1 c.f.s. of the public waters of the State of Nevada. Diversion is to be made from an underground source at a point located within the NE¼ NW¼ of Section 29, T.19S., R.60E., MDM, or at a point from which the NW corner of said Section 29 bears N. 59° 13' 00" W., a distance of 1,632 feet (3 miles SW of Floyd Lamb Park). Water will be used for quasi-municipal purposes from January 1st to December 31st of each year.

Signed: R. Michael Turnipseed
State Engineer
PUB: Sept. 20,27, Oct. 4,11, 1999
Las Vegas Review-Journal

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CC16 MARQUIS & AURBACH,
John E. Dawson, Esq., Nevada Bar No. 003392, 228 South Fourth Street, Las Vegas, Nevada 89101, (702) 382-0711
Attorneys for David Wray and M. K. LaDouceur
Case No. P 42295
Probate Department
DISTRICT COURT
CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA
In the Matter of the Estate of GEORGE CASALE a/k/a GEORGE E. WRAY, Deceased
NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF CO-ADMINISTRATORS AND FOR ISSUANCE OF

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NOTICE OF SALE

On October 7, 1999 at 2:00 o'clock P.M., LAS PALMERAS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, under and pursuant to the Notice of Claim of Lien recorded on July 2, 1998, in Book 980702 of Official Records, as Instrument No. 0421, of Clark County, Nevada, such lien being properly assessed and recorded pursuant to NRS 116.030 et. seq., or any amendments thereto, in favor of LAS PALMERAS HOMEOWNERS ASSOCIATION, by reason of the breach of assessment obligations secured thereby, Notice of Default and Election to Sell Real Property to Satisfy Assessment Lien, which was recorded on March 23, 1999 in Book 990323 of Official Records, as Instrument No. 01822 of Clark County, Nevada, WILL SELL AT PUBLIC AUCTION TO THE HIGHEST BIDDER, FOR LAWFUL MONEY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, at PRO FORMA LIEN & FORECLOSURE SERVICES, 3753 Howard Hughes Parkway, Suite 200, Las Vegas, Nv. 89109, without covenant or warranty, express or implied, regarding title, possession or encumbrances, all right, title and interest of the owner, without equity or right of redemption, the real property situated in the County of Clark, State of Nevada, described as follows:
Owner of Record: JAMES & MAUREEN JACKMAN

assessment obligations secured thereby, Notice of Default and Election to Sell Real Property to Satisfy Notice of Claim of Lien-Assessment, which was recorded on July 7, 1999 in Book 990707, Inst. 953 of Official Records of Clark County, Nevada, will sell at PUBLIC AUCTION to the highest bidder, for lawful money of the United States of America, at JAMES, DRIGGS, WALCH, SANTORO, KEARNEY, JOHNSON & THOMPSON, 3773 HOWARD HUGHES PARKWAY, SUITE 290N, LAS VEGAS, NV. 89109, without covenant or warranty, express or implied, regarding title, possession or encumbrances, all right, title and interest of the owner, without equity or right of redemption, the real property situated in the County of Clark, State of Nevada, described as follows:
Owners of Record: EZEQUIEL & CARMEN LOPEZ
Unit 101, Building S of Cedar Park 2, as shown by map thereof on file in Book 29 of Plats, Page 75, in the office of the County Recorder of Clark County, Nevada records, and commonly known as: 532 Wardelle St., Unit #A, Las Vegas, NV. APN: 139-36-117-045
For the purpose of satisfying the assessment obligations secured by said assessment lien, to wit: $2,093.13, with interest, as is provided by law, any subsequent monthly Association Dues, fees charges, expenses, and advances, if any, of the Homeowners Association

1G4HR3730GH490568 R/O JOHNALEAN BRYANT L/O ROBERTO CORRILO
● 32127 85 CADI 4S VIN 1G6CD69-8XF4322839 R/O SUZANNE THOMAS L/O ASSOCIATES FINANCIAL SVCS
● 32143 87 PONT 2S VIN 1G2NW11L3HC792713 R/O SUMRUAY & JARRETT BROWN L/O HUMBERTO GARCIA
● 32144 94 MITS 4S VIN 4A3AJ56G2RE001537 R/O DONALD OR BARBARA COLE OR MAURICE THOMAS L/O SILVER STATE SCHOOLS FCU
● 32157 94 GEO 2S VIN 2C1MR6469R6746968 R/O OTIS E POPLE L/O WESTERN FUNDING

ADVERTISER RESERVES THE RIGHT TO BID.
PUB: October 4,11,18, 1999
Las Vegas Review-Journal

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CLARK COUNTY, NEVADA
INVITATION TO BID
BID NO. 4530-99
PRE-CAST CONCRETE PIPE

The bid package is available as follows:
- Fax on Demand - Call (702) 455-5428 and request Document No. 4530.
- Pickup - Clark County Government Center, 500 South Grand Central Parkway, General Services Department.

# Notice of Public Scoping Meetings to Solicit Comments on the Imperial Irrigation District/San Diego County Water Authority Water Conservation and Transfer Project

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to section 102 (2) (c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the State of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and Imperial Irrigation District (IID or District) will prepare a joint EIR/EIS to assess the impacts of the IID/San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA) Water Conservation and Transfer Project. The proposed project consists of the conservation by IID of up to 300,000 acre-feet of Colorado River water per year (af/yr), and the subsequent transfer of all or a portion of the diverted water to the SDCWA. IID and Reclamation are holding public scoping meetings soliciting input from the public on the types of issues and extent of analysis that should be contained in the EIR/EIS.

**PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING DATES:** Public scoping meetings will be held at the following locations (both written and oral comments will be accepted at the public scoping meetings):

**Northern Imperial Valley***
Elks Lodge
161 South Plaza
Brawley, CA 92227
Tuesday, October 12, 1999
7 PM to 9 PM

**Salton Sea Area**
Salton Sea Community Service District
2098 Frontage Road
Salton City, CA 92275
Wednesday, October 13, 1999
7 PM to 9 PM

**Southern Imperial Valley***
IID Board Room
1285 Broadway
El Centro, CA 92243
Thursday, October 14, 1999
7 PM to 9 PM

**Lower Colorado River Region**
Clark County Library
1401 East Flamingo Road
Las Vegas, NV 89119
Monday, October 18, 1999
7 PM to 9 PM

**Northern San Diego County**
Carlsbad Senior Center
799 Pine Avenue
Carlsbad, CA 92008
Tuesday, October 19, 1999
7 PM to 9 PM

**Southern San Diego County**
SDCWA Board Room
3211 5th Avenue
San Diego, CA 92103
Wednesday, October 20, 1999
7 PM to 9 PM

Please notify the Bureau of Reclamation if you have special needs for this meeting two (2) weeks prior to the event. Contact Ms. Molly Sweat at (702) 293-8415 or through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339

*A Spanish interpreter will be present.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments should be sent to:

Bureau of Reclamation
Lower Colorado River Region, Boulder Canyon
Operations Office
PO Box 61470
Boulder City, NV 89006-1470
Attn: William Rinne, BC-00-1000

or to:

Imperial Irrigation District
333 E. Barioni Blvd.
PO Box 937
Imperial, CA 92251
Attn: Steven R. Knell

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. William Rinne, at the Bureau of Reclamation (702) 293-8414; or Mr. Steve Knell, Special Project Coordinator, Imperial Irrigation District, at (760) 339-9266. Further information can also be obtained from the Notice of Intent published in the Federal Register on Monday, September 27, 1999, or on the project website at: http://www.is.ch2m.com/iidweb.
PUB: October 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 1999 Las Vegas Review-Journal & Sun

AFFP

DISTRICT COURT
Clark County, Nevada

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

STATE OF NEVADA)
COUNTY OF CLARK) SS:

Barbara Linford, being 1st duly sworn, deposes and says:
That she is the Legal Clerk for the Las Vegas Review-Journal and the Las Vegas Sun, daily newspapers regularly issued, published and circulated in the City of Las Vegas, County of Clark, State of Nevada, and that the advertisement, a true copy attached for,

CH2MHILL
941026

was continuously published in said Las Vegas Review Journal and/or Las Vegas Sun in 5 edition(s) of said newspaper issued from 10/04/99 to 10/12/1999, on the following days: OCTOBER 4, 6, 8, 10, 12, 1999

Signed: Barbara Linford

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN BEFORE ME THIS THE 12

day of OCT 1999

Monica A. Peterson

Notary Public

PLEASE SEE ATTACHED

MONICA A. PETERSON
Notary Public - Nevada
No. 97-3700-1
My appt. exp. Sept. 11, 2001

# Notice of Public Scoping Meetings to Solicit Comments on the Imperial Irrigation District/San Diego County Water Authority Water Conservation and Transfer Project

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to section 102 (2) (c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the State of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and Imperial Irrigation District (IID or District) will prepare a joint EIR/EIS to assess the impacts of the IID/San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA) Water Conservation and Transfer Project. The proposed project consists of the conservation by IID of up to 300,000 acre-feet of Colorado River water per year (af/yr), and the subsequent transfer of all or a portion of the diverted water to the SDCWA. IID and Reclamation are holding public scoping meetings soliciting input from the public on the types of issues and extent of analysis that should be contained in the EIR/EIS.

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1285 Broadway
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7 PM to 9 PM

**Lower Colorado River Region**
Clark County Library
1401 East Flamingo Road
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Monday, October 18, 1999
7 PM to 9 PM

**Northern San Diego County**
Carlsbad Senior Center
799 Pine Avenue
Carlsbad, CA 92008
Tuesday, October 19, 1999
7 PM to 9 PM

**Southern San Diego County**
SDCWA Board Room
3211 5th Avenue
San Diego, CA 92103
Wednesday, October 20, 1999
7 PM to 9 PM

Please notify the Bureau of Reclamation if you have special needs for this meeting two (2) weeks prior to the event. Contact Ms. Molly Sweat at (702) 293-8415 or through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339

*A Spanish interpreter will be present.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments should be sent to:

Bureau of Reclamation
Lower Colorado River Region, Boulder Canyon
Operations Office
PO Box 61470
Boulder City, NV 89006-1470
Attn: William Rinne, BC-00-1000

**or to:**
Imperial Irrigation District
333 E. Barioni Blvd.
PO Box 937
Imperial, CA 92251
Attn: Steven R. Knell

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. William Rinne, at the Bureau of Reclamation (702) 293-8414; or Mr. Steve Knell, Special Project Coordinator, Imperial Irrigation District, at (760) 339-9266. Further information can also be obtained from the Notice of Intent published in the Federal Register on Monday, September 27, 1999, or on the project website at: http://www.is.ch2m.com/iidweb.

PUB: October 14, 1999 Las Vegas Review-Journal & Sun

AFFP DISTRICT COURT
Clark County, Nevada

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

STATE OF NEVADA)
COUNTY OF CLARK) SS:

Barbara Linford, being 1st duly sworn, deposes and says:

That she is the Legal Clerk for the Las Vegas Review-Journal and the Las Vegas Sun, daily newspapers regularly issued, published and circulated in the City of Las Vegas, County of Clark, State of Nevada, and that the advertisement, a true copy attached for,

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941161

2512888CH2

was continuously published in said Las Vegas Review Journal and/or Las Vegas Sun in 1 edition(s) of said newspaper issued from 10/14/99 to 10/14/1999, on the following days: OCTOBER 14, 1999

Signed: Barbara Linford

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN BEFORE ME THIS THE 14

day of OCT 1999

Monica A. Peterson

Notary Public

PLEASE SEE ATTACHED

MONICA A. PETERSON
Notary Public - Nevada
No. 97-3700-1
My appt. exp. Sept. 11, 2001

## Notice of Public Scoping Meetings to Solicit Comments on the Imperial Irrigation District/San Diego County Water Authority Water Conservation and Transfer Project

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to section 102 (2) (c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the State of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and Imperial Irrigation District (IID or District) will prepare a joint EIR/EIS to assess the impacts of the IID/San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA) Water Conservation and Transfer Project. The proposed project consists of the conservation by IID of up to 300,000 acre-feet of Colorado River water per year (af/yr), and the subsequent transfer of all or a portion of the diverted water to the SDCWA. IID and Reclamation are holding public scoping meetings soliciting input from the public on the types of issues and extent of analysis that should be contained in the EIR/EIS.

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7 PM to 9 PM

**Northern San Diego County**
Carlsbad Senior Center
799 Pine Avenue
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Tuesday, October 19, 1999
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**Southern San Diego County**
SDCWA Board Room
3211 5th Avenue
San Diego, CA 92103
Wednesday, October 20, 1999
7 PM to 9 PM

Please notify the Bureau of Reclamation if you have special needs for this meeting two (2) weeks prior to the event. Contact Ms. Molly Sweat at (702) 293-8415 or through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339

*A Spanish interpreter will be present.

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Lower Colorado River Region, Boulder Canyon
Operations Office
PO Box 61470
Boulder City, NV 89006-1470
Attn: William Rinne, BC-00-1000

**or to:**
Imperial Irrigation District
333 E. Barioni Blvd.
PO Box 937
Imperial, CA 92251
Attn: Steven R. Knell

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. William Rinne, at the Bureau of Reclamation (702) 293-8414; or Mr. Steve Knell, Special Project Coordinator, Imperial Irrigation District, at (760) 339-9266. Further information can also be obtained from the Notice of Intent published in the Federal Register on Monday, September 27, 1999, or on the project website at: http://www.is.ch2m.com/iidweb.

PUB: October 18, 1999 Las Vegas Review-Journal & Sun

AFFP

DISTRICT COURT
Clark County, Nevada

AFFIDAVIT OF PUBLICATION

STATE OF NEVADA)
COUNTY OF CLARK) SS:

Barbara Linford, being 1st duly sworn, deposes and says:

That she is the Legal Clerk for the Las Vegas Review-Journal and the Las Vegas Sun, daily newspapers regularly issued, published and circulated in the City of Las Vegas, County of Clark, State of Nevada, and that the advertisement, a true copy attached for,

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941166

2512888CH2

was continuously published in said Las Vegas Review Journal and/or Las Vegas Sun in 1 edition(s) of said newspaper issued from 10/18/99 to 10/18/1999, on the following days: OCTOBER 18, 1999

Signed: Barbara Linford

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN BEFORE ME THIS THE 18

day of OCT 1999

Monica A. Peterson

Notary Public

PLEASE SEE ATTACHED

MONICA A. PETERSON
Notary Public - Nevada
No. 97-3700-1
My appt. exp. Sept. 11, 2001

# Appendix C
# Public Scoping Meeting Sign-In Sheets

## SIGN-IN SHEET
(PLEASE PRINT)
## IID/SDCWA WATER CONSERVATION AND TRANSFER PROJECT
## PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

DATE: 10-12-99

| Name | Address | Phone # | Affiliation | Check Here to be Added to Mailing List | Check Here to Speak |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dennis Mahr | PO Box 1058 Coachella, CA 92236 | 760-398-2651 | CVWD | | |
| John L. Scott | MWD of So Cal Los Angeles | 213 217 7823 | MWD | | |
| James Green | USBR - Boulder City | (702) 293 8519 | Reclamation | | |
| Shorty Heckenkotter | 548 Imperial Brawley | | | | |
| Lou Jenny | 118 MAIN CALIPATRIA | 348-5343 | BUSINESS OWNER | | |
| IKE ADAMS | 940 CALLE DEL CIELO, BRAWLEY | 344-9803 | BRAWLEY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE | | |
| DICK KERSHAW | 338 ANDRITA PL. BRAWLEY | 760 344-3138 | CAC BRAWLEY RESEARCH CENTER | | |
| MANUEL LOZANO | 2311 CENTRY AVE | 760-352-7454 | CENTURY 21 DE ORO | | ✓ |
| Terence Donovan | IC5W Legion Rd Brly 92227 | 760 344-3044 | | | |

**SIGN-IN SHEET**
(PLEASE PRINT)
**IID/SDCWA WATER CONSERVATION AND TRANSFER PROJECT**
**PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING**

DATE: 10-12-99

| Name | Address | Phone # | Affiliation | Check Here to be Added to Mailing List | Check Here to Speak |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Kim Nicol | 47-800 Madison St #223 Indio, CA 92201 | 760 251-4827 | CA Fish & Game | | |
| Stella Mendoza | 491 West "H" St Brawley 92227 | 344-3495 | | ✓ | |
| Bill Condit | 1630 Smoketree El Centro 92243 | 352-7449 | I.I.D. | | |
| Brad Luckey | P.O. Box 1271 Brawley, CA 92227-1271 | 344-1271 | Luckey Farms | | |
| Mark Shaw | 100 Wilshire Blvd. Santa Monica CA 92352 | 310 899-4700 | Cadiz Inc. | ✓ | |
| Rudy Cardenas Sr. | 47 West Magnolia Brawley Calif. 92227 | 344-4308 | CARDENAS & Field | ✓ | |
| Bill Brodell | P.O. Box 116 Brawley | 344-3430 | Brodell | | He subsequently chose to speak |
| Jim Walker | P.O. Box 39 Westmorland 92281 | 344-8688 | Farmer | ✓ | |

**SIGN-IN SHEET**
(PLEASE PRINT)
**IID/SDCWA WATER CONSERVATION AND TRANSFER PROJECT**
**PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING**

DATE: 10-12-99

| Name PLEASE PRINT | Address | Phone # | Affiliation | Check Here to be Added to Mailing List | Check Here to Speak |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 522 | 344-1576 | | | |
| Sam Santillan | 648 Willard Ave | 344-4055 | City of Brawley | ✓ | |
| Bob Wilson | 284 West G | 4-2930 | | | |
| Sue Giller | 690 Terrace Cir | 4-5408 | IID | ✓ | |
| Bill Bay | 2320 Hamilton Ave, E.C. | 352-2566 | Reliance Communications | ✓ | |
| Jo Shields | 420 W. Main St Brawley | 344 3931 | City of Brawley | ✓ | |
| Mark Barnett | 342 West J Brawley | 344-2707 | WM Brawley | | |
| Michael Cox | 805 W. Young Rd, ~~Brawley~~ CALIPATRIA | 344-3074 | MAR VISTA FARMS | ✓ | |
| Jim Swanson | 297 West "G" St, Brawley | 344-5370 | Salico Farms | | |

## SIGN-IN SHEET
(PLEASE PRINT)
## IID/SDCWA WATER CONSERVATION AND TRANSFER PROJECT
## PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

DATE: 10-12-99

| Name PLEASE PRINT | Address | Phone # | Affiliation | Check Here to be Added to Mailing List | Check Here to Speak |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Dilda McFADDEN | 2001 Anderholt Rd | 356-5821 | CAC Member | | |
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(PLEASE PRINT)
## IID/SDCWA WATER CONSERVATION AND TRANSFER PROJECT
## PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

DATE: 10-13-99

| Name<br>Please Print | Address | Phone # | Affiliation | Check Here to be Added to Mailing List | Check Here to Speak |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| VIVIAN WILKES | P.O BX 5193 SC. 92275 | 760-394-4248 | | X | • |
| Jack Berweiler | P.O. Box 5158 SALTON CITY, CA 92275 | 394-4202 | | | |
| FRANK KENT | Box 5461 SALTON CITY 92275 | 394-4552 | | | |
| CAR. NORSTEDT | PO Box 181 YUCCA VALLEY CA. 92286 | 365-9849 | | ✓ | |
| Robert Robinson | P.O. Box 1058 CVWD | 398-2651 | | | |
| Bobbie Fenton | Desert Shores | 395-1919 | | | |
| Bud Johansen | 362 Red Rock Road PD | 760-341-4970 | | | |
| Selma Robinson | 3873 N. Palm Dr. | | | | |

**SIGN-IN SHEET**
(PLEASE PRINT)
**IID/SDCWA WATER CONSERVATION AND TRANSFER PROJECT**
**PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING**

DATE: 10-13-94

| Name | Address | Phone # | Affiliation | Check Here to be Added to Mailing List | Check Here to Speak |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Velda Pakulski | P.O. Box 5175 SC, 92275 | 394-4160 | S. Cen. Ser. Dist. | ✓ | |
| Bob Brewer | PO Box 5710 SC 92275 | 394-4184 | | ✓ | |
| Jennifer Baker | 29008 Phillis Jackson Ln P.D. CA 92260 | 862-4300 | | ✓ | |
| Lauren Reed | 2900 Phyllis Jackson Ln Palm Desert 92260 | 862-4306 | | X | |
| Manuel Dimas | P.O. Box 5325 Cathedral City 92275 | (760) 394-0078 | | ✓ | |
| Marge Maxwell | 3442 Judy Ave. | 395-5134 | | | |
| Neil Maxwell | " " " | " " | | | |
| Margaret Ross | PO Box 5356 SC 92275 | 394-4258 | | ✓ | |

## SIGN-IN SHEET
(PLEASE PRINT)
## IID/SDCWA WATER CONSERVATION AND TRANSFER PROJECT
## PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

DATE: 10-13-99

| Name PLEASE PRINT | Address | Phone # | Affiliation | Check Here to be Added to Mailing List | Check Here to Speak |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Harvey J. Roy | P.O Box 5233 SC 92275 | 394-4153 | | ✓ | |
| Eleanor M Roy | ✓ ✓ ✓ ✓ | ✓ ✓ | | ✓ | |
| Gracie Bennett | POB 5534 SC 92275 | 394-6036 | | ✓ | |
| Tom Cannell | P.O. BOX 5322 | 394-4481 | | | |
| JEANNIE CANNELL | " " | " " | | | |
| Fred Brown | 137 Venice Lane Desert Shores 92274 | 760 395-5751 | | | |
| Larry Wilson | 115 VENICE LANE Desert Shores 92274 | 760-395-6636 | | ✓ | X |
| DOTTIE ANDERSON | 3723 Mtn. View Desert Shores | 395-3200 | | | |

**SIGN-IN SHEET**
(PLEASE PRINT)
**IID/SDCWA WATER CONSERVATION AND TRANSFER PROJECT**
**PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING**

DATE: 10-13-99

| Name | Address | Phone # | Affiliation | Check Here to be Added to Mailing List | Check Here to Speak |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Samuel A Wilkerson | PO Box 5193 | 394-4948 | | | |
| Bette & Bob FELKER | P.O. Box 5295 S.C. | 394. 4243 | | | |
| Shirley Lee Palmer | 3871 Tamarisk Dr. | 3955900 | | | |
| June Johnson | 3871 TAMARISK DR | 395 5900 | | | |
| Cat Johansen | 362 Red Rim Rd-PD | 760-341-4970 | | X | |
| Donna & Thor Pedersen | 3875 Palm Dr DS. | 395-1181 | | | |
| Katie Gibbs | 2900 Phyllis Jackson Ln, P.D. | 862-4300 | | | |
| Amber Granik | 2900 Phyllis Jackson Ln, P.D. | 862-4300 | | X | |
| Nicole McWorter | 2900 Phyllis Jackson Ln. | 862-4300 | | | |

**SIGN-IN SHEET**
(PLEASE PRINT)
**IID/SDCWA WATER CONSERVATION AND TRANSFER PROJECT**
**PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING**

DATE: 10-13-99

| Name PLEASE PRINT | Address | Phone # | Affiliation | Check Here to be Added to Mailing List | Check Here to Speak |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Julia Tata | 72-890 Bel Air Rd PD 92260 | 760 341-2630 | | | |
| S Madigan | 1064 St Marina dr. | 394-4101 | | ✓ | |
| Clyde Ross | 1038 S. Marina Dr | 394-4228 | | ✓ | • |
| Tony Cayenaro | 73-250 Cember St. PD. | 346-1728 | | | |
| CHUCK RAZZUCK | | | USBR | | |
| Don Bush | 39-600 Sky Blue Water Dr. Rattlesnake Cyn | | | | |
| GARY REAGLES | 1285 S. RIVIERA CIR S.C. | 394-9156 | SCSTV | ✓ | • |
| Jack Palmer | 947 Pelican Ct Sk CA | 394 4420 | | ✓ | • |
| Floyd + Margot Overholt | 1318 Beach Club Dr Thermal CA 92274 | 394-0091 | | ✓ | |

**SIGN-IN SHEET**
(PLEASE PRINT)
**IID/SDCWA WATER CONSERVATION AND TRANSFER PROJECT**
**PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING**

DATE: 10-13-99

| Name PLEASE PRINT | Address | Phone # | Affiliation | Check Here to be Added to Mailing List | Check Here to Speak |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Flo Bliss | Salton City Spa | 394-4333 | | ✓ | |
| Jim Durkin | Salton City | 394-0013 | | | |
| Holen Ballou's | Salton City | 394 4506 | | ✓ | |
| Leo Boronda | West Shores | 395-0255 | | ✓ | |
| Jack Wilburn | 73444 Ironwood Dr. Palm Desert, Ca 92260 | Cell 333-2693 | | ✓ | ■ |
| Debi McDonald | Desert Sun | 395-5526 | | ✓ | |
| Jackie Woodman | " " | " " | | | |
| Jamal Brodie | Salton City | 394-4916 | | | ✓ |

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DATE: 10-13-99

| Name PLEASE PRINT | Address | Phone # | Affiliation | Check Here to be Added to Mailing List | Check Here to Speak |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Ken + JoAnn Evans | 1317 Beach Club Dr UDM | 760 394 0092 | | ✓ | |
| Norm Niver | P.O. Box 5342 Salton City 92275 CA | | SS Authority Citizens Advisory | ✓ | ✓ |
| Clifford & Dottie Friesley | 127 Venice Ln Desert Shores 92274-7120 | 395-7185 | | ✓ | ✓ |
| OLIVE A DURKIN | P.O. Box 5512 SALTON City Spa | 394-0013 | | | |
| BILL DuBOIS | 801 W ROSS RD EL CENTRO CA 92243 | 352 4007 | LANDOWNER | ✓ | |
| BILL KNAB | 2348 Oahu | 394-1102 | owner | ✓ | |
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|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| TOM KIRK | 78 035 CALLE ESTADO LA | 760 564-4888 | SSA | ✓ | |
| John Pavlich | 116 Venice Ln, Desert Sh | 760-395 0317 | | ✓ | • |
| John L. Scott | | | MWD | | |
| Bob Hargreaves | 39700 Bob Hope Dr Rancho Mirage | 760-568-2611 | SSA | ✓ | |
| JOSEPH MARTIN | P.O B 5306 S.C | 760 394 4265 | — | ✓ | |
| Darlene McClain | 66850 Martinez Rd Thermal | 397-1126 | Torres martinez Tribal Council | ✓ | |
| Elaine M Pendleton | Torres Martinez | 397-8144 | Torres martinez tribal council | ✓ | • |
| Phillip Mono | Torres - Martinez | 397-8144 | Tribal Council | ✓ | |

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DATE: 10-13-99

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|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| JIM CANTRELL | 25681 ALESSANDRO BLVD. M.V. | 909-242-5586 | LAND OWNER | | |
| Kim Tomasone Chris Brewster | Box 5664 Salton City, CA 92275 | 760 394 4384 | Land & home owner | ✓ | |
| Brian L. Napier | P.O. Box 550 1739 Rio Vista Street Seeley, CA 92273 | 760 352-0941 | Finance Officer Salton Community Services | ✓ | ✓ |
| Mary Belardo | PO Box 1160 Thermal, CA 92274 | 909 397-8144 | Torres Martinez Desert Cahuilla | ✓ | |
| Bert Christensen | 2014 T Street Sacramento CA 95814 | 916-227-4421 | Cal. Water Res. Control Board | — | |
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| Name PLEASE PRINT | Address | Phone # | Affiliation | Check Here to be Added to Mailing List | Check Here to Speak |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Charles Seybert | 3801 Palm Dr. Desert Shores | 395-0445 | Concerned Citizen | | |
| Shirley JONES | 1536 Desert Air, VDM | 394-1919 | " | | |
| Millie Hall & Jack | #2594 N. Marina Salton City | 394-1901 | " | | |
| Dee Guest | 3792 Palm Dr D.S. | 395-4805 | | | |
| NORM GUEST | 3792 PALM DR DS | 395-4805 | " | | |
| DON STOBIE | 1292 Chinaberry SC | 394-4616 | | | |
| Charlie H Moore | 3425 JUDY AVE 55B | 585-1501 | | | |
| Sugar Rasmussen | 224 Imperial Apt 55B | 395-1411 | | | |
| Rich Rasmussen | 224 Imperial 55B | 395-1,411 | | | |

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DATE: 10-13-99

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| SUE GAY BILL GAY | 2320 HAMILTON | | | | |
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## PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

DATE: 10-13-99

| Name | Address | Phone # | Affiliation | Check Here to be Added to Mailing List | Check Here to Speak |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Jeri Sunberg<br>Bradley Sunberg | 2378 Oak Ln PoBox 5384 | 760-394-4744 | | ✓ | |
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## PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

DATE: 10-13-99

| Name | Address | Phone # | Affiliation | Check Here to be Added to Mailing List | Check Here to Speak |
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| PLEASE PRINT | | | | | |
| John Hutton | 3759 Thomas Dr DSC | 395 0307 | | | |
| Eric Lauer | Salton City | 394-4121 | Fire Chief | | |
| Eva Loymendy | 2579 SeaRaider Av SC | 394-4661 | | ✓ | |
| Dámaso Loymendy | " " " " " | " | | | |
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## IID/SDCWA WATER CONSERVATION AND TRANSFER PROJECT
## PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

DATE: 10-13-99

| Name | Address | Phone # | Affiliation | Check Here to be Added to Mailing List | Check Here to Speak |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Samuel Cohn Staff R5 | 23001 Coolidge SP Rd | 714-225-0011 | | | |
| Tom Peltier | 901 P ST, Sac, CA 95814 | 916 657-1526 | SWRCB | X | • |
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## SIGN-IN SHEET
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## IID/SDCWA WATER CONSERVATION AND TRANSFER PROJECT
## PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

DATE: October 14, 19

| Name<br>Please Print | Address | Phone # | Affiliation | Check Here to be Added to Mailing List | Check Here to Speak |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Jose M. Lopez | 437 Ethel St. | 357-0926 | Campesinos Unidos Inc | ✓ | ✓ |
| Sarah Lydick | P.O Box 1204 Calipatria<br>1251 Stafford, EC<br>P.O. Box 5797 | 352-1876 | Bea Mock<br>Jack Farmer<br>Beverly Price | ✓ | |
| Al Goff | Yuma, AZ | 520-343-9036 | USIBWC | — | |
| Frank Miranda | 1104 Keffer Rd, Holtville, Ca | 760 356-4722 | Dune Company | ✓ | ✓ number of [illegible] |
| Paige Fenstermaker | 2845 E. Camelback Rd. Ste 700 Phoenix, AZ | 602-224-0001 | SASI | ✓ | |
| Bill Mordah | 151 Elm El Centro | 352-2069 | | | |
| Dilda McFadden | 2001 Anderholt Rd Holtville | 356-5821 | CAC | | |
| Rick Strobel | 1798 West Main St. El Centro 92243 | 352-3870 | CAC | ✓ | |

**SIGN-IN SHEET**
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**IID/SDCWA WATER CONSERVATION AND TRANSFER PROJECT**
**PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING**

DATE: October 14, 199

| Name PLEASE PRINT | Address | Phone # | Affiliation | Check Here to be Added to Mailing List | Check Here to Speak |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| BB Bennett | SALTON CITY 92275 | (760) 394-0036 | PROPERTY | ✓ | |
| Gracie Bennett | PO Box 5534 | " | OWNER | ✓ | |
| Miguel Angel Rodriguez | 578 El Centro Ave El Centro | 352 2943 | Property | | |
| Rudy Yniguez | IV Press PO Box 2770 El Centro 92244 | 337-3440 | news media | — | • |
| Tom Ryan | P.O. Box 54153 Los Angeles, CA 90054-0153 | 213 217-6140 | MWD | ✓ | • |
| Bob Ham | 1401 La Brucherie Rd #7 EL Centro 92243 | 760 312-7905 | COLAB | ✓ | |
| WILLIAM E. ELDER | COLORADO RIVER BOARD OF CALIF. GLENDALE, CA 91203 | 818 543.4676.x278 | CRB | — | |
| BILL DUBOIS | 801 W ROSS RD EL CENTRO CA 92243 | 760 352 4007 & 916 489 2191 | Property owner | ✓ | |

## SIGN-IN SHEET
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## IID/SDCWA WATER CONSERVATION AND TRANSFER PROJECT
## PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

DATE: October 14, 1

| Name<br>PLEASE PRINT | Address | Phone # | Affiliation | Check Here to be Added to Mailing List | Check Here to Speak |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| BILL CONDIT | 1630 SMOKETREE | 760-352-7449 | CITIZEN | | ✓ |
| JEANNIE LENEFSKY | 418 CONESTOGA LN IMPERIAL | 355-4373 | CITY MANAGER | ✓ | |
| Karen Holdsworth | 654 W. Worthington Rd. | 355-2142 | IVES | ✓ | |
| Rod & Jerrie Pittman | 697 W. Main Rd, El Centro | 352-3305 | | ✓ | • |
| Robert Robinson | CVWD | 396-2657 | | | |
| Mel Zernow | 121 W. 5th St. Holtville | 356-4574 | City Manager | | |
| Carlos Vick | 2091 Holt Ave. El Centro | 352-3347 | IID | | |
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**IID/SDCWA WATER CONSERVATION AND TRANSFER PROJECT**
**PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING**

DATE: October 14, 1999

| Name<br>Please Print | Address | Phone # | Affiliation | Check Here to be Added to Mailing List | Check Here to Speak |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Larry Grogan | 444 Main St E C | 353-7946 | Township Alameda & Q | ✓ | ✓ |
| John Gillespie | 2460 State St | 353-4354 | | ✓ | ✓ |
| Felix Meza | 510 W. Main St. Suite 217 | 353-8711 | | ✓ | |
| Charles Keene | 770 Fairmont Ave., Glendale CA 91203 | 818/543-4620 | State of CA - DWR | ✓ | |
| Stella Mendoza | 491 West "H" St Brcy | 344-3495 | | ✓ | ✓ |
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## SIGN-IN SHEET
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## IID/SDCWA WATER CONSERVATION AND TRANSFER PROJECT
## PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

DATE: 10/18/99

| Name<br>Please Print | Address | Phone # | Affiliation | Check Here to be Added to Mailing List | Check Here to Speak |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| John Rodlinger | Reclamation | 702-293-8592 | | | |
| Tom Ryan | previously given | " | MWD | ✓ | — |
| Dale Ensminger | USBR, Boulder City, NV | 702-293-8659 | USBR | | |
| DANIEL EDDY JR | Rt. 1 Box 23B, PARKER AZ 85344 | 520-669-5211 | | | |
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DATE: 10/18/99

## IID/SDCWA WATER CONSERVATION AND TRANSFER PROJECT
## PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

| Name<br>Please print | Address | Phone # | Affiliation | Check Here to be Added to Mailing List | Check Here to Speak |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Bill Werner | 2221 W Greenway Rd Phoenix Az 85023 | 602 789-3607 | AZ Game & Fish | yes | ✓ |
| Steve Robbins | P.O. Box 1058 Coachella CA | 760-398-2651 | Coachella Valley Water Dist | ✓ | |
| Dave Curtis | USBR, Boulder City, NV | 702/293-8132 | USBR | | |
| Steve Hvinden | USBR, Boulder City NV | 702-293-8536 | USBR | | |
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**SIGN-IN SHEET**
**(PLEASE PRINT)**
**IID/SDCWA WATER CONSERVATION AND TRANSFER PROJECT**
**PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING**

DATE: 10-19-99

| Name PLEASE PRINT | Address | Phone # | Affiliation | Check Here to be Added to Mailing List | Check Here to Speak |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Howard Williams | 1443 ALGA CT, VISTA 92083 | 760-598-7725 | VID | | |
| Dan Parnes | P.O. Box 1058 Coachella 92236 | 760 398-2651 | CVWD | | |
| Art Bunce | POBox 1416, Escondido, CA 92033 | 760-489-0329 | ACBCI | ✓ | ✓ |
| Patty Brock | 3211 Fifth Ave San Diego | 619 682 4290 | SDCWA | | |
| Jim Setmire | USBR 27710 Jefferson Ave Ste 201 Temecula 92590 | 909-695-5310 | USBR | | |
| Doyle Stephens | USGS 1745 W. 1700 S. Salt Lake, UT. 84104 | 801-975-3396 | USGS - Salton Sea Scient. Sub Com | ✓ | |
| Eugenia McNaughton | USEPA Rgn 9 WTR-4 75 Hawthorne St SF 94110 | 415-744-1162 | USEPA Rgn 9 | ✓ | |
| Lou BALLOU | 550 Golden Rd FALLBROOK, CA 92028 | 760 723 3614 | | | SUBSEQUENTLY CHOSE TO SPEAK |

# SIGN-IN SHEET
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## IID/SDCWA WATER CONSERVATION AND TRANSFER PROJECT
## PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

| Name | Address | Phone # | Affiliation | Check Here to be Added to Mailing List | Check Here to Speak |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| PLEASE PRINT | | | | | |
| Ray A. Schrader | 5735 Kearny Villa Rd., Ste. O | 858-637-6824 | US Geological Survey | X | subsequently chose to speak |
| Tom Ryan | previously given | — | MWD | X | — |
| Carol Roberts | 2730 Loker Ave West Carlsbad, CA 92008 | 760-431-9440 | US Fish + Wildlife Service | X | • |
| ALAN THUM | 1392 PEACHWOOD DR. ENCINITAS CA 92024 | (760) 942 3322 | PACIFIC ENVIRONMENTAL CONSULTANTS | + | • — |
| NADINE SCOTT | 550 Hoover St Oceanside CA 92054 | 760 757 6685 | CALIF ASS'N RESOURCE Conservation Districts | ✓ | • ✓ |
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## SIGN-IN SHEET
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DATE: 10-20-99

## IID/SDCWA WATER CONSERVATION AND TRANSFER PROJECT
## PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

| Name | Address | Phone # | Affiliation | Check Here to be Added to Mailing List | Check Here to Speak |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| PLEASE PRINT | | | | | |
| J.S. Ski Wolniewicz | 801 Fairway Ct Chula Vista CA 91911 | (619) 420-9851 | Sweetwater Authority | ✓ | • |
| Marla Mueller | 2020 L St., Sacramento 95814 | (916) 323-1529 | Ca Air Resources Board | ✓ | |
| CRISTINA SMITH | 945 HORNBLEND SUITE G SD 92109 | 858 490 8816 | League of Women Voters IMS | ✓ | • |
| Rudy Yniguez | PO BOX 3770 El Centro CA 92244 | 760 337 3440 | IV Press | | |
| Dan Parks | P.O. Box 1058 Coachella 92236 | 760 398-2651 | CVWD | | |
| VERN KNOOP | 770 Fairmont Ave Glendale, ca 91203 | (818) 543-4600 X277 | St. of Ca DWR | ✓ | |
| Margi Stelrer | 600 B Street San Diego 92101 | 619.533.4112 | City SD | ✓ | • |
| Sergio L. Nunez | PO Box 1160 Thermal, CA 92274 | 760 -397 8411 | T-M EPA | ✓ | |

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**PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING**

DATE: 10-20-99

| Name PLEASE PRINT | Address | Phone # | Affiliation | Check Here to be Added to Mailing List | Check Here to Speak |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| FRANK Chevelle | SDCWA | 682-4100 | CITY OF N.C. | | |
| Bud Pocklington | " | 422-6656 | SWEETWATER CWA | | |
| Duch Reynolds | SWEETWATER AUTHORITY | 422 8395 x601 | GM | ✓ | |
| Dennis Poostad | Sweetwater Authority | 422-8395 x605 | | ✓ | |
| Fred Cagle | 3737 Rosa St. SD Audubon | 619 2970931 | Audubon | — | |
| John L. Scott | MWD | | | | |
| Phil Pryde | 7784 Cedar Lake SD 92119 | 619-594-5525 | S.D. Audubon | PLS CHANGE ADDRESS TO AS SHOWN AT LEFT | |
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**SIGN-IN SHEET**
(PLEASE PRINT)

DATE: 10-20-99

## IID/SDCWA WATER CONSERVATION AND TRANSFER PROJECT
## -PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

| Name PLEASE PRINT | Address | Phone # | Affiliation | Check Here to be Added to Mailing List | Check Here to Speak |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| Mer Zeernow | 121 W. 5th St., Holtville, CA 92250 | (760) 356-4574 | City of Holtville | ✓ | • |
| Robert Prohaska | 7977 Camino Gato, Carlsbad, CA 92009 | | | ✓ | • |
| FRED THOMPSON | 3211 - 5th AVE | 619-296-4435 | SDCWA | | |
| ANDY HOWE | P.O. Box 937, Imperial CA | (760) 353-1152 | IID | | |
| CARY F. WRIGHT | 242 E. 5th Calexico CA | 619-426-7766 | State Audit | | |
| Charles Fischer | 2225 Dairy Mart Rd S.D. | 619-662-2600 | IBWC | | |
| Chris Gould | 54 Half Moon Road, Coronado | 619 682-4165 | SDCWA | | |
| | | | | | |

# Appendix D
# Public Scoping Meeting Transcripts

IMPERIAL IRRIGATION DISTRICT/ SAN DIEGO COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY WATER CONSERVATION AND TRANSFER PROJECT

SCOPING MEETING

FIRST PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING:

DATE: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 12, 1999.

PLACE: 161 SOUTH PLAZA, # 1420,
BRAWLEY, CALIFORNIA 92227

REPORTER: LANA KIESER-CAMPA, CSR. NO. 12100,
CERTIFIED SHORTHAND REPORTER

APPEARANCES:

MICHAEL CONCANNON:
Senior Project Manager for CH2M HILL

STEVEN R. KNELL:
Special Projects Coordinator for the
State Lead Agency, Imperial Irrigation District

LAURENCE J. PURCELL:
Water Resources Manager for the
San Diego County Water Authority

BILL RINNE:
Area Manager for the Federal Lead Agency,
The Bureau of Reclamation, Boulder Canyon Operations

JAMES GREEN:
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.

BRAWLEY, CALIFORNIA, OCTOBER 12, 1999, 7:19 P.M.

MR. CONCANNON: We are ready to start our presentation tonight. Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to the first public scoping meeting for the Imperial Irrigation District, San Diego County Water Authority Water Conservation and Transfer Project and Environmental Project. It's quite a mouthful. My name is Mike Concannon, the project manager for CH2M HILL, retained to prepare the environmental analysis for this project.

In addition to several CH2M HILL offices involved in the project, we are supported by some specialty subconsultants, including David's Engineering of Davis, California, and Keller-Bleisner Engineers from Logan, Utah, who will be preparing an irrigation system model and the development of conservation alternatives.

I'd like to emphasize that the purpose of this meeting is to receive information, your views, your comments, and any suggestions on issues that you feel should be considered in the environmental analysis, and the Environmental Impact Report and Environmental Impact Statement, which is abbreviated EIR/EIS that will be prepared for the proposed Water

Conservation and Transfer Project. It's not for comments on the pros and cons of the proposed Water Transfer itself.

A joint EIR\EIS document is being prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act, CEQA, and the National Environmental Policy Act, NEPA, under the direction of the two Lead Agencies. The Imperial Irrigation District, IID, is the state Lead Agency responsible for the CEQA compliance, and the Bureau of Reclamation is the federal Lead Agency responsible for the NEPA compliance.

In just a few minutes, I'll give you a brief overview of the scoping process, itself, and how it relates to this project.

Following the scoping process presentation, a brief presentation will be made by Mr. Steve Knell of the Imperial Irrigation District on the proposed project.

After Mr. Knell completes the project overview I will be calling on individuals who have signed up to make oral presentations.

The sign-in sheet at the front door contains a check box if you would like to make a public comment this evening. Only those persons who have signed up

to speak will be called. However, if at the end of the meeting there's still time, I will ask if there are other speakers. Even if you do not plan to make oral comments, please sign there at the registration table so that we can have accurate attendance lists.

In addition to that, I recognize that some of you are waiting to see what we have to present before you decide whether or not you want to comment, so at the end of our presentation, we'll again remind you that we need to have the signed card if you wish to speak, and then we'll get on with the oral comments.

In addition, if you choose not to provide oral comments, but would like to provide written comments, please feel free to fill out a comment card located at the sign-in registration table, and leave this with me tonight. Or if you desire to provide comments at a later date, you may send a letter to either Mr. Knell or Mr. Rinne of the Bureau of Reclamation at the addresses indicated on the handouts for tonight's meeting.

I realize I did not introduce everybody that's up here tonight, so let me take a minute now and let our cohorts here introduce themselves.

MR. KNELL: I'm Steve Knell, the Imperial

Irrigation District project manager for the Water Transfer.

MR. RINNE: I'm Bill Rinne. I'm the federal lead contact for the Bureau of Reclamation, Boulder Canyon Operations, in Boulder City, Nevada.

MR. PURCELL: And I'm Larry Purcell, San Diego County Water Authority. I'm helping on the environmental compliance aspects of this project.

MR. CONCANNON: I'd like to remind you that a 30-day period is now underway for comments on the State Notice of Preparation and a federal Notice of Intent -- NOP and NOI, if you like acronyms.

With the exception of comments received at tonight's public meeting, written comments will be accepted through October 27th.

All comments must be submitted to either Mr. Steve Knell, or Bill Rinne at the Bureau of Reclamation by the 27th of October. Again, their addresses are available at the handout -- in the handout area at the sign-in table at the back.

A total of six public scoping meetings are scheduled through this week and next week, and a schedule of those is also presented at the back table. Now, I'll just quickly remind you that there are two more scheduled in the Salton Sea -- Salton City area

and El Centro area this week.

The purpose of these scoping meetings is to solicit input from the public regarding issues that should be considered in the preparation of an EIR/EIS for this project, and to identify any issues of concern that the public may have.

The questions or comments we receive tonight, either oral or written, will be considered during the preparation of the EIR and EIS, and we will summarize those in the scoping report, the issues, after all the comments are received.

At this point I'd like to take a few minutes and go through the scoping process itself and -- Steve -- what we have here is the over-all project schedule, and we've identified -- we've issued the NOP/NOI on September 27th. We're now doing the scoping meetings starting tonight and going through the 20th of the month. We'll close the scoping comment period on the NOI/NOP on the 27th.

The next public event would be after the alternatives are developed. We are targeting that sometime around June of next year.

A draft EIR/EIS will come out approximately September of the year 2000, followed by a 60-day comment period with, again, public meetings like this

to receive comments on the drafted EIR/EIS.

We're looking at finishing the EIR/EIS in about March of 2001, and a record of decision about September, so approximately a two-year time frame for the over-all project.

So what is scoping? Scoping provides the public with an opportunity to let the Lead Agencies know about specific issues that should be addressed in the EIR/EIS. Scoping also allows the agencies to focus the EIR/EIS on community concerns and issues that they feel are important.

During a scoping meeting you need to let the Lead Agencies know about what you feel are potential effects of the project on either natural environment or the man-made environment, the range and types of alternatives that you wish to be considered, and any kind of mitigation measures that you think may be important.

During commenting at a scoping meeting, as again I emphasize, both verbal and written comments will be accepted at the meeting tonight. Comments will also be recorded at the meeting and subsequently addressed in a EIR/EIS process.

At this point, I'd like to turn the meeting over to Steve Knell, and he'll walk you through what

the project's all about, and give you an overview of the project.

MR. KNELL: Thanks Mike. Is this okay? The following slides, what we're going to go through, are the proposed project itself, the principal objectives of the project, potential impacts, alternatives, environmental documentation, potential approvals, a list of other ongoing environmental processes going on, and a summary.

The project is like the name sounds, it's a water conservation and transfer project. On the conservation part, the IID is going to conserve up to 300,000 acre-feet of Colorado River water.

The other part of that is the subsequent transfer of all or a portion of that conserved water to the San Diego County Water Authority. This is a long-term transfer, up to 75 years.

Continuing with the project, it has a start date, but only after the satisfaction of all conditions. Some of the those conditions are completion of this EIR/EIS. Other conditions are the participation of landowners in this project.

We have a start quantity of 20,000 acre-feet in the first year and a ramp-up in annual amounts of 20,000 acre-feet per year until a stabilized annual

primary transfer amount is reached, which is really a minimum of 130,000, and no more than 200,000. The ramp-up period is seven to 10 years, depending on the amount of the primary transfer. Then there is an additional discretionary transfer for up to 100,000 acre-feet per year.

Again, the project -- at least 130,000 acre-feet per year from voluntary on-farm conservation methods, at least 130,000. Any primary transfer above 130,000 acre-feet per year and up to the 200,000 acre-feet per year will result from on-farm conservation in excess of the 130, or a yield from IID system conservation methods, such as improvement of the delivery systems and reservoirs and those kinds of things. We consider those system improvements to the district.

The principal objectives of the project, from the big picture down: One is to assist California in meeting its Colorado River water allocation, also to lessen the increased demand for water for Southern California from the State Water Project, to provide San Diego County Water Authority with a reliable long-term water supply, and to protect Imperial Valley's water rights.

Potential impacts of the project do exist.

We've identified these by geographic areas and by resources. Geographically, we're looking at the lower Colorado River area; Salton Sea, Imperial Valley, and San Diego County.

Resources that have potential impacts: Water flow, water quality, socioeconomics, biological, recreational impacts.

Alternatives: This statement is out of the NOI/NOP, which you can take with you. There's a copy on the back table. The EIR/EIS will evaluate other feasible project alternatives, including a range of alternative conservation measures, water supply and transfer alternatives, and the various alternative measures in addition to the "No Project/No Action" alternative.

Environmental documentation: As Mike stated earlier, pursuant to CEQA and NEPA, the joint EIR/EIS is currently being prepared. The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation is the federal Lead Agency for NEPA, which is the federal process, and Imperial Irrigation District, IID, is the state Lead Agency for CEQA, the state process.

These are some of the potential approvals we see being required for this project: The USBR, the United States Bureau of Reclamation, the United States

Fish and Wildlife Service, the State Water Resources Control Board, and California Department of Fish and Game.

A list of other ongoing environmental processes that are going on in the area: We have the Salton Sea Restoration Project, we have the lower Colorado River Multi-species Conservation Program, and we have the All American and Coachella Canal Lining Project.

In summary, the project creates opportunities to provide IID with incentives to conserve and transfer water, protect its water rights and strengthen the local economy. San Diego County Water Authority, they're looking for providing a reliable and reasonably priced water supply.

As Mike stated earlier, these are the principal contacts for any written comments you may want to receive, plus additional information on a Web site that we have set up. If you want to check the Web site out, we'll be posting information on there.

There's a hotline where you can call and leave information on the phone and we'll respond back to you. And there, again, the Lead Agency contacts are myself and Bill Rinne with the Bureau. I'm going

to turn this back to Mike.

MR. CONCANNON: Thank you, Steve. At this time we'd like to take a few minutes to receive any questions you may have about the scoping process itself, that is the meeting here tonight, as it relates to the proposed project, and how your verbal and written comments will be incorporated into the EIR/EIS.

Any comments you'd like to make with respect to the project itself can be presented during the public comment period, which is coming up next. So does anybody have any specific questions about what we're doing here tonight?

At this time I'd like to begin accepting oral comments on the issues you'd like to see considered in the EIR/EIS process for this project.

And for anyone who has arrived late, or if you wish to make public comments during this scoping meeting, we not only need you to sign in, but we'd also like to get a comment speaker's card from you with your name and address, and I'll talk about that later.

Again, the sign-in sheet contains a box to check if you'd like to make public comments, so please complete this and turn in the card. Only those

persons who sign up to speak will be called, unless we have additional time at the end of the meeting.

In order to ensure we have an accurate record this evening, an official reporter, Lana Kieser with Hahn and Bowersock, will prepare a verbatim transcript of everything that is said at the meeting.

We also have a Spanish interpreter at the back who will be simultaneously interpreting, so if anyone needs translation, please raise your hand and we'll be glad to provide you with a headset.

At the end of the scoping process, as I said, we'll be preparing a scoping report which summarizes the comments and issues raised at the scoping meetings.

To ensure a complete and accurate record of the public scoping meetings, we would appreciate only one person at a time speaking, and that others in attendance remain quiet while the meeting is in progress.

We'll be using a handheld microphone, so if you have speaker cards, we'll call the name, and I'll bring the microphone to you so you can take it right at your seat. And when you do, if you are going to speak and your name is called, please recognize yourself by raising your hand.

To assist the reporter, each speaker should state their name, spell your name, your last name, and address, and if you have any affiliation, recognize that.

Comments of each speaker will be limited to five minutes to ensure that all parties who have requested to speak will have an opportunity to do so.

We will inform the speaker when he or she has one minute of time remaining. If time is available at the end of the meeting tonight for individuals who are unable to complete their remarks, they will also be given an extra five minutes to finish their comments. Speakers who wish to finish their comments will be called in the same order as they were originally called.

Again, written comments will be received both as an alternative to the oral comments and any supplementary materials to the verbal comments submitted tonight.

I'll repeat it again. Written comments can be submitted to me at the end of the meeting, to Mr. Steve Knell, and Mr. Bill Rinne of the Bureau, and their addresses are on the comment cards when you sign in at the sign-in table. All written comments that are received on or before October 27th will be

included as part of the official record.

Written statements will be given equal consideration to oral comments made at this and the other five public scoping meetings. If you have prepared written comments for tonight's meeting, it would be helpful, but is not required, if you can give me a copy -- provide it to the court reporter, so your comments can be accurately recorded.

So if there are any questions about the procedures of this meeting, I'll take them now. If not, then I would like to call any of the first speakers. No one has signed up. I guess we need to get some speaker cards. Has anyone requested a speaker card to comment on a process at this point?

MR. BRANDT: Do I need to fill one of those out?

MR. KNELL: No pressure.

MR. BRANDT: I'm Bill Brandt, 2410 Brandt Road, William Brandt Ranch is the name of our farm.

Since the beginning of this transfer, which was -- at the beginning was supposed to be no more than 200,000 feet. I see up here we have 300,000 now, and sometimes I hear it goes all the way up to 500,000 when you add it all up in L.A. and whatever. But there's been -- since the beginning of the transfer, it has always been that -- for most of us, that we

wanted to conserve. We want to be able to work with our neighbors there and find some way to help the cause and conserve this water. (I15d)

There's been some people here in the valley that have looked at this thing, this transfer -- as other ways -- as a way to supplement their farming income, and which many of us have tried to fight all the way along because, you know, once you get down to where you're deciding, "Is it better for my farm just to take the water and take the income off the water than it is to farm?" We have a huge third-party impact. [redacted] But out of this, we know we have -- we've had the -- more or less the gun put to our head. We've had to move along on this transfer.

And if anything that's come out of here lately, out of all these talks -- and I hope we can push on this one big issue -- is that there will be no more transfers for the 30-year period. That will give us time here to make sure that we can conserve this water, that we can find out the environmental impact problems that we don't know. [redacted] We hear the big numbers, there's little numbers, but in 30 years we will be able to look at it.

And the other thing is we can stop these huge lawyer bills that just creep -- dragging down

this valley? [redacted]

I think if we can get everybody to come together. As much as the distrust has been over this water transfer, if we could get this one thing put across, is that there will be no more water transfers for at least 30 years. I think everybody could come back and start pulling back together on this. [redacted] That's all I hope that comes out of this thing here. Thank you.

MR. CONCANNON: Thank you for your comments. One of the things that the EIR/EIS document must have in there is a very thorough project description, and that's where -- what the terms of this project will be defined.

Do we have any other speakers tonight? Well, looks like we'll have a short meeting then tonight. This is the first one, so I don't know if we need to hold it open any longer or not. It is an official process and that's why we need to continue rather than get into a dialogue or something on the record.

Well, if we have no one else who wishes to speak tonight, then I guess I'll thank you all for attending this meeting.

There's two more, as I indicated, Salton

Sea -- Salton City tomorrow night, and El Centro on Thursday night. So if something comes up, and you can attend those meetings and submit oral comments, or you can just submit them in writing to Steve Knell or Bill Rinne at the Bureau.

Thank you for attending. I hereby declare this scoping meeting adjourned.

(The proceedings concluded at 7:48 p.m.).

Certificate

of

Certified Shorthand Reporter

The undersigned certified shorthand reporter of the state of California does hereby certify:

That the foregoing proceedings were taken before me at the time and place therein set forth;

That the testimony of all the speakers at the time of the proceedings were recorded stenographically by me and thereafter transcribed, said transcript being a true copy of my shorthand notes made thereof.

In witness whereof, I have transcribed my name this date_____.

_____

Certificate number_____

IMPERIAL IRRIGATION DISTRICT/ SAN DIEGO COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY WATER CONSERVATION AND TRANSFER PROJECT

SCOPING MEETING

SECOND PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING:

DATE: WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13, 1999.

PLACE: 2098 FRONTAGE ROAD,
SALTON CITY, CALIFORNIA 92275

REPORTER: LANA KIESER-CAMPA, CSR. NO. 12100,
CERTIFIED SHORTHAND REPORTER

APPEARANCES:

MICHAEL CONCANNON:
Senior Project Manager for CH2M HILL

STEVEN R. KNELL:
Special Projects Coordinator for the
State Lead Agency, Imperial Irrigation District

LAURENCE J. PURCELL:
Water Resources Manager for the
San Diego County Water Authority

BILL RINNE:
Area Manager for the Federal Lead Agency,
The Bureau of Reclamation, Boulder Canyon Operations

JAMES GREEN:
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

SALTON CITY, CALIFORNIA,

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 13TH, 7:07 P.M.

MR. CONCANNON: If I can get your attention, we can get started this evening. Thank you for all coming. Good evening, ladies and gentleman, welcome to the second scoping meeting for the Imperial Irrigation District and San Diego County Water Authority Water Conservation Transfer and Project and Environmental Process. I know that's a mouthful. My name is Mike Concannon. I'm with the firm of CH2M HILL. I am a consultant hired by the Lead Agencies to conduct the environmental impact analysis for the project.

In addition to several CH2M HILL offices, we're supported by a number of specialty subconsultants, including Keller-Bleisner Engineers of Logan, Utah, David Engineering Company in Davis, California, and a number of other individual assistants supporting our project.

The -- I'd like to emphasize -- the purpose of the meeting tonight is to receive information, your views, your comments and suggestions on any issue that

you feel should be considered in the Environmental Impact Report and Environmental Impact Statement being prepared for the project, the Water Conservation and Transfer Project. It is not for comments on the proposed merits of the project itself. That's the pros and cons of the going forward with the project.

A joint Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement, EIR and EIS document is being prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act, which is CEQA, and the National Environmental Policy Act, which is NEPA, under the direction of two Lead Agencies. The Imperial Irrigation District, IID, is the Lead Agency responsible for the CEQA compliance, and the Bureau of Reclamation is the federal Lead Agency responsible for the NEPA compliance.

I'd like to have introductions by representatives of the two Lead Agencies. Steve Knell is the special project coordinator for the Imperial Irrigation District. Mr. Bill Rinne, Bureau of Reclamation for the Lead Agency -- the federal Lead Agency of the project. We also have Mr. Larry Purcell. He's a representative of the San Diego County Water Authority for this project.

In just a few minutes I would like to provide a brief overview of the scoping process and how it

relates to the project. Following the scoping presentation, a brief presentation will also be made by Steve Knell on the project itself. After Mr. Knell completes the project overview, I'll be calling on individuals who have signed up to make oral comments at this meeting.

At the sign-in table we had a sign-in sheet with a box to be checked if you wished to speak tonight. We have several speakers who have checked that -- filled out speaker cards.

If you wish to speak, you can still speak tonight, obviously, but we would still like to get speaker cards filled out in view of your attendance. If it has not been recorded on the sign-in sheet, could you do that before you leave tonight so we can get an accurate record of who attended tonight.

So to reiterate, if you wish to speak tonight, when we get to the public comment portion of the evening, you can still speak, but fill out a speaker card in advance. But we will need to get your name, address and any affiliation you might have.

There's some cards if you raise your hand. If you want to fill one out now, we can get one to you and move on. Only those persons who have signed up to speak will be allowed -- will be allowed to speak.

And by signing up, I'm saying you come up, record your name, address, and any affiliation you have. We don't actually need to fill out the form, but what it is, is a formality that we typically go through.

Even if you do not plan to make oral comments at the presentation tonight, again, please sign in at the registration table so that we can record who was present at the meeting tonight. If you choose to not make oral comments tonight but would like to provide written comments, please feel free to fill out one of the comment cards that we have over there, and you can leave it with me tonight, and leave it with Melody Embree over there at the sign-in table.

If you desire to submit comments at a later time, you can send them by a letter to Mr. Steve Knell or Mr. Bill Rinne at the Bureau. And addresses are indicated on the information on the Notice of Intent, Notice of Preparation as well as the notice for the meeting, and their addresses are on all three documents.

A 30-day period is now underway for comments on the state Notice of Preparation and the federal Notice of Intent, the NOP/NOI for this project. With the exception of comments submitted at the public scoping meetings, written comments will be accepted

through October 27th. So that's kind of the deadline we've set, 30 days from September 27th, when it was officially noticed in the Federal Register. So we have another couple of weeks to get comments in. All comments must be submitted, again, to Steve Knell or Bill Rinne by the 27th.

A total of six public scoping meetings are being held. Three of them in the Valley, two in San Diego area, and one in Las Vegas. And those are also noticed.

The purpose of these scoping meetings is to solicit input from the public, again, regarding issues that you feel should be considered in the preparation of the EIR/EIS for the project, and also to identify any significant issues or concerns that the public may have -- that you may have -- that you would like to see addressed.

The questions or comments that we receive tonight, both written and oral, will be considered throughout the present preparation of the EIR/EIS documents.

What I'd like to go into is kind of go through the scoping process, and what it means in an EIR/EIS process. Steve --

MR. KNELL: I think one of those light switches

in the hallway on the right may make this a little easier to read.

MR. CONCANNON: How does that read? We were trying to juggle it around with the screen. That's fine. Can everybody see what we're talking about up here? I know it's a little cramped, but that's about the best that we can do right now.

What I'd like to go over here is the overall schedule of the EIR/EIS that we are preparing. The issue, as I said, the Notice of Preparation. September 27th, we initiated the scoping meetings starting on the 12th, and the closing comments on the 27th of October.

The next public input to the process occurs when we have developed alternatives, project alternatives. And we plan to do an alternatives workshop with the public, and it's probably going to occur some time in this time frame somewhere, around June of next year, so we have about eight months to get to that stage.

Following that, we have an actual delivery of the draft EIR/EIS, and that's targeted for just about a year from now, in September of the year 2000. There will be a 60-day comment period on the draft EIR/EIS. The issue -- the final target is March 2001.

Following that, the Lead Agencies will make a record of decision in about September, so we have about a two-year-long process and there are, as I identified, two more public input points in the process that we've identified.

What is scoping? Scoping provides the public with an opportunity to let the Lead Agencies know about specific issues that you feel should be addressed in the EIR/EIS. Scoping allows the Lead Agencies to focus the EIR/EIS on community concerns and issues. So that's what we're here for tonight, is getting your input on what you feel is important.

During scoping meetings such as this, and in the remaining four, we hope that you let the Lead Agencies know about the potential effects of the project and the natural or man-made environment, about the range and types of alternatives that you think should be considered in the EIR/EIS, and any mitigation measures that you think should be addressed in the EIR/EIS or perceived impacts of the project.

Again, I've emphasized this several times, comments at a scoping meeting can be either verbal or written. Comments will be recorded at the meeting and subsequently addressed in the EIR/EIS process. That's it.

At this point I'm going to turn it over to Steve Knell, and Steve's going to walk through the project itself and can give you an overview of what is contemplated in this project.

MR. KNELL: My talk is a little longer than Mike's, so we'll see how long he can kneel down there. As Mike said, I'm going to talk to you about the project, and also I'm going to talk to you about all these issues here, the proposed project itself, the principal objectives of the project, the potential impacts of the project, alternatives, environmental documentation, the potential approvals necessary for the project, a list of other ongoing environmental processes that are going on, and a summary.

The proposed project is just like the name sounds, it's a water conservation and it's a transfer project.

There's two things going on on the conservation side. IID is going to conserve up to 300,000 acre-feet of water. We're going to transfer that water to the San Diego County Water Authority, or a portion of that to the San Diego County Water Authority. This is a long-term transfer of up to 75 years.

The project has a start date, and that is

after satisfying all the conditions of the agreement. One of those conditions is to complete this EIR/EIS process. Another condition is to have landowner participation per the guidelines that we'll go over.

There's a start quantity on the project of 20,000 acre-feet in the first year. The transfers will ramp-up at 20,000 acre-feet per year. This is called a primary transfer to between 130,000 and a maximum of 200,000 acre-feet.

We anticipate this ramp-up period will occur over a seven- to ten-year period. And then at the end, there's an additional discretionary transfer of up to a 100,000 acre-feet.

Again, the project at least -- at least 130,000 acre-feet has to come from on-farm conservation. So at least 130,000 acre-feet has to come from on-farm methods.

Any primary transfer above 130,000 and up to the 200,000 acre-feet will come from either more on-farm conservation, or the District will do system conservation.

System conservation will come up with the amount to 200,000. System conservation would be building reservoirs or lateral interceptors or things that structurally would improve the efficiency in

delivering water.

Principal objectives -- and we'll start from the top down -- and one is to get California within its legal entitlement of the Colorado River water, which is 4.4 million acre-feet. You hear a lot about that. It's also to lessen the increased demand for water on the state of California from the State Water Project. It's also in San Diego's interest to provide them with a reliable long-term water supply. And last but not least, here is the protection of Imperial Valley's water rights.

We're going to talk about potential impacts. The two areas of these impacts have been defined as the lower Colorado River region, this being the Salton Sea over here -- thanks, Larry -- so we're talking about lower Colorado River from Parker Dam to Imperial Dam. And we're talking about the San Diego County area. Obviously everybody knows where that is. It's on the other side of the mountains.

Talking about the Salton Sea and the Imperial Valley area, or the impact area as we've identified, there's going to be impacts, or potential impacts to these areas, some of those impacts are going to be to water flow, water quality, socioeconomics, biological impacts, and recreational impacts. And those are just

to name a few, there are others, but --

Alternatives, if you pick up a Notice of Preparation, which is on the counter over here, it goes into greater detail on the project. This is out of that document. The EIR/EIS will evaluate other feasible project alternatives, including a range of alternative conservation measures, water supply, and transfer alternatives, and various other alternative measures in addition to the "No Project/No Action" alternative.

Reiterating what Mike said earlier, there are legal processes underway, CEQA and NEPA, and under those we are preparing a joint EIR/EIS. Again, the USBR, being the Lead Agency for the federal process and the Imperial Irrigation District being the state Lead Agency under the CEQA process. Some of the approvals that we see needed in this project will come from the Bureau of Reclamation, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, State Water Resources Control Board, and the California Department of Fish and Game.

There are other ongoing processes. I'm sure some of you are aware of those. Some of those -- they have the Salton Sea Restoration Project underway. You have the Lower Colorado River Multispecies Conservation Program, and we have the All American and

Coachella Canal Lining Project, not concrete lining, but lining project.

In a brief summary, the project creates opportunities for Imperial Irrigation District to have incentives to conserve and transfer water, to protect its water rights, and to strengthen it's local economy. It also provides San Diego County Water Authority with a reliable and reasonably-priced water supply.

For those of you with a computer and tied to the Internet, we have a Web site -- not that you have to write this down, but it is on the documents there. You can plug in on this project, and you can check it out as it goes along. We will be posting information as it goes along.

There is a hotline that is available. You wake up in the middle of the night and got to talk to somebody, you can call this 800 number and leave a message on that. Again the Lead Agency contacts, Bill Rinne -- actually, forget this over here, just call Bill -- or myself. And this is also posted on the information that you can take home this evening. And with that, I'm going to turn it back to Mike.

MR. CONCANNON: Thanks, Steve. I'll leave this up here so you can copy down any of that information, or just take the printed copy off the tables over there

because it has all the contact points.

At this time I'd like to take a few minutes to hear any of your questions about this scoping process, itself, as it relates to the proposed project. In other words, what are we doing here tonight, and how your verbal and written comments will be incorporated in the EIR/EIS.

Any comments you wish to make with respect to the project can be presented during the public comment period, which is what we're going to spend the rest of the evening on. It's coming up next.

So does anybody have any questions about what we're doing here tonight, not about the project itself, but what we're doing here tonight?

Okay. So at this time I'd like to begin with accepting any oral comments on the issues you would like to have addressed on the EIR/EIS for the project.

For those who have arrived late, if you wish to make public comments during the scoping meeting, make sure you sign in, and so we can get you registered on the attendance sheet tonight. The sign-in sheet has a box on it, and again, I'll repeat it. So if anybody wants to comment, and turn in one of those comment cards, or if you need a comment card,

raise your hand and we'll gladly hand them out right now. If not, turn them in.

Do you have any comment cards that you want to -- if you want to, you can turn them in now, or we'll get them later.

To ensure that we have an accurate record of comments received at this public meeting, a reporter sitting back in the corner here, Lana Kieser, with Hahn and Bowersock will prepare a verbatim transcript of everything that is said at this meeting. At the end of the scoping process, we'll be preparing a scoping report which summarizes all comments received during the public meetings, all six of them. So that's another document that comes out in addition to the EIR -- the draft EIR/EIS and the final EIR/EIS we'll post on the Web site when the document is completed.

To ensure a complete and accurate report, we would appreciate only one person speaking at a time, and we ask that others in attendance remain quiet during their presentation. We will also be using a microphone, and you can use this one -- you can use one at the table. We also have the podium over here.

We really appreciate your efforts in trying to struggle through the crowd that we have here

tonight. We've got a pretty good attendance and so any of those microphones that's convenient, feel free to use it.

The reason we'd like the microphone used is so that the reporter back here can accurately reflect your comments. So when your name is called, please step forward to any of the microphones. To assist the the reporter, each speaker should state their name, spell their last name, give their address, and if you have any affiliation with any organization, state that if you wish.

The comments of each speaker will be limited to five minutes. We'll also notify the speaker when you have one minute left remaining on your time. No hook will come out. We'll raise the one minute -- but we also feel that if time remains in the evening tonight, if more individuals want to take additional time, we'll grant another five minutes speaking time after all the people that have signed up wish to speak -- or raise your hand and speak, and we'll work through that process. So we'll use the time this evening. We're trying to target this evening's process so that we don't complicate it.

We're running about a half-hour right now, so the rest of the hour and a half will be targeted --

will be your time. In addition, written comments will be accepted as an alternative to saying anything tonight, and that is supplementary to anything that is said. Quickly summarize it and turn in written comments as well. And turn in written comments via mail to Steve or to Bill Rinne, or you can just leave them with Melody or myself or Bill or Steve.

All written comments received on or before October 27th will be included as part of our official record. Written statements are given equal consideration to any oral statements made at public meetings, at this or any of the public scoping meetings.

If you have prepared any written comment for tonight's meeting, it would be helpful if you gave a copy to us. It's not required, but it would allow us to allow the court reporter to accurately record your comments for the record.

So are there any questions about how we're going to receive comments tonight? Fair enough. If not, then I'll call the first speaker, Larry Anderson.

MR. ANDERSON: Thank you. My name is Larry Anderson, my address 115 Venice Lane, Desert Shores, California. I'm just a citizen. A-N-D-E-R-S-O-N.

The comments that I would like to make relate

to the Salton Sea, itself. As you are aware there's a current project underway and their goals are to stabilize the Sea at the present level, reduce salinity, reduce nutrient levels, reduce odor and reduce the dead fish problem. I just want to make sure that your EIS/EIR addresses those problems.

We see -- many of us see the impact of water conservation might mean less water in the sea, and that if there is less water in the Sea, an alternative water source such as a canal or a pipeline would be required to maintain that level.

300,000 acre-feet is a lot of water, and I'm not sure whether the conserved water that goes to San Diego normally went into the sea. Maybe it didn't. But we'd like the impact of that very seriously looked at. [illegible]

As you know the local economy has been a disaster here for many, many years, first caused by flooding and rising water levels, and we would sure hate to see it get worse and worse by a lowering water level, so we would hope you consider all of the local residents and the local economies in your consideration. [illegible] That's the only comments I have. Thank you.

MR. CONCANNON: Thank you very much. I just want

to say that we are definitely coordinating with the Salton Sea Authority on the Salton Sea Restoration Project. Their draft EIR/EIS is projected to come out following the advance of our draft, so we'll be building on information contained in that draft report. Next speaker is Norm Niver.

MR. NIVER: I can talk loud. Norm Niver, N-I-V-E-R. I go clear back --

MR. CONCANNON: I think you need to move to the microphone -- closer.

MR. NIVER: I thought I was loud. I go clear back to 1980, and I save everything from the Imperial Valley Press. I follow the IID closely. I can remember when the water problems came and guys got sued. I can remember you stating to the press that you had always been into water conservation. And the question to me is, do you feel that the water has been used beneficial, to its fullest extent, and do you still feel that way today with the Salton Sea Authority in regard to the health of the Salton Sea, [redacted] and can we expect, hopefully, some water in your final decisions? [redacted]

MR. CONCANNON: Well, the purpose -- again, to reiterate -- is taking comments such as this that we can respond to in our scoping reports. It's a pretty

good question. Certainly, one thing we also would like to point out, the State Water Resources Control Board would be one of the approving agencies, and there is a process to gain their approval for the transfer project. So there's another analysis that's going on as well to this -- in addition to the EIR/EIS.

MR. NIVER: But is it beneficial -- do you still feel, as you did then, that it was beneficial to your conservation at that time, and prior to Senate Bill 1484 and Decision 1600 when they laid it on you that -- Decision 1600, where you were removed of all responsibility, if ordered. And that's my next question, are you ordered to do this in lieu of all responsibilities through Senate Bill 1484, Decision 1600, [redacted] any problems with residents, wildlife, fisheries, or anything. You were -- on that particular decision, you were removed of all responsibility. The question is, does that still apply today? [redacted]

MR. CONCANNON: I don't know -- Steve?

MR. KNELL: We'll bring all the lawyers the next time.

MR. CONCANNON: Those kinds of questions will have to be responded to -- those types of comments in the

scoping summary report. So there will be a response to your specific question in that report coming out probably before the end of the year.

MR. NIVER: Because I go clear back where IID's looking for profits and things. Another thing is, I was kind of interested -- it's -- I've been with the Salton Sea -- original Salton Sea Task Force, 1986 to 1992 and I won't talk about the projects we talked about, but I have never had the feeling right on to today -- although I like IID, I stick up for them. I've been accused of being paid off by them, but I still have never really had the feeling all these years that you were really interested in the Sea and the water and the value of the Salton Sea in the future.

You have the ability at the palms of your hands to make this the richest county in all of the 58 counties that we have, and I've never had that feeling. And I know you can't accept the responsibility. I've heard it over the years. I know you can't simply say, "We're for it and we take the responsibility." I understand that. And I never really know where you are coming from.

So, back then with Decision 1600, the IID had to pay -- had to come up with a state order --

Board order to conserve 106,000 acre-feet of water. We had no alternative. We were told to conserve it, and they did, and they got money from Metropolitan Water to line the canals, which stops groundwater.

My question is this: We're talking 300,000 acre-feet of water to conserve. The last time I -- the last time that I checked what was conserved -- that state order -- that was we had no alternative but to obey the state order, and we did, and 106,000 -- that's Decision 1600 -- and my question is, you made a -- you did make an agreement with the Metropolitan Water District and they paid you money to line the canals, and I was just curious, can we add that, the 106,000 to the 300,000 you're talking now? And so now we're talking 406,000, and then it's run up to 800,000, and the last time I remembered it was 650,000 that reasonably can be conserved. [illegible]

MR. CONCANNON: Well, two things -- to quickly respond -- again, Norm, if you want to continue with your comments, we'll have to do it after the rest of the speakers who have signed up. Let me quickly address how we are going to deal with the problems. There's two things. One is the inflow of the Sea has to be analyzed in the Salton Sea Project. So that document will come out first, according to their

schedule, and they're going to have to do an analysis about projected inflows to the Sea and any reductions.

The second thing is we're going to have to describe this project in a very detailed manner of what the project consists of, and we're also going to have to, in our EIR/EIS, address what effect our project would have to the Salton Sea.

MR. NIVER: Okay. That's good. In closing, I just simply suggest -- I know you pay a lot for public relations business. You ought to push the Sea every once in a while, and let the county ask the people that they think, it's very good for public relations.

MR. CONCANNON: Next is Charles Saybert.

MR. SAYBERT: Good evening. I'll try to make this real quick. My name is Charles Saybert. I live at 3801 Palm Drive in Desert Shores, and I have some concerns which I discussed with one of you this evening, and I couldn't seem to get what I wanted to know out of it. As I say, I had 35 years of experience in water management with the Los Angeles Water and Power, all of this time in the Basin District. If you've been reading the papers, the Los Angeles Water and Power has had a lot of problems with water rights. This was not going to be subsidized water, this was privately-owned water rights that the

department had purchased, but they've had to give up about 35 percent of that water to bring the level up, and (inaudible) the lake -- and now because of the particulates from the dry lakebeds -- and I can't understand an agency that's operated for one hundred years with federally subsidized water, they're buying this water at about 25 percent of the cost of (inaudible), they turn around and sell this water to another taxpayers' organization and pocket the profits. That doesn't make sense to me.

Secondly, there is no way that they could use the water. They took water way above their rights, and that's why the Sea came so high. They were trying to establish prior use (inaudible) and historic use. They had to show that they made beneficial use of it. Well, how can you make beneficial use of water when it flows off the end of your property into the Sea.

They destroyed the ecology of the Sea. They destroyed the wildlife refuges and all by trying to cram all this extra water -- but now they're going to conserve and sell it to San Diego. Oh, come on now. What's going to happen to our seabed when this water is suddenly gone and we have all these miles and miles of dry ground for particulates every time the wind

comes up? [redacted] But we know the wind does not blow down here. The whole thing doesn't make sense. We've made millionaires out of these people by giving them cheap water. They still want more.

I think it's time that we get people to look into this, our governmental people who are good with this kind of stuff, and particularly our elected officials, and stop allowing it to go on, because this is utterly ridiculous.

There's no way you could conserve 300,000 feet of prior beneficially used water. It's not possible. You can line all the canals you want to line, but you can't save that kind of water. The water that they're going to sell is the water that they could not use to begin with. They're trying to establish a right to it so they can sell it in the future. [redacted] Think about it. And the questions -- that's all I want to say.

MR. CONCANNON: Our next speaker is Chuck and Dottie Fridely.

MR. FRIDELY: I'm not going to say anything. Those guys said it for me.

MR. CONCANNON: Margot Overholt.

MS. OVERHOLT: My name is Margot, Overholt, O-V-E-R-H-O-L-T, 1318 Beach Club Drive in Vista Del

Mar. The Notice of Preparation states under the "Description of the Proposed Project"

"IID was organized in 1911 to deliver Colorado River water to lands within the Imperial Valley, California for agricultural, domestic, industrial and other beneficial uses." We live in the Imperial County. We do not receive Imperial County water. We receive Coachella Water District water.

My question is this; If, as a result of this transfer, Coachella Water District can no longer serve water to this community area of the West Shores, is IID prepared to build water lines and provide us with water at either the same or lesser cost than CW -- Coachella Water District does, and have they considered the impact of having to build those pipelines and supply that water in their environmental report? [redacted] Thank you.

MR. CONCANNON: I was just checking with Steve. I was trying to think about your comment as to whether Coachella Valley Water District service -- how it would be connected to this project. This project is an IID-sponsored project. So if there is a connection, we'll have to describe it within the project description.

MR. SAYBERT: Coachella Valley Water District is

supposed to have first claim to the Imperial Irrigation District. That's what we keep going back to. There would be no surplus water if it's all diverted.

MR. CONCANNON: Fair enough. There is a State Board petition process that goes on with this project, and this environmental document will be the environmental document that supports that state process. And that's where the issues such as water rights would be addressed by the State Board. The next speaker is Brian Napier.

MR. NAPIER: My name is Brian Napier N-A-P-I-E-R, 1739 Rio Vista in Seeley, California. Well, most of you probably know that I am the finance officer in the Salton Community Service District in Salton City.

My request for this EIR/EIS as it evaluates the impact of the transfer is to include in this evaluation the impact financially to the governments which provide services around the shores of the Salton Sea.

As I'm sure everybody recognizes, any water conservation project for transfer, other than the lining of the canals will involve the conservation of water which currently flows into the Salton Sea.

As the amount of water to the Salton Sea

decreases, or the flow of that water decreases, there will be a retreat of the level.

The question, of course, is how far. The Salton Community Services District, as an example, has incurred considerable expenses in recent years because of the relocation of the launch-ramp facility when the rising sea level flooded the old one out. If the Sea retreats once again, not only is that money lost, but additional funds will be required to reestablish a new launch-ramp facility at whatever point the Sea restabilizes.

In addition, if the Sea was to retreat below its long-time considered normal depth of minus 232, there could be severe impacts to channels and three tracts, which the district maintains for depth for boating purposes, and could, in fact, dry these points up and these channels up. And the district would be unable to pay for any further dredging.

I'd ask that this report look seriously at the impact of a much lower Sea on the financial operations of these government agencies to provide very specific financial mitigations to basically repair these agencies if they're harmed. [redacted] Thank you.

MR. CONCANNON: Next speaker is Tony Campanaro.

MR. CAMPANARO: Good evening. My name is Tony

Campanaro, C-A-M-P-A-N-A-R-O. I live at 73250 Amber Street in Palm Desert, California. I'm addressing some of my comments and some of my statements to the four gentleman I see here.

As you could see there were some powerful statements made by very well-known people in the community, by people who have lived here in the community for many, many years, and who know this process better than I do. And I have to tell you, they know it better than you do. And I say that -- and I say that with conviction.

The reason the four of you gentleman have been working on this project for -- how long? I guess more than two years. That's what you said on your statement. You've been working on this for several years. Why can't you fix it? I'm not an authority on 300,000 acres of water. I'm not an authority on all of the organizations, but I am a businessman. You must treat this as a business.

We have a body of water that you own, and what are you doing with it?

Questions to ask yourself. You talk about on your video -- on your screen positive impacts. What are they? We've had negative impacts. I'm a businessman. Financially, I'm a businessman.

Negative impacts, the staff has told you that. Staff. Owner. Owner. Staff. They live here. Fortunately I don't.

It will affect the local economy you said. How? How will it improve the local economy? [redacted] Businessman. You're a businessman. Staff. Those are important questions that you have to ask yourself and you have to act. Do it.

We have six young ladies here from Palm Desert High School. I've read about it. They have come up with an answer. Isn't that embarrassing? It should be. I will honor you one more minute when the time comes. This should not be a knock-down meeting, and it should be positive, but you cannot come to a person like me -- and I'm speaking overzealous about myself -- and talk about numbers and departments, that doesn't mean anything to me.

Say something of value. Speak with conviction, as I am speaking with conviction. What you four, that's all I can point to right now -- please forgive me -- you're not doing the job of what we expect. You must inspect what we expect. Very simple. I wish you good luck.

MR. CONCANNON: Charles Saybert, you already spoke.

MR. SAYBERT: If anybody has any questions about

water rights, water usage, how it's determined, and all, I would be happy to accept some questions. I testified in many court cases, and I could probably answer a lot of questions.

MR. CONCANNON: Thanks, Charles. Next speaker is Fred Brown.

MR. BROWN: My name is Fred Brown. I live at -- B-R-O-W-N, as if you could not tell. My address is 137 Venice Lane, Desert Shores. I represent Desert Shores Property Owners Association. I also represent (inaudible) Del Mar Property Owners Association, which is tract 662, which is in Desert Shores, which is one of the three local tracts which are on the water which were subdivided and have houses.

My house is on the water, the backyard. And I first came down in the late 1940s, so I've seen all kinds of things going on.

In the 1970s, we had all kinds of people -- and it's been stated back in those days that the impact of the Salton Sea would rival the farming industry. I've had dealings with IID, so one of my questions is, "where's the money go to?"

IID is supposedly a big corporation and has a whole bunch of expert help, financial, and attorneys, and so on, and so forth. I know for a fact

that the IID bought out or paid money for the Marina Mobile Estates in Desert Shores.

The first time they got sued and settled, it was a million seven or something. They paid the money and walked. The next time they paid maybe two million three. They paid the money and walked. The third time they finally bought it and took title to it.

The representatives of the IID told me personally that their objective was to acquire all the land at the shoreline below the 220 line. So I don't know just where that puts it, but they're in business. But supposedly they're experts in this. But for them to act so irrationally, that's not good for business.

It doesn't make any sense for them to be in competition with us and buy all the land at the Salton Sea on the shoreline. Makes me wonder what are they going to do with it? I thought they were a nonprofit corporation and weren't supposed to do -- make money for the sake of making money. It looks to me like what they're going to do is try and sell this 300,000 acre-feet, put the money in the potty -- pocket -- potty, pay the farmers to line their canals so that they can conserve this water.

The farmers get subsidized from various government agencies, make all kinds of money. What

about us guys at the Salton Sea? My home is on the water in a canal. I can no more sell my house for what I have in it than the man in the moon. Our economy has gone to heck. Desert Shores is almost a ghost town.

IID bought Marina Mobile Estates, and boom, we lost 200 families. It affected our ambulance service because we've lost 150 members that were there. IID has never offered to do anything for us. We're up here as Imperial County's orphans. We get served by the Coachella Valley Water. They have stymied growth. Period.

Right now somebody is trying to put in an R.V. park at Desert Shores. Coachella Valley Water wants a thousand dollars per unit. $85,000 up-front, plus a pipeline, plus this, plus that, plus the other thing.

When we tried to get a prison built, it was out of the question. Our golf course right up the street had to pay domestic rates.

Is IID going to do anything? It seems to me that they could make some sort of an agreement or something with the Coachella Valley Water and help us have some growth. We don't have any growth. In the last five years there's not that many businesses

(indicating). There's not five of them. We don't have any business, and a lot of it has to do with the rise and fall of the Salton Sea.

What are you guys really going to do for us? What am I going to do about my home? Nothing. You know I'm stuck with it, and most of us here are involved directly with the Salton Sea, and it looks like you guys have made up your mind. You're going to do this thing come hell or high water, take all the money and run, and let us go by the wayside. It just doesn't seem fair.

MR. CONCANNON: Next speaker, Mary Risch.

MS. RISCH: Mary Risch, 104 Pismo, Desert Shores. I have some questions that don't need to be answered tonight, but if you can write the answers.

Will water transfers, the pipeline cost more to the taxpayers than the benefit of the water San Diego receives? [redacted] How low are our area wells going? Just now, the water that we receive in Desert Shores, I received information that the water levels were extremely low, and any water being sold would not be the water that is draining into it? [redacted] What are the impacts of the water loss on the Salton Sea wildlife and residents, as there's so many things to consider there? [redacted] What effect will the water loss have

on our aquifer? [redacted] Once water is lost, we're talking 75 years lost, will it ever be able to be regained from San Diego? Once you give it away will it ever, ever come back here? No? [redacted] What will happen to the Salton Sea development knowing that we have 75 years of lost water? Will anyone build here knowing that all the water is going to San Diego? Will we have an opportunity to grow? [redacted] What about the lawsuit from the Coachella Valley Water District? [redacted] If Imperial County is saving water, why can't Imperial County use it for their own area? [redacted] When did IID become a landholder? [redacted] This is something I don't know about. It's not put in papers around the Salton Sea.

My main concern right now is to talk for something that couldn't talk. It's for the birds, and the wildlife, and one of the endangered species, the residents that are around Salton Sea, because they're endangered also. We're part of the food chain like the birds and the fish and anything that is around the Salton Sea.

The R.V. parks -- the people enjoy the sea and the potential future. You have not addressed the potential future of what your water sell-off will do to this area. Just the mere fact that you want to take it away is an indication to developers, "we won't

go there, nobody can flush their toilets," but in San Diego they were grouping houses in a fashion where they can have open space in a downward canyon or some unusual place, and they pack those houses in, because I come from San Diego. I want it spread, they're going to be flushing their toilets with our water.

MR. CONCANNON: Thanks for those good questions. We appreciate it. Next speaker is Sam Grindstaff.

MR. GRINDSTAFF: My name is Sam Grindstaff, G-R-I-N-D-S-T-A-F-F. I live at Coolidge Road, Route 5.

My problem is a few years ago when the water level in the Sea was high, saltwater seeped into the sewage lines and was pumped into lagoons in Desert Shores which blew my well and my property. [redacted] There's nothing growing on my property because of the saltwater from you guys. And I talked Mr. Steve Knell on the phone, told him about it and IID was written up with a citation from the Water Control Board. Mr. Knell here told me to talk with Mr. Gruenberg at the Water Control Board and ask what the responsibility was. Mr. Gruenberg would not say anything about it, so now what is IID's responsibility towards this, I'm asking you now? [redacted]

MR. KNELL: In relation to this project?

MR. GRINDSTAFF: In relation to the Salton Sea water getting into my well and polluting my land and my water. You have caused this district right here a lot of money. They are putting water into my property now. Still they got a lot of contamination to clean up. Water from the Salton Sea, which came in from the marina down there that you guys had bought, through your old sewage lines. You guys, you didn't (inaudible) at all. You back-watered on us. You went the other way. What is your responsibility towards this?

MR. KNELL: I think our responsibility is passing you on to Phil Gruenberg ?

MR. GRINDSTAFF: But Phil would not talk about it. He would not answer that question. It's your guys' problem. It was your water that messed my land up. And my land -- and that's been almost four years ago. A pipe is laying up there now but it is not hooked up. My water is not hooked up yet. Now, I think this is as much of your fault. And the district here and each and every one of those people up here, you're costing them money. It's costing about 70-, $80,000 to put water in, and I think you guys should pay at least part of it.

MR. KNELL: I really don't know what you want me

to say.

MR. GRINDSTAFF: I talked to you on the phone about this.

MR. KNELL: I remember the situation up there.

MR. GRINDSTAFF: Okay.

MR. KNELL: But there's nothing I can respond to tonight on that?

MR. GRINDSTAFF: Will you please respond to it in the future then.

MR. KNELL: It's really not an EIR-related issue. I will pass your concerns on to our (inaudible) persons, and see what the status of your situation is, and have them contact you again if you feel that you're not getting the service from the IID on that issue.

MR. GRINDSTAFF: You guys haven't done nothing. You backed away from it. I talk to you now, not nobody else. I talk to him, he said, "Don't call me no more." I haven't.

MR. KNELL: I can do what I said I can.

MR. GRINDSTAFF: Will you take care of that?

MR. KNELL: I can take this --

MR. GRINDSTAFF: These people here are paying more on their sewage bills and what have you because of this problem, and I don't want to be a big bad guy

around here, but this is going to cost them a lot more money to clean up the contamination also.

MR. KNELL: Well, your comments are well documented.

MR. CONCANNON: Well, we've reached the end of the list of the persons who have requested to speak, and we still have plenty of time, so if there's additional speakers, now's the time to come on up.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Well, I'd just like to bring to your attention that out of all the people who have spoken here this evening, has anyone expressed any confidence in the IID and their programs? I haven't heard one person. Maybe you should take that into consideration while you are considering to give it away -- or not give it away, to sell it.

MR. CONCANNON: Pat Johansen?

MS. JOHANSEN: Good evening, my name is Pat Johansen, J-O-H-A-N-S-E-N. I live at 362 Red River Road in Palm Desert, California. Tony, I'm glad there was more than one of us, including the students, who were willing to come down for this event tonight.

Among other things in my life, I am the -- a candidate for the assembly district seat coming up a year from November, and I continue to try and make sense out of water issues in Riverside and the

Imperial County. It's tough, so I have a certain sympathy for those of you who are in the business.

Let me just say I think it's fairly clear to you tonight that you have a bit of a public relations disaster on your hands. The only consolation I can offer you is your meetings coming up in San Diego will no doubt be friendlier, so I wish you well.

My question is -- and maybe it's a question of ignorance -- but I think there are those of us out here who are not as tied to the water issue as those who surround the Salton Sea. How do we come up with an unimpeachable analysis of conservation? How do we define conservation? This proposal suggests we're at some sort of (inaudible) that so long as we conserve, then that's the only water that's going to go to San Diego, and then if that's the case, there will be no negative impact when you finish your EIR.

I don't know how one defines conservation. Is there a technical way to say to these people, as well as the rest of us in this area that are impacted, that there is no impact in that respect, that we can identify and show that it's 20 acre-feet -- I mean 200 -- 200,000 acre-feet, 100,000 acre-feet, 300,000 acre-feet?

So I think somehow in the text you've got to convince people that that's a reasonable kind of thing to evaluate, to identify.

There's one other question I have and, again, it may be partially my own ignorance, but I'm trying very hard to understand, folks. We are talking about conservation efforts. I assume that individual farmers will be reimbursed for conservation efforts from those funds. I assume also that the Imperial Irrigation District as well as the San Diego Water District will have infrastructure costs in their own conservation efforts. At some time in the 75 years those costs are going to be eliminated. We will have paid the price for this transfer. Where does that money go then? What happens to them after we cover these costs?

So those are the kinds of questions I think people would like to hear, and I thank you for your time.

MR. CONCANNON: Mary Risch, do you have some more comments?

MS. RISCH: Mary Risch. One of the alternatives to your program was a "no project." I would like the members of this audience to stand with me if you agree that this project of selling the water to San Diego

can be a "no project", and I'd like somebody to count who stands with me, please.

(Majority of the group rises and sings "America the Beautiful.")

MR. CONCANNON: If you could come up to the microphone, please, Bob.

MR. BREWER: Bob Brewer, 2583 Calico Avenue, Salton Sea. I just have a short question for you. About 12 years ago, or 14 years ago, when I lived in Long Beach and we had a terrible drought to California -- I'm sure you all remember it -- and I remember reading in the paper where the mayor of San Diego refused to conserve water, and irrigated her home there, which was thousands of gallons every month. And don't deny it, because it's true. And I wonder about conservation. Why are we giving water over there when the mayor wouldn't even conserve water. [redacted] Thank you very much. I have nothing more.

MR. NIVER: Just an announcement, November 4th, the Salton Sea Authority is having a meeting and we've arranged it to have it down at the spa, and this is going to be a good one. Tom Kirk and the Salton Sea Authority are going to address the EIR/EIS impact, and he knows more about it. And I want everybody to know and watch for the notes. And I hope everybody's

there, November 4th, 9:00 until noon at the spa.

MR. KIRK: When I came in -- Tom Kirk, Salton Sea Authority, Executive Director. I saw these guys -- well, I know you guys -- but I'm going to pretend that I don't know you. I'm used to being over there and talking to you all about the Salton Sea Restoration Project. And it's very nice sitting with you singing, sharing and the like about the Salton Sea, and it's good to hear the passion, and it's really good to see the number of folks that are out here that really do care about the Salton Sea.

A couple of silver linings on the dark cloud, and these go to your comment period as well. Also, I'll let folks know about the public workshops, and I appreciate Norm reminding me and reminding you. One silver lining is on the transfer. The transfer will likely affect the Salton Sea. It probably will have a negative effect, but the silver lining -- people on that side of those mountains are paying attention to you. For 30 years the Salton Sea Project has not had a whole lot of friends, and for once folks in San Diego, Los Angeles, even Las Vegas are now paying attention to the Salton Sea, understanding that it does have problems, understanding that the transfer accelerates some of those problem. But they are

paying attention. So small silver lining, but a silver lining nonetheless.

What I would ask the transfer team to consider when you're taking a look at the alternatives -- we've talked a lot about 300,000 acre-feet. Most people in the audience know exactly what that means. It's a lot of water. 300,000 acre-feet as compared to how much water is in the Sea. The Sea has got about 1.37 million acre feet of water.

There's a direct relationship between inflow and the size of the sea. It's very simple. Less inflow, smaller Salton Sea. So there's obviously some impacts there. And what wasn't clear -- and I know the transfer team has a long way to go with this -- is how the transfer's accomplished? There are a variety of alternatives. One other alternative of course is a "no project." It doesn't happen. One other alternative is that water conservation occurs on farms and that could result in a lot of water being lost to the Sea. Other alternative that I think the team ought to consider is the dreaded "F word," fallowing, the dreaded crop rotation, different crops. [redacted]

If there are ways to accomplish transfers that make San Diego happy, make IID happy, and make farmers happy, and preserve the Salton Sea, I encourage the

team to look at those alternatives.

That's one point that I'd like to make, and the second is, I do appreciate, again, the team standing in front of what can be considered as somewhat of a hostile audience, and I know one person mentioned San Diego is going to be a lot easier. San Diego and Las Vegas are going to be a lot easier. I expect that El Centro may have been difficult last night for other reasons, but certainly not hostile.

I do encourage the team to come back to visit the Salton Sea and to visit Desert Shores, to visit North Shore. They care about the Salton Sea.

This is a two-year process. Yet another plan, I know. But this community needs to be involved, and I encourage the team to come back and to come back often. And so with that I thank you again.

Norm's right. There is a public workshop on the Salton Sea Restoration efforts. We are very close to submitting a project to congress. We hope to seek authorization, and I'll also talk at those public workshops about some actual things we're going to do, not plans, not EISs, not studies, but progress. Thank you very much.

MR CONCANNON: Thank you. A couple of points of clarification. Tom said that we've already done El

Centro. We haven't. Tomorrow night is El Centro. We had a very quiet meeting in Brawley last night, and we didn't get any boos last night. If there's any other speakers?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: I just have a question. Is there anybody in the audience tonight here that's from the California Farm Bureau Federation? Is there any Farm Bureau representatives here tonight?

MR. DUBOIS: Unfortunately, yes.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Are you going to speak, sir?

MR. DUBOIS: No, I came to listen, to find out what your people's moods and concerns are.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Well, we're not really going to attack anybody, but we are passionate.

MR. DUBOIS: My name is Bill Dubois, and I'm also an El Centro farm landowner. I farmed in El Centro since when I was in high school. I managed to buy a little piece of land, and I've been farming ever since. But in 1970 when I saw my way clear to pay for my farm, I went to Sacramento, and I've been lobbying water stuff for the California Farm Bureau since 1970, and I'm still employed by them as a consultant. And this was one of the projects that the whole state organization is watching very closely because it's very important to them. And thank you for asking.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Excuse me. Have they issued any kind of a statement statewide regarding this issue?

MR. DUBOIS: We do have a policy on the Salton Sea. It's -- we think it's a very precious resource of the state. We took great note and the Department of Fish and Game, the California Department of Fish and Game testified in the 1600 hearing, that is water running into the Salton Sea was not a waste because it was a valuable resource. [redacted] And they testified that the sea at that time was one of the state's principal fishery sources. And they have recently made a similar statement, even though now, I think that the Sea is considered to not be producing as much as what it was.

MR. CONCANNON: Bill, since you didn't speak, but you did, just for the record could you --

MR. DUBOIS: Give my home address? It's kind of confusing. I live in Sacramento -- in Carmichael at 3939 Walnut Avenue, and Carmichael's zip code is 95608. I live in El Centro at 801 West Ross Road, El Centro 92243.

MR. CONCANNON: Thanks, Bill. I appreciate it. Again, state your name and spell it for the record.

MR. FRIDELY: Did I fill out a paper? I'm Chuck

Fridely, 127 Venice Lane 92274. My question is, if they do make this water transfer, why can't San Diego send some water back to us so we can replenish it back to our Sea? [redacted] It doesn't have to be number-one water. It can be tail-end water that goes into their sea, the Pacific Ocean. Why can't they save some of that water and send it back to us because we need to replenish the Sea back to what it was, or get it from other parts of the -- say Arizona, Phoenix. I've heard in some ways that they could transfer some water to our area. So if they're going to take our water and sell it, why can't we get some in return? Think about that. [redacted] Thank you.

MR. CONCANNON: Thank you very much.

MS. PALMER: Good evening everyone. My name is Shirley Lee Palmer. I live at 3871 Tamarisk Drive, there at Desert Shores. I would like to say that the Salton Sea is the largest inland body of water in the state of California. It is one of four places in the world that you can see over half of the bird population of North America. For years I've read in the paper that every city in California and Arizona thought that we ought to dump the Salton Sea somewhere else other than where it is.

They condemned us every time we opened up a

book and a newspaper and read about the Salton Sea. Now they need our water, and they're real anxious to hear about us. I would like for your study to consider this, why don't you do a project that they have in Israel. They take the salt water out of the ocean, and they turned it into water to use there. [redacted] Leave our water alone. We just got an increase from Coachella Water because they say that we are their furthest water user.

Two years ago, we came to IID and we asked that they become our water resource. We asked if we could vote on the issue that's affecting us. We have no vote because we are not a water user of IID. That takes an act of congress.

I then asked them how many electric users do you have because I use your electricity. I pay high bills. They have more electric users than they have water users, but the water users decide what's going to happen. It is time for the people, the birds, the animals, anything that can walk and move and breath, to stand up and say, "Leave our water alone. We don't want you to take it." If nothing else, by God -- and if you do take it, I hope God sends a storm and fills this place up again.

MR. CONCANNON: Do you wish to speak again?

MS. RISCH: It's just one comment, because I remember Sonny Bono -- Mary Risch -- and his comments on how to fix the water in the Sea. It was oversimplified, which eliminates a lot of engineers and things that I don't have access -- I know that they get good salaries, and I know that they're very important people, but he took two glasses of water, one had salt water, and one had fresh water. He put one in the other, and said, "What's the problem? You have your answer. You put fresh water into the Sea." Now, I know Sonny is not with us, but I have a feeling that he's up there kicking clouds saying to himself, why are they dragging their feet, and he's going to go to the big guy and he's going to say, "Let's get San Andreas rolling and then they'll have some way (inaudible)

MR. NIVER: Norm Niver again. I want to compliment Mr. Dubois. We knew about you when we had the Salton Sea legally defenseless group, and we paid 18,000 bucks to defeat Senate Bill 1484 and Decision 1600, and you had some awfully good comments to us, and I feel really great that somebody of your caliber would be here tonight.

MR. ROY: My name is Harvey Roy. I live down at the Salton City. I'm a retired real estate broker

from San Diego county. When I started selling real estate in San Diego county, we did rate the top 100 towns in the United States. Right now, it's 8th in the United States, and San Diego county has 137 golf courses (inaudible)

MR. CONCANNON: Could you give your name and address for the record, please?

MR. ROY: My address is Salton City Spas in space (inaudible) Harvey Roy, R-O-Y. I've lived here for 20 years, and this is the best fishing lake in the United States, right here. [redacted]

MR. CONCANNON: Thank you very much. Any other speakers tonight? Anybody else want to comment? Please come on up.

MR. KENT: My name is Frank Kent. I live in Salton City, 1629 (inaudible) Street. I too lived in San Diego for several years. I came out here in 1960 from San Diego. I recall they had a desalinization wherein they took it out and moved it to Guantanamo Bay in 1935. It didn't work then, why would it work today. [redacted]

Secondly, I lived in San Diego. There was pretty much new growth for a long time. All of a sudden now, according to the man at the San Diego State University who was over here, he said that

they're expecting one million more residents in the next 10 years. 250,000 housing units. No doubt they're going to need water. But there are a lot of other places in the state where they can get it. [redacted]

A person touched on this a while ago, the water. But it seems to me the Salton Sea and this county is the one of the poorest in this state. San Diego is one of the richest. Then let them build us a pipeline to the ocean so we can exchange the water back and forth, then they won't need so much fresh water from the Salton Sea. [redacted] Just a thought.

MR. CONCANNON Next speaker?

MR. MARTIN: My name is Joseph Martin. The street address is 945 Pelican Court 92275, Salton City. I think the Salton City people would rather give you a post office address. Mine's 5306. First of all, I think that one of the problems here is that they're going to prepare this Environmental Impact Report without knowing what the Salton Sea project is going to require. This thing hasn't been established. There are a lot of plans going on. It's going to be negotiated in Congress, and until that is settled, we don't know how much extra fresh water we're going to need to keep the Sea going while we get rid of the salt somehow. [redacted] And the second thing, I think people

here resent shipping water to San Diego for swimming pools when it's going to be needed here for the expansion of Salton City and Desert Shores and this sort of thing. [illegible]

MR. CONCANNON: Any other speakers tonight? Do you have any more comments on this?

MR. GUEST: My name is Norman Guest. I live at 3792 Palm Drive in Desert Shores. And the last name is spelled just exactly like the guy that came to your house, G-U-E-S-T. How much -- how much do you charge per acre-feet for the water when you ship it to San Diego. How much are you going to charge San Diego?

MR. KNELL: 240, 260 range, 250, in that area.

MR. GUEST: Well, why in the hell should we make this operation get richer when that water should be turned back to the government and let the government reallot it. I see farmers getting richer every day. [illegible]

MR. KNELL: This money that's coming to the Imperial Valley is going pay for on-farm conservation, which has capital costs. The Imperial Irrigation District -- the efficiency of the District is such that the cost of this added water is more than the farmers can afford to pay, and they don't want to pay

it. In order for them to meet their conservation needs, they're going to have to have outside capital come into the valley to construct these improvements on-farm, and that is the cost that is negotiated and agreed upon by these two agencies, which they consider, both agencies consider, a fair market price to construct the improvements that the farmers are going to need on-farm to compensate the District for loss of revenues.

We're going to sell 200,000 less acre-feet per year. That means our revenues are going to decrease. It's to pay for the decrease in power generated because we have less water coming into the All American Canal. We generate less power. The District is going to make less money on that. It's going pay for any mitigation costs that are identified in the EIR/EIS, third-party impacts, changes. All of those things rolled together, we've come up with that price which is the fair market price by two agencies, the two Lead Agencies.

MR. SAYBERT: I have another question. Charles Saybert. What does the Imperial Irrigation District pay for that acre-foot of water since it's been subsidized by the taxpayers already. How much are they paying for that acre-foot of water?

occupations and jobs, or occupations and positions within the Imperial Valley, and their concerns will be addressed, and they're going to be asking those questions.

MS. MADIGAN OR UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay. I'm concerned because, I mean sometimes you hear Oregon has the same problem. They can't wash their car. And sometimes Seattle -- I know when Seattle could not wash their car or water their lawn because they did not have water. If we don't have water from you, we don't get water. Understand what I'm saying?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Ladies and gentleman, we get our water from Coachella Valley Water, and as a lot of you know, I'm trying to put an R.V. park at Desert Shores. I only want 81 spaces. Coachella Valley Water has told me that for the 81 spaces I have to build an 18-inch pipeline to my project. I have to put in a 100,000-gallon water tank with a booster, and the land that it sits on I have to dedicate for the rest of my lease, which is 35 years. Then I have to pay a thousand dollars each site.

Now, you figure out what it's going to cost me to get water. If I could drill my own well, I would. I have no other water company to go to. But, I mean, nobody cares. And they tell me that they're

that you wish to make for the record tonight. We still have some time left. We're trying to get any comments that you may have on the EIR/EIS process and water transfer project.

MS. MADIGAN: My name is Silviane Madigan. I have a question. We hope -- I'm praying that -- San Diego is overgrown. Los Angeles is overgrown. Riverside is overgrown. What about here if we grow, if something happens, a miracle happens? Are you going to have enough water for these people? Are you going to have enough water for them if you have to conserve all this water? That's an awful lot of water. You're talking about 75 years. You're talking 300 -- 300,000 acres. That's a lot of water. What about people in the Salton Sea? Say tomorrow somebody dreams something and brings up a big factory, and another one, and another one. Then they'll get more people living here. There is a lot of room. There is a lot of desert. There's so much room here. My God, if we fill this town it would be terrible because it's so big. What would happen to them if you're going to give all that water to San Diego? [redacted]

MR. KNELL: We attend a community advisory commission which has been set up by our board of directors and people from a wide variety of

occupations and jobs, or occupations and positions within the Imperial Valley, and their concerns will be addressed, and they're going to be asking those questions.

MS. MADIGAN OR UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER: Okay. I'm concerned because, I mean sometimes you hear Oregon has the same problem. They can't wash their car. And sometimes Seattle -- I know when Seattle could not wash their car or water their lawn because they did not have water. If we don't have water from you, we don't get water. Understand what I'm saying?

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Now, you figure out what it's going to cost me to get water. If I could drill my own well, I would. I have no other water company to go to. But, I mean, nobody cares. And they tell me that they're

not going to put forth to help me get my project, that I have to pay that price or I don't get it.

I told them there were over 250 people living on the -- in the Marina Mobile Estates when IID bought out the homeowners, and they went elsewhere. They said, "Well, we've used that water. Now we don't have it."

We have water problems here in our own town. I'm trying to put in a project with all the affiliated businesses that go along with it. I'll employ 75 people from Desert Shores, Salton Sea, Vista Del Mar. I think that's a viable reason to be here. I've been here a long time. I love this area, and I'm working hard in it, but I have problems, too. Maybe I can buy some of your water?

MR. CONCANNON: Thank you.

MR. ROBINSON: Hi, I'm Robert Robinson from the Coachella Valley Water District, P.O. Box 1058 Coachella, California 92236, and to address the previous speakers comments, most of our fees that we charge for development is around $2000 for the Coachella Valley property. Around here, it's almost a 50 percent discount. And one of the reasons that we were kind of reluctant to encourage development is we have thousands and thousands of services in other

areas where we don't have customers, and we don't have enough revenue or income to actually maintain those systems, and then to add in additional services, we have to charge what our expenses are going to be. I mean, that's part of being a good businessmen.

And while I'm here, in case I get run over by a truck, I should say we have two lawsuits that are filed, one with the State Water Resources Control Board, and one which is filed with the U.S. Federal Board in San Diego, and we have both of those lawsuits on our Web page which is WWW.CVWD.ORG and it's under the current events, and I would just like to reference those for our corporation and all the issues that are raised should be incorporated into the EIR issues that should be addressed, and I should get out before I get scalped. [redacted]

MS. BENNETT: My name is Grace Bennett, and I live in Salton Sea, 2505 Shore Isle Avenue, and I'm just asking this representative from Coachella Valley Water what, in fact, is Coachella Valley Water's allotment from IID? It's my understanding we get an allotment from IID. Can you tell us the amount, and some of the simplest terms of that agreement. [redacted]

MR. ROBINSON: Men have spent their entire careers on this issue, and as far as explaining water

rights there's no specific quantification of Colorado River water rights between the four or five Colorado River contractors for Colorado River water. There is basically a dispute between how much water each agency gets and follows a priority system. And one of the aspects of the lawsuit that we've filed is a specific quantification of the water rights to all the California contractors. So in answer, we don't have a quantification.

MS. JONES: My name is Sherry Jones. I live at 1536 Desert Air in Vista Del Mar. I want to say that we live in Imperial County. We and you are Imperial County. My understanding is that you have water that comes within six miles of Salton City; is this correct? Your water lines come within six miles of Salton City. [redacted]

MR. KNELL: Three Flags Ranch is our last --

MS. JONES: Why couldn't we benefit from this project as well as the farmers. Bring the water in. We'd love it. [redacted]

MR. SAYBERT: Saybert again. The gentleman just asked me -- he said you guys are talking about acre-feet of water. Most people don't know what you're talking about. What is an acre-foot of water? It's the amount of water a normal family of four will

consume in a year. A year's supply of water for their domestic, their gardening, their swimming pools, whatever else they need. That's one acre-foot, and we're talking about 300,000 acre-feet.

MR. CONCANNON: Are there any other comments or speakers tonight? We are approaching the magic hour, but we'll take any additional comments. We'll make a request that anyone who has spoken tonight would fill out one of our speaker cards, so we can accurately get your name and address, and any affiliation. And if you could print your name that would be really helpful. In addition, anyone who attended the meeting tonight who hasn't signed in on our form over here, we'd just like to get your name and address so we can record who attended the meeting tonight. A lot of people when they attend these meetings show the community interest. And again, that's important for the Lead Agencies to understand what your interests are, whether they're relevant specifically to this project or to the Salton Sea Restoration Project, water rights, et cetera. We just need to know what your interests are, and we will address those in the scoping summary report and the EIR/EIS.

We reached the -- Bill Rinne from the Bureau has a few comments that he'd like to make before we

close off the session tonight.

MR. RINNE: I just wanted to -- on behalf the Bureau of Reclamation as the federal Lead Agency for the EIR/EIS, wanted to appreciate the turn-out -- what I understand to be really, sincere very good questions put forward. There was a comment a couple of times made regarding -- when Mr. Kirk had spoke to you about interfacing the Salton Sea Restoration Project underway, and if I were you I would also be asking, "Well, how does that all tie together?" I do want to tell you from the federal perspective that the Bureau is both Mr. Steel, who some of you may know, works in same regional office that I do. We do interface and we try to work as closely as we can with Tom Kirk, Bill Steel, and that group. So there is a little difference in the time sequence which was pointed out, but we will continue to work in that regard.

But on a personal note, I appreciate that you would pack in like this, and kind of sit through a long time here.

And I want to point out that -- something that I observed that I thought was pretty neat. At the start, the six young ladies who had seats and they gave their seats to more elderly people, I think that's really nice. In my parts, you don't see that

in these days. We appreciate that.

So thank you again and thank you all for your comments, and we'll consider these very seriously as we progress forward.

MR. CONCANNON: Before we close, people from IID would like to make some closing comments as well.

MR. KNELL: I'd like to reiterate what Bill said. I'd like to thank you all for coming. I'd like to remind you that IID is a 25-percent partner in the Salton Sea Authority, a good thing that Tom Kirk is working towards. I'd like to remind you that Imperial Irrigation District is a member of that Authority.

We could have had this meeting in a lot of different places. We chose to have it here for a specific reason, and that reason is because I know that you people are all advocates on the Salton Sea, and we had it here to make it easier for you to come to make a presentation and to write them down, so I appreciate you coming.

MR. CONCANNON: I'd like to thank you all. It's great to have a large turnout. It's great to have a large number of speakers expressing your feelings. It makes our job easier. That may be surprising, but at least we know going into it what your concerns are so we can address them throughout the process.

And we have, as I identified earlier, several more opportunities in this process alone to comment on anything that we produce in the EIR/EIS process, and obviously, as Tom Kirk has identified, the ongoing Salton Sea project and somehow we'll have to dovetail these two projects together. With that, I'll close the meeting for tonight, and thank you very much for attending.

(proceedings concluded at 9:00 p.m.)

Certificate

of

Certified Shorthand Reporter

The undersigned certified shorthand reporter of the state of California does hereby certify:

That the foregoing proceedings were taken before me at the time and place therein set forth;

That the testimony of all the speakers at the time of the proceedings were recorded stenographically by me and thereafter transcribed, said transcript being a true copy of my shorthand notes made thereof.

In witness whereof, I have transcribed my name this date_____.

_____

Certificate number_____

IMPERIAL IRRIGATION DISTRICT/ SAN DIEGO COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY WATER CONSERVATION AND TRANSFER PROJECT

SCOPING MEETING

THIRD PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING:

DATE: THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14, 1999.

PLACE: 640 WEST MAIN STREET,
EL CENTRO, CALIFORNIA 92243

REPORTER: LANA KIESER-CAMPA, CSR. NO. 12100,
CERTIFIED SHORTHAND REPORTER

APPEARANCES:

MICHAEL CONCANNON:
Senior Project Manager for CH2M HILL

STEVEN R. KNELL:
Special Projects Coordinator for the
State Lead Agency, Imperial Irrigation District

LAURENCE J. PURCELL:
Water Resources Manager for the
San Diego County Water Authority

BILL RINNE:
Area Manager for the Federal Lead Agency,
The Bureau of Reclamation, Boulder Canyon Operations

JAMES GREEN:
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

EL CENTRO, CALIFORNIA,

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 14TH, 1999 7:10 P.M.

MR. CONCANNON: Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to the third public scoping meeting for the Imperial Irrigation District and San Diego County Water Authority Water Conservation and Transfer Project and Environmental Process. Quite a mouthful, I know. I am Mike Concannon, I'm the project manager of the CH2M HILL consulting firm, hired by the lead agencies to prepare the environmental documents for the project.

I'd like to introduce the other representatives of the Lead Agencies here tonight or let them introduce themselves, so we can get an idea of who we have here at the meeting tonight.

MR. PURCELL: I'm Larry Purcell, with the San Diego County Water Authority and my role is to assist the Imperial Irrigation District and the Bureau of Reclamation in completing the environmental compliance.

MR. RINNE: Good evening. I'm Bill Rinne. I'm with the Bureau of Reclamation in Boulder City,

Nevada, federally representing this for the federal Lead Agency.

MR. KNELL: I'm Steve Knell. I'm Special Projects Coordinator, coordinating this special project.

MR. CONCANNON: In addition, you'll see Lana Kieser with the firm of Hahn and Bowersock. She'll be preparing a complete transcript of the proceedings tonight. And over here in the corner we have Conchita Lozano. She's a Spanish interpreter, so if anyone needs translation we can do simultaneous translation. If you raise your hand we'll get you a headset, and we can set you up with simultaneous translation. Does anybody need that? Great.

We'll try and keep to our schedule that we've outlined in the agenda. We don't have that many folks here tonight. We had about a hundred last night up in Salton City, and about this many up in Brawley, just to give you an idea.

So far I've got about six speaker cards, so we don't have that many at this point who want to speak, so we're looking like we're not going to have a long meeting tonight. So we'll move along and keep it relatively informal, but there is a formality, and I'll explain it to you as we go through the

proceedings tonight.

As I said, I'm with CH2M Hill, a consulting firm hired by the lead agencies to prepare the environmental documents. We were supported by a number of specialty subconsultants, including David's Engineering of Davis, California and Keller-Bleisner, engineers from Logan, Utah who will be preparing an irrigation system model and development of the alternative conservation measures.

I'd like to emphasize that the purpose of the meeting tonight is to receive information, your views, your comments, any suggestions that you may have regarding the preparation of the Environmental Impact Report and Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed Water Conservation and Transfer Project. It's not for comments on pros and cons of the project itself. It's kind of a clear distinction we're trying to make.

The joint EIR/EIS Environmental Impact Report and Impact Statement will be prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act, CEQA, and the National Environmental Policy Act, NEPA, under the direction of the two Lead Agencies.

Imperial Irrigation District is the Lead Agency responsible for CEQA compliance and the Bureau

of Reclamation is the federal Lead Agency responsible for the NEPA compliance, The National Environmental Policy Act.

In just a few minutes I'll provide a brief overview of the scoping process and how it relates to the project. Following the scoping presentation, a brief presentation will be made by Mr. Steve Knell from IID on the proposed project itself. After Mr. Knell completes the project overview, I'll begin calling on individuals to allow them to come up and make oral presentations.

The sign-in sheet at the front door had a box to check if you wish to speak, to present a public comment at the meeting. Only those will be called that have submitted a card. However, at the end of the meeting if there's still time, we will ask if there are any other speakers. Looks like we'll have plenty of time. Even if you do not plan to make an oral comment, please sign in at the registration desk so we can get an accurate attendance list for tonight's meeting.

In addition, if you choose not to provide oral comments, but would like to provide written comments, please feel free to fill out a comment card. We have comment cards at the back table there, and

you can leave that with me or with Kirsten at the back desk on the way out, or if you desire to fill out the comment card or prepare written comments and submit that via letter, it should be to Mr. Knell or Mr. Rinne at the addresses indicated on the handout for tonight's meeting.

A 30-day period is now underway for comments on the state Notice of Preparation and the federal Notice of Intent, NOP/NOI. We passed out copies of the NOP/NOI to everyone here tonight. With the exception of comments presented at the scoping meeting, comments will be received up to October 27th. All comments, again, must be submitted to Steve Knell at IID or Bill Rinne at the Bureau.

A total of six scoping meetings are planned for the initiating -- the preparation of the EIR/EIS. This is the third. There's three more. All the meetings are identified on the handout, their locations. The next one will be in Las Vegas on Monday night and then two over in San Diego, Carlsbad on Tuesday, and Wednesday night next week.

The purpose of these scoping meeting is to solicit input from the public regarding issues that should be considered -- that you feel should be considered in the preparation of the EIR/EIS, and it's

also to identify any substantial issues that you feel should be included in the EIR/EIS process. The questions or comments received tonight, both oral and written, will be considered during the preparation of the EIR/EIS, and will also be summarized in a scoping summary report that we'll prepare over the next couple of months following the scoping meeting.

At this time, I'd like to start the presentations. We have a number of overheads that we're going to go through, Steve and myself, on the scoping process and on the project itself. And I don't know if you can see at the back. You might want to come over on this side at least. It's part of the presentation.

What we've got up there is the preliminary EIR/EIS schedule. As I said, we established the NOP/NOI on September 27th, and that initiated the 30-day scoping period. We're conducting the scoping meetings kind of in the middle, beginning on Tuesday night up in Brawley, and finishing next Wednesday night in San Diego. The close of the NOP/NOI comment period is again the 27th of October.

What we'll be working on over the next several months, and have been working on, is the alternative development process, and we plan to

complete that by about June of next year. At that time we'll have public workshops on what we've come up with through that process. So there will be another period where we'll present information to the public.

Simultaneously with that -- following that we'll have the issuance of the draft EIR/EIS approximately September of next year -- about a year from now to get to the draft. At that point begins another 60-day public comment period. There will be, again, more public hearings like this in the middle of that comment period. And at the close of the comment period beginning 60 days later, about November, we'll go forward with the final EIR/EIS in approximately March of the year 2001. And then six months later, the Lead Agencies would file a record of decision about September 2001. So overall, it's about a two-year process. It's what we're looking at.

What is scoping? Again, scoping provides the public with an opportunity to let the Lead Agencies know about specific issues that you feel should be addressed in the EIR/EIS. Scoping also allows the Lead Agencies to focus on EIR/EIS -- or focus EIR/EIS on community concerns and issues. So it's a two-way process.

During the scoping meeting, let the Lead

Agencies know about the potential effects of the project, potential effects of the project on the natural or man-made environment, the range and types of alternatives may be considered, and any mitigation measures that you feel should be considered.

And again, I'm emphasizing that comments at the scoping meeting can be either verbal or written. Comments will be recorded at the meeting and will subsequently be addressed in the EIR/EIS process. In addition, a scoping summary report, which would include a verbatim transcript of all six public scoping meetings.

We'll move on to Steve's presentation about the project itself.

MR. KNELL: I'm the one that needs to apologize for moving this meeting over here. I do apologize for that. I had a scheduling conflict with the other building, and then while I'm standing there waiting for them to -- for you folks to show up, the other meeting doesn't even show up. So all good plans.

The portion of my presentation is really to go over these areas of concern here where I'm going to talk about the proposed project; The principal objectives of the project, potential impacts we see, alternatives, environmental documentation, potential

approvals necessary for the project, a list of other ongoing environmental processes, and a brief summary.

The proposed project is really like the name says. It's a water conservation and it's a transfer project. It is a water conservation of 300,000 acre-feet of Colorado River water here in the Imperial Valley, and it is a subsequent transfer of that water to San Diego -- or portions of that water will be transferred to San Diego.

It is a long-term project, 75 years -- up to 75 years. Continuing with the proposed project, there is a start date. That start date is after satisfying all the conditions of the agreement. One of those is completing an EIR/EIS. Another one is that we have 130,000 acre-feet committed by farmers in the valley.

The start quantity is 20,000 acre feet in the first year. There is a ramp-up of 20,000 acre-feet per year through the primary transfer until we reach 130,000 -- a minimum of 130,000 acre-feet, and a maximum number of 200,000 acre feet. We anticipate this to take seven to 10 years. An additional discretionary transfer of up to 100,000 acre-feet is also a part of this project.

Again, on the project at least 130,000 acre-feet per year will come from voluntary on-farm

conservation. And there again, that's a minimum of 130,000 acre-feet. Any primary transfer above 130,000 acre-feet and between the 200,000 acre-feet will come from two areas; either more on-farm water conservation or a yield from system conservation, which would require improvements to the District's delivery system, such as reservoirs, lateral interceptors, those types of things.

The principal objectives, starting with the big picture and focusing downward. This project is to assist California in meeting its Colorado River water allocation. 4.4, that's the number we're going to have tattooed on ourselves when this is over. It's also to lessen the increased demand for water for Southern California from the State Water Project. It's to provide San Diego County Water Authority with a reliable long-term water supply, and it's to protect Imperial Valley's water rights.

There are potential impacts to this project. We've separated these out by geographic areas and by resources. There are going to be potential impacts along the Colorado River area from Parker Dam, south to Imperial Dam. There are going to be impacts to the -- potential impacts -- to the Salton Sea, the Imperial Valley and San Diego County. Resources, to

name a few, that have potential impacts are water flow, water quality, socioeconomics, biological, and recreational impacts.

Alternatives to this project. I encourage you to get an NOP off the back table. It goes into great description of the project. This is out of the NOP. The EIR/EIS will evaluate other feasible project alternatives including a range of alternative conservation measures, water supply and transfer alternatives, and various other alternative measures, in addition to the "No Project/No Action" alternative.

To reiterate what Mike said earlier. There is environmental documentation that goes with this pursuant to CEQA, which is a state process, and NEPA, which is a federal process. Again, the lead agencies: for NEPA, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, and the State Lead Agency for CEQA is the Imperial Irrigation District.

We're looking for potential approvals from these agencies: The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, the State Water Resources Control Board, and the California Department of Fish and Game.

There are currently other ongoing

environmental processes in the region that we're going to cover. The Salton Sea Restoration Project is ongoing. The Lower Colorado River Multiple Species Conservation Program is ongoing, the All American and the Coachella Canal Lining Projects are ongoing.

In summary, the project creates opportunities to provide IID with incentives to conserve and transfer water. It protects its water rights, and it strengthens the local economy. It provides San Diego County Water Authority with a reliable and reasonably priced water supply.

I'm going turn it back to Mike. And one more -- we have a Web site created for the project. You can write that down up there, or if you pick up some of the literature on the back table, the Web site is marked. We'll be updating this Web site as the project goes on, so it will be a good source for information.

There is a hotline, an 800 number. If you wake up in the middle of the night and want somebody to talk to on this project, you can call us 800. Call Bill Rinne, though. Mr. Rinne's exact address is up there, as well as mine, and that's also on the literature on the back table. So rather than write this down, you can pick up some of the papers on the

back table. Now I am turning it over to Mike Concannon.

MR. CONCANNON: At this time I'd like to begin accepting the oral comments on the issues that you would like considered in the EIR/EIS for the project. For anyone who has come in late, if you wish to make comments during this meeting, we'd like to get you to sign up on one of our speaker cards, so we can accurately record your comments. Only those persons who signed up to speak will be called unless we have additional time at the end of the meeting, and it looks like we will.

And as I mentioned earlier, the meeting will have a verbatim record of everything that is said, and that at the end of the scoping process we'll be preparing a scoping summary report, which will include a transcript of the comments and issues raised in the scoping meeting.

Again, to ensure that a complete and accurate report of the scoping meeting, we would appreciate only one person talking at a time and that those in attendance remain quiet while the meeting is in progress.

We'll be using a microphone, either this one, or this one, or that one would be easiest so

everyone can be heard. And when your name is called, please step forward to the microphone, and to assist our reporter, each speaker should state your name, spell your last name, and give your address, and if you're affiliated with any organization.

Generally we've limited five minutes for each speaker. We'll probably go beyond that tonight, since we only have a half dozen cards here. We'll inform each speaker when we have one minute left. To be fair, we won't use that process tonight, and we'll let people speak if you're not going to take 20 minutes or something like that.

If people want to come up later after all the speakers who have cards have spoken and want to ask some additional comments, I think we can take those tonight because, again, we only have a relatively few speakers.

Written comments will be accepted as an alternative to the oral comments, and any supplementary materials that you may want to have with your oral comments. And again, you can submit those tonight. You can submit those to Steve or Bill. We have to get all comments in, again, by the 27th of October included as part of the official record. And written communications are to be given equal weight to

oral statements made at this or any other of the remaining public scoping meetings.

If you have prepared written comments for tonight's meeting, it would be helpful, but it's not required, that you can give us copies so that our court reporter can get an accurate transcription. Any questions about our procedures tonight?

With that, we'll call the first speaker, and it looks like it's Jose Lopez.

MR. LOPEZ: I'm Jose M. Lopez from Campesinos Unidos. Good evening. I want to read to you some of our comments. I represent Campesinos Unidos, a nonprofit agency for farm workers. I also want to add that I'm disappointed that a scoping meeting was not provided in the city of Calexico, where the farm workers live, and they were not provided a fair chance to participate and provide for their concerns [redacted]. And I didn't go to the Brawley meeting, but I don't know how many people -- you've got farm workers, but this is a farm worker community, and I want to for the record say that. And I want to thank you for giving us the opportunity to participate here in El Centro.

My comments are: The following issues were presented and adopted as a policy statement by the Campesinos Board of Directors on October 7th, 1996, a

special meeting with representatives from IID, Mr. Jesse Silva. Today we confirm these policy statements. We request a study focusing on farm workers' economy, labor skills, and labor skills impact as a result of the water transfer. [illegible] Number two, a study on the impact of water transfer in farm production costs, including water, fertilizer, seed, land, and labor costs. [illegible] Number three, a study to realistically forecast the coming of farm workers jobs, new technology, managing approaches, and government support as a result of the water transfer. [illegible] Four, to ensure and maintain the secure water rights of Imperial County, now and in the future. [illegible]

The Campesinos Board of Directors respectfully request that the above written policies be made part of the record on this meeting and the proposed Water Conservation and Transfer on February 24th, 1998. Respectfully, Campesinos Unidos executive director, Jose M. Lopez.

MR. CONCANNON: As Steve mentioned, one of the major focuses of the EIR will be to look at the potential impact areas, which is the socioeconomic.

MR. KNELL: I was going to say the criticism received at the meeting for not having a meeting in Calexico was well-heard. As Mike said earlier in the

meeting, there's going to be many more meetings to occur, and we're sure that you will have meetings in Calexico, the alternatives or the draft. And we'll be making the rounds around the valley.

MR. LOPEZ: I'll assure you that we're going to have a lot of people in Calexico.

MR. KNELL: We look forward to that. Thank you.

MR. CONCANNON: Next speaker, Miguel Rodriguez.

MR. RODRIGUEZ: Good evening. My name is Miguel Rodriguez, and I'm a farm worker. I bring some questions. How many jobs in our culture are going to be eliminated because of the water transfer to San Diego? How many double farming is going to be eliminated -- how many double product farmings are going to be eliminated, and which ones? How many jobs in our culture are going to be modified because of the water transfer? How much money in salaries for farm workers are going to be eliminated because of the water transfer? How many jobs in the farm working industry are going to be eliminated? How much money is going to be eliminated because of the elimination of jobs in fertilizers, seeds, equipment, and mechanics, et cetera? [redacted] What percentage of agricultural work represents the unemployment from the county? And what percentage is the unemployment rate

going to increase after the water transfer? [redacted] Thank you.

MR. CONCANNON: Thank you very much. Next speaker is Bill Condit.

MR. CONDIT: My name is William R. Condit. I live with my wife in the city of El Centro. C-O-N-D-I-T. I live with my wife in the city of El Centro at 1630 Smoketree Drive. I am appearing here as a resident of El Centro. For 20 years I was a member of the IID Board of Directors, and I am proud to have been one of four directors to protect IID water rights by voting for the transfer agreement with San Diego.

I have one request to make this evening. This EIR needs to include urban water conservation programs for Imperial Valley cities and the unincorporated areas of the county.

For the years that I represented this valley on the IID Board of Directors, I saw the water conservation programs of our urban neighbors, which included installing low-flush toilets, low-flow shower heads, and desert landscaping. Those urban neighbors got to retain title to the water they conserved.

Imperial Valley cities have not had the money to finance those programs. Now the San Diego

agreement provides the needed money. Therefore, part of the water conservation for the San Diego agreement needs to come from the programs in the Imperial Valley urban areas, similar to those developed by other urban areas.

I envision the Imperial Valley urban areas being able to finance their conservation measures by receiving the $250 per-acre-foot revenues provided by the San Diego agreement. I believe that this program could become an important source of money for the cities and the county, particularly as the price escalates over time.

Please include urban water conservation as part of the proposed action being evaluated in the EIR. Thank you.

MR. CONCANNON: Thank you very much. Next speaker is Frank Miranda.

MR. MIRANDA: My name is Frank Miranda, M-I-R-A-N-D-A. I reside at 1104 Keffer Road in Holtville, and I represent the Dune Company. The Dune Company is one of several companies in Imperial Valley that is in the business of crop protection. We supply fertilizers, insecticides, and pesticides to many of our farmers.

It's a tough role to stand up here and

defend pesticides because we are always the target of every environmental accident that occurs. One of the -- one of my concerns is the potential impact that reduced water usage will have on pesticide usage, but not only the usage, but maybe the misinterpretation of them.

I don't want to see pesticides being reduced because we are reducing the amount of water coming into this valley, due to unscientific reasons. I'm all for reducing the use of pesticides if we're changing our cropping patterns, or finding new varieties that will reduce the use of pesticides, or market conditions, which we've gone through year in and year out. So I'm not opposed to the reduction of pesticides if it's done for an economic sense. But I would like for you to consider the pesticide issue, to not have us bear the burden of reducing the use of pesticides based on unscientific reasoning because of the transfer, or because of the -- anyway, because of the transfer.

I realize that there are pesticides in the water, and water quality the way it is now -- but we need to maybe quantify that, or measure that in some way so we come 10 years from now, 15 years from now and say, "We need to reduce the use of pesticides

because of the contamination," where that may not be the problem. The problem may be that we're using the same amount per acre, and I don't want to just have us have to reduce that usage because of unscientific facts. Thank you.

MR. CONCANNON: Thank you very much. Good comments. And next speaker is Larry Grogan.

MR. GROGAN: Good evening. My name is Larry Grogan, G-R-O-G-A-N, and I have the El Centro Chamber of Commerce comments. If you want the original -- mailing address of 444 Main Street, El Centro, California.

In addition to the comments that I've handed in from the Chamber, I would like to cover just one item here, and that is that I've spent approximately 15 to 20 years in Geothermal, but mostly at the Salton Sea.

As part of the studies that were concluded by and paid for by Geothermal, we studied such things as levels of the Salton Sea. We studied the use of Salton Sea water for injection. We studied the use of irrigation water for injection when we thought it might be necessary.

All of these studies had some effect on the Salton Sea, and certainly they had an effect on the

fish and wildlife and fish and game. As part of the mitigation measures that we entered into when I was working for Bear Creek Mining in 1980 -- the studies originally began in 1975 through the county. And then in 1980, we obtained a lease from IID covering some 161,000 acres, and mineral rights covering some 80,000 acres additional.

We filed for permits under the Wildlife Management Unit, as well as the Wildlife Unit to the south. As part of those mitigation measures, we did monthly surveys of the Yuma clapper rail and the Desert pup fish. These are analyzed quarterly and made into a yearly report. As this study moves forward and they started to study the impacts of this water, just remember that these studies are available somewhere in Fish and Game, and they've paid for them. We've paid for the damn things for about five years every month, and we also did mitigation measures.

Up at the Salton Sea we installed, as part of a lease agreement, duck ponds covering I think 160 or 200 acres, and those duck ponds were built by a contractor of some repute. I think his name was Bruce Kuhn. This was in 1985 so this was prior to -- when he was still working for a living.

But the reason I mentioned this was that the

Fish and Game, when these duck ponds were built, they had us deliver the drops and all the piping. And to my knowledge, if you look south of the Wildlife Unit, that piping and those drops are still there. The duck ponds, to my knowledge, have never had a drop put in them. So when they start to ask for mitigation measures, just remember those dry duck ponds.

The other thing was that after all that time, five years, I think, of study of the Yuma clapper rail -- and we studied it during drilling, we studied it at nighttime, we studied it -- we know more about clapper rails than anybody in the world, I think. But the bottom line was that there was no effect, and the greatest impact on the Yuma clapper rail was the Fish and Game, when they would come in and clean out ponds in preparation for the hunting season. And they would destroy the cattails and the tules, which would destroy, of course, the habitat and the nesting of the clapper rails.

Just remember that all these studies are out there available and you should not have to pay for them twice.

MR. KNELL: You'll be hearing from us.

MR. CONCANNON: Next speaker, John Gillespie.

MR. GILLESPIE: My name is John Gillespie,

G-I-L-L-E-S-P-I-E, 2460 State Street in El Centro. I'm a landowner here in the Imperial Valley, and my questions are probably pretty general, and I hope that they would be addressed. Some of the them may be laughable. Some of them are more serious. The first one is in regards to all the water in the Colorado River. What is the highest and most beneficial use? When push comes to shove is it the golf courses of Coachella, or the swimming pools of Los Angeles, or is it the crops here in Imperial Valley? [redacted]

Second question, how's this going to affect all the gates, the IID gates here in Imperial valley, those gates that haven't had any water in them for the last 10, 20 years? Are they excluded? Will they be a part of the service? Will they have a fair chance to get in on the conservation at some time in the future? [redacted]

Along that line, when we talk about some 450,000 acres of farmland here in the valley, I know at one time -- from past bulletins -- there were some 500,000 acres and maybe some additional lands on the mesas that were included as farmland. They were possible development for farmland. Is that now going to be excluded? [redacted] Is that going to be left as a desert?

Let's see here. How will this transfer and conservation affect the land values for the farmland

that is currently in production, and again, for farmland that may not be in production at this time? [redacted]

The other thing, as it deals with conservation methods that we're talking about, to conserve this water for San Diego, what exactly are the conservation methods? [redacted] I know they've had several plans out there, but nothing is ever, you know, concrete or in writing yet. I hope that those are addressed, and the methods that are allowed -- so that everybody's aware of that. In other words, those are methods that are going to be allowed to get credit for this conservation.

And along that line of the conservation, is agroforestry, bioforesty types of conservation where there's no water runoff at all, it's all used up in the land, are those going to be allowed as creditable conservation methods? [redacted]

Reuse of water? Somebody is farming, say, 40 acres of wheat. They take a pail of water and run it into another 20 acres of Bermuda grass. Is that conservation? Do they get credited for it? I hope we can define those, and be more precise so that everybody's aware of what's available as far as conservation methods for the valley here to conserve this water, and to get credit for the transfer.

Myself, I am a bit confused about the math here on the Colorado River. I know the last numbers were 4.4 for the allotment for California now, but I'm a little bit confused as to what exactly the Imperial Valley ends up with. ([redacted] And I understand the ongoing talks -- that probably hasn't been finalized yet, but using that number, the final number, and the number of farmable acres here, what does everybody get? Who's going to get what and what priority?

Probably the last one here. I never hear it addressed anymore. At one time it was. When they lined the canals, the effect on Mexico -- are they going to come back -- and are the feds going to turn on us and say, "Oh, we need another 100,000 acre-feet"? [redacted]

I hope that these questions bring to mind some answers. And I'm all for the transfer. I think we need to conserve water. I think California has to live within its means, but we need to have answers that are quantified so that we all understand the same playing field that we're on. Thank you very much.

MR. CONCANNON: Thank you very much. Those were good comments. We appreciate it a lot. Next speaker I have is Stella Mendoza.

MS. MENDOZA: Stella Mendoza, M-E-N-D-O-Z-A. 491

West "H" Street in Brawley, and I'm here because I'm concerned about the water transfer, and I'd like to address the effect of the transfer.

You say 300,000 acre-feet per year and it might go up to 500,000 acre-feet per year. How would it affect the economics of Imperial County? [redacted] Will fallowing be necessary to accommodate the water transfer? [redacted] That's very important. Also, will the water transfer reduce the number of farm workers and also the farm-related businesses? [redacted] For example, the fertilizer and seed suppliers, farm equipment sales, gasoline suppliers and various other services associated with agriculture. How will it affect our real estate market here in Imperial Valley? How will it impact the fish farms in Niland and in the north part of the county? [redacted] And what type of information outreach are you providing for the outlying areas in Imperial County, such as Niland, Calipatria, Winterhaven, Ocotillo, Seely? [redacted] And again, I strongly urge you to hold a hearing in at least Calexico, because it's very important that the whole county is represented. [redacted] And those are my comments. Thank you.

MR. CONCANNON: Thank you very much. We really appreciate the comments, and as Steve mentioned, we'll be having a lot more hearings on this whole process

and where they're going to be held. Certainly, we want to hear from the community about where they'd like to see them held in the future.

With that, that's the extent of the people who have submitted speaker comment cards for this evening. Do we have any additional speakers?

MR. ZERNOW: I'm Mel Zernow, City Manager, of Holtville. Before I make my comment, may I ask a process question?

MR. CONCANNON: Sure.

MR. ZERNOW: I understand from the prescoping meetings that you continue to receive scoping-type questions even after the close of the NOP/NOI comment period, but you, of course, would like them as soon as possible, am I correct?

MR. CONCANNON: Correct.

MR. ZERNOW: I'm likely to have additional comments, but for now a question that I would ask that the EIR address is how this particular project is going to contribute to the California plan in reducing from 5.2 to 4.4 million acre-feet? And I would ask that that be in an easy-to-understand -- so I can understand -- format, both as a narrative as well as some kind of a table format so we can see clearly where the water flow is going, how it's changing,

those sorts of things. [redacted] Thank you very much.

MR. CONCANNON: Great, thanks very much. Any other comments?

MR. MCFADDEN: Dilda, D-I-L-D-A, McFadden, M-C-F-A-D-D-E-N, and my address is 2001 Anderholt Road, Holtville. My comments this evening are personal. As a citizen, my comments this evening are personal, and as a citizen I want to emphasize that, again, my comments are my own personal as a citizen. And also I wear another hat as the vice president of the local NAACP.

My questions deal with economic benefits and incentives. Please define in your process what are the economic incentive benefits to the general public, the nonfarm community? [redacted] How would the revenue generated from the water transfer be shared? One, with IID? Excuse me. Excuse me. Be shared, one, with the farmers? Be shared, two, with IID? Three, with the consumers? And four, with the cities, the county, and community-based organizations. [redacted]

As you deliberate through this process, I hope that you can come back with some type of recommendation on whatever income that is derived from this transfer, how it should be divided, and how the consumers that are nonagricultural-related benefit

economically from this income? It could be in the way of power reduction to the senior citizens, or the power consumers in general. There are a lot of different formulas, but hopefully, through your process, you would have some type of fair and equitable way to discuss this issue and come back with some recommendations. [redacted]

I come to you because it seems to me that this may be the only arena that this discussion will get discussion, debate, and due process. I recognize that the final decision is with the Imperial Irrigation District Board if there is a transfer, if there is funds generated. But I come to you, as you go through this process, and let me emphasize again, what are the economic benefits, incentives, to the nonfarm community? How would they be shared? And I want to emphasize again, shared with the farm community? Shared with the Imperial Irrigation District? Shared with the consumers? The cities, the county, and community-based organizations? Thank you very much.

MR. CONCANNON: Thank you very much for really clear comments. We appreciate it. Anyone else who wishes to speak tonight?

MR. DUBOIS: My name is Bill Dubois, and I live

at 801 West Ross Road in El Centro. One of my questions is, is this EIR/EIS going to be written on the basis that there wouldn't be any fallowing?

MR. KNELL: There are going to be alternatives mentioned in alternative conservation measures, and fallowing is a potential alternative which will be studied.

MR. DUBOIS: Okay. Because although the contract indicates there won't be any fallowing. I don't have a whole lot of faith in the contract, not for that reason alone. But I'm wondering if this is going to go on the basis that what the contract says is what's going to happen?

MR. CONCANNON: The contract or the "agreement" as it is called, describes the project. And as Steve indicated, what the project parameters will be. That will be clearly stated as part of the project description. What Steve also indicated is that we have to look at alternatives under CEQA and NEPA, and reasonable alternatives would have to be identified.

MR. DUBOIS: Then that might include the possibility that the district doesn't get 130,000 acre-feet signed up, but they might substitute?

MR. KNELL: There's a timing process for farmers to sign up as they go along, and I think that after

the -- after the final is out, there's so many days that that contract's got to be out. And I think we had an initial sign-up, and we exceeded the 130,000 acre-feet, and that was just a commitment, whether --

MR. DUBOIS: Not a commitment, but an indication.

MR. KNELL: An expression of interest. And there's other time lines that these expressions of interest go along. And to my knowledge that's all they're going to be until we find out what the cost of this project is, the true cost of this project is, encompassing all the mitigation.

MR. DUBOIS: Do we find out what the true cost is from the EIR/EIS, or do we find out before so that the EIR/EIS can be based on the actual commitments of on-farm water salvage?

MR. KNELL: The EIR/EIS will be completed, the extent of cost for mitigation will be shown in the EIR/EIS, and then there's the firm commitments. After that, once we know the cost of that, then we'll ask the farmers for firm commitments.

MR. DUBOIS: All right. If the document supposes that there's going to be a commitment, I would anticipate that it will make considerable economic difference in the valley as to what means the landowners or farmers use to furnish that water,

to make that water available?

MR. KNELL: That's correct.

MR. DUBOIS: What proportion is the document going to anticipate that each one of these methods is going to be employed?

MR. KNELL: There's numerous conservation plan proposals that the Board is looking at that are out there. The Board has not selected any of them. The anticipation or the indication that the Board gives us is that it will be a voluntary program for farmers to freely choose what measures they will implement on-farm to conserve water.

The proportions are going to be based on reasonable assumptions on our part. For instance, we'll have to make some assumptions on what percentages of conservation measures will be split amongst the alternatives that we have set up. And that's the best that we can do. And look at a range of different percentages on those issues.

MR. DUBOIS: I think that maybe answers the next question I was going to ask. What combination of various methods of like pop-back drip sprinklers, or dead-level sprinklers and stuff like that you're going to assume? Are you going to crank in anything for new crops that might use more water per acre or more water

per year per acre than those we now grow?

MR. KNELL: I can't really say right now. When we come up with the alternatives, and we're going to come back out to the public and say these are the sideboards we're looking at, and at that time I think we can answer your question a lot clearer. And you can tell us whether you think we're close or not. That's the purpose of the alternatives, was that we would set these up, and go back to the public and say, "Are these reasonable assumptions?"

MR. DUBOIS: So in other words, that will be in the draft EIR?

MR. KNELL: No, first it will be in the Alternatives Report. Before we get to the draft, there's an Alternatives Report which will contain the information we just talked about.

MR. DUBOIS: Okay. Now, in my thoughts as to the effect that this is going to have on some farms, based on my own case, I've got some rather wide drains that run through the farm. I've always wanted to pipeline those drains, but I've never been able to afford to because the volume of water is rather high, and it requires a large, expensive pipe. I figure that when this program is employed, regardless of what combination of conservation measures that farmers use,

that there's going to be far less water flowing in that drain ditch, and therefore, a far smaller pipe would be approvable for installation. And that I could then cover that 80 feet -- I think is the drainage right-of-way -- and farm it. And I figured if I looked at my feasibility, economic feasibility, of doing that, there might be a good many other farmers that are thinking the same way. This will increase the irrigated acreage within the present confines of the district's irrigated area. Will the document take that into consideration?

MR. KNELL: It will now.

MR. DUBOIS: It will?

MR. KNELL: It will now. I mean, that's a good point, Bill.

MR. DUBOIS: I've got two other questions, and one is will the document deal with the legal effects that the transfer will have on our present perfected rights?

MR. KNELL: No, the document is going to address the impacts, the environmental impacts as a result of this project. I don't believe it's going to discuss any of the water rights issues that we were talking about.

MR. DUBOIS: I don't know whether it will make

any difference or not, and that's why I'm going to have to look to the document to see what CH2M Hill and others think will be the effects if San Diego employs their alternative method of delivering the water to San Diego by drilling another hole in the mountain, or putting in a pipeline, or employing the one that's there already. Will that be dealt with in the document?

MR. KNELL: We're going to look at a range of water transfer mechanisms.

MR. DUBOIS: Thank you very much.

MR. CONCANNON: Once again, anyone else wish to speak tonight?

MS. MENDOZA: I have one more question to ask. Stella Mendoza, M-E-N-D-O-Z-A. I would like for you to clarify the definition of fallowing and crop rotation. Would that be addressed in your EIR?

MR. KNELL: And that's where it will be addressed, in the EIR, in the draft EIR.

MS. MENDOZA: So they're one and the same or a different animal. Okay. Thank you very much.

MR. STROBEL: Rick Strobel, 1798 West Main Street. The 4.4 plan, is there an EIR/EIS process involved with that? It seems like a lot of people have a lot of concerns that would apply also to

limiting our use of water to 3.1 million acre-feet.

MR. KNELL: To my knowledge, there's no 4.4 plans under discussion. There's no environmental documentation.

MR. STROBEL: I'm concerned that if we limit ourselves to 3.1 there could be adverse effects. Thank you.

MR. CONCANNON: Once again, does anyone have any new questions and new ideas after listening to previous speakers? We've got the time, and we're here. I'd like to hear what you have to say about concerns and issues.

Well, with that, we'd like to thank everyone that came tonight, and all the great comments that you provided to us. We greatly appreciate it, and the agency is going to hear it, and we'll be seeing you again at our next meeting in about six months. Thank you very much.

(The proceedings concluded at 8:35 p.m.)

Certificate

of

Certified Shorthand Reporter

The undersigned certified shorthand reporter of the state of California does hereby certify:

That the foregoing proceedings were taken before me at the time and place therein set forth;

That the testimony of all the speakers at the time of the proceedings were recorded stenographically by me and thereafter transcribed, said transcript being a true copy of my shorthand notes made thereof.

In witness whereof, I have transcribed my name this date_____.

_____

Certificate number_____

IID/SDCWA WATER CONSERVATION AND TRANSFER PROJECT
PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

Taken at Clark County Library
1401 East Flamingo
Las Vegas, Nevada

On Monday, October 18, 1999
At 7:00, p.m.

Reported by: Karen L. Hendley

PRESENT:

MIKE CONCANNON, CH2M HILL

STEVEN R. KNELL, IMPERIAL IRRIGATION DISTRICT

LAWRENCE J. PURCELL, SAN DIEGO COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY

WILLIAM RINNE, U.S. BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

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ORAL STATEMENTS


| NAME | PAGE |
|---|---|
| Bill Werner | 13 |


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MR. CONCANNON: Good evening. And welcome to the fourth public scoping meeting for the Imperial Irrigation District and San Diego County Water Authority Water Conservation and Transfer Project environmental process.

My name is Mike Concannon, and I'm a project manager in a consulting firm. I've been retained by the agencies to help prepare an environmental analysis for this project. I'd like to introduce the other representatives of the agencies here tonight.

MR. KNELL: I'm Steve Knell. I'm with Imperial Irrigation District and I'm the project coordinator for the project.

MR. RINNE: I'm Bill Rinne. I'm with the Bureau of Reclamation for Boulder City.

MR. PURCELL: And I'm Larry Purcell with the San Diego County Water Authority, and I'm here to help assist the IID and the Bureau with environmental compliance.

MR. CONCANNON: Thanks.

In addition to CH2M Hill's several offices, we have some specialty consultants also working on the project, including David's Engineering out of Davis, California and a couple other engineers

from Utah who will be preparing an irrigation system model and development of conservation alternatives in Imperial Valley.

I'd like to emphasize the purpose of this meeting is to receive information, your views, comments, and suggestions on any issue that you feel should be considered in the Environmental Impact Report and Environmental Impact Statement, the EIR/EIS that will be prepared for the project, and it is not for comments on the pros and cons of the project itself.

A joint Environment Impact Report and Environmental Impact Statement document is being prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality act, CEQA, and in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, NEPA, under the direction of the two lead agencies. IID is the state lead agency responsible for CEQA compliance, and the Bureau of Reclamation is the federal lead agency responsible for NEPA.

In just a few minutes I will provide you with a brief overview of the scoping process itself and how it relates to this project. Following the scoping process presentation, Mr. Steve Knell, who's

from the IID, will give a brief presentation on the



project itself. And after Mr. Knell completes the project overview, I'll be calling on individuals who have signed up to make oral comments at this meeting. The sign-in sheet at the front door contains a box to check if you wish to make public comments at the meeting. Only those persons who have signed up to speak will be called. However, at the end of the meeting, if there is still time, I'll ask if there are any other speakers.

Even if you do not plan to make oral comments, please sign in at the registration table so we can have an accurate attendance list. In addition, if you choose not to provide oral comments but would like to provide written comments, please feel free to fill out the comment card located at the sign-in registration table and leave it with me or with Diana Sokolove who's at the registration table tonight. Or if you desire to take time and provide comments at a later date, you may send a letter to either Mr. Knell or Mr. Rinne at the addresses indicated on the handouts for tonight's meeting for the IID or the Bureau.

The thirty-day comment period is now

underway upon the state Notice of Preparation and the federal Notice of Intent. With the exception of the



comments received at these public scoping meetings, written comments will be accepted through October 27th. All comments, again, must be submitted to either Mr. Steve Knell or Bill Rinne by the 27th.

Total of six public scoping meetings are scheduled through last week and this week. This is the fourth. We have two more to go, tomorrow at Carlsbad and in San Diego on Wednesday. The purpose of the scoping meetings is to solicit input from the public regarding issues that should be considered in the preparation of the EIR/EIS for the project and/or identify any issues that are of concern that the public might have. The questions or comments we receive tonight, both written and oral, will be considered during the preparation of the EIR/EIS, and they will be summarized in a separate scoping report at the conclusion of the scoping process.

At this time I'll take a few minutes to answer any questions you may have about scoping process as it relates to this proposed project. I'll start with the scoping process itself.

This is the preliminary schedule for the

EIR/EIS process. As I said, we issued the notice of intent on September 27th, and we're now in the middle of our scoping meeting process lasting through the



20th of October. The close of comments in the scoping process will be the 27th of October. The next public involvement step will be when alternatives are developed.

We had planned to have public workshops at that time, and we're looking at about June of next year as the target time frame for doing that. We would then issue a draft EIR/EIS approximately September of next year, and then there would be another public hearing process during a sixty day public review process ending approximately November of year 2000. We would issue a final EIR/EIS approximately March of 2001, and then the lead agencies would issue a record of decision approximately September of 2001. So, overall, we have about a two-year time frame for the preparation and review of the EIR/EIS.

What is scoping? Again, scoping provides the public with an opportunity to let the lead agencies know about specific issues or concerns that should be addressed in an EIR/EIS. Scoping also

allows the lead agencies to focus the EIR/EIS on those community concerns and issues. During a scoping meeting you need to let the lead agencies know about any potential effects of the project on



the natural or man-made environment, about the range and types of alternatives that should be considered, and any kind of mitigation measures that you want to be considered in the process.

Again, in commenting at a public scoping meeting, both verbal and written comments are accepted in the meeting itself. Comments will be recorded at the meeting and subsequently addressed in the EIR/EIS process. And with that, I'd like to have Steve Knell go through the project itself and some of the features.

MR. KNELL: What Mike's put up is really the slides that we're going to go over or the overheads that we're going to go over. We're going to talk about the proposed project. We're going to talk about the principal objectives of this project, potential impact that we see right now, alternatives, environmental documentation, what potential approvals we see, list of other environmental processes that are going on that relates to this project, and a

brief summary. It's pretty simple.

I think the name explains everything in this project, which is a water conversation and transfer project. The Imperial Irrigation District is going to conserve up to three hundred thousand



acre feet of Colorado River water and then we're going to simply transfer all or a portion of that to the San Diego County Water Authority. This project has a life of up to seventy-five years. It has a start date, which you'll see there's no date up there. That means things have to be completed before we get to the start date. One of those is the completion of this EIR/EIS. Another thing is the participation of land owners in this project up to the tune of a hundred and thirty thousand acre feet. We're going to start with a quantity of twenty thousand acre feet in the transfer and then there will be a ramp up to twenty thousand acre feet for every year thereafter up until we get to a minimum of a hundred and thirty thousand, but no more than two hundred thousand acre feet. So we anticipate this to take about seven to ten years to get through all this. And then there's an additional discretionary tract of a hundred thousand acre feet. As I

mentioned, at least a hundred and thirty thousand acre feet has to come from on-farm conservation. Between the hundred and thirty thousand and two hundred thousand mark, there's a couple ways it can come. One is it can come from additional on-farm water conservation above the hundred and thirty



thousand acre feet, or it can come from IID system improvements.

The principal objectives of this project, starting from the big issues working down, is to get California to within its Colorado River allocation. It's also to lessen the increased demand for water in southern California through the state water project, to provide San Diego County Water Authority with a reliable and long-term water supply. And it'll also protect Imperial Valley water rights.

Potential impact, in the geographic sense, if you've had a chance to look over here, we're looking at potential impact along the lower Colorado River basin from Parker all the way down to the Imperial Dam turnout. We're looking at Salton Sea area, Imperial Valley as a whole and San Diego County as a whole.

Potential resources that could be impacted

relate to water flow, water quality, socioeconomics, biological impacts, and recreation, just to name a few.

Alternatives during the project, the EIR/EIS will evaluate other feasible project alternatives, including a range of alternative conservation measures and a range of water supply and



transfer alternatives and various other alternative measures, in addition to no project no action.

As Mike has said earlier, this is a state and federal project, so it is a joint EIR/EIS, the Bureau of Reclamation as a federal lead under NEPA; and the Imperial Irrigation District being the state lead under CEQA. Potential approvals include the Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, State Water Resources Control Board, California Department of Fish and Game, to name a few.

Other ongoing environmental processes that could relate to this or we may relate back to them, the Salton Sea restoration project is ongoing. The Lower Colorado River Multiple Species Conservation Program is ongoing, and the All American Canal project.

In brief summary, the project creates opportunities for the Imperial Irrigation District to provide incentives to conserve and transfer water, protect its water rights, and strengthen its local economy. On the San Diego side, San Diego County Water Authority is looking to establish a reasonably-priced water supply.

For those who wanted a Web site, we have a



Web site. It's noted here. And also on any of the literature that you picked up, it'll have a Web site designation on there. Also, there's been a hotline established for this project. In case you wake up in the middle of the night and just want to call somebody on this, we've provided that 1-800 number.

And, again, the lead agency contacts, Bill Rinne, with the USBR, or myself at Imperial Irrigation District, contacts will be at both locations.

Mike, I'll turn it back to you.

MR. CONCANNON: At this time I'd like to begin accepting oral comments on the issues that you would like to have considered in the EIR/EIS for the project. We have one speaker tonight.

In order to ensure an accurate record of

your comments received at the public meeting, Official Recorder Karen Hendley over here from Laurie Webb & Associates will prepare a verbatim transcript of everything that is said in the meeting.

At the end of the scoping process, as I said, we'll be preparing a scoping report summarizing the comments and issues raised at each of the scoping meetings. In order to ensure an accurate record of the public scoping meeting, we'd appreciate only one



person speaking at a time and ask that others remain quiet while the meeting is in progress. And we'll be using this microphone right here in the center. So when your name is called, please step forward to the microphone. To assist the recorder, state your name, spell your name, give your address and any affiliation with any organization.

Typically we limit it to about five minutes. It's not going to be a problem tonight. Again, if you have any comments on the scoping process, so say it now. We'll be opening it to public comments.

First name I have on here is Bill Werner.

MR. WERNER: Good evening. I'm Bill Werner, W-e-r-n-e-r, Aquatic Habitat Coordinator from

the Arizona Game and Fish Department out of Phoenix, Arizona.

The Arizona Game and Fish Department has reviewed the Notice Of Intent for the Imperial Irrigation District/San Diego County Water Authority Conservation and Transfer Project. Comments of the Arizona Game and Fish Department are based on the following provisions of Arizona law. First, pursuant to 17-102 of Arizona revised statutes, wildlife, both resident and migratory, native or introduced, found



in this state except fish and bullfrogs impounded in private ponds or tanks or wildlife and birds reared or held in captivity under permit are property of the state.

Pursuant to section 17-201, the laws of the state relating to wildlife shall be administered by the Game and Fish Department. Control of the Game and Fish Department is vested in the game and fish commission.

Section 17-231, the Arizona Game and Fish Commission shall establish broad policies of long-range programs for the management, preservation, and harvest of wildlife. The Arizona Game and Fish Department, therefore, has a trust responsibility for

all fish and wildlife found within the territorial jurisdiction of the State of Arizona.

On July 26, 1987, the Arizona Game and Fish Commission formally adopted a policy titled, "Wildlife and Wildlife Habitat Compensation" in open public session, which states, in part, that: "It is the policy of the Arizona Game and Fish Commission that the Department shall seek compensation at a 100% level, when feasible, for actual or potential habitat losses resulting from land and water projects.

Among factors deemed important by the



commission are potential impacts to special category species and/or economically important wildlife species, as well as issues which reflect the value, quantity, and quality of habitats which may be impacted by proposed projects." [illegible]

Further, on October 16th, 1987, the Arizona Game and Fish Commission formally adopted the following policy titled, "Riparian Habitat," in open public session: "It is the policy of the Arizona Game and Fish Commission that the department shall recognize riparian habitats as areas of critical environmental importance to wildlife and fisheries. The Department shall actively encourage management

practices that will result in maintenance of current riparian habitat and restoration of past or deteriorated riparian habitat. [S4b cont.] The department is also the state wildlife agency for the purposes of consultation by federal agencies pursuant to the provisions of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 USC, Section 662)."

As identified several years ago during scoping for the proposed lining of the All-American Canal, the Department is concerned about effects of upstream changes in points of diversion of Colorado River water on aquatic, wetland, and riparian



habitats along the lower river. Reductions in water surface elevations will affect the wetted perimeter of the river, an effect most notable in areas of gently sloping banklines with shallow water fringe. [S4c] Those areas can be very important habitat for the rare California black rail and the Federally endangered Yuma clapper rail.

Changes in the water surface elevation of the river itself will result in changes in connectivity of adjacent sloughs and backwater areas. Such changes may result in significant adverse effects to water circulation in those areas. [S4b cont.]

Since circulation of water is important seasonally in maintaining adequate dissolved oxygen in the water, changes may result in impacts to the quality or utility of the area as fish habitat. Changes in backwater will affect recreational fishing. We note that the Lower Colorado River is heavily utilized by anglers, with a substantial portion of this nation's population within three hours drive. Based on telemetry work done by the department on razorback sucker, those federally listed fish prefer well connected off-channel backwaters in the lower Imperial Division.

We are also concerned about changes in



water surface elevations on riparian vegetation adjacent to the Colorado River and in areas which may be affected by reductions in the water table elevation. [redacted] We have seen changes along the lower river resulting from channelization work in the 1950s and 60's. While we still see trees which became established during better conditions, many older trees are decadent and are unlikely to be replaced, as the present site conditions are inadequate to support regeneration. Much of this impact is from lowering of the ground water adjacent to the river.

Finally, Arizona Game and Fish has statutory responsibility for the boating safety program at the state level in Arizona, and we are interested in how changes to the river affect navigation and boating safety.

Having said all this, Arizona Game and Fish is also a player in the Lower Colorado River Multispecies Conservation Program, a program which may provide opportunities to manage some these effects.

I'm also chair of the Backwater Committee of the Lower Colorado Water Management Program Work Group, a group which has been dealing with effects on backwaters on the lower Colorado River for the last



ten years or so. We have discussed within that forum opportunities to maintain and enhance some of these off-channel areas, and that may provide a focal point to dealing with some of these issues.

Thank you.

MR. CONCANNON: Thank you, Bill.

Any other speakers tonight? It's the only speaker card that I have. If anyone else wants to say anything regarding the project, now is the time to take the floor.

If there are no other speakers tonight, then we can go home early.

I thank you all for attending this meeting and declare the scoping meeting adjourned.

(Meeting adjourned at 7:27, p.m.)



State of Michigan )

County of Wayne )

CERTIFICATE OF NOTARY PUBLIC

I certify that this transcript is a complete, true and correct record of the testimony given by the Witness in the above-entitled matter.

I also certify that prior to taking this

deposition the Witness was duly sworn to tell the truth.

I also certify that I am not a relative or employee of or an attorney for a party; or a relative or employee of an attorney for a party; or financially interested in the action.

Karen L. Hendley, CER-5683

Notary Public, Wayne County, Michigan

My commission expires: November 3, 2003

IMPERIAL IRRIGATION DISTRICT/SAN DIEGO COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY WATER CONSERVATION AND TRANSFER PROJECT

SCOPING MEETING

FIFTH PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

DATE: TUESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1999

PLACE: 799 PINE AVENUE
CARLSBAD, CALIFORNIA

REPORTER: SAMM ROSSINI, CSR. NO. 2867
CERTIFIED SHORTHAND REPORTER

APPEARANCES

MICHAEL CONCANNON:
Senior Project Manager for CH2M HILL

STEVEN R. KNELL:
Special Projects Coordinator for the
State Lead Agency, Imperial Irrigation District

LAURENCE J. PURCELL:
Water Resources Manager for the
San Diego County Water Authority

BILL RINNE:
Area Manager for the Federal Lead Agency,
The Bureau of Reclamation, Boulder Canyon Operations

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CARLSBAD, CALIFORNIA

TUESDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1999

MR. CONCANNON: Going by the clock on the wall, we're at 7:15. And I think we've allowed enough time for everybody to say hello to each other and chat for a bit.

Just to let you know right now we only have one speaker. So based upon that, we'll probably get out of here fairly soon. We have about a half-hour presentation and one speaker. So hopefully we will be out of here by about 8 o'clock.

Good evening. Welcome to the fifth public scoping meeting for the Imperial Irrigation District/San Diego County Water Authority Water Conservation and Transfer Project environmental process. My name is Mike Concannon. I'm the project manager for CH2M HILL, the consulting firm retained by the lead agencies to prepare the environmental analysis for this project. I'd like to introduce the representatives of the lead agencies that are here tonight.

If you would give your introductions.

MR. KNELL: I'm Steve Knell with the Imperial Irrigation District and special projects coordinator for this project.

MR. RINNE: I'm Bill Rinne, and I'm with the Bureau of Reclamation in Boulder City. The contact for the Federal Lead Agency.

MR. PURCELL: I'm Larry Purcell with the San Diego County Water Authority, and my role is to assist both IID and the Bureau in the environmental compliance.

MR. CONCANNON: In addition to several CH2M HILL offices involved in the project, we are supported by several specialties, subconsultant firms, including David Engineering in Davis, California, and Keller Bliesner Engineers of Logan, Utah, who will be developing an irrigation system model and development of conservation alternatives.

I'd like to emphasize the purpose of the meeting tonight is to receive information -- your views and comments and suggestions -- on any issue that you feel should be included and addressed in the EIR and EIS process.

The Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement that will be prepared for the project is the subject of the

presentation tonight. It's not for the pros and cons of the project itself.

A joint EIR and EIS document is being prepared in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act, CEQA, and the National Environmental Policy Act, NEPA, under the direction of the two lead agencies. The IID, Imperial Irrigation District, is the lead agency responsible for the CEQA compliance, and the Bureau of Reclamation is the Federal Lead Agency responsible for the NEPA compliance.

In just a few minutes, I'll provide a brief overview of the scoping process itself and how it relates to this project. Following a brief scoping process presentation, Mr. Steve Knell from IID will describe the proposed project. After Mr. Knell completes the project overview, I will be calling on any individuals who have signed up that wish to speak tonight at a public meeting.

A sign-in sheet at the front door contains a box. If you wish to speak, you can check the box. I'm reminding folks right now it's a good time to raise your hand, and we will give you a sign-in sheet if you wish to speak.

If you do not plan to make oral comments at

the meeting tonight, you can please sign the registration form that we have at the front desk -- I think most of you did -- so we can get an accurate attendance list of those that showed up at the meeting tonight.

In addition, if you choose not to present any oral comments at the meeting tonight, we would like you to provide written comments. If you wish to fill out a comment card, we have those at the back as well. Submit those tonight to either Melody Embree or myself. If you choose to take more time and submit comments at a later date, you may submit a letter to either Mr. Knell or Mr. Bill Rinne of the Reclamation at the addresses indicated on the handouts for tonight's meeting.

A 30-day comment period is now under way based on the State Notice of Preparation and the Federal Notice of Intent that was filed for the project. With the exception of comments received at the public scoping meetings, written comments will be accepted through October 27th. All comments, again, must be submitted to either Steve Knell or Bill Rinne at the addresses that are shown in the handouts.

Again, this is the fifth of six public scoping meetings that have been scheduled last week

and this week. We have one more tomorrow night in San Diego.

Again, the purpose of these scoping meetings is to solicit input from the public regarding issues that you feel should be considered in the preparation of the EIR/EIS for the project and to identify any issues of concern that you feel the public may hold.

The questions or comments we receive tonight, both oral and written, will be considered during the EIR/EIS process and will be summarized in a separate scoping summary report.

With that I'd like to go over what we've outlined for tonight's presentation.

What we have up here is a preliminary EIR/EIS schedule that we're working on. We've issued the NOP/NOI for the project, as I said, on September 27th. We're in the midst of our scoping meetings that will finish tomorrow night. The close of the comment period, again, is the 27th of October. Following this, we have a period where we're looking at development of alternative conservation measures. And we estimate that project to take approximately eight months, concluding about June of next year, at which time we will have a series of public meetings to present the alternatives that are developed.

Following that, we plan to issue the draft EIR/EIS about September of 2000; and that will initiate a 60-day public review period including, again, public meetings on alternatives. The close of the EIR/EIS comment period would be about November of 2000. And the issuance of the final EIR/EIS is targeted for about March of 2001 with a Record of Decision about six months later in September of 2001. So, overall, about a two-year process we're looking at for this project.

Again, scoping provides the public with an opportunity to let the lead agencies know about specific issues that should be addressed. And EIR/EIS scoping also allows the lead agencies to focus the EIR/EIS on community concerns and issues. During the scoping meeting is to let the lead agencies know about potential effects of the project on a national or manmade environment; discuss a range and types of alternatives that you wish to be considered in the EIR/EIS process; and any identified mitigation measures.

Once again, comments taken at a public scoping meeting, both written and verbal comments, can be submitted at the meeting. Comments will be recorded at the meeting and subsequently addressed in

the EIR/EIS process.

With that I'd like to have Steve Knell go over the project elements themselves.

MR. KNELL: Thanks, Mike.

What Mike is putting up are the slides that we're going to go over here in the next few minutes. These slides will contain information -- we're going to talk about the proposed project; we're going to talk about the principal objectives of the project, potential impacts, alternatives, environmental documentation, potential approvals we see, a list of other environmental processes that are going on concurrently with this, and a brief summary.

The project, as the name says, is a Water Conservation and a Transfer Project. The Imperial Irrigation District is going to conserve up to 300,000 acre-feet of Colorado River water; and the other half of that project is the subsequent transfer of all or part of that conserved water of the San Diego County Water Authority. The project extends for up to 75 years. It has a start-date, which you'll not see up there, because there has to be certain things completed before we can start the project. One is the completion of this EIR/EIS. Another element would be the participation of at least -- actually the

participation of landowners on a voluntary program to conserve at least 130,000 acre-feet, which we'll talk about subsequently.

This is not a lump sum transfer. It starts out at 20,000 acre-feet per year and ramps up at 20,000 acre-feet per year until the minimum of 130,000 and not more than 200,000 acre-feet are reached.

We anticipate this ramp-up period lasting 7 to 10 years. In addition, there is an additional discretionary transfer of 100,000 acre-feet beyond the 200,000 acre-feet, which makes the 300,000 acre-foot transfer.

As I said earlier, the project requires the participation of farmers and the voluntary on-farm conservation program. And the subsequent conservation of at least 130,000 acre-feet of water. From the 130,000 to 200,000 mark, that water can be made available under two alternatives. One is additional on-farm conservation, or the other thing would be a yield from IID system improvements, or system conservation methods, such as installation of reservoirs, maybe additional concrete lining, lateral interceptors. Those types of system improvements.

Principal objective of the project, starting from the top and working down, this project will

assist California in meeting its Colorado River water allocation of 4.4 million acre-feet. It will also lessen the increased demand for water in southern California from the State Water Project. It will also provide San Diego County Water Authority with a reliable long-term water supply. And our board believes that it definitely will help improve and protect the Valley's water rights.

Pretty generally, on impacts, we see four geographical areas that will be impacted. The lower Colorado River region from Parker to the Imperial Dam, the Salton Sea area itself, the Imperial Valley, and San Diego County.

To name a few resources that have potential impacts, we're talking water flow; we're talking water quality; social economics; biological impacts, and recreational impacts. Again, to name a few.

In the EIR/EIS, we will be looking at various alternatives, including a range of alternative conservation measures. We will also be looking at a range of water supply and transfer alternatives, and various other alternative measures, including the No Project/No Action Alternative.

As Mike said earlier regarding environmental documentation, this is a joint EIR/EIS, with the

Bureau of Reclamation being the Federal Lead on the NEPA process and Imperial Irrigation District being the State Lead under the CEQA process.

Potential approvals we see in finishing this project obviously will come from the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, State Water Resources Control Board, and the California Department of Fish and Game.

As many of you are aware, there are a lot of processes going on concurrently. We have the Salton Sea Restoration Project which is ongoing; we have the Lower Colorado River Multiple-Species Conservation Program that is ongoing; and the All-American and Coachella Canal Lining Project.

Summarizing all this, the project creates opportunities to provide IID with incentives to conserve and transfer water, to protect its water rights, and to strengthen its local economy. On the San Diego side, to provide San Diego County Water Authority with a reliable and reasonably priced water supply.

Those of you like pounding keys on the computer, we have a website. You can write this down, or if you pick up literature on the way out, it will be on there too. We also have a hotline for those

late-night thinkers who just have to tell their story to somebody. We have an 800 number established that you can call and leave a message, and we will return your phone call.

Again, the Federal Lead and the State Lead, Bill Rinne of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. I recommend you send Bill anything you have. And myself, Steve Knell. And, again, those addresses are on the material in the back of the room.

And I'll turn it back to Mike.

MR. CONCANNON: Thanks, Steve. At this time I'd like to begin accepting oral comments on the issues you would like to see addressed in the EIR/EIS process. Any other persons that wish to speak, if you would fill out a speaker card, it would be helpful to our process here.

In order to insure an accurate record, any comments received at this meeting will be taken down by the official recorder over here, Samm, who is working away over there, who is from Hahn & Bowersock, and she will prepare a verbatim transcript of everything that is said at this meeting.

Again, at the end of the scoping process, we will be preparing a scoping summary report summarizing the comments and issues raised at each of the six

public scoping meetings.

To insure a complete and accurate record of the public scoping meetings, we would appreciate only one person speaking at a time and ask that others in attendance remain quiet.

We will be using the microphone in the center of the room so everyone can be heard. And so when your name is called, please step forward to the microphone. To assist our recorder here, each speaker should state their name, spell their last name, give their address, and identify any affiliation with any organization.

I've only got a couple of speaker cards; so I only have a few folks who want to speak tonight. All those in order of when they signed up. We typically target about five minutes per speaker. I usually will inform you when you have about a minute remaining; but since we have a limited number of speakers, we will take your comments.

Any other questions about how we're going to conduct our public comments?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER NO. 1: Is it possible for you to relate the project to the map that you have up here again, identifying exactly what canals are involved?

MR. CONCANNON: Sure. Steve?

MR. KNELL: Are you referring to this map over here, or you want to start with the big picture and work our way over to this one?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER NO. 1: (Inaudible response).

MR. KNELL: We talked about geographical areas along the Colorado River from Parker Dam to the diversion here at Imperial Dam. This is an area of potential impact, this area here. What we're talking about in this region is, there's going to be a transfer up to 300,000 acre-feet. That means less water will flow within this region. That means water levels may drop in the river, and backwater areas may be impacted causing impact to wildlife. That will need to be assessed in this project. Water quality, as I mentioned on the overhead, is an issue.

On the San Diego side, San Diego County, one of the big issues is growth inducement. We will have to address that issue. Because water is going to bring growth to San Diego County. So how much growth is the current system based on. Current capacities. Have we reached those capacities. Those things.

In Imperial Valley, the agricultural area, is really what you see on this map here. If you can

overlay that in this area, north of the border and surrounding is pretty much the south side of the Salton Sea. This is the agricultural portion of the Imperial Valley. And it's really this map over here. This map really represents the drain systems and the canal systems. The county roads make it a little cluttered. But suffice it to say, there's a canal and drain every half mile that you go. The District is set up to deliver water to the 160-acre mark and to provide drainage to the 160-acre mark.

The Salton Sea area, obviously it stands out in the blue portion. Less water going into the sea. How is that going to impact the sea? Will it change the water quality of the sea? Will it accelerate the rising salinity of the sea? If so, how fast, how soon? As water is decreased that flows in here, the change in water quality where the drainage system feeds, will that have an impact, or potential impact on the Salton Sea? We will be assessing that as well. Receding shoreline of the sea. Is the sea going to recede? Is the shoreline going to recede? Exposure of land around the sea, what impact does that have? That needs to be assessed.

Anything specific?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER NO. 1: Identify which

canals? Apparently there are two canal systems. At which point does it exit the Colorado River? [redacted]

MR. RINNE: He wants to know like the aqueduct --

MR. KNELL: Coming out of Parker Dam, out of Lake Havasu, is the Colorado River Aqueduct. This is what brings water to the Metropolitan Water District and subsequently to San Diego. This yellow line goes over to here and then this is the delivery system for San Diego County, feeding all the coastal area down there.

The other aqueduct -- I believe the one you're referring to -- actually, there's a couple. We have the All-American Canal which comes from the Colorado River and then at drop one it splits into the Coachella Canal which runs along this side and delivers water to the Coachella Valley.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER NO. 1: It flows north?

MR. KNELL: It flows north.

After that it still stays the All-American Canal all the way across to the west side of the Imperial Valley and then stops here. It ends up in the West Side Main Canal, Central Main Canal and the East Highland Canal are the three major arteries that

flow off of that.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER NO. 1: So the diverted water is coming via which canal? [redacted]

MR. KNELL: The diverted water?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER NO. 1: That would go to San Diego. [redacted]

MR. KNELL: The water that will be transferred to San Diego County Water Authority will go through the California Aqueduct.

MR. CONCANNON: Colorado River Aqueduct.

MR. KNELL: Excuse me. Colorado River Aqueduct.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER NO. 1: So the supply to the Salton Sea would be less by whatever volume is (inaudible). [redacted]

MR. KNELL: Yes.

Anything else?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER NO. 2: I had a question about the relationship of this project to the 4.4 plan. [redacted]

MR. CONCANNON: Do you want to form that as a question?

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER NO. 1: What is the relationship between this --

MR. CONCANNON: We are trying to get

comments from anyone. And so if you want to frame it as a comment --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER NO. 2: I just wanted to ask a question in relation to the project.

MR. KNELL: The current condition is California is pulling 5.2 million acre-feet out of the Colorado River. Entitlement is 4.4.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER NO. 2: How much of that is Imperial Irrigation District and how much of that goes through the Colorado Aqueduct? [redacted]

MR. KNELL: The ag entitlement to California is 3.85 million acre-feet. And the ag pretty much takes that water, as it's entitled. Why our diversions up is because other people aren't taking surplus water or water that has been available in the Colorado River in the past.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER NO. 2: So as a result of this project, then, is San Diego going to take less -- I mean, like the overall number is going to go down eventually, or does it have anything to do with it or - [redacted]

MR. KNELL: Well, yes. We hope to get from 5.2 down to -- there's already a hundred thousand from the MWD project which counts towards getting it down to 5.1. This 300,000 hopes to get us down to 3.8.

And there's some more work that needs to be done -- excuse me. Get it down to 4.8, and hopefully get it down to 4.4 from that.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER NO. 2: Whose responsibility is it to get down to 4.4? Is it between Imperial and the cities on the coast, or does everybody ... (inaudible). [redacted]

MR. KNELL: Well, that's beyond what I know right now.

MR. RINNE: Maybe I could help just as a general comment. The 4.4 allocation to California, as far as their portion of the Colorado River water, as far as saying whose responsibility, if you had to get down to 4.4, California would have to do a (inaudible) however that would shake out.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER NO. 2: So it would be the cities first and - [redacted]

MR. RINNE: From a priority standpoint, the ag entitlements are the highest priority in California.

And I know this is kind of long-winded, but maybe just to simply put it, if a normal year in California had 4.4 million acre-feet, if it followed the current priority system, the agricultural end of it would take up to 3.85, and then the balance would

go to the Metropolitan Water District. That's basically the way it works if you followed that basic premise system.

MR. CONCANNON: We're getting a little bit off track. If you have specific questions, frame those so that we can bring them in to the EIR/EIS process. And if we can, we will answer them here tonight. So if you want to ask your question --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER NO. 1: Can we continue to ask a few questions before we get to comments?

MR. CONCANNON: Yes. If you can come up so that we can get a record. Just asking questions doesn't specifically --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER NO. 1: I'll rephrase it. I just want a little bit of clarification on this.

Maybe six months or so ago there was a newspaper article that indicated that the flow of the Colorado to the Gulf of California was not within the purview of your organization; and, therefore, you would not address -- I'm trying to recall vaguely. Is that still the case? And so the bottom flow of the Colorado is not part of this discussion, period?

MR. CONCANNON: If your question is, is this project addressing the California reaching the 4.4 plan --

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER NO. 1: I don't know what that is.

MR. CONCANNON: That's to bring California's use of Colorado River water down to their entitlement of 4.4 million acre-feet annually. That's been talked about. But this project is not addressing that plan. This project is solely addressing the conservation transfer of 200,000 acre-feet of water into San Diego. There may be another process that looks at the big picture of how southern California gets their water. But this project only looks at conservation in the Imperial Valley and transfer of 200,000 acre-feet of water.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER NO. 1: That Imperial Valley would have normally gotten.

MR. CONCANNON: Would have gotten.

UNIDENTIFIED SPEAKER NO. 1: So it does not affect any volume going all the way to the Delta and the Gulf. [redacted]

MR. CONCANNON: That's correct. Same amount of water flows down river.

Any other general questions?

Why don't we take our first speaker, Art Bunce.

MR. BUNCE: My name is Art Bunce, B-u-n-c-e. The address is on the sign-in sheet. I'm an attorney (inaudible). You can take out your egg-timer because I guarantee I'll be less than three minutes unless you have questions of me.

I'm here speaking on behalf of the Agua Caliente band of Cahuilla Indians. An Indian tribe whose reservation is located in and around Palm Springs, California. A portion of the reservation is serviced by the Coachella Valley Water District. An entity which is not present here tonight, but I understand is very interested and related to this particular project. The reason why the tribe is interested in this project -- even though we're technically outside IID service area, or into San Diego -- is because the tribe has an ongoing question about priority water rights in the Coachella Valley. We hope that the scoping process will expand the scope of the EIR and the EIS to include a consideration of what the effect of the project would be on the ability of the Coachella Valley Water District to continue to pump water in the area where it currently pumps water, which includes portions of

the Agua Caliente Indian Reservation and two other Indian reservations.

In the event the -- whether the project goes forward or not -- we don't know if the project will have an effect on that or not -- we'd like you to consider that and frankly tell us what that effect might be. [redacted]

Now, I also wrote this up in a letter to Mr. Knell. I considered addressing it to Mr. Rinne but Mr. Knell happened to share the same last name as my high school sweetheart. But I'll be happy to provide a copy to you anyway.

MR. RINNE: That's fine.

MR. BUNCE: So this has probably taken well less than three minutes. But those are the points I wanted to make. The tribe is interested in knowing what the effect of this project will be on the ability and plans of the Coachella Valley Water District to continue, expand, cut back, or make any other change in its pumping activities on the Agua Caliente Indian reservation in particular and the Coachella Valley in general.

MR. CONCANNON: Thank you very much for your comments.

One of the key parts of the EIR/EIS process

is to define the project. And the project's description will have to address what elements are affected by this project.

MR. BUNCE: I'm not sure what the terms are of the agreement that was described in the recent newspaper articles. But Coachella is certainly a player in that. Tom Levy wouldn't have it any other way. And we'd be very interested in knowing what the particular terms are and how that will affect the water rights not only of the client that I represent but at least two other Indian tribes whose rights are implicated by the same project.

Thank you.

MR. CONCANNON: Thank you very much. Next speaker is Nadine Scott.

MS. SCOTT: My name is Nadine Scott, and I am appearing here in two capacities. I'll address the first one as a private citizen. I find this meeting to be very under advertised. It was not in any of the local papers. And if you're expecting a representative group here, I think it's very pitiful that you only advertised in the San Diego city paper. We have a regional paper here called the North County Times. [redacted] Many of us don't find that to be the best representation of a newspaper, but you did no

advertising in it. Even though you put a lot of articles about your (inaudible).

On the basis of a private citizen, I've lived in this County for 44 years. I personally am concerned about the overall cost of water in San Diego County. [redacted] That seems to be something that a lot of people are afraid to bring up. Using their infrastructure in trying to put a price on it seems to be the largest argument overall. I understand the 4.4 concept. I deal with water law. I think it's very much a shame that your documentary and supporting materials aren't even explaining the priorities of the people sitting here. Because you have a very obvious question from this lady. What are the priorities? What are the priority amounts? Who are the priority holders? [redacted]

And as you know, San Diego County is not in there, and you're not making that clear in the process. So I don't find this to be a very public-generating commentary session when the people don't even know about the 4.4. This doesn't particularly directly affect it. But where that water is coming from, how much is coming into California through the Aqueduct, through the Colorado River, these people aren't understanding the basic

priorities. I don't see how you can expect them to really give you fully informed comments on your scoping process.

That's my private hat.

In my public relationship, I work with 103 Resource Conservation Districts that cover the state of California. I've handed that to you in your materials. If and when this becomes a project that passes -- No Project/No Action Alternative portion -- there are eight Resource Conservation Districts that cover the project area. Traditionally, we have worked with landowners and farmers on conservation issues. We're charged by the state of California as a public agency to help landowners conserve and rehabilitate all the natural resources on their land. If this gets passed, the EIR/EIS/EIEIO scoping process, we stand more than ready to help everyone in the scoping area, and in particular the farmers in the Imperial Valley to learn and teach and educate about various conservation measures. [redacted] We also advocate at our state level through an association of which I am the policy legislative chairman. We also advocate different incentives which might be tax credits, regional conservation measures. And I just want the scoping process and partners to know that you do have a

regional group called Southern California/Baja Region Research Conservation Districts that could stand ready to help with one portion of your scoping in your overall project, which is your conservation edge. Because if we are not able to conserve enough of the water off of your priority in the Imperial Valley -- which means everybody really has a responsibility in the whole scoping region -- then the project can't be viable anyway. But we do stand ready to assist with that.

We are empowered under Division 9 of the Public Resources Code to bring the conservation message on all national resources to the region. And we are a nonproprietary group; meaning we don't make money on what we do. We are considered a nonprofit public agency. So if the project does go through, we are standing willing and ready to assist with it. Conservation only.

Thank you.

MR. CONCANNON: Thank you. We did take a shot at the advertising in seven major newspapers every other day for 15 days. So we did take a crack at trying to reach people. And I know there are lots of local areas that we could broaden that. And for our next public workshops, we'll take a look at where

we should be advertising.

And thanks for your support.

With that I have no other speakers. But if anyone else wishes to speak, feel free.

(Pause in the record.)

MR. CONCANNON: State your name and spell your name.

MR. BALLOU: My name is Luther Ballou. I live at 550 Golden Road in Fallbrook, California, Zip code 92028.

I was at the meeting down in Salton City, and many of you may recognize me, and I listened to the comments of the people in the community in the desert. And they turned out because an ad that the Indian tribes put in the Desert News, or Desert Sun News, brought the people out. I agree with Nadine. This meeting was not advertised to the public. [redacted] It is a very, very poor representation of a planning meeting where you're trying to get comments from the public. And I disagree with you saying that you ran advertisements in the San Diego Union and other major newspapers around here. You aren't getting to the people that have the information that give a damn. The farmers really care about what's going on here.

My concerns with this is that IID and

San Diego County Water Authority say, well, we're going to bring in this water from the Colorado River and replace State Water Project water. Farmers around here have a very real problem with salt content in the water. Water districts have a very real problem with salt content in the water. The water districts of North County have gone to the County Water Authority many times. And I've gone to MWD many times to force the blending of State Water Project with the Colorado River water to bring the salt content down so that we may continue with our profession in agricultural. Of growing stuff. Flowers, avocados. You name it. It is a large industry in San Diego County. Around $1.17 billion. That's just the farm (inaudible). Not the County or the support industries that support us. Now IID says, well, we're going to take away the State Water Project water and bring in this other water. San Diego County Water Authority I don't hear you saying anything about.

Salt is a problem. I have a well on my property. Before the State Water Project came in, my well went salt to where it can't be used reliably any longer to water my avocado trees because the salt content is now four times what it is from what I take out of the tap, which is blended water. The salt

percolates down to the water tables. You're going to ruin the water tables if you bring in this excess water without blending it with the State Water Project. San Diego County Water Authority has talked in the newspaper about working out some water transfers with northern California districts to bring down the good water for blending. So they're on the right track. But it's got to be part of the EIR/EIS, that that water is required to blend. [redacted]

I am concerned of course about the growth. And Mr. Knell has already mentioned that. And that was brought up at the other meeting. It is a very strong growth inducer bringing in reliable water sources. [redacted] We saw it in Los Angeles when they connected and pulled water out of the Owens Valley and sucked it dry. Owens Lake is now a dust bowl. And after many, many years of court cases, we've finally gotten to the point that DWP no longer can take all the water they want. They've got to start putting more water into Mono Lake. And they're having to put water in Owens to keep the dust down.

Salton Sea, if it goes dry, you got a real problem. You're talking about taking 25% of the water to flow away from Salton Sea when you get up to 200,000 acre-feet. When you get up to 300,000 it's

approaching 30%. Salton Sea right now, according to the statistics given at the other meeting, which there were many informed people there, takes in 1.3 million acre-feet a year. And we're going to talk about throwing away 300,000 of that. That's going to have a significant effect. [redacted]

You got the Coachella Valley Water District drawing down their water table. They're crying for water. [redacted] I haven't seen the details of the agreement that was announced in the paper this morning. North County Times did not give a very good description of it. I'm getting a copy of what the Desert Sun said about it. I'm sure they're talking in more detail.

I am concerned on another topic. IID is going to be collecting about $400 million over the first 10 years of this project. Over each 10-year period after that -- excuse me, let me back up -- 220 million over the first 10 years, assuming a 20,000 acre-foot per year ramp-up up to the 200,000 acre-foot level. And this is based on the statement Mr. Knell made at the other meeting that his cost is $14 an acre-foot, and he's going to sell it to San Diego County Water Authority at over $200 an acre-feet. And if you work out the numbers that's in the first 10 years, you've got $220 million to put into

conservation projects. And then after that, the next 30 years, is going to get $400 million a year. That's $1.2 billion. Is that going to be spent on conservation projects out there? I don't know. What effect of that money flowing into that environment out there is it going to have? Is it going to cause growth? That has to be looked at. How is this money going to be utilized with respect to the area that it's flowing into. Can it be utilized to help save the sea? [redacted]

Another point that has not been brought up here but was brought up at the other meeting is that the EIR/EIS has to be integrated with the EIR/EIS on the Salton Sea Save Plan that is currently being -- has been funded and -- it was supposed to come out before, as you mentioned at the other meeting. But it's got to be integrated. [redacted] I don't know how you're going to do it because the time line is too short. You're not going to have time to get the digestion of what the comments are on that EIR/EIS and the changes and maybe the republications before you have to put up your EIR/EIS by your schedule. You can't make that schedule and have an informed public. Be realistic.

I think that pretty well covers what I have to say. Thank you.

MR. CONCANNON: Thanks for your comments.

Any other speakers tonight?

MR. SCHROEDER: Roy Schroeder, 304 North Sierra Avenue, Solana Beach.

My question is related to the impact on the reach between the Parker and Imperial dams. Will the scoping project -- you allude to increase in salinity in that reach. Will the scoping project, particularly the EIS process, address the effects of the increasing salinity on water deliveries to Mexico, or is that outside the scope of the EIS process?

MR. CONCANNON: I guess the short answer to that is there's another process going on. And the MSCP, Multi-Species Conservation Program, in the lower Colorado River. Any change that this project would have in the reach below Parker would have to be addressed. And that's being addressed as part of the MSCP process. We'll have to coordinate with the MSCP process and bring that information to this EIR/EIS as well. So we do have to address any change in that reach below Parker due to this project.

Is that it?

MR. SCHROEDER: That's it.

MR. CONCANNON: Any other questions? We're right at 8:00.

With that I want to thank everyone for attending the meeting tonight. Again, you can submit written comments to Bill Rinne or Steve Knell or leave them with us tonight.

I want to thank you for attending. And with that I call this meeting adjourned.

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## Reporter's Certificate

The undersigned shorthand reporter of the state of California does hereby declare:

That the foregoing was taken before me at the time and place therein set forth and was recorded stenographically by me and was thereafter transcribed; said transcript being a true copy of my shorthand notes thereof.

In witness whereof, I have subscribed my name this date _____.

_____

Samm Rossini
Certificate Number 2867

IMPERIAL IRRIGATION DISTRICT/SAN DIEGO COUNTY
WATER AUTHORITY WATER CONSERVATION AND TRANSFER PROJECT

SCOPING MEETING

SIXTH PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

DATE: WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 1999

PLACE: 3211 - 5TH AVENUE
SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92103

REPORTER: E. MARJORIE ZIEGLER
CSR 11382, RPR

APPEARANCES

MICHAEL CONCANNON
Environmental Scientist
Senior Project Manager
CH2M HILL
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Oakland, California 94607-4046

STEVEN R. KNELL, P.E.
Special Projects Coordinator
Water Department
Imperial Irrigation District
333 E. Barioni Boulevard
Imperial, California 92251

JAMES GREEN (BC-00-1000)
Bureau of Reclamation
Lower Colorado River Region,
Boulder Canyon Operations Office
P.O. Box 61470
Boulder City, Nevada 89006-1470

ALSO PRESENT

LARRY PURCELL
San Diego County Water Authority

MELODY EMBREE
CH2M HILL

SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 1999 7:15 P.M.

MR. CONCANNON: Good evening, ladies and gentlemen. Welcome to the last of six public scoping meetings on the Imperial Irrigation District and San Diego County Water Authority Water Conservation and Transfer Project and Environmental Process. My name is Mike Concannon. I'm the Senior Project Manager for CH2M HILL, a retained consulting firm to prepare the environmental analysis for this project.

Up at the table here, I'll allow the representatives of each of the lead agencies to introduce themselves.

MR. KNELL: I'm Steve Knell. I'm with the Imperial Irrigation District. I'm the Special Projects Coordinator for this project.

MR. GREEN: I'm James Green. I represent the Bureau of Reclamation.

MR. PURCELL: And I'm Larry Purcell with the San Diego County Water Authority. And my role is to assist the IID and Bureau of Reclamation with the environmental compliance aspects of this project.

MR. CONCANNON: In addition to several CH2M HILL offices involved in the project, we are supported by a number of specialty subconsulting firms including David

Engineering of Davis, California, and Keller Bliesner Engineers in Logan, Utah, who will be preparing an irrigation system model and in the development of the alternative conservation measures.

I like to emphasize that the purpose of this meeting is to receive information -- your views, comments and suggestions -- on any issue you feel should be addressed in the Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) that will be prepared for the proposed project. It's not for comments on the relative pros and cons of the proposed water transfer itself.

A joint EIR/EIS document is being prepared in accordance with California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) under the direction of the two lead agencies. IID, Imperial Irrigation District, is the state lead agency responsible for CEQA compliance. And the Bureau of Reclamation is the federal lead agency responsible for the NEPA compliance.

In just a few minutes, I'll provide a brief overview of the scoping process and how it relates to this project. Following that, a brief presentation will be made by Mr. Steve Knell from the Imperial Irrigation District on the proposed project itself.

After Steve completes the project overview, I will then move on to calling individuals who may have signed up

to make oral comments at the meeting tonight. We have at the sign-in desk at the front door a box to check if you wish to speak at this public meeting. So far, I think we do not have anyone who has checked the box that wishes to speak, so we may have a very short meeting tonight. But I'll continue to ask for anyone who wishes to speak. We can get the speaker cards to you so that we can get a record of who is here and wishes to speak.

Even if you do not plan to make any oral comments tonight, please sign in at our registration table so that we can have an accurate attendance list of who has come to this public scoping meeting. In addition, if you choose not to provide any oral comments but would like to provide written comments, please feel free to fill out the comment cards that we have at the back desk. You can leave that with MELODY EMBREE at the back desk or myself tonight. Or if you desire to take more time and submit written comments at a later date, you may send a letter either to Steve Knell at IID, or Mr. Bill Rinne or James Green representing the Bureau of Reclamation. Their addresses are indicated on the handouts that we have at the back desk tonight.

A 30-day comment period is under way for comments on the state Notice of Preparation (NOP) and the federal Notice of Intent (NOI) to prepare the EIR/EIS document. With the exception of comments received at each of the six public

scoping meetings, written comments will also be accepted in writing through October 27. Again, all comments must be submitted to either Steve Knell at IID or to the Bureau of Reclamation.

A total of six public scoping meetings have been held last week and this week. The purpose of these scoping meetings is to solicit input from the public regarding issues that should be considered in the preparation of the EIR/EIS for the project and to identify any issues of concern that the public may have. The questions or comments we receive tonight, both oral and written, will be considered during the preparation of the EIR/EIS; and they will also be summarized in a separate scoping summary report to be issued at the close of the comment period. With that, I'd like to take a minute and go through some of the scoping process followed by Steve's presentation on the proposed project itself.

What we have up here is the overall schedule that we're working on for this project. Again, we issued the Notice of Preparation and Notice of Intent on 27th of September. We have had scoping meetings beginning on October 12th. This is the last of those. The close of the comment period, again, on the 27th of October.

Following that, we have a period of about eight months where we're going to be developing alternatives and

at the end of that have a number of alternative workshops to go over the alternatives to be addressed in the EIR/EIS. Following that, we're looking at issuing a draft EIR/EIS approximately September of next year. That will initiate another 60-day public comment period and again another series of public meetings on the draft EIR/EIS.

The close of the comment period will be November of 2000. We're looking at issuing a final EIR/EIS on the project approximately March 2001, and the lead agency is making the Record of Decision September 2001. So approximately a two-year process is what's envisioned for the project.

Again, scoping provides the public with an opportunity to let the lead agencies know about specific issues that you feel should be addressed in EIR/EIS. It also allows the lead agencies to hear the community and to focus EIR/EIS on community concerns and issues.

During the scoping meeting, I'd like to let the lead agencies know about potential effects of the project on man-made or natural environment, any range and types of alternatives that should be considered in the EIR/EIS process, and any mitigation measures that should be identified and considered in the EIR/EIS process.

Again, commenting at public scoping meeting -- both oral and written comments -- will be accepted at the public

meeting. Comments will be recorded at the meeting and subsequently addressed in the EIR/EIS process and also identified in a separate scoping and summary report.

With that, we'll have Steve Knell go through the project elements themselves.

MR. KNELL: Thanks, Mike. I can see everybody in San Diego is farsighted. You're all at the back of the room.

The first overhead that Mike's showing you I'm going to talk about in these next view overheads. I'm going to talk about the proposed project, what the principal objectives are of this project, potential impacts that we see, alternatives, environmental documentation necessary for the project, potential approvals, a list of other environmental processes that are going on that we may interlink with or provide information for this project, and a brief summary at the end.

The project is as the name says. It is a water conservation and it is a transfer project. The District -- the Imperial Irrigation District (IID) -- is going to conserve up to 300,000 acre-feet of Colorado River water in the Imperial Valley. And we're going to subsequently transfer all or a portion of that water to the San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA). This is a 75 year--up to a 75-year water transfer.

To put a little body to this project, it does have a

start date although you don't see a start date up there. It's going to start after we complete certain things. One of the things we need to complete is this EIR/EIS that we are involved with. Another element or one of the conditions that also needs to happen is that need to have our farmers voluntarily commit to conserving at least 130,000 acre-feet of water. And I'll talk about that in a little bit. It is not a lump sum transfer. The project will ramp up at 20,000 acre-feet per year. Then we anticipate taking seven to ten years to get to the 130,000 minimum but not more than 200,000 acre-feet of water.

In addition there's an additional discretionary transfer of up to 100,000 acre-feet. Going back to the numbers, the 130,000 acre-feet will come from on-farm conservation measures implemented by farmers in the Imperial Valley. The agreement then says at least 130,000 acre-feet has to come from that and up to 200,000 -- between the one hundred thirty thousand and the two hundred thirty thousand it can come from two areas. It can come from more on-farm water conservation, or it can come from system conservation from the IID system which would be improvements to our delivery system that allow us to improve our efficiency and thus conserve more water. These would be things like building reservoirs, lateral interceptors, concrete linings over remaining laterals.

Principal objectives of this project -- let's make everybody happy. Let's make the state of California happy and also the upper basin states in helping California meet its 4.4 entitlement to the Colorado River. To make California happy -- Northern California happy in reducing our demand for state water project water. It should make San Diego happy to give them a reliable, long-term water supply, and it's to make us happy in that we believe that it helps protect our water rights to the river.

Areas of impact. Pretty much there's four regions. We're looking at the lower Colorado River area. And I'm going to step over to this map. This is the Colorado River region we're talking about. It stems from Parker Dam down to the diversion dam and Imperial Dam just north of the Mexican border. There will be up to 300,000 less acre-feet flowing through this reach. That 300,000 acre-feet used to come out into the All American Canal, flow into the valley through irrigation, and the remaining water would end up in the Salton Sea. That water now will come out near Parker, go along the Colorado River water aqueduct owned by Metropolitan and flow over to the San Diego service area. Less water in this reach has the potential for causing impacts that we need to assess.

The water coming to San Diego County we'll have to assess growth-inducing impacts over here in San Diego

county. In the Imperial Valley, we'll have to assess a lot of what you see on the right-hand side, your right-hand side. We'll be talking water flow, changes in water flow in the valley and on the river. We'll be talking water quality, impacts, the need to be assessed, social-economics, biological and recreational impacts that will need to be assessed in this project.

Alternatives. If you pick up a Notice of Preparation as you come in, you'll see by the statement that we are going to evaluate other feasible project alternatives including a range of alternative on-farm conservation measures, alternatives, multiple alternatives looking at water supply and transfer alternatives, and various other alternative measures including a No Project/No Action Alternative.

As Mike alluded to earlier, this is a joint federal-state agency process -- again the Bureau of Reclamation being the federal lead for NEPA and the Imperial Irrigation District being the state lead for CEQA -- potential approvals coming from the United States Bureau of Reclamation, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, State Water Resources Control Board, the California Department of Fish and Game, to name a few.

Other processes going on that could provide information to this project or assist it are the Salton Sea

Restoration Project that is ongoing, the lower Colorado River Multiple Species Conservation Program (MSCP) -- that's ongoing -- and the All American Canal and Coachella Canal lining projects.

Summarize here. The project creates opportunities to provide IID with incentives to conserve and transfer water, to protect its water rights, and to strengthen its local economy. At the same time for San Diego County Water Authority, it provides San Diego County Water Authority with a reliable and reasonably-priced water supply.

For those with computers, you'll be happy. You have a web site. Now you have another web site to look at. You can write this down or it is on the literature that you picked up when you walked in. We have a hot line that's been established. I hope the phone calls don't get too hot, but the hot line is there. There's an 800 number you can call night or day. Leave a message. We'll return your phone call and give you the information you require.

Again, the lead agencies: For the federal lead agency, Bill Rinne. You can contact him in Boulder City, or myself, Steve Knell, at the Imperial Irrigation District. Again, these addresses are on the literature that you picked up, so I'll turn it back to Mike.

MR. CONCANNON: Thank you, Steve. This time we switch to listening to your comments instead of you

listening to us. I'd like to begin accepting any oral comments on the issues you'd like to see considered in the EIR/EIS process. For anyone who may have come in late, if you wish to make public comments at the scoping meeting, please be sure to sign in.

In order to ensure an accurate record of the comments received at the scoping meeting tonight, an official recorder, Marjorie Ziegler from the firm of Hahn and Bowersock is recording -- making a verbatim transcript of everything that's said at the meeting. At the end of the scoping process, again we'll be preparing a scoping report summarizing the comments and issues raised during the scoping meetings and any written comments that are submitted by the public or other agencies.

To ensure a complete and accurate record of the public scoping meeting, we appreciate only one speaker speaking at a time and ask that others remain quiet during the meeting. We'll be using microphones. I've got a few microphones here to use. If you wish to speak and you're sitting in front of one, you just have to push on the little gray switch and a green light will show up and you can speak right there. Otherwise there's a podium at the back near the entrance, and you can use that microphone. But feel free to use any microphone you feel comfortable with. If you wish to speak and your name is called -- do you have any

cards, Melody?

MS. EMBREE: No, not this time.

Mr. CONCANNON: But if you do wish to speak, to assist our recorder each speaker should state their name, spell their last name, gave their address, and state any affiliation with any organization that you may have. If there are no speakers that have signed up, I guess we can move on to does anyone wish to speak at the meeting tonight?

MR. POCKLINGTON: Am I the first one?

Mr. CONCANNON: It looks like.

MR. POCKLINGTON: Bud Pocklington. I am a Director of the County Water Authority and also Director of the Sweetwater Authority. I notice you said it's going to take two years to approve this and a number of agencies that you have to go through. How did you determine this length of time? Is there any other environmental decision that was made that you use sort of as an example, or is this a wild guess? Is this going to take maybe three years or more? That's the question.

Mr. CONCANNON: What we did was to look at what the real issues are that need be analyzed in this EIR/EIS. And the first one is to define the project. There is an agreement between the two agencies to do the transfer, that is, to conserve the water and transfer the first 200,000 up to San Diego. The methods that the farmers would use to

conserve that water have not been defined, and so that's one of the major efforts that we'll undertake.

As I said, we're developing an irrigation delivery system model so that we can analyze a variety of ways that farmers could alter their current irrigation practices and understand what the effects may be throughout the irrigation district. So that process is going to take awhile to develop that model and to calibrate it and to run a number of alternative scenarios.

MR POCKLINGTON: I guess that's my question. Is the two years really reasonable, or is it going to take longer? Because when you're talking about models and all that kind of stuff I can see, you have to have approval before we can get any water; is that correct? From all these different agencies? [redacted]

Mr. CONCANNON: Correct.

MR. POCKLINGTON: So I think two years may not be enough time if we have to go through all these agencies and the model and everything. And if that happens, what does it do to our contract? [redacted]

MR. KNELL: Our goal is to finish this as the schedule indicates. A lot of the schedule is laid out with the assumption that the lower Colorado River MSCP would be progressing, that the Salton Sea Restoration Project would be progressing or else we may have to do some extra work.

There was a little buffer we put there in case those things didn't happen. But our goal is to finish it as the schedule indicates. And this contractor better be shaking his head that yes, that's his goal as well.

MR. CONCANNON: One of the other things I would add to what Steve commented on is he indicated there's a number of other large, environmental processes going on at the same time. And without wasting anyone's money, we hope to build on those efforts since those are pretty comprehensive efforts that are under way. So we don't want to duplicate any of the studies that are going on in the Salton Sea project or on the lower Colorado River project. So we need to see if we can capture some of that information recognizing that we're all on different schedules at this point.

MR. GREEN: This is James Green. I'd like to just make a comment on the environmental documents. These are analysis documents, and they're not decision documents. They analyze effects from the alternatives and tell us what kind of affects will take place.

At the end of the final EIR/EIS, there is a record of decision for the federal agency which affirms that the alternative that is selected is the preferred alternative, also the environmentally preferred alternative, and firms up what mitigation commitments might be required and that

kind of thing. Once that is done, then other decisions will take place maybe modifying or amending contracts and that type of thing. So the environmental process is its own process.

For NEPA, the procedural part alone is about eight months. That's required periods for comments on drafts, public scoping, and also other public involvement.

MR. CONCANNON: Do you have a question?

MR. CHENELLE: Yes. Frank Chenelle, San Diego County Water Authority. I'm interested in the mitigation side of it. Everything is going to be done mostly on the EIR and all that down in Imperial Valley area. How do we share that mitigation responsibility? [redacted]

Mr. CONCANNON: Do either lead agency want that? Otherwise, I'll give a quick summary.

The EIR/EIS process has to analyze impacts of the project in identifying the reasonable mitigation measures that would lessen those impacts to a level that would be less than significant. That's what the EIR/EIS process has to have.

MR. CHENELLE: I understand that, but what I'm saying is like, for instance, there's going to be a benefit to Salton Sea with Coachella and some of those other places. Are they going to be involved in the mitigation project also? Do they have to do their part? Or is almost

the whole thing going on IID and San Diego? Or just IID? That's what I'm trying to get at. [redacted]

MR. KNELL: I think you have the same confusion that a lot of other people have with the Salton Sea Restoration Project that's going on. That is a federally-driven process, just like the name implies. It is to restore the Salton Sea to a condition that's been identified by those people.

This project does not restore the Salton Sea. This project will have impacts on the Salton Sea and we will assess what those impacts are on the Salton Sea and we will mitigate those impacts on the Salton Sea. But it is not a restora- -- we are not in the restoration business. There is not enough money in this project for environmental cost based on --

MR. CHENELLE: I didn't want restoration. I wanted to know if they were going to be involved in the impact portion of it, because they do get certain benefit from it.

MR. GREEN: Are you speaking of Coachella benefiting --

MR. CHENELLE: Right.

MR. GREEN: -- from this project?

MR. CHENELLE: Right.

MR. GREEN: Not from this project, I don't believe.

MR. CONCANNON: If you're referring to the agreement

that's been in the press this week --

MR. CHENELLE: Yes.

Mr. CONCANNON: -- you know about as much as I know at this point. The agencies have struck an agreement. How that affects this project is to be determined. But for the project as Steve defined it, each of the agencies -- San Diego County Water Authority and the IID -- will be responsible for impacts of this project. What happens with the Salton Sea or what happens with the three-party agreement stet in the press is down the road.

MR. CHENELLE: That answered the question. IID and San Diego. Nobody else is involved in it; right?

MR. CONCANNON: At this stage it's this project, and it's as this project is defined.

MR. PRYDE: I'm Phil Pryde, 7784 Cedar Lake, San Diego. I'm representing San Diego Audubon Society tonight.

To follow up on Frank's question, as you do the EIS, will you be assessing the impacts at different levels of water transfer, that is, of 100,000? 200,000? 300,000? Comparing those?

MR. CONCANNON: It's been our plan all along. That's the purpose of the model because we have three different levels, a wide variety of ways that water could be conserved, all of which will have slightly different effects on drain water and then on flows, again, as Steve indicated,

entering the Salton Sea. So in order to look at those potential effects, we'd have to have some method of accounting for changes throughout the 500,000 acres of irrigated area over in Imperial Valley. So that's again a time-consuming step.

I have a speaker card from Dick Reynolds.

MR. REYNOLDS: Thank you. Dick Reynolds. I represent Sweetwater Authority. I'm the general manager of the agency. My address is 505 Garrett Avenue, Chula Vista. I just have a couple of points.

First is the impact on wholesale water rates in San Diego. I really think those need to be addressed for all the alternatives. It's something that's really dear to us at this time as we look at modifying the rate structure of the wholesale water rates, and so we'd like to see what impacts the facilities that you propose to construct would have on wholesale water rates to the retail member agencies of the San Diego County Water Authority. [redacted] Second, we're very interested in what the water quality would be. [redacted] We have seven or eight hundred TDS water coming into this county. It's going to have some severe impacts not only on the reclaimed water industry in this county and the useability of reclaimed water but also on the treatability of water by the various agencies that have treatment plants. And so we'd like to see complete water quality

impact analysis of the water that's going to come to this county. [redacted]

And lastly, I think this is a really great project that we're pursuing, but I think that it needs to be approached as an opportunity to augment the various water supply facilities in the county. [redacted] For example, some of the reservoirs could gain a second source of supply. There are some reservoirs in the back country that have no imported water available to them. We could make our county a much stronger water supply region if we were to make this project an opportunity to strengthen various member agencies' supply. That's all I have. Thank you.

MR. CONCANNON: Great. Thanks for your comments. We appreciate it.

We recognize all along that change in imported water may affect water quality, and that would definitely be one of the issues we would be addressing on this side of the hill.

Any other speakers here tonight? We're here to take your comments on any issue.

MS. MUELLER: I'm Marla Mueller from California Resources Board. And we ask that when you look at the impacts you consider the air quality impacts that might happen from this project. [redacted] For instance, the Salton Sea becomes smaller, then you have exposed lake bed that could

result in some particular matter, then we ask that you would consider that. Thank you.

MR. CONCANNON: That's a good example of one of the issues that we need to address and hopefully by building on the analysis that would be done in the Salton Sea Restoration Project. That project would be looking at different levels of inflow to the Salton Sea and corresponding to those changes in sea elevation and exposure of shoreline. So we'd like to build upon whatever analysis is included in the Salton Sea Restoration Project (EIR/EIS).

Any other comments or questions tonight? No burning issues that you want to throw our way at this point, I guess. Somebody coming forward.

MR. WRIGHT: Cary Wright, Sweetwater Authority. And I live at 242 East J in Chula Vista. I was just curious about Mexico and if your EIR/EIS will get in to that country as far as if the environmental effects, when they start to talk about the transfer of the water from the Colorado or this way and how that would be handled, and if there is or will not be any environmental effects that would affect the border area and Mexico.

MR. CONCANNON: The short answer is the project will be defined as conservation north of the border in the Imperial Valley and the transfer of the water through the Colorado River aqueduct. If during the process of the

developing the EIR/EIS any other alternative transfer mechanisms are identified, then we'll have to pick those up and address those in this document as well. To my knowledge, at this point there's been no formal action on any other transfer mechanism other than the Colorado River aqueduct. I know that earlier on there were some very preliminary reconnaissance level studies, but we'll have to keep watching that issue as well.

MR. KNELL: Meanwhile, I'd add a little bit on that. That 300,000, that 200-300,000 acre-feet has always been diverted at Imperial Dam. So really nothing below the Imperial Dam will change on the river.

MR. GREEN: This is James Green again from Reclamation. This project will not affect treaty deliveries to Mexico. They still receive 1.5 million acre-feet. And when surplus is available in excess of U.S. needs, an additional 200,000 would be delivered. So based on treaty requirements, the point of diversion from Imperial to Lake Havasu with the MWD diversion should not have any effect on treaty deliveries at all.

MR. NUNEZ: Hello. My name is Sergio Nunez, P.O. Box 1160, Thermal, California, 92274. Torres Martinez Tribal Indians Environmental Protection Agency and Tribal Environmental Director. Has this project considered Torres Martinez and what effects it would have on the tribe?

MR. CONCANNON: Obviously, during the process we'd have to consult with any recognized agency. And we noticed to the tribes about the project, and we're looking forward to talking to each of the tribes that may be affected about the project. We also know that the Torres Martinez are actively involved in the Salton Sea Restoration Project as well. So we look forward to meeting with you and understanding how this project may affect the Salton Sea and your interests.

MR. NUNEZ: I had somebody from your office contact -- she was in town not too long ago. She gave your contact agent a name and number to contact me, and then I never heard.

Another question -- side bar. Would this water transfer affect any trust responsibilities to the Indian tribes in the BOR?

MR. GREEN: We would have to look at that and actually get down to the nitty-gritty on what trust assets could be affected, whether or not it could be land, since you have checkerboard ownership around Salton Sea, or other issues.

MR. NUNEZ: Water quality?

MR. GREEN: That's an issue that we've already identified, but some of them will be identified as part of the Salton project. We will build on that information and

then clarify what is impact specifically from this project so we can identify what the responsibilities for mitigation would be. So we're just in the beginning. Issue identification is part of the scoping process. And what we are required to do is to analyze those issues that are significant and are right for analysis. We will have additional work groups to discuss what those issues are. And if Torres Martinez would like to send us a written response with some of those specific issues that you have, we need that information.

MR. NUNEZ: Thank you.

MR. CONCANNON: Any other questions or comments tonight?

MR. CAGLE: Fred Cagle, Air Quality. I was curious about your response about stopping the EIS/EIR [sic] at the border. When the All American canal EIS/EIR came out, one of the purposes was to conserve 80,000 acre-feet of water that currently is lost to Mexico and which is pumped through the other side of the border used in some of the fields and comes back in the New River, we think, back to the Salton Sea. This 80,000 acre-feet, from what I was told, was going to be part of the conserved water that you were going to use for this water transfer. I don't know where that 80,000 acre-feet is going to be used; but if it is, then this very much affects Mexico -- as you were asking. I was wondering

how you were going to deal with that.

MR. GREEN: That portion of conserved water is not part of this project.

MR. CONCANNON: There are good questions that keep popping up by now when you start thinking what the effects of a project of this scale might be and broad geographic areas that the project may affect, and also, as I keep reiterating, the other large environmental processes that are under way all of which are heading in directions still to be defined. So I can appreciate -- you know, it's like the wheels turning and wondering how this project affects any of the other ones and vice versa, and all that's going to unfold as we move forward.

So if there's any questions come to mind, now is the time to at least at the meeting let us know what you're thinking. And if it doesn't come tonight, then shoot a letter to either Steve or to James Green of the Bureau so we can again capture it during the public scoping process.

I'm not going to keep you here all night. If there are no further questions, I'll call the meeting adjourned. Thanks for coming tonight.

(The meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.)

Certificate

of

Certified Shorthand Reporter

The undersigned shorthand reporter does hereby declare:

That the foregoing was taken before me at the time and place therein set forth and was recorded stenographically by me and was thereafter transcribed, said transcript being a true copy of my shorthand notes thereof.

In witness whereof, I have subscribed my name this date: October 29, 1999.

E. Marjorie Ziegler
CSR 11382, RPR

# Appendix E
# Scoping Meeting Handouts and Materials

# Scoping Meeting Agenda

# AGENDA

## IID/SDCWA WATER CONSERVATION AND TRANSFER PROJECT
## PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

**SIGN-IN** — **7:00 – 7:15 PM**

**INTRODUCTION AND OPENING REMARKS** — **7:15 – 7:20 PM**

Mike Concannon, CH2M HILL

**PRESENTATIONS**

- **Scoping Process** — **7:20 –7:30 PM**

  Mike Concannon, CH2M HILL

- **Project Overview** — **7:30 – 7:45 PM**

  Steve Knell, Imperial Irrigation District
  William Rinne, U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

**PUBLIC COMMENTS** — **7:50 – 9:00 PM**

Mike Concannon, CH2M HILL

**CLOSING** — **9:00 PM**

# Project Schedule

# IID/SDCWA Water Conservation and Transfer Project

## Preliminary EIR/EIS Schedule

- Issue NOP/NOI.....9/27/99
- Scoping Meetings.....10/12/99 -10/20/99
- Close of NOP/NOI Comment Period..10/27/99
- Alternatives Development.....10/99 - 6/00
- Issue Draft EIR/EIS.....9/00
- Close of EIR/EIS Comment Period....11/00
- Issue Final EIR/EIS.....3/01
- Issue Record of Decision.....9/01

# English and Spanish NOI/NOP

SCO/LAW2028.DOC/003670510
02/07/00

**4310-94P**

**Department of the Interior**

**Bureau of Reclamation**

**Imperial Irrigation District/San Diego County Water Authority Water Conservation and Transfer Project**

**Agency:** Bureau of Reclamation, Interior

**Action:** Notice of Intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR)/ Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and notice of public scoping meetings on the Imperial Irrigation District/San Diego County Water Authority Water Conservation and Transfer Project.

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**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to section 102 (2) (c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the State of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and Imperial Irrigation District (IID or District) will prepare a joint EIR/EIS to assess the impacts of the proposed IID/San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA) Water Conservation and Transfer Project. The proposed project consists of the conservation by IID of up to 300,000 acre-feet of Colorado River water per year (af/yr), and the subsequent transfer of all or a portion of the diverted water to the SDCWA and, under certain circumstances, other designees. IID and Reclamation are holding public scoping meetings soliciting input from the public on the types of issues and extent of analysis that should be contained in the EIR/EIS.

**DATES:** Written comments on the NOI will be accepted until October 25, 1999. Public scoping meetings will be held at the following locations (both written and oral comments will be accepted at the public scoping meetings):

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1) | Northern Imperial Valley | Elks Lodge #1420<br>161 South Plaza<br>Brawley, CA 92227<br>Tuesday, October 12, 1999<br>7 PM to 9 PM |
| 2) | Salton Sea Area | Salton Sea Community Service District<br>2098 Frontage Road<br>Salton City, CA 92275<br>Wednesday, October 13, 1999<br>7 PM to 9 PM |
| 3) | Southern Imperial Valley | IID Board Room<br>1285 Broadway<br>El Centro, CA 92243<br>Thursday, October 14, 1999<br>7 PM to 9 PM |
| 4) | Lower Colorado River Region | Clark County Library<br>1401 East Flamingo Road<br>Las Vegas, NV 89119<br>Monday, October 18, 1999<br>7 PM to 9 PM |

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 5) | Northern San Diego County | Carlsbad Senior Center<br>799 Pine Avenue<br>Carlsbad, CA 92008<br>Tuesday, October 19, 1999<br>7 PM to 9 PM |
| 6) | Southern San Diego County | SDCWA Building<br>3211 Fifth Avenue<br>San Diego, CA 92103<br>Wednesday, October 20, 1999<br>7 PM to 9 PM |

Hearing impaired, visually impaired, and/or mobility impaired persons planning to attend the meeting(s) may arrange for necessary accommodations by calling Ms. Molly Sweat at (702) 293-8415 no later than September 27, 1999.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments should be sent to:

Bureau of Reclamation
Lower Colorado River Region, Boulder Canyon Operations Office
P.O. Box 61470
Boulder City, NV 89006-1470
Attn: William Rinne, BC-00-1000

or to:

Imperial Irrigation District
333 East Barioni Boulevard
P.O. Box 937
Imperial CA, 92251
Attn: Steven R. Knell

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. William Rinne, at the Bureau of Reclamation (702) 293-8414; or Mr. Steven Knell, Special Projects Coordinator, Imperial Irrigation District, at (760) 339-9266. Further information can also be obtained on the website at http://www.is.ch2m.com/iidweb.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** IID was organized in 1911 to deliver Colorado River water to lands within the Imperial Valley, California for agricultural, domestic, industrial, and other beneficial uses. Water is diverted via the All American Canal and flows through the Colorado River at Imperial Dam based upon water rights obtained prior to the beginning of this century under state law, pursuant to a 1932 water delivery contract for permanent service, for potable and irrigation purposes within the boundaries of the District, with the Secretary of the Interior under the Boulder Canyon Project Act of 1928 [45 Stat. 1057, as amended, 43 U.S.C. 617 et seq.], and pursuant to appropriations applications filed with the state between 1933 and 1936. Water flows through the Imperial Valley in a complex system of delivery canals, laterals, and drains serving over 450,000 acres of some of the most intensively farmed land in the nation. Agricultural drainage water flows into the New and Alamo Rivers and into the Salton Sea, a designated reservoir for irrigation drainage.

IID seeks to develop a long-term program for the conservation of up to 300,000 af/yr. IID proposes to transfer all or a portion of the conserved water to SDCWA and, under certain circumstances, other designees for beneficial use and to meet current and projected water

supply needs. The proposed conservation program would include the participation of Imperial Valley landowners and tenants in order to implement on-farm conservation methods, such as improved or alternative water management techniques and revised irrigation methods. The program may also include system-based conservation methods implemented by IID, which improve distribution and drainage facilities.

IID intends that the transferred water will retain IID's priority among Colorado River water users and that the transfer will not affect IID's historic water rights. IID, the Department of Interior, and other potentially affected water rights holders are engaged in quantification discussions regarding Colorado River water.

On April 29, 1998, IID and SDCWA executed an Agreement for Transfer of Conserved Water (Agreement). The Agreement provides parameters for the water conservation and transfer transaction. The Agreement calls for IID to conserve and transfer an annual amount of water (the "primary" transfer) not to exceed 20,000 af in the first year. The primary transfer would increase in quantity in subsequent years until a stabilized annual primary quantity is established by IID, which shall be not less than 130,000 af/yr or more than 200,000 af/yr. After at least 10 years of primary transfers, an additional discretionary component not to exceed 100,000 af/yr may be transferred to SDCWA or, at IID's option, to the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California or Coachella Valley Water District in connection with the settlement of water rights disputes between IID and these agencies. The initial term of the project is 45 years after transfers first commence. Each party has the option to extend the term for an additional 30 years.

The Water Conservation and Transfer Project is the result of a collaboration between IID and SDCWA. The purpose and need for the proposed project is to advance objectives of both agencies, consistent with the Law of the River for the Colorado River, relating to water availability and management. IID has identified specific objectives for the proposed project. The District proposes to sell the conserved water in a market-based transaction in order to provide IID with sufficient funds to implement a water conservation program, including the cost of on-farm and system improvements, environmental mitigation costs, and other implementation costs. IID intends to implement a conservation program which includes participation of Imperial Valley landowners and tenants so that on-farm, in addition to system-based conservation methods, can be implemented efficiently. IID seeks to maintain its historic senior priority water rights in a manner consistent with state and federal law during project implementation and operation. Additional IID objectives include providing an economic stimulus to Imperial Valley's agricultural economy and the surrounding community and lessen increased demand for water for southern California from the State Water Project.

SDCWA has also identified specific project objectives. SDCWA seeks to acquire an independent, reliable alternate long-term water supply to provide drought protection and to accommodate current and projected demand for municipal, domestic, and agricultural water uses. In order to enhance the reliability of its water supply, SDCWA intends to diversify its sources of water supply and decrease its current dependence on a single source. Through the establishment of a stabilized source, SDCWA seeks to pay a fair, competitive price for its water supply and in the process lessen increased demand for water for southern California from the State Water Project.

A water transfer from IID to SDCWA is a key element of the "California Plan" which is being developed by the Colorado River Board of California and the California State Department of Water Resources, at the request of the Secretary of the Interior and the other Colorado River basin states. This Plan is intended to address the need for California to reduce its reliance on Colorado River water to its legal entitlement of 4.4 million acre-feet of Colorado River water.

California currently is diverting approximately 5.2 million acre-feet of Colorado River water per year.

Implementation of the proposed project will require certain state approvals, including approval by the State Water Resources Control Board and compliance with CEQA and the California Endangered Species Act. Implementation will also require certain federal approvals, including approval of the proposed transfer between IID and SDCWA, compliance with NEPA, the federal Endangered Species Act and other related federal environmental laws, statutes, Executive Orders, and regulations. Reclamation will act as the federal lead agency pursuant to NEPA because certain actions taken to facilitate the transfer will require approval by the Secretary of the Interior. Such actions could potentially include amendments to IID's contract with the Secretary, change in the point of diversion of Colorado River water, change in type of use, change in place of use, verification or concurrence in the amount of water conserved by this Project, and verification of beneficial use of Colorado River water. Reclamation is therefore seeking comments from the public on the scope of the issues and extent of analysis that should be evaluated in the EIR/EIS.

Additional information can be obtained from the project website at http:// www.is.ch2m.com/iidweb.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

The EIR/EIS will evaluate other feasible project alternatives, including a range of alternative conservation measures, water supply and transfer alternatives, and various alternative measures in addition to the No Project/No Action Alternative.

Potential water supply alternatives that will be considered in the EIR/EIS include the following:

- Additional water conservation in the San Diego service area
- Additional water repurification and recycling
- Desalination
- Additional water transfers from Northern California
- Transfer of water conserved in another agricultural region with conveyance through the State Water Project and Metropolitan Water District system

**POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS:**

The full range of environmental impacts has not been quantified temporally and spatially. Until specific conservation alternatives have been developed, potential environmental effects could include the following:

Lower Colorado River Area

- Reduction in Colorado River water flows between Parker and Imperial Dams
- Impacts to Colorado River water quality
- Impacts to wildlife, protected species and their habitats
- Cumulative impacts to water quality

San Diego County

- Growth-inducing impacts

Salton Sea

- Effects on water levels, salinity, and water quality
- Effects on fisheries habitat
- Impacts to wildlife, protected species and their habitats
- Impacts to recreational uses

Imperial Valley

- Impacts to water flow and quality
- Effects on selenium, boron, and pesticide concentrations
- Impacts to wildlife, protected species and their habitats
- Socio-economic impacts
- Air quality impacts

The draft EIR/EIS is expected to be completed by a target date of April 3, 2000. Availability of the draft EIR/EIS for public review and comment will be announced and noticed in the local media and by a Federal Register Notice.

_____
Date

_____
Steven Richardson, Chief of Staff
Bureau of Reclamation

**4310-94P**

**Ministerio del Interior**

**Oficina de Recuperación**

**Proyecto de Conservación y Traspaso de Aguas del Distrito de Irrigación Imperial / Dirección de Aguas del Condado de San Diego**

**Oficina:** Oficina de Recuperación, Interior

**Acción:** Notificación de Intención de preparar un Informe de Impacto Ambiental / Declaración de Impacto Ambiental y notificación de reuniones públicas de evaluación del Proyecto de Conservación y Traspaso de Aguas del Distrito de Irrigación Imperial / Dirección de Aguas del Condado de San Diego.

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**RESUMEN:** En conformidad con la sección 102 (2) (c) de la Ley Nacional de Política Ambiental [NEPA por sus siglas en inglés de National Environmental Policy Act] y con la Ley de la Calidad Ambiental del Estado de California [CEQA por sus siglas en inglés de State of California Environmental Quality Act], la Oficina de Recuperación (Recuperación) y el Distrito de Irrigación Imperial (IID o Distrito) en conjunto prepararán un Informe de Impacto Ambiental (EIR) / Declaración de Impacto Ambiental (EIS) para evaluar los impactos del Proyecto de Conservación y Traspaso de Aguas del Distrito de Irrigación Imperial / Dirección de Aguas del Condado de San Diego (SDCWA). El proyecto propuesto consiste en la conservación de hasta 300.000 pies – acres de aguas provenientes del Río Colorado anualmente (ap/año) por parte del Distrito de Irrigación Imperial, y el posterior traspaso de todas o una porción de las aguas derivadas a la Dirección de Aguas del Condado de San Diego y, bajo ciertas circunstancias, a otros destinatarios. El Distrito de Irrigación Imperial y la Oficina de Recuperación están llevando a cabo reuniones públicas de evaluación en las cuales se solicitan comentarios por parte del público sobre el tipo de consideraciones y el alcance del análisis que se deberá considerar en el Informe de Impacto Ambiental / Declaración de Impacto Ambiental.

**FECHAS:** Los comentarios por escrito sobre la Notificación de la Intención se aceptarán hasta el 25 de octubre de 1999. Se realizarán reuniones públicas de evaluación en las siguientes localidades (en estas reuniones públicas se aceptarán tanto comentarios por escrito como orales):

1) Valle Imperial Norte

Elks Lodge #1420
161 South Plaza
Brawley, CA 92227
Martes, 12 de octubre de 1999
7 PM a 9 PM

2) Area del Mar de Salton

Distrito de Servicio Comunitario de Salton Sea
2098 Frontage Road
Salton City, CA 92275
Miércoles, 13 de octubre de 1999
7 PM a 9 PM

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 3) | Valle Imperial Sur | Sala de Directorio del Distrito de Irrigación Imperial<br>1285 Broadway<br>El Centro, CA 92243<br>Jueves, 14 de octubre de 1999<br>7 PM a 9 PM |
| 4) | Región del Bajo Río Colorado | Biblioteca del Condado de Clark<br>1401 East Flamingo Road<br>Las Vegas, NV 89119<br>Lunes, 18 de octubre de 1999<br>7 PM a 9 PM |
| 5) | Condado de San Diego Norte | Centro del Adulto Mayor Carlsbad<br>799 Pine Avenue<br>Carlsbad, CA 92008<br>Martes, 19 de octubre de 1999<br>7 PM a 9 PM |
| 6) | Condado de San Diego Sur | Edificio de la Dirección de Aguas del Condado de San Diego<br>3211 Fifth Avenue<br>San Diego, CA 92103<br>Miércoles, 20 de octubre de 1999<br>7 PM a 9 PM |

Las personas con algún trastorno auditivo, visual, y/o de movilidad física que tengan intención de asistir a la(s) reunión(es) pueden hacer los arreglos necesarios llamando a la Sra. Molly Sweat al (702) 293-8415 antes del 27 de septiembre de 1999.

**DIRECCIONES:** Los documentos con comentarios deben ser remitidos por escrito a:

Oficina de Recuperación
Región del Bajo Río Colorado, Oficina de Operaciones del Cañón de Boulder
P.O. Box 61470
Boulder City, NV, 89006-1470
Atención: William Rinne, BC-00-1000

o a:

Distrito de Irrigación Imperial
333 East Barioni Boulevard
P.O. Box 937
Imperial, CA 92251
Atención: Steven R. Knell

**PARA MAYOR INFORMACION COMUNICARSE CON:** El Sr. William Rinne, en la Oficina de Recuperación (702) 293-8414; o el Sr. Steve Knell, Coordinador de Proyectos Especiales, Distrito de Irrigación Imperial, al (760) 339-9266. También se puede obtener mayor información en el sitio web http://www.is.ch2m.com/iidweb.

**INFORMACION COMPLEMENTARIA:** El Distrito de Irrigación Imperial fue fundado en 1911 para entregar las aguas del Río Colorado a las tierras dentro del Valle Imperial en California, para el uso agrícola, doméstico, industrial y otros usos de índole productivo. Las aguas se desvían por el All American Canal y fluyen a través del Río Colorado en el Embalse Imperial

con fundamento en derechos de aguas obtenidos antes del comienzo del presente siglo bajo las leyes estatales en conformidad con un contrato de servicio permanente de suministro de aguas, para efectos de agua potable y de irrigación dentro de los límites del Distrito, formalizado con el Secretario del Interior en 1932 de acuerdo a lo previsto por la Ley del Proyecto del Cañón de Boulder de 1928 [45 Stat. 1057, según enmienda, 43 U.S.C 617 et seq.] y en conformidad con las expropiaciones registradas en el estado entre 1933 y 1936. Las aguas fluyen a través del Valle Imperial en un complejo sistema de canales de distribución, laterales y canales de desagüe que abastecen más de 450.000 acres de las tierras agrícolas más intensamente cultivadas en el país. Las aguas de desagüe agrícola fluyen a los Ríos New y Alamo y al Mar de Salton, un embalse designado para el acopio de las aguas de desagüe irrigación.

El Distrito de Irrigación Imperial intenta se propone desarrollar un programa a largo plazo para la conservación de hasta 300,000 ap/año. El Distrito de Irrigación Imperial propone el traspaso de todas o de una porción de las aguas conservadas a la Dirección de Aguas del Condado de San Diego y, bajo ciertas circunstancias, a otros destinatarios para su uso productivo y para satisfacer sus necesidades de suministro de agua actuales y futuras. El programa de conservación propuesto incluirá la participación de los propietarios y arrendatarios de tierras en el Valle Imperial a fin de implementar métodos de conservación en terreno, tales como técnicas de aprovechamiento de aguas mejoradas o alternativas y métodos de riego corregidos. El programa podría también incluir métodos de conservación basados en sistemas implementados por el Distrito de Irrigación Imperial, los cuales mejoran las instalaciones de distribución y de desagüe.

La intención del Distrito de Irrigación Imperial es que se mantenga la prioridad del Distrito de Irrigación Imperial sobre las aguas traspasadas entre los usuarios de las aguas del Río Colorado y que el traspaso no afecte los derechos de aguas históricos del Distrito de Irrigación Imperial. El Distrito de Irrigación Imperial, el Ministerio del Interior, y otros propietarios de derechos de aguas potencialmente afectados se encuentran participando en conversaciones para cuantificar las aguas del Río Colorado.

El 29 de abril de 1998 el Distrito de Irrigación Imperial y la Dirección de Aguas del Condado de San Diego celebraron un Acuerdo para el Traspaso de las Aguas Conservadas (Acuerdo). Este Acuerdo proporciona los parámetros para la conservación de las aguas y la transacción del traspaso. El Acuerdo estipula que el Distrito de Irrigación Imperial conservará y traspasará una cantidad anual de agua (el traspaso "primario") que no deberá exceder los 20,000 ap durante el primer año. El traspaso primario aumentará en cantidad en los años posteriores hasta que el Distrito de Irrigación Imperial establezca una cantidad primaria anual estable, la cual no será menor a los 130,000 ap/año o mayor a los 200,000 ap/año. Luego de por lo menos 10 años de traspasos primarios, un componente adicional a discreción que no excederá los 100,000 ap/año podrá ser traspasado a la Dirección de Aguas del Condado de San Diego o, a elección del Distrito de Irrigación Imperial, al Distrito Metropolitano de Aguas del Sur de California o al Distrito de Aguas del Valle de Coachella en conexión con la componenda de las disputas por derechos de aguas entre el Distrito de Irrigación Imperial y estos organismos. El plazo inicial del proyecto es de 45 años después del inicio del primer traspaso. Cada una de las partes tiene la opción de extender el plazo por 30 años adicionales.

El Proyecto de Conservación y Traspaso de Aguas es el resultado de un esfuerzo de colaboración entre el Distrito de Irrigación Imperial y la Dirección de Aguas del Condado de San Diego. El propósito y la necesidad del proyecto propuesto es promover los objetivos de ambas entidades, en conformidad con la Ley del Río para el Río Colorado, en relación con la disponibilidad y el aprovechamiento de las aguas. El Distrito de Irrigación Imperial ha

identificado objetivos específicos para el proyecto propuesto. El Distrito propone vender las aguas conservadas en una transacción de mercado a fin de proporcionar al Distrito de Irrigación Imperial los fondos suficientes para implementar un programa de conservación de aguas, incluyendo el costo de las mejoras en terreno y de los sistemas, los costos de mitigación del impacto ambiental y otros costos de implementación. El Distrito de Irrigación Imperial pretende implementar un programa de conservación que incluye la participación de los propietarios y arrendatarios de tierras en el Valle Imperial para poder implementar eficientemente los métodos de conservación en terreno así como los basados en sistemas. El Distrito de Irrigación Imperial busca mantener su prioridad por antigüedad histórica sobre sus derechos de aguas de una manera consistente con la legislación federal y estatal durante la implementación y operación del proyecto. Algunos objetivos adicionales del Distrito de Irrigación Imperial incluyen entregar un estímulo económico a la economía agrícola del Valle Imperial y comunidades adyacentes y aminorar al aumento de la demanda de aguas desde el Sur de California debido al Proyecto de Aguas del Estado.

La Dirección de Aguas del Condado de San Diego también ha identificado objetivos específicos para el proyecto. La Dirección de Aguas del Condado de San Diego busca adquirir un suministro de agua alterno a largo plazo, independiente y confiable para proporcionar protección contra las sequías y para satisfacer la demanda actual y proyectada de agua para usos municipales, domésticos y agrícolas. Para poder mejorar la confiabilidad de su suministro de agua, la Dirección de Aguas del Condado de San Diego pretende diversificar sus fuentes de suministro de agua y reducir su actual dependencia de una sola fuente. Mediante el establecimiento de una fuente estable, la Dirección de Aguas del Condado de San Diego busca pagar un precio justo y competitivo por su suministro de agua y en el proceso reducir el aumento en la demanda de agua desde el Sur de California debido al Proyecto de Aguas del Estado.

El traspaso de aguas desde el Distrito de Irrigación Imperial a la Dirección de Aguas del Condado de San Diego es un elemento clave del "Plan de California" el cual está siendo desarrollado por el Consejo del Río Colorado de California y el Departamento de Recursos Hídricos del Estado de California, a pedido del Secretario del Interior y los otros estados en la cuenca del Río Colorado. Este Plan está enfocado hacia la necesidad de que California reduzca su dependencia de las aguas del Río Colorado a su derecho legal de 4.4 millones de pies – acres de aguas del Río Colorado. Actualmente, California esta desviando aproximadamente 5.2 millones de pies - acres de aguas del Río Colorado por año.

La implementación del proyecto propuesto requerirá ciertas aprobaciones por parte de las autoridades del estado, incluyendo la aprobación por parte del Consejo del Control de los Recursos Hídricos del Estado y el cumplimiento con la Ley de la Calidad Ambiental del Estado de California y la Ley de California para la Protección de Especies en Peligro. La implementación también requerirá ciertas aprobaciones federales, incluyendo la aprobación del traspaso propuesto entre el Distrito de Irrigación Imperial y la Dirección de Aguas del Condado de San Diego, el cumplimiento con la Ley Nacional de Política Ambiental, la Ley Federal para la Protección de las Especies en Peligro y otras leyes, estatutos, Decretos Presidenciales y normativas ambientales federales relacionadas. La Oficina de Recuperación actuará como la principal entidad federal en conformidad con la Ley Nacional de Política Ambiental debido a que ciertas acciones a emprender para facilitar el traspaso requerirán la aprobación por parte del Secretario del Interior. Dichas acciones podrían incluir enmiendas al Contrato entre el Distrito de Irrigación Imperial y el Secretario del Interior, el cambio en el punto de desviación de las aguas del Río Colorado, el cambio en el tipo de uso, cambios en el lugar de uso, verificación o concurrencia en el caudal de aguas conservadas por este Proyecto y verificación del uso productivo de las aguas del Río Colorado. La Oficina de Recuperación, por lo tanto, solicita

comentarios por parte del público sobre el alcance de los temas y la extensión del análisis que debiera ser evaluado en el Informe de Impacto Ambiental / Declaración de Impacto Ambiental.

Se puede obtener información adicional en el sitio web del proyecto en: http:// www.is.ch2m.com/iidweb.

**ALTERNATIVAS:**
El Informe de Impacto Ambiental / Declaración de Impacto Ambiental evaluará otras alternativas factibles para el proyecto, incluyendo una variedad de medidas de conservación alternativas, alternativas de suministro y traspaso de aguas y varias medidas alternativas además de la Alternativa de Ningún Proyecto / Ninguna Acción.

Las alternativas potenciales de suministro de agua que serán consideradas en el Informe de Impacto Ambiental / Declaración de Impacto Ambiental incluyen las siguientes:

- Una conservación adicional de agua en el área de servicio de San Diego
- Repurificación y reciclado adicional del agua
- Desalinización
- Traspasos adicionales de aguas desde el Norte de California
- Traspaso de aguas conservadas en otra región agrícola con transporte a través del Proyecto Estatal de Aguas y el sistema de Distrito Metropolitano de Aguas.

**EFECTOS AMBIENTALES POTENCIALES:**

La gama completa de impactos ambientales no ha sido cuantificada en términos temporales y espaciales. Hasta que no se hayan desarrollado alternativas específicas de conservación, los efectos ambientales potenciales podrían incluir los siguientes:

Area del Bajo Río Colorado

- Reducción en el caudal de las aguas del Río Colorado entre los Embalses Parker e Imperial.
- Impacto sobre la calidad de las aguas del Río Colorado
- Impacto sobre la vida silvestre, sobre las especies protegidas y sobre sus hábitats
- Impacto acumulativo sobre la calidad del agua

Condado de San Diego

- Impactos que promueven el crecimiento

Mar de Salton

- Efectos sobre los niveles, salinidad y calidad de las aguas
- Efectos sobre el hábitat de los bancos de peces
- Impacto sobre la vida silvestre, sobre las especies protegidas y sobre sus hábitats
- Impacto sobre las áreas de recreación

Valle Imperial

- Impacto sobre el caudal y calidad de las aguas
- Efectos de la concentración de selenio, boro y pesticidas
- Impacto sobre la vida silvestre, a las especies protegidas y a sus hábitats
- Impactos socioeconómicos
- Impactos sobre la calidad del aire

El borrador del Informe de Impacto Ambiental / Declaración de Impacto Ambiental estará listo para una fecha límite del 3 de abril del año 2000. La disponibilidad del borrador del Informe de Impacto Ambiental / Declaración de Impacto Ambiental para evaluación y comentarios por parte del público será anunciado y notificado en los medios locales y mediante Publicación en el Diario Oficial.

_____

Fecha

_____

Steven Richardson, Jefe de Gabinete

Oficina de Recuperación

**Notice of Preparation**
**Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement**
**for the IID/San Diego County Water Authority**
**Water Conservation and Transfer Project,**
**Imperial Irrigation District, Imperial, California**

**To:**
**State of California**
**State Clearinghouse**
**Office of Planning and Research**
**1400 10th Street, Room 121**
**Sacramento, CA 95814**

**From:**
**Imperial Irrigation District**
**333 East Barioni Blvd.**
**P.O. Box 937**
**Imperial, CA 92251**

## INTRODUCTION:

Pursuant to section 102 (2) (c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the State of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and Imperial Irrigation District (IID or District) will prepare a joint Environmental Impact Report (EIR)/Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to assess the impacts of the proposed IID/San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA) Water Conservation and Transfer Project. The proposed project consists of the conservation by IID of up to 300,000 acre-feet of Colorado River water per year (af/yr), and the subsequent transfer of all or a portion of the diverted water to the SDCWA and, under certain circumstances, other designees (See Map). IID and Reclamation are holding public scoping meetings soliciting input from the public on the types of issues and extent of analysis that should be contained in the EIR/EIS.

Reclamation will serve as the Federal lead agency for the preparation of the EIR/EIS under NEPA. IID is the Lead Agency for CEQA purposes. As required by Section 15082 of the CEQA Guidelines, IID is submitting this Notice of Preparation (NOP) to responsible agencies, trustee agencies, other key agencies, private organizations, and individuals. The draft EIR/EIS is expected to be completed by a target date of April 3, 2000. Availability of the draft EIR/EIS for public review and comment will be announced and noticed in the local media.

## DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT:

IID was organized in 1911 to deliver Colorado River water to lands within the Imperial Valley, California for agricultural, domestic, industrial, and other beneficial uses. Water is delivered via the All American Canal and flows through the Colorado River at Imperial Dam based upon water rights obtained prior to the beginning of this century under state law, pursuant to a 1932 water delivery contract for permanent service, for potable and irrigation purposes within the boundaries of the District, with the Secretary of the Interior under the Boulder Canyon Project Act of 1928 [45 Stat. 1057, as amended, 43 U.S.C. 617 et seq.], and pursuant to appropriations applications filed with the state between 1933 and 1936. Water flows through the Imperial Valley in a complex system of delivery canals, laterals, and drains serving over 450,000 acres of some of the most intensively farmed land in the nation. Agricultural drainage water flows into the New and Alamo Rivers and into the Salton Sea, a designated reservoir for irrigation drainage.

IID seeks to develop a long-term program for the conservation of up to 300,000 af/yr. IID proposes to transfer all or a portion of the conserved water to SDCWA and, under certain circumstances, other designees for beneficial use and to meet current and projected water supply needs. The proposed conservation program will include the participation of Imperial

Valley landowners and tenants in order to implement on-farm conservation methods, such as improved or alternative water management techniques and revised irrigation methods. The program may also include system-based conservation methods implemented by IID, which improve distribution and drainage facilities.

IID intends that the transferred water will retain IID's priority among Colorado River water users and that the transfer will not affect IID's historic water rights. IID, the Department of Interior, and other potentially affected water rights holders are engaged in quantification discussions regarding Colorado River water.

On April 29, 1998, IID and SDCWA executed an Agreement for Transfer of Conserved Water (Agreement). The Agreement provides parameters for the water conservation and transfer transaction. The Agreement calls for IID to conserve and transfer an annual amount of water (the "primary" transfer) not to exceed 20,000 af in the first year. The primary transfer would increase in quantity in subsequent years until a stabilized annual primary quantity is established by IID, which shall be not less than 130,000 af/yr or more than 200,000 af/yr. After at least 10 years of primary transfers, an additional discretionary component not to exceed 100,000 af/yr may be transferred to SDCWA or, at IID's option, to the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California or Coachella Valley Water District in connection with the settlement of water rights disputes between IID and these agencies. The initial term of the project is 45 years after transfers first commence. Each party has the option to extend the term for an additional 30 years.

The Water Conservation and Transfer Project is the result of a collaboration between IID and SDCWA. The purpose and need for the proposed project is to advance objectives of both agencies, consistent with the Law of the River for the Colorado River, relating to water availability and management. IID has identified specific objectives for the proposed project. The District proposes to sell the conserved water in a market-based transaction in order to provide IID with sufficient funds to implement a water conservation program, including the cost of on-farm and system improvements, environmental mitigation costs, and other implementation costs. IID intends to implement a conservation program which includes participation of Imperial Valley landowners and tenants so that on-farm, in addition to system-based conservation methods, can be implemented efficiently. IID seeks to maintain its historic senior priority water rights in a manner consistent with state and federal law during project implementation and operation. Additional IID objectives include providing an economic stimulus to Imperial Valley's agricultural economy and the surrounding community and lessen increased demand for water for southern California from the State Water Project.

SDCWA has also identified specific project objectives. SDCWA seeks to acquire an independent, reliable alternate long-term water supply to provide drought protection and to accommodate current and projected demand for municipal, domestic, and agricultural water uses. In order to enhance the reliability of its water supply, SDCWA intends to diversify its sources of water supply and decrease its current dependence on a single source. Through the establishment of a stabilized source, SDCWA seeks to pay a fair, competitive price for its water supply and in the process lessen increased demand for water for southern California from the State Water Project.

A water transfer from IID to SDCWA is a key element of the "California Plan" which is being developed by the Colorado River Board of California and the California State Department of Water Resources, at the request of the Secretary of the Interior and the other Colorado River basin states. This Plan is intended to address the need for California reduce its reliance on Colorado River water to its legal entitlement of 4.4 million acre-feet of Colorado River water.

California currently is diverting approximately 5.2 million acre-feet of Colorado River water per year.

Implementation of the proposed project will require certain state approvals, including approval by the State Water Resources Control Board and compliance with CEQA and the California Endangered Species Act. Implementation will also require certain federal approvals, including approval of the proposed transfer between IID and SDCWA, compliance with NEPA, the federal Endangered Species Act and other related federal environmental laws, statutes, Executive Orders, and regulations. Reclamation will act as the federal lead agency pursuant to NEPA because certain actions taken to facilitate the transfer will require approval by the Secretary of the Interior. Such actions could potentially include amendments to IID's contract with the Secretary, change in point of diversion of Colorado River water, change in type of use, change in place of use, verification or concurrence in the amount of water conserved by this Project, and verification of beneficial use of Colorado River water. Reclamation is therefore seeking comments from the comments from the public on the scope of issues and extent of analysis that should be evaluated in this EIR/EIS.

Additional information can be obtained from the project website at http://www.is.ch2m.com/iidweb.

**ALTERNATIVES:**

The EIR/EIS will evaluate other feasible project alternatives, including a range of alternative conservation measures, water supply and transfer alternatives, and various alternative measures in addition to the No Project/No Action Alternative.

Potential water supply alternatives that will be considered in the EIR/EIS include the following:

- Additional water conservation in the San Diego service area
- Additional water repurification and recycling
- Desalination
- Additional water transfers from Northern California
- Transfer of water conserved in another agricultural region with conveyance through the State Water Project and Metropolitan Water District system

**POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL EFFECTS:**

The full range of environmental impacts has not been quantified temporally and spatially. Until specific conservation alternatives have been developed, potential environmental effects could include the following:

Lower Colorado River Area

- Reduction in Colorado River water flows between Parker and Imperial Dams
- Impacts to Colorado River water quality
- Impacts to wildlife, protected species and their habitats
- Cumulative impacts to water quality

San Diego County

- Growth-inducing impacts

Salton Sea

- Effects on water levels, salinty, and water quality
- Effects on fisheries habitat
- Impacts to wildlife, protected species and their habitats
- Impacts to recreational uses

Imperial Valley

- Impacts to water flow and quality
- Effects on selenium, boron, and pesticide concentrations
- Impacts to wildlife, protected species and their habitats
- Socio-economic impacts
- Air quality impacts

**PUBLIC AGENCY AND SCOPING MEETINGS:**

Six public scoping meetings will be held to discuss the project and scope of the EIR/EIS. The purpose of these meetings is to identify issues that should be addressed in the EIR/EIS. The public meetings will be open to all interested members of the public, and both written and oral comments will be accepted at the meetings. These scoping meetings will be held at the following locations and times:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1) | Northern Imperial Valley | Elks Lodge #1420<br>161 South Plaza<br>Brawley, CA 92227<br>Tuesday, October 12, 1999<br>7 PM to 9 PM |
| 2) | Salton Sea Area | Salton Sea Community Service District<br>2098 Frontage Road<br>Salton City, CA 92275<br>Wednesday, October 13, 1999<br>7 PM to 9 PM |
| 3) | Southern Imperial Valley | IID Board Room<br>1285 Broadway<br>El Centro, CA 92243<br>Thursday, October 14, 1999<br>7 PM to 9 PM |
| 4) | Lower Colorado River Region | Clark County Library<br>1401 East Flamingo Road<br>Las Vegas, NV 89119<br>Monday, October 18, 1999<br>7 PM to 9 PM |
| 5) | Northern San Diego County | Carlsbad Senior Center<br>799 Pine Avenue<br>Carlsbad, CA 92008<br>Tuesday, October 19, 1999<br>7 PM to 9 PM |

6) Southern San Diego County

SDCWA Building
3211 Fifth Avenue
San Diego, CA 92103
Wednesday, October 20, 1999
7 PM to 9 PM

Hearing impaired, visually impaired, and/or mobility impaired persons planning to attend the meeting(s) may arrange for necessary accommodations by calling Ms. Molly Sweat at (702) 293-8415 no later than September 27, 1999.

A public involvement program has been initiated and will be implemented throughout the EIR/EIS process. The goal is to keep the public and affected parties informed and actively involved in the environmental assessment of the project.

**RESPONSES TO NOTICE:**

In responding to this NOP, responsible agencies and other agencies having jurisdiction over the project or natural resources that may be affected by the project are requested to provide specific detail as to the scope and content of the environmental information related to that agency's statutory responsibilities which should be included in the draft EIR/EIS. Responding agencies are also asked to provide any quantitative, qualitative, or performance standards applicable to project activities that will be subject to review and/or approval of the responding agency. This information will be used to assist in the development of thresholds of significance to be used to evaluate the significance of environmental effects and in the development of mitigation measures to address any significant impacts. Responding agencies should identify a contact person for their agency.

Responses to this notice must be received no later than October 25, 1999. Please send your written comments or questions to:

Mr. Steven R. Knell
Special Projects Coordinator, Imperial Irrigation District
333 E. Barioni Boulevard.
P.O. Box 937
Imperial, CA 92251
(760) 339-9266

**Notificación de Preparación de**
**Informe de Impacto Ambiental / Declaración de Impacto Ambiental para el Distrito de Irrigación Imperial / Dirección de Aguas del Condado de San Diego, Proyecto de Conservación y Traspaso de Aguas, Distrito de Irrigación Imperial, Imperial, California**

**Para:**
**Estado de California**
**Centro de Distribución del Estado**
**Oficina de Planificación e Investigación**
**1400 10th Street, Oficina 121**
**Sacramento, CA 95814**

**De:**
**Distrito de Irrigación Imperial**
**333 E. Barioni Blvd.**
**P.O. Box 937**
**Imperial, CA 92251**

## INTRODUCCION:

En conformidad con la sección 102 (2) (c) de la Ley Nacional de Política Ambiental [NEPA por sus siglas en inglés de National Environmental Policy Act] y con la Ley de la Calidad Ambiental del Estado de California [CEQA por sus siglas en inglés de State of California Environmental Quality Act], la Oficina de Recuperación (Recuperación) y el Distrito de Irrigación Imperial (IID o Distrito) en conjunto prepararán un Informe de Impacto Ambiental (EIR) / Declaración de Impacto Ambiental (EIS) para evaluar los impactos del Proyecto de Conservación y Traspaso de Aguas del IID/Dirección de Aguas del Condado de San Diego (SDCWA). El proyecto propuesto consiste en la conservación de hasta 300.000 pies – acres de aguas provenientes del Río Colorado anualmente (ap/año) por parte del Distrito de Irrigación Imperial, y el posterior traspaso de todas o una porción de las aguas derivadas a la Dirección de Aguas del Condado de San Diego y, bajo ciertas circunstancias, a otros destinatarios (Ver Mapa). El Distrito de Irrigación Imperial y la Oficina de Recuperaciones están llevando a cabo reuniones públicas de evaluación en las cuales se solicitan comentarios por parte del público sobre el tipo de consideraciones y el alcance del análisis que se deberá considerar en el Informe de Impacto Ambiental / Declaración de Impacto Ambiental.

La Oficina de Recuperación actuará como la principal agencia Federal en la preparación del Informe de Impacto Ambiental / Declaración de Impacto Ambiental bajo la Ley Nacional de Política Ambiental. El Distrito de Irrigación Imperial es la Agencia Principal en relación a la Ley de la Calidad Ambiental del Estado de California. En conformidad con los requisitos de la Sección 15082 de las Normas de la Ley de la Calidad Ambiental del Estado de California, el Distrito de Irrigación Imperial está presentando esta Notificación de Preparación [NOP por sus siglas en inglés de Notice of Preparation] a las entidades responsables, entidades fiduciarias, otras entidades clave, organizaciones del sector privado y a individuos. El borrador del Informe de Impacto Ambiental / Declaración de Impacto Ambiental estará listo para una fecha límite del 3 de abril del año 2000. La disponibilidad del borrador del Informe de Impacto Ambiental / Declaración de Impacto Ambiental para evaluación y comentarios por parte del público será anunciado y notificado en los medios de comunicación locales.

## DESCRIPCIÓN DEL PROYECTO PROPUESTO:

El Distrito de Irrigación Imperial fue fundado en 1911 para entregar las aguas del Río Colorado a las tierras dentro del Valle Imperial en California, para el uso agrícola, doméstico, industrial y otros usos de índole productivo. Las aguas se desvían por el All American Canal y fluyen a través del Río Colorado en el Embalse Imperial con fundamento en derechos de aguas obtenidos antes del comienzo del presente siglo bajo las leyes estatales en conformidad con un contrato de servicio permanente de suministro de aguas, para efectos de agua potable y de

irrigación dentro de los límites del Distrito, formalizado con el Secretario del Interior en 1932 de acuerdo a lo previsto por la Ley del Proyecto del Cañón de Boulder de 1928 [45 Stat. 1057, según enmienda, 43 U.S.C 617 et seq.] y en conformidad con las expropiaciones registradas en el estado entre 1933 y 1936. Las aguas fluyen a través del Valle Imperial en un complejo sistema de canales de distribución, laterales y canales de desagüe que abastecen más de 450.000 acres de las tierras agrícolas más intensamente cultivadas en el país. Las aguas de desagüe agrícola fluyen a los Ríos New y Alamo y al Mar de Salton, un embalse designado para el acopio de las aguas de desagüe irrigación.

El Distrito de Irrigación Imperial intenta se propone desarrollar un programa a largo plazo para la conservación de hasta 300,000 ap/año. El Distrito de Irrigación Imperial propone el traspaso de todas o de una porción de las aguas conservadas a la Dirección de Aguas del Condado de San Diego y, bajo ciertas circunstancias, a otros destinatarios para su uso productivo y para satisfacer sus necesidades de suministro de agua actuales y futuras. El programa de conservación propuesto incluirá la participación de los propietarios y arrendatarios de tierras en el Valle Imperial a fin de implementar métodos de conservación en terreno, tales como técnicas de aprovechamiento de aguas mejoradas o alternativas y métodos de riego corregidos. El programa podría también incluir métodos de conservación basados en sistemas implementados por el Distrito de Irrigación Imperial, los cuales mejoran las instalaciones de distribución y de desagüe.

La intención del Distrito de Irrigación Imperial es que se mantenga la prioridad del Distrito de Irrigación Imperial sobre las aguas traspasadas entre los usuarios de las aguas del Río Colorado y que el traspaso no afecte los derechos de aguas históricos del Distrito de Irrigación Imperial. El Distrito de Irrigación Imperial, el Ministerio del Interior, y otros propietarios de derechos de aguas potencialmente afectados se encuentran participando en conversaciones para cuantificar las aguas del Río Colorado.

El 29 de abril de 1998 el Distrito de Irrigación Imperial y la Dirección de Aguas del Condado de San Diego celebraron un Acuerdo para el Traspaso de las Aguas Conservadas (Acuerdo). Este Acuerdo proporciona los parámetros para la conservación de las aguas y la transacción del traspaso. El Acuerdo estipula que el Distrito de Irrigación Imperial conservará y traspasará una cantidad anual de agua (el traspaso "primario") que no deberá exceder los 20,000 ap durante el primer año. El traspaso primario aumentará en cantidad en los años posteriores hasta que el Distrito de Irrigación Imperial establezca una cantidad primaria anual estable, la cual no será menor a los 130,000 ap/año o mayor a los 200,000 ap/año. Luego de por lo menos 10 años de traspasos primarios, un componente adicional a discreción que no excederá los 100,000 ap/año podrá ser traspasado a la Dirección de Aguas del Condado de San Diego o, a elección del Distrito de Irrigación Imperial, al Distrito Metropolitano de Aguas del Sur de California o al Distrito de Aguas del Valle de Coachella en conexión con la componenda de las disputas por derechos de aguas entre el Distrito de Irrigación Imperial y estos organismos. El plazo inicial del proyecto es de 45 años después del inicio del primer traspaso. Cada una de las partes tiene la opción de extender el plazo por 30 años adicionales.

El Proyecto de Conservación y Traspaso de Aguas es el resultado de un esfuerzo de colaboración entre el Distrito de Irrigación Imperial y la Dirección de Aguas del Condado de San Diego. El propósito y la necesidad del proyecto propuesto es promover los objetivos de ambas entidades, en conformidad con la Ley del Río para el Río Colorado, en relación con la disponibilidad y el aprovechamiento de las aguas. El Distrito de Irrigación Imperial ha identificado objetivos específicos para el proyecto propuesto. El Distrito propone vender las aguas conservadas en una transacción de mercado a fin de proporcionar al Distrito de Irrigación Imperial los fondos suficientes para implementar un programa de conservación de

aguas, incluyendo el costo de las mejoras en terreno y de los sistemas, los costos de mitigación del impacto ambiental y otros costos de implementación. El Distrito de Irrigación Imperial pretende implementar un programa de conservación que incluye la participación de los propietarios y arrendatarios de tierras en el Valle Imperial para poder implementar eficientemente los métodos de conservación en terreno así como los basados en sistemas. El Distrito de Irrigación Imperial busca mantener su prioridad por antigüedad histórica sobre sus derechos de aguas de una manera consistente con la legislación federal y estatal durante la implementación y operación del proyecto. Algunos objetivos adicionales del Distrito de Irrigación Imperial incluyen entregar un estímulo económico a la economía agrícola del Valle Imperial y comunidades adyacentes y aminorar al aumento de la demanda de aguas desde el Sur de California debido al Proyecto de Aguas del Estado.

La Dirección de Aguas del Condado de San Diego también ha identificado objetivos específicos para el proyecto. La Dirección de Aguas del Condado de San Diego busca adquirir un suministro de agua alterno a largo plazo, independiente y confiable para proporcionar protección contra las sequías y para satisfacer la demanda actual y proyectada de agua para usos municipales, domésticos y agrícolas. Para poder mejorar la confiabilidad de su suministro de agua, la Dirección de Aguas del Condado de San Diego pretende diversificar sus fuentes de suministro de agua y reducir su actual dependencia de una sola fuente. Mediante el establecimiento de una fuente estable, la Dirección de Aguas del Condado de San Diego busca pagar un precio justo y competitivo por su suministro de agua y en el proceso reducir el aumento en la demanda de agua desde el Sur de California debido al Proyecto de Aguas del Estado.

El traspaso de aguas desde el Distrito de Irrigación Imperial a la Dirección de Aguas del Condado de San Diego es un elemento clave del "Plan de California" el cual está siendo desarrollado por el Consejo del Río Colorado de California y el Departamento de Recursos Hídricos del Estado de California, a pedido del Secretario del Interior y los otros estados en la cuenca del Río Colorado. Este Plan está enfocado hacia la necesidad de que California reduzca su dependencia de las aguas del Río Colorado a su derecho legal de 4.4 millones de pies – acres de aguas del Río Colorado. Actualmente, California esta desviando aproximadamente 5.2 millones de pies - acres de aguas del Río Colorado por año.

La implementación del proyecto propuesto requerirá ciertas aprobaciones por parte de las autoridades del estado, incluyendo la aprobación por parte del Consejo del Control de los Recursos Hídricos del Estado y el cumplimiento con la Ley de la Calidad Ambiental del Estado de California y la Ley de California para la Protección de Especies en Peligro. La implementación también requerirá ciertas aprobaciones federales, incluyendo la aprobación del traspaso propuesto entre el Distrito de Irrigación Imperial y la Dirección de Aguas del Condado de San Diego, el cumplimiento con la Ley Nacional de Política Ambiental, la Ley Federal para la Protección de las Especies en Peligro y otras leyes, estatutos, Decretos Presidenciales y normativas ambientales federales relacionadas. La Oficina de Recuperación actuará como la principal entidad federal en conformidad con la Ley Nacional de Política Ambiental debido a que ciertas acciones a emprender para facilitar el traspaso requerirán la aprobación por parte del Secretario del Interior. Dichas acciones podrían incluir enmiendas al Contrato entre el Distrito de Irrigación Imperial y el Secretario del Interior, el cambio en el punto de desviación de las aguas del Río Colorado, el cambio en el tipo de uso, cambios en el lugar de uso, verificación o concurrencia en el caudal de aguas conservadas por este Proyecto y verificación del uso productivo de las aguas del Río Colorado. La Oficina de Recuperación, por lo tanto, solicita comentarios por parte del público sobre el alcance de los temas y la extensión del análisis que debiera ser evaluado en el Informe de Impacto Ambiental / Declaración de Impacto Ambiental.

Se puede obtener información adicional en el sitio web del proyecto en http://www.is.ch2m.com/iidweb.

**ALTERNATIVAS:**

El Informe de Impacto Ambiental / Declaración de Impacto Ambiental evaluará otras alternativas factibles para el proyecto, incluyendo una variedad de medidas de conservación alternativas, alternativas de suministro y traspaso de aguas y varias medidas alternativas además de la Alternativa de Ningún Proyecto / Ninguna Acción.

Las alternativas potenciales de suministro de agua que serán consideradas en el Informe de Impacto Ambiental / Declaración de Impacto Ambiental incluyen las siguientes:

- Una conservación adicional de agua en el área de servicio de San Diego
- Repurificación y reciclado adicional del agua
- Desalinización
- Traspasos adicionales de aguas desde el Norte de California
- Traspaso de aguas conservadas en otra región agrícola con transporte a través del Proyecto Estatal de Aguas y el sistema de Distrito Metropolitano de Aguas.

**EFECTOS AMBIENTALES POTENCIALES:**

La gama completa de impactos ambientales no ha sido cuantificada en términos temporales y espaciales. Hasta que no se hayan desarrollado alternativas específicas de conservación, los efectos ambientales potenciales podrían incluir los siguientes:

Area del Bajo Río Colorado

- Reducción en el caudal de las aguas del Río Colorado entre los Embalses Parker e Imperial.
- Impacto sobre la calidad de las aguas del Río Colorado
- Impacto sobre la vida silvestre, sobre las especies protegidas y sobre sus hábitats
- Impacto acumulativo sobre la calidad del agua

Condado de San Diego

- Impactos que promueven el crecimiento

Mar de Salton

- Efectos sobre los niveles, salinidad y calidad de las aguas
- Efectos sobre el hábitat de los bancos de peces
- Impacto sobre la vida silvestre, sobre las especies protegidas y sobre sus hábitats
- Impacto sobre las áreas de recreación

Valle Imperial

- Impacto sobre el caudal y calidad de las aguas
- Efectos de la concentración de selenio, boro y pesticidas
- Impacto sobre la vida silvestre, sobre las especies protegidas y sobre sus hábitats
- Impactos socioeconómicos
- Impactos sobre la calidad del aire

**REUNIONES PÚBLICAS DE ANALISIS Y ENTIDADES:**

Se llevarán a cabo seis reuniones públicas de evaluación para discutir el proyecto y alcance del Informe de Impacto Ambiental / Declaración de Impacto Ambiental. El objetivo de estas reuniones es identificar temas que deberán ser abordados en el Informe de Impacto Ambiental / Declaración de Impacto Ambiental. Las reuniones públicas estarán abiertas a todas las partes interesadas y se aceptarán tanto comentarios por escrito como orales en dichas reuniones. Estas reuniones de evaluación se realizarán en las siguientes localidades y horarios:

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1) | Valle Imperial Norte | Elks Lodge #1420<br>161 South Plaza<br>Brawley, CA 92227<br>Martes, 12 de octubre de 1999<br>7 PM a 9 PM |
| 2) | Area de Mar de Salton | Distrito de Servicio Comunitario de Salton Sea<br>2098 Frontage Road<br>Salton City, CA 92275<br>Miércoles, 13 de octubre de 1999<br>7 PM a 9 PM |
| 3. | Valle Imperial Sur | Sala de Directorio del Distrito de Irrigación Imperial<br>1285 Broadway<br>El Centro, CA 92243<br>Jueves, 14 de octubre de 1999<br>7 PM a 9 PM |
| 4. | Región del Bajo Río Colorado | Biblioteca del Condado de Clark<br>1401 East Flamingo Road<br>Las Vegas, NV 89119<br>Lunes, 18 de octubre de 1999<br>7 PM a 9 PM |
| 5. | Condado de San Diego Norte | Centro del Adulto Mayor Carlsbad<br>799 Pine Avenue<br>Carlsbad, CA 92008<br>Martes, 19 octubre de 1999<br>7 PM a 9 PM |
| 6. | Condado de San Diego Sur | Edificio de la Dirección de Aguas del<br>Condado de San Diego<br>3211 Fifth Avenue<br>San Diego, CA 92103<br>Miércoles, 20 de octubre de 1999<br>7 PM a 9 PM |

Las personas con algún trastorno auditivo, visual, y/o de movilidad física que tengan intención de asistir a la(s) reunión(es) pueden hacer los arreglos necesarios llamando a la Sra. Molly Sweat al (702) 293-8415 antes del 27 de septiembre de 1999.

Se ha iniciado un programa de participación pública y será implementado durante todo el proceso del Informe de Impacto Ambiental / Declaración de Impacto Ambiental. La meta es mantener al público y a las partes afectadas informadas y participando activamente en la evaluación ambiental del proyecto.

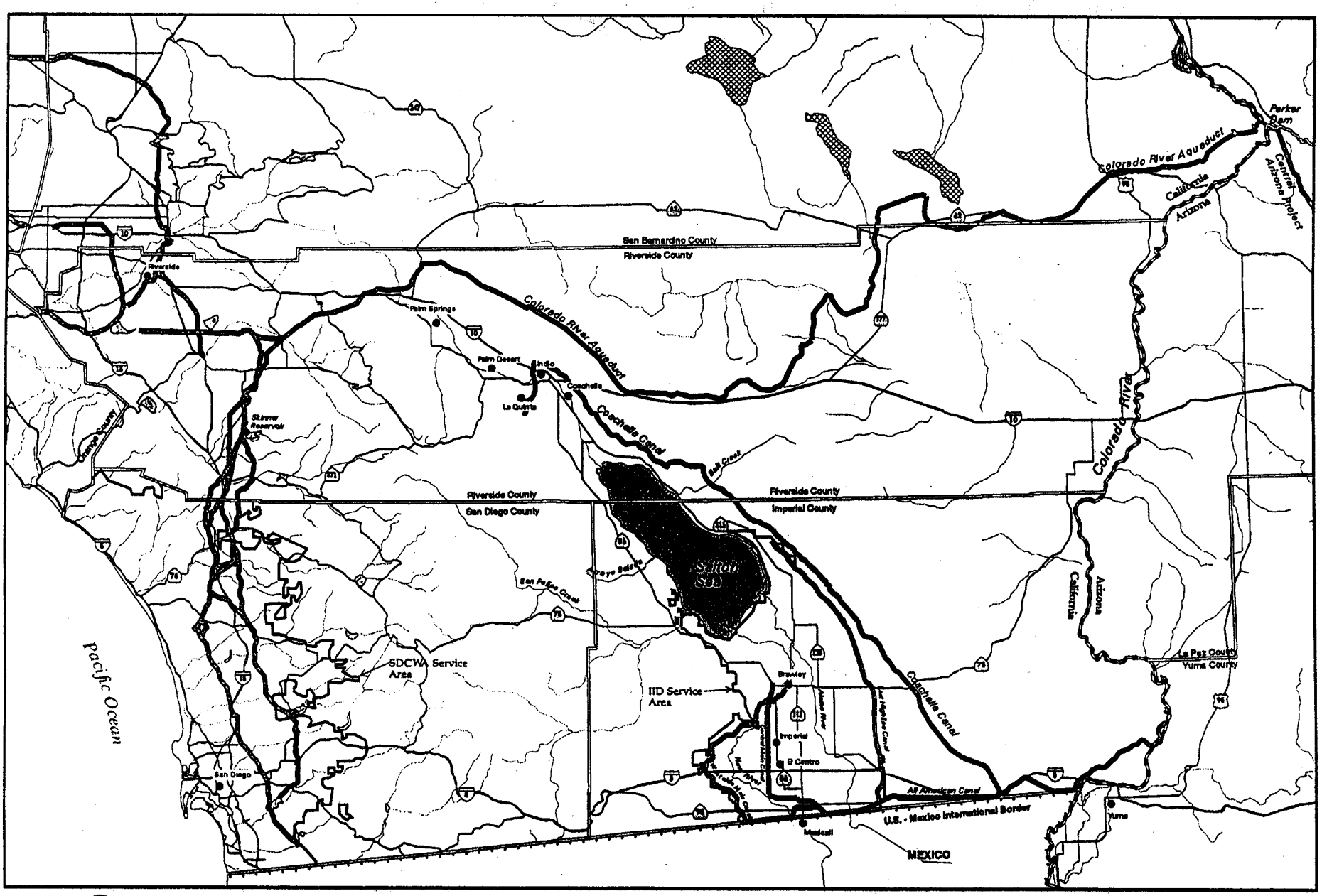
**RESPUESTAS A LA NOTIFICACION:**

Al responder a esta Notificación de Preparación, se solicita a las entidades responsables y a aquellas entidades que tengan jurisdicción sobre el proyecto o sobre los recursos naturales que pudieran verse afectados por el proyecto que proporcionen detalles específicos sobre el alcance y contenido de la información ambiental relacionada con las responsabilidades legales de dicha entidad que debieran ser incluidas en el borrador del Informe de Impacto Ambiental / Declaración de Impacto Ambiental. También se solicita a las entidades que respondan que proporcionen cualquier norma cuantitativa, cualitativa o de desempeño que sea aplicable a las actividades del proyecto que estará sujeto a análisis y/o aprobación por la entidad que responde. Esta información será utilizada para ayudar en el desarrollo de umbrales de significancia a ser utilizados para evaluar la importancia de los efectos ambientales y en el desarrollo de medidas de mitigación para solucionar cualquier impacto significativo. Las entidades que respondan deberán identificar a una persona de contacto para su entidad.

Las respuestas a esta notificación deberán ser recibidas a más tardar el 25 de octubre de 1999. Por favor remita sus comentarios o preguntas por escrito a:

Mr. Steven R. Knell
Coordinador de Proyectos Especiales, Distrito de Irrigación Imperial
333 E. Barioni Blvd.
PO Box 937
Imperial, CA 92251
(760) 339-9266

# Proposed Project Map




# IID/SDCWA Water Conservation and Transfer Project

# Written Comment Card

# WRITTEN COMMENT CARD

## IID/SDCWA WATER CONSERVATION AND TRANSFER PROJECT
## PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING
## OCTOBER 12, 1999

**Name** _____

**Address** _____

**Affiliation** _____

**Phone** _____

**Date** _____

**COMMENTS:**
**(Attach additional sheets if necessary)**

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We welcome your participation. Submit comments at the Public Scoping Meetings or mail to:

**Imperial Irrigation District**
333 East Barioni Boulevard
P.O. Box 937
Imperial, CA 92251
Attn: Mr. Steven R. Knell

or to:

**United States Bureau of Reclamation**
Lower Colorado River Region
P.O. Box 61470
Boulder City, NV 89006
Attn: Mr. William Rinne, BC-00-1000

**Please note that the deadline for public comments is October 27, 1999**

**Would you like to be added to our mailing list? Check here ____**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

**Visit the project web site at http://www.is.ch2m.com/iidweb**

**Call the project toll-free hotline at 1-800-922-5270**

# WRITTEN COMMENT CARD
# IID/SDCWA WATER CONSERVATION AND TRANSFER PROJECT
# PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING
# OCTOBER 13, 1999

**Name** _____

**Address** _____

**Affiliation** _____

**Phone** _____

**Date** _____

**COMMENTS:**
**(Attach additional sheets if necessary)**

We welcome your participation. Submit comments at the Public Scoping Meetings or mail to:

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333 East Barioni Boulevard
P.O. Box 937
Imperial, CA 92251
Attn: Mr. Steven R. Knell

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# WRITTEN COMMENT CARD
# IID/SDCWA WATER CONSERVATION AND TRANSFER PROJECT
# PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING
# OCTOBER 14, 1999

**Name** _____

**Address** _____

**Affiliation** _____

**Phone** _____

**Date** _____

**COMMENTS:**
**(Attach additional sheets if necessary)**

We welcome your participation. Submit comments at the Public Scoping Meetings or mail to:

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P.O. Box 937
Imperial, CA 92251
Attn: Mr. Steven R. Knell

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**Visit the project web site at http://www.is.ch2m.com/iidweb**

**Call the project toll-free hotline at 1-800-922-5270**

# WRITTEN COMMENT CARD
# IID/SDCWA WATER CONSERVATION AND TRANSFER PROJECT
# PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING
# OCTOBER 18, 1999

**Name** _____

**Address** _____

**Affiliation** _____

**Phone** _____

**Date** _____

**COMMENTS:**
**(Attach additional sheets if necessary)**

We welcome your participation. Submit comments at the Public Scoping Meetings or mail to:

**Imperial Irrigation District**
333 East Barioni Boulevard
P.O. Box 937
Imperial, CA 92251
Attn: Mr. Steven R. Knell

or to:

**United States Bureau of Reclamation**
Lower Colorado River Region
P.O. Box 61470
Boulder City, NV 89006
Attn: Mr. William Rinne, BC-00-1000

**Please note that the deadline for public comments is October 27, 1999**

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# WRITTEN COMMENT CARD
# IID/SDCWA WATER CONSERVATION AND TRANSFER PROJECT
# PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING
# OCTOBER 19, 1999

**Name** _____

**Address** _____

**Affiliation** _____

**Phone** _____

**Date** _____

**COMMENTS:**
**(Attach additional sheets if necessary)**

We welcome your participation. Submit comments at the Public Scoping Meetings or mail to:

**Imperial Irrigation District**
333 East Barioni Boulevard
P.O. Box 937
Imperial, CA 92251
Attn: Mr. Steven R. Knell

or to:

**United States Bureau of Reclamation**
Lower Colorado River Region
P.O. Box 61470
Boulder City, NV 89006
Attn: Mr. William Rinne, BC-00-1000

**Please note that the deadline for public comments is October 27, 1999**

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

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**Call the project toll-free hotline at 1-800-922-5270**

# WRITTEN COMMENT CARD
# IID/SDCWA WATER CONSERVATION AND TRANSFER PROJECT
# PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING
# OCTOBER 20, 1999

**Name** _____

**Address** _____

**Affiliation** _____

**Phone** _____

**Date** _____

**COMMENTS:**
**(Attach additional sheets if necessary)**

We welcome your participation. Submit comments at the Public Scoping Meetings or mail to:

**Imperial Irrigation District**
333 East Barioni Boulevard
P.O. Box 937
Imperial, CA 92251
Attn: Mr. Steven R. Knell

or to:

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Lower Colorado River Region
P.O. Box 61470
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Attn: Mr. William Rinne, BC-00-1000

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**Call the project toll-free hotline at 1-800-922-5270**

# Speaker Card

SCO/LAW2028.DOC/003670510
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## SPEAKER CARD
(PLEASE PRINT)

## IID/SDCWA WATER CONSERVATION AND TRANSFER PROJECT
## PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING
## OCTOBER 12, 1999

If you would like to verbally present your comments at this evening's meeting, please fill out the information below. Speakers will be asked to present their comments in the order in which they were received. Each speaker will have five minutes to make his or her comments.

**Name** _____ **Affiliation** _____

**Address** _____ **Phone** _____

**Topic**

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## SPEAKER CARD
(PLEASE PRINT)

## IID/SDCWA WATER CONSERVATION AND TRANSFER PROJECT
## PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING
## OCTOBER 13, 1999

If you would like to verbally present your comments at this evening's meeting, please fill out the information below. Speakers will be asked to present their comments in the order in which they were received. Each speaker will have five minutes to make his or her comments.

**Name** _____ **Affiliation** _____

**Address** _____ **Phone** _____

**Comments**

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## SPEAKER CARD
(PLEASE PRINT)

## IID/SDCWA WATER CONSERVATION AND TRANSFER PROJECT
## PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING
## OCTOBER 14, 1999

If you would like to verbally present your comments at this evening's meeting, please fill out the information below. Speakers will be asked to present their comments in the order in which they were received. Each speaker will have five minutes to make his or her comments.

**Name** _____ **Affiliation** _____

**Address** _____ **Phone** _____

**Topic**

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## SPEAKER CARD
(PLEASE PRINT)

## IID/SDCWA WATER CONSERVATION AND TRANSFER PROJECT
## PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING
## OCTOBER 18, 1999

If you would like to verbally present your comments at this evening's meeting, please fill out the information below. Speakers will be asked to present their comments in the order in which they were received. Each speaker will have five minutes to make his or her comments.

**Name** _____ **Affiliation** _____

**Address** _____ **Phone** _____

**Comments**

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## SPEAKER CARD
(PLEASE PRINT)

## IID/SDCWA WATER CONSERVATION AND TRANSFER PROJECT
## PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING
## OCTOBER 19, 1999

If you would like to verbally present your comments at this evening's meeting, please fill out the information below. Speakers will be asked to present their comments in the order in which they were received. Each speaker will have five minutes to make his or her comments.

**Name** _____ **Affiliation** _____

**Address** _____ **Phone** _____

**Comments**

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## SPEAKER CARD
(PLEASE PRINT)

## IID/SDCWA WATER CONSERVATION AND TRANSFER PROJECT
## PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING
## OCTOBER 20, 1999

If you would like to verbally present your comments at this evening's meeting, please fill out the information below. Speakers will be asked to present their comments in the order in which they were received. Each speaker will have five minutes to make his or her comments.

**Name** _____ **Affiliation** _____

**Address** _____ **Phone** _____

**Comments**

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# Appendix F

## Speaker Cards

# Appendix F
# Speaker Cards

(1)

(PLEASE PRINT)

## IID/SDCWA WATER CONSERVATION AND TRANSFER PROJECT
## PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING
## OCTOBER 13, 1999

If you would like to verbally present your comments at this evening's meeting, please fill out the information below. Speakers will be asked to present their comments in the order in which they were received. Each speaker will have five minutes to make his or her comments.

**Name** LARRY ANDERSON **Affiliation** _____

**Address** 115 VENICE CANE **Phone** 395-6636

**Comments**

(1) HOW MUCH MONEY WILL BE RECEIVED FOR THE WATER?

(2) WILL IT (#) BE USED TO BRING ANY A WATER SOURCE TO THE SEA VIA PIPELINE OR CANAL

(3) DO IID SUPPORT AN ALTERNATIVE SOURCE FOR THE SEA MENTIONED ABOVE – AS A MEMBER OF THE SSA

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(2)

## SPEAKER CARD

(PLEASE PRINT)

## IID/SDCWA WATER CONSERVATION AND TRANSFER PROJECT
## PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING
## OCTOBER 13, 1999

If you would like to verbally present your comments at this evening's meeting, please fill out the information below. Speakers will be asked to present their comments in the order in which they were received. Each speaker will have five minutes to make his or her comments.

**Name** Norm Niver **Affiliation** Salton Sea Authority

**Address** _____ **Phone** Citizens Advisory Committee

**Comments**

Progress From 1988

(2)

SPEAKER CARD
(PLEASE PRINT)

## IID/SDCWA WATER CONSERVATION AND TRANSFER PROJECT
## PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING
## OCTOBER 13, 1999

If you would like to verbally present your comments at this evening's meeting, please fill out the information below. Speakers will be asked to present their comments in the order in which they were received. Each speaker will have five minutes to make his or her comments.

**Name** CHARLES SAYBERT **Affiliation** _____

**Address** _____ **Phone** _____

**Comments**

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## SPEAKER CARD
(PLEASE PRINT)

## IID/SDCWA WATER CONSERVATION AND TRANSFER PROJECT
## PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING
## OCTOBER 13, 1999

If you would like to verbally present your comments at this evening's meeting, please fill out the information below. Speakers will be asked to present their comments in the order in which they were received. Each speaker will have five minutes to make his or her comments.

**Name** CHUCK & DOTTIE FRUDEL **Affiliation** _____

**Address** _____ **Phone** _____

**Comments**

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(PLEASE PRINT)

## IID/SDCWA WATER CONSERVATION AND TRANSFER PROJECT
## PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING
## OCTOBER 13, 1999

If you would like to verbally present your comments at this evening's meeting, please fill out the information below. Speakers will be asked to present their comments in the order in which they were received. Each speaker will have five minutes to make his or her comments.

**Name** Margot Overholt **Affiliation** Homeowner

**Address** 131 Beach Club Dr **Phone** 394-0091

**Comments**

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## SPEAKER CARD
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## IID/SDCWA WATER CONSERVATION AND TRANSFER PROJECT
## PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING
## OCTOBER 13, 1999

If you would like to verbally present your comments at this evening's meeting, please fill out the information below. Speakers will be asked to present their comments in the order in which they were received. Each speaker will have five minutes to make his or her comments.

**Name** Brian L. Napier **Affiliation** Finance Officer, Salton Community Services

**Address** 1739 Rio Vista Street P.O. Box 550 & Seeley, CA 92273 **Phone** (760) 352-0941

**Comments**

Any significant transfers of water will definitely have an impact on the level and salinity of the Salton Sea which could prove damaging to the economic future of the communities surrounding the sea. Additionally, there could (and probably would) have serious financial impacts on the government entities around the Salton Sea.

(7)

## SPEAKER CARD
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## IID/SDCWA WATER CONSERVATION AND TRANSFER PROJECT
## PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING
## OCTOBER 13, 1999

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**Name** TONY CAMPANARO **Affiliation** BUSSINESS MAN.

**Address** 73-250 AMBER ST. Palm Desert. **Phone** 760-346-1728

**Comments**

- SCHEDULE OF PROJECT (2 YRS)
- WHAT ARE THE POSITIVE IMPACTS?
- HOW WILL IT PROTECT THE LOCAL ECONOMY?

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## IID/SDCWA WATER CONSERVATION AND TRANSFER PROJECT
## PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING
## OCTOBER 13, 1999

If you would like to verbally present your comments at this evening's meeting, please fill out the information below. Speakers will be asked to present their comments in the order in which they were received. Each speaker will have five minutes to make his or her comments.

**Name** Charles Seybert **Affiliation** Concerned Citizen

**Address** 3801 Palm Dr Desert Shores **Phone** 395-0745

**Comments**

Cannot comprehend why an agency operating with a taxpayer subsidized commodity can sell this commodity to another taxpayers agency + pocket the profits. This sale to the detriment of the ecology of this area.

(PLEASE PRINT)

## IID/SDCWA WATER CONSERVATION AND TRANSFER PROJECT
## PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING
## OCTOBER 13, 1999

If you would like to verbally present your comments at this evening's meeting, please fill out the information below. Speakers will be asked to present their comments in the order in which they were received. Each speaker will have five minutes to make his or her comments.

**Name** Fred Brown **Affiliation** Desert Shores Improvement assc
2nd 662 Property Owners assc

**Address** 137 Venice Lane **Phone** 760 395-5751
Desert Shores Ca 92274 Fax 760 395-3363

**Comments**

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(10) 8:09

## SPEAKER CARD
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## IID/SDCWA WATER CONSERVATION AND TRANSFER PROJECT
## PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING
## OCTOBER 13, 1999

If you would like to verbally present your comments at this evening's meeting, please fill out the information below. Speakers will be asked to present their comments in the order in which they were received. Each speaker will have five minutes to make his or her comments.

**Name** Mary Risch **Affiliation** endangered species
~~resident~~ Salton Sea

**Address** Desert Shores **Phone** —
104 Pismo, CA 92274

**Comments**

(17) 8:13

## SPEAKER CARD
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## IID/SDCWA WATER CONSERVATION AND TRANSFER PROJECT
## PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING
## OCTOBER 13, 1999

If you would like to verbally present your comments at this evening's meeting, please fill out the information below. Speakers will be asked to present their comments in the order in which they were received. Each speaker will have five minutes to make his or her comments.

**Name** SAM GRINDSTAFF **Affiliation** _____

**Address** 93001 Coolidge SPRd Route 5. **Phone** _____

**Comments** WATER

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8:17

## SPEAKER CARD
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## IID/SDCWA WATER CONSERVATION AND TRANSFER PROJECT
## PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING
## OCTOBER 13, 1999

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**Name** PAT JOHANSEN **Affiliation** Candidate, 80th Assembly Dist.

**Address** 362 Red River Road **Phone** 760-341-4970

PALM DESERT, CA 92211

**Comments**

SPEAKER CARD
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## IID/SDCWA WATER CONSERVATION AND TRANSFER PROJECT
## PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING
## OCTOBER 13, 1999

If you would like to verbally present your comments at this evening's meeting, please fill out the information below. Speakers will be asked to present their comments in the order in which they were received. Each speaker will have five minutes to make his or her comments.

Name Sylviane Madigan Affiliation

Address 1064 St Maarten. Phone 760-395-4101
Salton City.

Comments

Will They be Water kept for.
Imperial Countie business.

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## IID/SDCWA WATER CONSERVATION AND TRANSFER PROJECT
## PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING
## OCTOBER 13, 1999

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Name William J. DuBois Affiliation Calif Farm Bureau Federation

Address 1127 11th St #626 Phone 916 446 4647
SACRAMENTO 95814

Comments

## SPEAKER CARD
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## IID/SDCWA WATER CONSERVATION AND TRANSFER PROJECT
## PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING
## OCTOBER 13, 1999

If you would like to verbally present your comments at this evening's meeting, please fill out the information below. Speakers will be asked to present their comments in the order in which they were received. Each speaker will have five minutes to make his or her comments.

**Name** Shirley A Jones **Affiliation** Home Owner

**Address** 1536 Desert Air, Vista del Mar Estates, Thermal, CA 92274 **Phone** 394-1919

**Comments** Why can we not Benefit by Sale of Water and Bring the Water to the West Shores of the Salton Sea.

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## IID/SDCWA WATER CONSERVATION AND TRANSFER PROJECT
## PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING
## OCTOBER 13, 1999

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**Name** FRANK KENT **Affiliation** VFW - CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

**Address** BOX 5461, SALTON CITY, CA 92275 **Phone** 760-394-4552

**Comments**

(PLEASE PRINT)

## IID/SDCWA WATER CONSERVATION AND TRANSFER PROJECT
## PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING
## OCTOBER 13, 1999

If you would like to verbally present your comments at this evening's meeting, please fill out the information below. Speakers will be asked to present their comments in the order in which they were received. Each speaker will have five minutes to make his or her comments.

**Name** Shirley Lee Palmer **Affiliation**

**Address** 3871 Tamarisk Dr. **Phone** 760 395-5900
Desert Shores, CA 92274

**Comments**



## SPEAKER CARD
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## IID/SDCWA WATER CONSERVATION AND TRANSFER PROJECT
## PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING
## OCTOBER 13, 1999

If you would like to verbally present your comments at this evening's meeting, please fill out the information below. Speakers will be asked to present their comments in the order in which they were received. Each speaker will have five minutes to make his or her comments.

**Name** BOB BREWER **Affiliation** RESIDENTS

**Address** 2583 CALICO AVE **Phone** 760-394-4184
PO BOX 5710
SALTON CITY, CA
92275

**Comments**

7:38

## SPEAKER CARD
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## IID/SDCWA WATER CONSERVATION AND TRANSFER PROJECT
## PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING
## OCTOBER 14, 1999

If you would like to verbally present your comments at this evening's meeting, please fill out the information below. Speakers will be asked to present their comments in the order in which they were received. Each speaker will have five minutes to make his or her comments.

**Name** Jose M. Lopez **Affiliation** Campesinos Unidos Inc

**Address** 431 Ethel St. Calexico CA 92231 **Phone** (760) 3446300

**Comments**



(2) 7:42

## SPEAKER CARD
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## IID/SDCWA WATER CONSERVATION AND TRANSFER PROJECT
## PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING
## OCTOBER 14, 1999

If you would like to verbally present your comments at this evening's meeting, please fill out the information below. Speakers will be asked to present their comments in the order in which they were received. Each speaker will have five minutes to make his or her comments.

**Name** Miguel Rodriguez **Affiliation** Personal - Farmworker

**Address** **Phone** (760) 352 2943

**Comments**

7:45

# SPEAKER CARD
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## IID/SDCWA WATER CONSERVATION AND TRANSFER PROJECT
## PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING
## OCTOBER 14, 1999

If you would like to verbally present your comments at this evening's meeting, please fill out the information below. Speakers will be asked to present their comments in the order in which they were received. Each speaker will have five minutes to make his or her comments.

**Name** BILL CONDIT **Affiliation** CITIZEN

**Address** 1630 SMOKETREE **Phone** 760-352-7449

**Comments**

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## IID/SDCWA WATER CONSERVATION AND TRANSFER PROJECT
## PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING
## OCTOBER 14, 1999

If you would like to verbally present your comments at this evening's meeting, please fill out the information below. Speakers will be asked to present their comments in the order in which they were received. Each speaker will have five minutes to make his or her comments.

**Name** Frank Miranda **Affiliation** Dune Company

**Address** PO box 967 Imperial, Ca. 92251 **Phone** 352-0134

**Comments**

I would like to comment on the pesticide issue regarding usage in Imperial County.

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## IID/SDCWA WATER CONSERVATION AND TRANSFER PROJECT
## PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING
## OCTOBER 14, 1999

If you would like to verbally present your comments at this evening's meeting, please fill out the information below. Speakers will be asked to present their comments in the order in which they were received. Each speaker will have five minutes to make his or her comments.

Name LARRY GROGAN Affiliation Tonight Chamber of C - private

Address 444 MAIN ST E.C. Phone 353-7946

Comments



6 754

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## IID/SDCWA WATER CONSERVATION AND TRANSFER PROJECT
## PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING
## OCTOBER 14, 1999

If you would like to verbally present your comments at this evening's meeting, please fill out the information below. Speakers will be asked to present their comments in the order in which they were received. Each speaker will have five minutes to make his or her comments.

Name JOHN GILLESPIE Affiliation LANDOWNER

Address 2460 STATE E.C. Phone 353-4354

Comments

QUESTIONS THAT NEED TO BE INCLUDED IN EIR REPORT

(1)

## SPEAKER CARD
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## IID/SDCWA WATER CONSERVATION AND TRANSFER PROJECT
## PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING
## OCTOBER 14, 1999

If you would like to verbally present your comments at this evening's meeting, please fill out the information below. Speakers will be asked to present their comments in the order in which they were received. Each speaker will have five minutes to make his or her comments.

**Name** Stella Mendoza **Affiliation** _____

**Address** 491 West "H" St **Phone** 344-3495

**Comments**

_____

_____

_____

_____

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_____



(8) . 8:02.

## SPEAKER CARD
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## IID/SDCWA WATER CONSERVATION AND TRANSFER PROJECT
## PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING
## OCTOBER 14, 1999

If you would like to verbally present your comments at this evening's meeting, please fill out the information below. Speakers will be asked to present their comments in the order in which they were received. Each speaker will have five minutes to make his or her comments.

**Name** Mel Zernow **Affiliation** City Manager, City of Holtville

**Address** 121 W. 5th St., Holtville 92250 **Phone** (760) 356-4524

**Comments**

_____

_____

_____

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## SPEAKER CARD
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## IID/SDCWA WATER CONSERVATION AND TRANSFER PROJECT
## PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING
## OCTOBER 14, 1999

If you would like to verbally present your comments at this evening's meeting, please fill out the information below. Speakers will be asked to present their comments in the order in which they were received. Each speaker will have five minutes to make his or her comments.

**Name** Rick Strobel **Affiliation** _____

**Address** 1798 West Main ST **Phone** _____
El Centro, CA 92243

**Comments**



## SPEAKER CARD
(PLEASE PRINT)

## IID/SDCWA WATER CONSERVATION AND TRANSFER PROJECT
## PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING
## OCTOBER 14, 1999

If you would like to verbally present your comments at this evening's meeting, please fill out the information below. Speakers will be asked to present their comments in the order in which they were received. Each speaker will have five minutes to make his or her comments.

**Name** Dilda MCFADDEN **Affiliation** NAACP Vice President

**Address** 2001 Anderholt Rd Holtville **Phone** 760-356-5821

**Comments**

# SPEAKER CARD
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## IID/SDCWA WATER CONSERVATION AND TRANSFER PROJECT
## PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING
## OCTOBER 14, 1999

If you would like to verbally present your comments at this evening's meeting, please fill out the information below. Speakers will be asked to present their comments in the order in which they were received. Each speaker will have five minutes to make his or her comments.

**Name** BILL DuBOIS **Affiliation** LANDOWNER

**Address** 801 W ROSS RD EL CENTRO **Phone** 760 352 4007 OR 916 489 2191

**Comments**

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# SPEAKER CARD
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## IID/SDCWA WATER CONSERVATION AND TRANSFER PROJECT
## PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING
## OCTOBER 18, 1999

If you would like to verbally present your comments at this evening's meeting, please fill out the information below. Speakers will be asked to present their comments in the order in which they were received. Each speaker will have five minutes to make his or her comments.

Name Bill Werner

Affiliation AZ Game & Fish

Address 2221 W Greenway
Phx Az 85023

Phone 602-789-3607

Comments

## SPEAKER CARD
(PLEASE PRINT)

## IID/SDCWA WATER CONSERVATION AND TRANSFER PROJECT
## PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING
## OCTOBER 19, 1999

If you would like to verbally present your comments at this evening's meeting, please fill out the information below. Speakers will be asked to present their comments in the order in which they were received. Each speaker will have five minutes to make his or her comments.

**Name** Art Bunce **Affiliation** Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians

**Address** PO Box 2516, Escondido, CA 92033 **Phone** 760-489-0329

**Comments** See letter of 10/19/99 to IID re scope of EIR/EIS.

(2)

## SPEAKER CARD
(PLEASE PRINT)

## IID/SDCWA WATER CONSERVATION AND TRANSFER PROJECT
## PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING
## OCTOBER 19, 1999

If you would like to verbally present your comments at this evening's meeting, please fill out the information below. Speakers will be asked to present their comments in the order in which they were received. Each speaker will have five minutes to make his or her comments.

**Name** NADINE SCOTT **Affiliation** CALIF. ASS'N OF RESOURCE CONSERVATION DISTRICTS

**Address** 550 Hoover ST Oceanside CA 92054 **Phone** 760 757-6685 local

**Comments**

(PLEASE PRINT)

## IID/SDCWA WATER CONSERVATION AND TRANSFER PROJECT
## PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING
## OCTOBER 20, 1999

If you would like to verbally present your comments at this evening's meeting, please fill out the information below. Speakers will be asked to present their comments in the order in which they were received. Each speaker will have five minutes to make his or her comments.

**Name** FRANK CHEVELLE **Affiliation** SDCWA

**Address** 3211 5TH **Phone** 862-4100

**Comments** SPOKE ON MIKE -

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## SPEAKER CARD
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## IID/SDCWA WATER CONSERVATION AND TRANSFER PROJECT
## PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING
## OCTOBER 20, 1999

If you would like to verbally present your comments at this evening's meeting, please fill out the information below. Speakers will be asked to present their comments in the order in which they were received. Each speaker will have five minutes to make his or her comments.

**Name** Philip R. Pryde **Affiliation** San Diego Audubon Society

**Address** 7784 Cedar Lake, SD 92119 **Phone** 619-594-5525

**Comments** Question - will the DEIS/DEIR analyze environmental effects at different levels of potential transfers - 100000, 200000, 310000 a.f. etc

## SPEAKER CARD
(PLEASE PRINT)

(2)

## IID/SDCWA WATER CONSERVATION AND TRANSFER PROJECT
## PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING
## OCTOBER 20, 1999

If you would like to verbally present your comments at this evening's meeting, please fill out the information below. Speakers will be asked to present their comments in the order in which they were received. Each speaker will have five minutes to make his or her comments.

**Name** DICK REYNOLDS **Affiliation** Sweetwater Authority

**Address** PO Box 2328 **Phone** 619 422 8398 x601
Chula Vista CA
91912-2328

**Comments**

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## SPEAKER CARD
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## IID/SDCWA WATER CONSERVATION AND TRANSFER PROJECT
## PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING
## OCTOBER 20, 1999

If you would like to verbally present your comments at this evening's meeting, please fill out the information below. Speakers will be asked to present their comments in the order in which they were received. Each speaker will have five minutes to make his or her comments.

**Name** Mark Mueller **Affiliation** CARB

**Address** 2020 L St, Sacramento 95814 **Phone** 916 323-1529

**Comments**

Air quality issues
- dispersion of particulate matter from exposed lakebed
- modeling of pm transport
- health effects
- monitoring

# Appendix G
## Written Comments and Letters

# Appendix G
# Written Comments and Letters

(F1)

INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARY AND WATER COMMISSION
UNITED STATES AND MEXICO

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER
UNITED STATES SECTION




U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Lower Colorado River Region, Boulder Canyon Operations Office
P.O. Box 61470
Boulder City, NV 89006-1470
Attn: William Rinne, BC-00-1000

Dear Mr. Rinne:

The United States Section, International Boundary and Water Commission (USIBWC), is providing comments in response to the Notice of Intent request of September 24, 1999 on preparation of an Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) for the Imperial Irrigation District/San Diego County Water Authority Water Conservation and Transfer Project. The proposed action will be documented in the EIR/EIS in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the California Environmental Quality Act.

The proposed project consists of transferring up to 300,000 acre feet of conserved Colorado River water from the Imperial Irrigation District (IID) to the San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA). The water will be conserved through implementation of on-farm conservation methods and improvements to the IID's distribution and drainage facilities. It is proposed that 20,000 acre feet of conserved water will be transferred the first year of the program, and increase over a period of years to 130,000 to 200,000 acre feet per year. After 10 years, an additional amount of 100,000 acre feet per year may be added for a maximum of 300,000 acre feet per year. Since the transferred waters will initially (possibly permanently) be diverted to the SDCWA via the State Water System above Parker Dam, impacts to the Colorado River will result in a reduction of flow in the Colorado River below Parker Dam.

As a federal agency, the USIBWC is providing comments for your use in development of the NEPA document. The USIBWC will coordinate the NEPA process and review of information produced with the Mexican Section, International Boundary and Water Commission, (MxIBWC). **The project proponent must insure that the proposed activities do not impact the Treaty of February 3, 1944, the Colorado River Salinity Control Act of June 24, 1974, and the agreements with Mexico.** F1a

**Our primary concerns are water quality obligations under Minute No. 242 and the Colorado River Salinity Control Act of June 24, 1974, and water quantity obligations under the Treaty of February 3, 1944. The proposed project would involve reducing water quantity downstream of Parker Dam** and this may result in affects to downstream water quality.

**The reduced flow may cause water quality impacts to the waters that reach Imperial Dam and the international boundary where Mexico receives water for irrigation of the Mexicali Valley. In addition, construction of improvements to the IID distribution system near the international** F1b F1c

The Commons, Building C, Suite 310 • 4171 N. Mesa Street • El Paso, Texas 79902
(915) 832-4100 • (FAX) (915) 832-4190

boundary could cause adverse impacts to Mexico who rely upon some of the seepage losses to recharge well fields in Mexico. Both of these potential impacts should be considered in the EIR/EIS. F1c

The USIBWC's statutory authority rests in 22 U.S.C. 277 a-d for ensuring that the United States Government meets the obligations incurred in the Treaty of February 3, 1944 (1944 Water Treaty), for "Utilization of Waters of the Colorado and Tijuana Rivers and the Rio Grande" (TS 994; 59 Stat. 1219) and other boundary and water treaties and agreements concluded by the United States and Mexico. The 1944 Water Treaty, Article 10 (a), provides a guaranteed annual quantity of 1,850,234,000 cubic meters of Colorado River waters be delivered in accordance with schedules formulated in advance by Mexico within specified limitations, and it also provides any other waters arriving at the Mexican points of diversion under certain understandings. These deliveries are made to Mexico by the USIBWC at Morelos Dam on the Colorado River near Yuma, Arizona. Releases are made from upstream reservoirs to assure that treaty obligations reach Morelos Dam for diversion by Mexico.

The United States and Mexico reached agreement on August 30, 1973, in International Boundary and Water Commission (IBWC) Minute No. 242 under the terms of the 1944 Water Treaty for a "Permanent and Definitive Solution to the International Problem of the Salinity of the Colorado River." This minute provided for immediate reduction in the salinity of the waters delivered to Mexico, stipulating that the United States shall adopt measures to assure that the waters delivered upstream of Morelos Dam have an annual salinity of no more than 115+/-30 parts per million over the annual average salinity of the Colorado River at Imperial Dam.

Compliance with IBWC Minute No. 242 is jointly monitored by the USIBWC and the MxIBWC. The waters delivered upstream from Morelos Dam are jointly sampled each weekday, and are analyzed for their salt content by the USIBWC and the MxIBWC, and the results are jointly compared by the IBWC. Since the agreement was signed, the records show that the United States is in full compliance with its terms.

Immediate interim measures were put into effect under the authorization of the Colorado River Salinity Control Act of June 24, 1974. The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) constructed works which bypassed all of the saline drainage waters to the Santa Clara Slough in Mexico on the Gulf of California. Waters of low salinity were substituted for the bypassed waters.

It was early recognized that to continue the interim measures to implement the agreement with Mexico would result in a serious loss of waters needed to meet Colorado River Basin users within the United States. The Salinity Control Act authorized the construction, operation and maintenance of a desalting plant in the United States to reduce the salinity of the drain waters. The Yuma Desalting Plant is constructed but is presently not in operation.

We ask that specific questions regarding hydrological or hydraulic issues be addressed to Mr. James Robinson, Division Engineer, Design Division, at this address or call (915) 832-4152. We look forward to working with Reclamation, the federal lead agency under the NEPA process. The United States Government depends on a close partnership with the USIBWC and the Department of Interior to ensure that the United States Government meets the treaty obligations and preserves the rights

contracted in the agreements.

Should you have questions, please contact me at (915) 832-4740, or have your staff contact Mr. Steve Fox at (915) 832-4736.

Sincerely,

for Sylvia A. Waggoner
Division Engineer
Environmental Management Division

cc: Imperial Irrigation District, P.O. Box 937, Imperial, CA 92251, Attn: Steven R. Knell

(F2)

UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

October 22, 1999

Mr. William Rinne
BC-00-1000
Bureau of Reclamation
Lower Colorado River Region
Boulder Canyon Operations Office
P.O. Box 61470
Boulder City, NV 89006-1470

Dear Mr. Rinne:

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the Notice of Intent to prepare an environmental impact statement for the **Imperial Irrigation District/San Diego County Water Authority Water Conservation and Transfer Project, Imperial County, CA.** Our review is pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), and Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

The Bureau of Reclamation (Bureau) and Imperial Irrigation District (IID) propose to prepare a EIS/EIR to assess the impacts of the proposed IID/San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA) Water Conservation and Transfer Project. The proposed project consists of the conservation by IID of up to 300,000 acre-feet of Colorado River water per year (af/yr), and the subsequent transfer of all or a portion of the conserved diverted water to SDCWA and, under certain circumstances, other designees. IID and SDCWA executed an Agreement for Transfer of Conserved Water (Agreement) in 1998. The Agreement provides for a phased increase of water conservation and transfer to SDCWA, starting with an annual amount of water not to exceed 20,000 af in the first year and ending with a stabilized annual primary quantity not less than 130,000 af/yr or more than 200,000 af/yr. After at least 10 years of primary transfers, an additional discretionary component not to exceed 100,000 af/yr may be transferred from IID to SDCWA, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California or Coachella Valley Water District. The initial term of the project is 45 years with the option to extend the term for an additional 30 years.

IID objectives are to sell the conserved water to provide sufficient funds to implement a water conservation program, including the cost of on-farm and system improvements. IID also seeks to maintain its historic senior priority water rights among Colorado River water users. SDCWA seeks to acquire an independent, reliable alternative long-term water supply to provide drought protection and to accommodate current and projected demand. Their goal is to diversify their water supply sources and decrease their current dependence on a single source. A water transfer from IID to

SDCWA is a key element of the "California 4.4 Plan" which is being developed to address the need for California to reduce its reliance on Colorado River water to its legal entitlement of 4.4 million af. California currently is diverting approximately 5.2 million af of Colorado River water per year.

The Bureau is the federal lead agency because certain actions taken to facilitate the transfer will require approval by the Secretary of the Interior. Such actions could potentially include amendments to IID's water supply contract, change in the point of diversion, change in type of use, change in place of use, verification or concurrence in the amount of water conserved by this Project, and verification of beneficial use of Colorado River water.

The EIS/EIR will evaluate a range of alternative conservation measures, water supply and transfer alternatives, in addition to the No Project/No Action Alternative. Potential water supply alternatives that will be considered include water conservation in the San Diego area, water repurification and recycling, desalination, and other water transfers from Northern California or water conserved in other agricultural regions. Potential environmental effects in the Lower Colorado River area, San Diego County, Salton Sea, and Imperial Valley will be evaluated.

Water conservation and diversification of water supply sources are laudable goals, especially given the critical need to assure a long-term, sustainable balance between available water supplies, ecosystem health, and water supply demand. Due to the complexity of the water supply system, controversies over water rights and water quality in this region, and potential conflicting water demands, we urge a thorough evaluation of all potential tradeoffs and environmental consequences. To maximize benefits and project flexibility, we urge the Bureau to work with IID and SDCWA to consider all available tools for enhancing water management flexibility, supply reliability, and water quality. F2a

A total of twenty-nine Indian Tribes could be affected by the proposed action: five tribes on the lower Colorado River, six tribes in the Salton Sea watershed, and 18 tribes within San Diego County. These Tribes have a major interest in water allocation, water use, and water quality within the region. For example, the Northern San Diego County Tribes water rights settlement allocate them rights over water from water conservation practices, and the Cocopah and Quachan Tribal groups have a major interest in restoration of the lower Colorado River Delta. It is critical that all potentially affected Indian Tribes be consulted on a government-to-government basis in regards to the potential impacts of the proposed action. F2b

We also advocate serious consideration of allocating and transferring part of the conserved water to other beneficial uses such as restoration of the Lower Colorado River ecosystem. Development of Colorado River water supply diversions has significantly altered this ecosystem, resulting in reduction of critical migratory bird habitat, fisheries, and other in-stream beneficial uses of the Colorado River. There are many current restoration efforts, such as the Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Plan and binational efforts to restore the Colorado River Delta, which would greatly benefit from additional Colorado River water and flows. F2c

The EIS should fully describe and evaluate potential linkages between and implications for other water supply and ecosystem restoration projects in the Region. At a minimum, address the relationship to and potential cumulative impacts of the Salton Sea and other Imperial Valley Total Daily Maximum Load (TMDL) efforts, Torres-Martinez Indian Tribal water right and water related activities, Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Plan, California 4.4 Plan, and restoration of the Colorado River Delta. In addition, pursuant to Executive Order 12114 (January 4, 1979), the EIS should fully assess the effects of this action on the groundwater resources in Mexico. We understand that past projects, such as the lining of the All American Canal, an integral part of the water conservation program, has raised concerns regarding the loss of irrigation water seepage into the groundwater acquifer supplying agriculture in Mexicali Valley, Mexico. The potential effect of the lining of the All American Canal on the Mexicali Valley groundwater supply, which would, in turn, affect water needs, is a primary example of why a broader review of potential impacts on the Lower Colorado River Basin should be fully evaluated in this EIS/EIR.

F2d

F2e

While the allocation of Colorado River water will not change, to whom it is allocated and how it is used and diverted could greatly influence the amount, timing, and location of diversions. Thus, other issues which should be fully addressed in the EIS include potential impacts to Colorado River instream beneficial uses, other water supply diversions, drinking water sources and systems, allocations during shortages, cumulative impacts, groundwater, and water quality. Of specific interest are potential cumulative impacts to the Colorado River ecosystem and Colorado River Delta (Delta), and impacts on the quality of water delivered to Mexico. Our attached comments describe in greater detail issues which we believe must be addressed in the EIS.

F2f

We appreciate the opportunity to review this NOI. Please send four (4) copies of the Draft environmental impact statement to this office at the same time it is officially filed with our HQ Office of Federal Activities. If you have any questions, please call Laura Fujii, of my staff, at 415-744-1601.

Sincerely,

Laura Fujii for

David J. Farrel, Chief
Federal Activities Office
Region 9 EPA

File: IIDwatertransfer.wpd
Main ID# 003322
Enclosure: Detailed Comments
EJ Executive Order

cc: Patricia Port, Office of Environmental Affairs, US Department of Interior
US IBWC, Environmental Management Division
Tom Kirk, Salton Sea Authority
Carol Roberts, US Fish and Wildlife
California RWQCB, Colorado River Basin Region
29 Affected Indian Tribes

NEPA requires evaluation of reasonable alternatives not within the jurisdiction of the lead agency (40 CFR Section 1502.14(c)). Furthermore, there should be a clear discussion of the reasons for the elimination of alternatives which were not evaluated in detail. F2cc.

The EIS should describe the phased structure of the long-term conservation and transfer proposal, and should clarify the extent to which the environmental document can meaningfully address anticipated impacts over the duration of implementation. We recommend that the proposed action incorporate impact monitoring, or other "designated intervals," which would trigger periodic reexamination of effects of the actions, and adjustment in the conservation/ transfer actions or mitigation measures. F2aa

**Baseline**

The selection of the No Action alternative is a critical step in the environmental analysis since it provides the baseline for comparison with other action alternatives. It is EPA's position that the "no action" alternative is not a no impact baseline. EPA believes that to interpret the "no action" alternative as having "no impacts" may be inconsistent with NEPA regulations. Continuation of the existing management situation would constitute a discretionary commitment of resources that is, effectively, an action affecting the environment. The alternatives analysis of the EIS should portray the environmental consequences of every alternative, including the no action alternative. F2bb

The EIS should document existing conditions in the lower Colorado River basin, Imperial Valley, and San Diego region. Explain the changes which have occurred (e.g., pre-project and past impacts) in these areas as a result of the current Colorado River diversion and water allocation. Furthermore, the EIS should adequately document cumulative impacts, including past, present and reasonably foreseeable actions. Past cumulative effects which contribute to "existing conditions" of these regions should be documented in the EIS. These effects could represent deficiencies (adverse impacts) which may be perpetuated under the action and no action alternatives. In addition, "current conditions" do not provide adequate guidelines for gauging desired levels of environmental restoration and enhancement. Information in the EIS should assist in establishing the deficiencies in current conditions and defining possible restoration and enhancement goals.

**Alternatives**

We believe that the EIS should evaluate different conservation and transfer strategies and alternatives. All reasonable alternatives should be considered including those which would depend upon the participation of other parties than the Bureau, IID, F2cc con't.

## COMMENTS

### NEPA Comments

We recommend the EIS include a clear description of the basic project purpose and need, project alternatives, potential impacts to the environment, and mitigation for these impacts. Particular attention should focus on an evaluation of the environmental impacts of the proposal and alternatives in comparative form, thus sharply defining the issues and providing a clear basis for choice among options for the decision maker and the public (40 CFR 1502.14). The EIS should clearly describe existing conditions, including information on existing water supply management and water allocation systems, surface water quality, drinking water quality and treatment systems, biological resources, and air quality. If appropriate, the EIS should also describe the legal and regulatory context of the proposed water conservation and transfer project. This would include water rights and related decisions, and negotiated agreements (whether in-place or tentative). Discuss the extent to which these laws, regulations, and agreements provide for protection of water quality and sensitive or unique habitats. F2g F2h

Full disclosure of indirect and cumulative impacts is of specific concern. NEPA requires evaluation of indirect and cumulative effects which are caused by the action (40 CFR 1508.8(b) and 1508.7). Indirect effects may include growth-inducing effects related to induced changes in the pattern of land use, population density or growth rate, and related effects on air and water and other natural systems, including ecosystems." (40 CFR 1508.9(b)). CEQ regulations also state that the EIS should include the "means to mitigate adverse environmental effects." (40 CFR 1502.16(h)). This provision applies to indirect effects as well as direct effects. Increased rates of growth for residential, commercial and industrial purposes, indirectly caused by the project, constitute indirect effects and should be evaluated in the EIS. Induced residential, commercial, and industrial growth can adversely affect water quality, wetlands, and other natural resources. These types of indirect effects and appropriate mitigation measures should be fully disclosed in the EIS. F2j F2K

Similarly, the EIS should disclose direct, indirect, and cumulative effects associated with reduced water diversions to IID due to the water transfer. This would include not only environmental effects but socio-economic impacts linked to changes in agricultural production, activities at the Salton Sea (e.g., recreation), and activities along or dependent on waterways likely to experience reduced flows (e.g., lower Colorado River, New River, and Alamo River). F2i

or SDCWA or those different to the initial priorities for IID's Colorado River diversion. For example, the Bureau should consider alternatives which provide water for other purposes, such as in-stream Colorado River benefits. Alternatives should also incorporate ways of improving water quality for environmental, urban uses, and agriculture. We advocate evaluation of an alternative which provides mechanisms with flexibility to adapt to changes in water supply and demand. Again, we urge an approach which focuses on demand management and effective, efficient use of existing supplies. ] F2cc con't.

**Environmental Effects**

We agree with the decision to evaluate potential environmental impacts within the Lower Colorado River area, San Diego County, and Imperial Valley. We also believe potential transboundary impacts to Mexico should be thoroughly investigated and disclosed pursuant to Executive Order 12114 (January 4, 1979). For example, describe whether IID water, such as canal seepage and over-irrigation, replenishes groundwater which may be utilized in the Mexicali Valley. The EIS should also fully evaluate potential impacts to Indian Trust assets and water rights, such as the rights of the Lower Colorado River and Salton Sea watershed Tribes. ] F2e con't.

As you know, the existence and maintenance of the Salton Sea depends on the agricultural drainage from Imperial Valley. Thus, the proposed conservation and water transfer program will have a direct impact on the amount of agricultural drainage flows into the Sea. The EIS should fully evaluate potential impacts to the Salton Sea, Salton Sea Restoration project, and describe mitigation for these impacts. ] F2z

**Water Resources**

**Water Rights**

We recommend the EIS contain a section that clearly describes relevant water rights law, Colorado River water allocation process and regulations, and the history of water rights and water supply allocation within the project area. This basic information will help ensure the public and decision makers have a full understanding of the historical and legal context of the proposed water transfer. This section should also describe the role of the California State Water Resources Control Board, if any, and the potential implications of a State-controlled or Federal-controlled water transfer. ] F21

The allocation and use of Colorado River water is complex and contentious, especially given the periodic shortfalls caused by lower base flows than originally assumed and high reservoir evaporation rates. Thus, it is likely that the proposed project will generate significant debate regarding priority water rights, what constitutes

beneficial use, allocation of conserved water, and water use. The EIS should fully disclose this debate and the issues and decisions that are developed. For instance, fully describe the potential interests and impact to the Coachella Valley Water District Colorado River water rights and the water rights of potentially affected Indian Tribes. F21 Con't

**Documentation of Water Conservation and Beneficial Use**

Water conservation and beneficial use should be clearly defined in the EIS. For instance, the EIS should state how water conservation will be interpreted, monitored, and whether and how differences in seasons and type of water use will be considered. F2v

The EIS should evaluate reuse of seepage and return flows. We strongly recommend development of a water budget for the region which documents the water balance within the area, including amounts of seepage and return flows, and amounts of on-farm and downstream reuse. Changes in on-farm and within-district efficiency may well affect other uses within a region by altering the quantity, timing, and quality of water available. The EIS should also address the potential risk of increased soil salinity from increased reuse of agricultural drainage water. F2w

**Water Supply and Demand**

Conservation

Conservation is an important component in managing water demand and supply. Thus, we support IID's commitment to implement a district-wide conservation program. We urge SDCWA to include in their proposed action a similar commitment to pursue an aggressive water conservation program. The EIS should include a discussion of how compliance with urban and agricultural water conservation plans will be monitored and achievement of certain levels of conservation will be assured. F2x

Monitoring and Accounting

Effective and sustainable management of water supplies depends on an accurate knowledge of water supply availability and water use. This knowledge can only be obtained through monitoring and accounting of water supply and use. We urge the Bureau, IID, and SDCWA to make a firm commitment to timely and accurate monitoring and accounting of the proposed water supply transfer and conservation program. The commitment should include dedicated funding for this effort and a method to make this data part of a public record accessible to outside review. This commitment and a monitoring plan should be described in the EIS. F2y

## Water Quality Issues

### General Water Quality Comments

1. The EIS should fully evaluate potential effects on efforts to meet surface and instream water quality standards established by EPA, Lower Colorado River Tribes, Tribes located in the Salton Sea watershed and the State of Arizona pursuant to the Federal Clean Water Act. EPA believes water requirements to meet these instream water quality standards should be satisfied before consideration of water transfers or reallocation to water supply contracts. Due to the need to meet water quality standards, we wish to highlight the need for flexibility in the project terms and conditions to ensure adaptability to potential changes in water policy and water quality standards. F2m

2. Potential impacts of the water conservation and transfer program on surface and ground water quality should be fully evaluated in the EIS. The evaluation should explain the relationship between Project operations and quantity, timing and quality of in-stream Colorado River flows, and agricultural drainage and return flows. It should also discuss the water quality impacts of agricultural chemicals (e.g., pesticides, fertilizers); management of discharges; and the impacts of water quality on aquatic resources and wildlife. F2n

3. The EIS should discuss the proposed project's compliance with State, Tribal and local water quality management plans and State/Tribal -adopted, EPA-approved water quality standards. The proposed action should be fully coordinated with the appropriate Regional Water Quality Control Boards to ensure protection of water quality and maintenance of beneficial uses. F2o

4. Evaluate the potential of the proposed water transfer to cause adverse aquatic impacts such as changes in water quality and quantity; changes in dissolved oxygen, and temperature; and habitat deterioration. Include a discussion on in-stream flow impacts of water diversions and return flows. F2p

5. Identify sensitive aquatic sites such as wetlands which are currently present. Outline past and potential beneficial uses of these areas, and disclose potential impacts from the proposed action. F2q

6. Discuss specific monitoring programs that are in place or will be implemented to determine potential impacts on surface, groundwater, and drinking water quality and beneficial uses. Evaluate whether maintenance and protection of water quality can be guaranteed. F2r

## Fish and Wildlife Issues

We recommend the EIS evaluate direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts to fish and wildlife of the proposed water conservation and transfer project. The EIS should evaluate the ability to restore or enhance fish and wildlife habitat and wetlands which may have been affected by water diversions and by changes in flows, timing, and water quality as a result of Colorado River water supplies. F2s

EPA recommends evaluating Endangered Species Act and Clean Water Act compliance, requirements, and possible reallocation of water for environmental protection as part of the proposed water conservation and transfer project. To do otherwise, may result in lost opportunities and the inability to reallocate water for environmental requirements. The evaluation of environmental requirements should consider flows, temperature needs, seasonality, and other water quality components and factors of critical importance to threatened and endangered species. F2t

## General Comments

### Coordination with Indian Tribes

We strongly urge you, IID, and SDCWA to meet and work with potentially affected Indian Tribes. Many of these Tribes have a direct interest in the water supply, water quality and water use in this region. For instance, the Torres Martinez Band of Desert Cahuilla, the Agua Calente Band of Desert Cahuilla, Augistine Band of Mission Indians, 29 Palms Band of Mission Indians and the Morongo Band of Mission Indians are in the process of establishing Water Quality Standards for the Salton Sea Watershed. Furthermore, the Bureau, with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, has a Trust responsibility to the Tribes.

Initial scoping meetings should be held with the Lower Colorado River Tribes, Tribes located in the Salton Sea watershed, and San Diego County Tribes to discuss how the Tribes' concerns regarding the proposed action will be handled by the Bureau, Bureau of Indian Affairs, and Department of Interior. F2b Con't.

### Environmental Justice

In keeping with Executive Order 12898, **Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations** (EO 12898), the EIS should describe the measures taken by the Bureau to: 1) fully analyze the environmental effects of the proposed Federal action on minority communities, e.g. Indian Tribes, and low-income populations, and 2) present opportunities for affected F2u

communities to provide input into the NEPA process. The intent and requirements of EO 12898 are clearly illustrated in the President's February 11, 1994 Memorandum for the Heads of all Departments and Agencies, enclosed. F2u Con't.

**Miscellaneous Comments**

1. If references to previous documents are used, the EIS should provide a summary of critical issues, assumptions, and decisions complete enough to stand alone without depending upon continued referencing of the other documents. F2dd

THE WHITE HOUSE

WASHINGTON

February 11, 1994

MEMORANDUM FOR THE HEADS OF ALL DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES

SUBJECT: Executive Order on Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations

Today I have issued an Executive order on Federal Actions to Address Environmental Justice in Minority Populations and Low-Income Populations. That order is designed to focus Federal attention on the environmental and human health conditions in minority communities and low-income communities with the goal of achieving environmental justice. That order is also intended to promote nondiscrimination in Federal programs substantially affecting human health and the environment, and to provide minority communities and low-income communities access to public information on, and an opportunity for public participation in, matters relating to human health or the environment.

The purpose of this separate memorandum is to underscore certain provision of existing law that can help ensure that all communities and persons across this Nation live in a safe and healthful environment. Environmental and civil rights statutes provide many opportunities to address environmental hazards in minority communities and low-income communities. Application of these existing statutory provisions is an important part of this Administration's efforts to prevent those minority communities and low-income communities from being subject to disproportionately high and adverse environmental effects.

I am therefore today directing that all department and agency heads take appropriate and necessary steps to ensure that the following specific directives are implemented immediately:

In accordance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, each Federal agency shall ensure that all programs or activities receiving Federal financial assistance that affect human health or the environment do not directly, or through contractual or other arrangements, use criteria, methods, or practices that discriminate on the basis of race, color, or national origin

Each Federal agency shall analyze the environmental effects, including human health, economic and social effects, of Federal actions, including effects on minority communities and low-income communities, when such analysis is required by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). 42 U.S.C. section 4321 et seq. Mitigation measures outlined or analyzed in an environmental assessment, environmental impact statement, or record of decision, wherever feasible, should address significant and adverse environmental effects of proposed Federal actions on minority communities and low-income communities.

Each Federal agency shall provide opportunities for community input in the NEPA process, including identifying potential effects and mitigation measures in consultation with affected communities and improving the accessibility of meetings, crucial documents, and notices.

The Environmental Protection Agency, when reviewing environmental effects of proposed action of other Federal agencies under section 309 of the Clean Air Act, 42 U.S.C. section 7609, shall ensure that the involved agency has fully analyzed environmental effects on minority communities and low-income communities, including human health, social, and economic effects.

Each Federal agency shall ensure that the public, including minority communities and low-income communities, has adequate access to public information relating to human health or environmental planning, regulations, and enforcement when required under the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. section 552, the Sunshine Act, 5 U.S.C. section 552b, and the Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Act, 42 U.S.C section 11044.

* * *

This memorandum is intended only to improve the internal management of the Executive Branch and is not intended to, nor does it create, any right, benefit, or trust responsibility, substantive or procedural, enforceable at law or equity by a party against the United States, its agencies, its officers, or any person.

William J. Clinton

(F3)

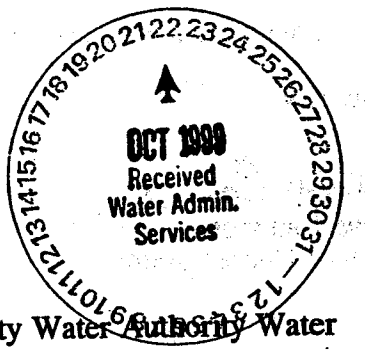
USDA United States Department of Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service

177 N Imperial Avenue
El Centro, CA 92243
(760) 352-7886 ♦ Fax: (760) 352-0219

October 20, 1999

Mr. Steven R. Knell
Special Projects Coordinator
Imperial Irrigation District
333 E. Barioni Boulevard
P.O. Box 937
Imperial, CA 92251




RE: EIR/EIS for the Imperial Irrigation District/San Diego County Water Authority Water Conservation And Transfer Project.

Dear Mr. Knell,

I have received the information contained in the above named project and have the following comments:

Some of the main NRCS resource concerns that are germane to our agency are the leaching of salinity from the soil and the possible impact this water transfer will have on U.S.D.A. Highly Erodible Land compliance plans. I am aware that land fallowing is not allowed under this agreement but we know that there are ways to get around it, like changing crop rotation, etc. As you know there are approximately 106,000 acres of highly erodible crop land by U.S.D.A. standards that are susceptible to wind erosion located in the IID service area. Moisture content of the soil is one major component that keeps these Highly Erodible Plans in compliance along with protective crops during the critical wind erosion period (March thru June). If the highly erodible soils are not irrigated and cropped sufficiently enough to meet U.S.D.A. criteria, they could fall out of compliance. This could mean the loss of U.S.D.A. benefits to these landowners. ] F3a

Leaching salinity out of the soil profile and into the subsurface tile drains is also extremely important to Imperial Valley farmers. I just hope that the landowners who sell conserved water remember this so this valuable cropland can remain productive. I believe this water transfer will have a lesser impact on air quality and wildlife issues. It is a well known fact that salinity concentration in the Salton Sea will probably rise, but I don't know if that can be avoided or not. ] F3a Con't.

In conclusion, I have enclosed a newspaper clipping from the San Diego Union Tribune editorial section. I thought you might find it interesting that San Diego's mindset is that the Imperial Valley is awash in water and will be more than willing to sell more water in the near future. They think today many farmers from the Imperial Valley will line up to sell this conserved water.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service strongly encourages the preservation of prime farmland and statewide important farmland for agriculture.

If I can be of further assistance, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Steve Cameron

Steve Cameron
District Conservationist

The San Diego
# Union-Tribune.
A Copley Newspaper

W. JEFF GATEWOOD
Founder, Oct. 10, 1868
JOHN D. SPRECKELS
Publisher, 1890-1926
COL. IRA C. COPLEY
Publisher, 1928-1947
JAMES S. COPLEY
Publisher, 1947-1973
HELEN K. COPLEY
Chairman and Publisher
KARIN E. WINNER
Editor
WILLIAM OSBORNE
Senior Editor/Opinion
ROBERT A. KITTLE
Editor of the Editorial Page
The Ring of Truth

# A new era

## *Water marketing guarantees San Diego's supply*

During the last drought, San Diego County faced the prospect of a 50 percent cutback in its water supply, which would have created an economic disaster. The future looked bleak.

At the time, California's agricultural regions, particularly the Imperial Valley, were relatively awash in water, but bureaucratic Berlin Wall blocked any of it from flowing to us. San Diego had to rely on the benevolence of water wonks at the Metropolitan Water District in Los Angeles. Instead, word came down that they might cut our supply in half.

It never happened, thanks to propitious spring rains. But the threat was very real.

Nearly a decade later, the water outlook for San Diego County has changed so much that it's hard to believe. The Berlin Wall has fallen, and water can now flow from farms to cities. The era of water marketing has begun.

An agreement this week by the three big Colorado River waterusers in Southern California has cleared the way for San Diego County to buy 200,000 acre-feet of water a year from the Imperial Valley. That represents about one-third of the amount we currently import from the MWD. This water will come directly to our county, without the machinations of a middleman.

Of course, the MWD remains a giant, opaque bureaucracy that still controls much of San Diego County's water. But even that may change soon. In an interview with the *Los Angeles Times*, Gov. Gray Davis recently called the MWD "the most ineffective organization on the planet Earth," and said it "needs to be put out of its misery."

The San Diego County-Imperial Valley deal is the biggest example of water marketing in the state, but it by no means should be the last. The Imperial Irrigation District gets at least 3.1 million acre-feet of water each year. While residents there may not be willing to sell any more water to San Diego County today, that could change in the near future.

Since the MWD, after a long fight, finally is allowing San Diego County to use its Colorado River Aqueduct to get Imperial Irrigation District water, the water wholesaler should rent space in its pipes for our county and other regional water agencies to transfer water from the Central Valley as well. Other urban water agencies should be making their own deals, thus loosening the demand on the existing water supply.

A decade ago, water marketing was a pipe dream. Today, not only have the barriers fallen, but the state's mindset has changed. While once the idea of selling water to cities was anathema to agricultural communities, today many farmers would line up to do so. That's especially true since cities will pay farms to conserve, and then buy the conserved water.

Cities and farms, once combatants in California's water wars, may soon become what former Cold War adversaries have become — trading partners.

State of California - The Resources Agency
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
http://www.dfg.ca.gov
1416 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814
(916)653-1070

S1

D

GRAY DAVIS, Governor

October 29, 1999

Mr. Steven Knell
Imperial Irrigation District
333 East Baroni Boulevard
Imperial, CA 92251

**Notice of Preparation (NOP)**
**for the IID/SDCWA**
**Water Conservation and Transfer Project**
**draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR)**

Dear Mr. Knell,

The Department of Fish and Game (Department) appreciates the opportunity to comment on the above-referenced project, relative to impacts to biological resources. The proposed project includes the conservation of up to 300,000 acre-feet (af) of water per year by Imperial Irrigation District (IID) and the transfer of all or a portion of the conserved water to San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA) and, under certain circumstances, to other designees for beneficial use and to meet current and projected water supply needs. The transfer will include changing the point of diversion of some or all of the water. The current point of diversion is Imperial Dam. The proposed project will divert water upstream at Parker Dam. The proposed conservation program also includes the participation of Imperial Valley landowners and tenants in order to implement on-farm conservation methods, such as improved or alternative water management techniques and revised irrigation methods. The program may also include system-based conservation methods implemented by IID, which improve irrigation and drainage facilities.

A change in the point of diversion will affect the flow regime, habitat, and water quality on the Colorado River, primarily the river reach and associated backwaters from Parker Dam south to Imperial Dam. This affected river reach comprises approximately 150 of the 240 river miles bordering California. This affected reach of the river and associated backwaters supports high quality habitat for resident fish, wildlife, and vegetation. Numerous Federally and State listed species and State Fully Protected Species dependant on this habitat occur in this affected reach including western-yellow billed cuckoo *(Melanerpes uropygialis)*, Yuma clapper rail

*(Rallus longirostris yumanensis)*, southwestern willow flycatcher *(Empidonax trailii extimus)*, least Bell's vireo *(Vireo bellii pusillus)*, razorback sucker *(Xyrauchen texanus)*, and bonytail chub *(Gila elegans)*.

The proposed water transfer also has the potential to impact the biological resources in and around the Salton Sea. The Salton Sea provides habitat for several listed species including the Yuma clapper rail *(Rallus longirostris yumanensis)*, California black rail *(Laterallus jamaicensis coturniculus)*, California brown pelican *(Pelecanus occidentalis californicus)*, and the desert pupfish *(Cyprinodon macularius)*.

The Department is responsible for protecting, preserving, and enhancing all natural biological resources of the state and as a public agency must represent the interests of all our stakeholders. As such, operations which negatively affect the natural communities of the River, Salton Sea, and Coachella Valley, or recreational opportunities are of concern to the Department.

To enable Department staff to adequately review and comment on the proposed project, we recommend the following information be included in the draft EIR prepared for the proposed project:

1. The affect of a change in point of diversion will result in a reduction of flows in the reach of river from Parker Dam to Imperial Dam. A thorough analysis of how the reduction in flows will affect species and habitats through changes in groundwater elevations, river and backwater surface acreage, river and backwater depth, and water quality should be included in the document. S1a

2. The Department has a "no net loss" policy for riparian habitat. An analysis of the impacts to riparian vegetation resulting from lowered groundwater levels, and increased fluctuations on water surface elevations, needs to be included. This analysis also needs to include the potential for these changes to favor exotic plant species such as saltcedar. S1b

3. The Department has a "no net loss" policy for wetlands. An analysis of the impacts to wetland vegetation resulting from lowered groundwater levels, and reduced median flows should be included. This analysis should include a discussion of the change in the rate of succession and loss of wetland habitat to upland terrestrial habitat. S1c

4. An analysis of the loss of surface acreage in the affected river reach and associated backwaters, along with a reduction in median flows, water depth, and volume and how this loss will impact fish and wildlife. This will include reducing the available habitat and condensing the fish into smaller areas, increasing predation and competition for existing resources. The Department is of the opinion that less water will be detrimental to fish, wildlife, and their habitat. S1d

5. This project could have a negative impact to recreation such as angling and hunting opportunities. An analysis of how reduced water depth will increase navigational hazards along the river such as sandbars, gravel bars, unstable riverbanks, floating or submerged debris, or other unfamiliar obstacles needs to be included, as well as how access to backwaters from the river for fish and boats will be compromised by the reduction in river depth; how decreased water volume, flushing rates, and flushing volumes for the river and associated backwaters may reduce water quality and increase salinity and selenium concentrations; and how launch ramps, docks, and recreational facilities along the river and associated backwaters may be negatively affected by the reduction in river depth. S1e

6. An analysis of the impacts to the Salton Sea and its associated wetlands resulting from less water needs to be included. This analysis should include, but not be limited to, the change in water levels, the effects on salinity, water quality, and the species that inhabit the Sea and its shoreline pools such as brown pelicans, Yuma clapper rails, and desert pupfish. S1f

7. The Department's Imperial Wildlife Area (IWA) supports the largest population of Yuma clapper rails in the state. It also is an important hunting area in the region. The effects of the water transfer and conservation program on IWA including restoration programs should be thoroughly analyzed. S1g

8. The water conservation portion of the project will result in less water entering the Salton Sea through the drains. The drains provide important habitat for the desert pupfish. A thorough analysis of the changes in water quantity and quality in the drains and the effect on desert pupfish needs to be included in the draft EIR. S1h

9. The water conservation and transfer program may also result in up to 100,000 af of water per year being transferred to the Coachella Valley Water District as one of the other designees. Additional water transferred to the Coachella Valley has the potential to impact several listed and sensitive species such as the Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard (*Uma inornata*); Coachella Valley milkvetch (*Astragalus lentiginosus* var. *coachellae*); flat-tailed horned lizard (*Phrynosoma mcalli*); Palm Springs ground squirrel (*Spermophilus teritaudus chlorus*); Palm Springs pocket mouse (*Perognathus longimembris bangsi*); crissal thrasher (*Toxostoma crissale*); LeConte's thrasher (*Toxostoma lecontei*); burrowing owl (*Speotyto cunicularia*); and Peninsular bighorn sheep (*Ovis canadensis cremnobates*). An analysis of the growth inducing impacts and their effect on the above mentioned species resulting from this transfer should be included in the draft EIR. S1i

10. A complete assessment of the flora and fauna within and adjacent to the project area, with particular emphasis upon identifying endangered, threatened, and locally unique species and sensitive habitats. S1j

    a. A thorough assessment of rare plants and rare natural communities, following the Department's May 1984 Guidelines for Assessing Impacts to Rare Plants and Rare Natural Communities. S1k

    b. A complete assessment of sensitive fish, wildlife, reptile, and amphibian species. Seasonal variations in use of the project area should also be addressed. Focused species-specific surveys, conducted at the appropriate time of year and time of day when the sensitive species are active or otherwise identifiable, are required. Acceptable species-specific survey procedures should be developed in consultation with the Department and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. S1l

    c. Rare, threatened, and endangered species to be addressed should include all those which meet the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) definition (see CEQA Guidelines, § 15380). S1m

    d. The Department's California Natural Diversity Data Base in Sacramento should be contacted at (916) 327-5960 to obtain current information on any previously reported sensitive species and habitats, including Significant Natural Areas identified under Chapter 12 of the Fish and Game Code. S1n

11. A thorough discussion of direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts expected to adversely effect biological resources, with specific measures to offset such impacts. S1o

    a. CEQA Guidelines, § 15125(a), direct that knowledge of the regional setting is critical to an assessment of environmental impacts and that special emphasis should be placed on resources that are rare or unique to the region. S1p

    b. Project impacts should be analyzed relative to their effects on off-site habitats. Specifically, this should include nearby public lands, open space, adjacent natural habitats, and riparian ecosystems. Impacts to and maintenance of wildlife corridor/movement areas, including access to undisturbed habitat in adjacent areas, should be fully evaluated and provided. S1q

    c. The zoning of areas for development projects or other uses that are nearby or adjacent to natural areas may inadvertently contribute to wildlife-human interactions. A discussion of possible conflicts and mitigation measures to reduce theses conflicts should be included in the environmental document. S1r

d. A cumulative effects analysis should be developed as described under CEQA Guideline, § 15130. General and specific plans, as well as past, present, and anticipated future projects, should be analyzed relative to their impacts on similar plant communities and wildlife habitats. S1s

e. The document should include an analysis of the effect that the project may have on completion and implementation of regional and /or subregional conservation programs such as the Colorado River Multi-species Conservation Plan and the Coachella Valley Multi-species Habitat Conservation Plan. This analysis should include the potential growth inducing affects associated with the water transfers. S1t

f. The document should include an analysis of the effect that the project may have on completion and implementation of the Natural Community Conservation Plans in San Diego County, including the Multiple Habitat Conservation Program Plan and the Multiple Species Conservation Program Plan. This analysis should include the potential growth inducing affects in San Diego County associated with the water transfers to San Diego County. The growth inducing analysis is not needed for the Multiple Species Conservation Program Plan area since it was addressed in this plan and the associated CEQA documents. S1u

12. A range of alternatives should be analyzed to ensure that alternatives to the proposed project are fully considered and evaluated. A range of alternatives which avoid or otherwise minimize impacts to sensitive biological resource should be included. Specific alternative locations should also be evaluated in areas with lower resource sensitivity where appropriate. S1v

a. Mitigation measures for project impacts to sensitive plants, animals, and habitats should emphasize evaluation and selection of alternatives which avoid or otherwise minimize project impacts. Off-site compensation for unavoidable impacts through acquisition and protection of high-quality habitat elsewhere should be addressed. S1w

b. The Department considers Rare Natural Communities as threatened habitats having both regional and local significance. Thus, these communities should be fully avoided and otherwise protected from project-related impacts. S1x

c. The Department generally does not support the use of relocation, salvage, and /or transplantation as mitigation for impacts to rare, threatened, or endangered species. Department studies have shown that these efforts are experimental in nature and largely unsuccessful. S1y

13. A California Endangered Species Act (CESA) Permit must be obtained, if the project has the potential to result in "take" of species of plants or animals listed under CESA, either during construction or over the life of the project. CESA Permits are issued to conserve, protect, enhance, and restore State-listed threatened or endangered species and their habitats. Early consultation is encouraged, as significant modification to the proposed project and mitigation measures may be required in order to obtain a CESA Permit. Revisions to the Fish and Game Code, effective January 1998, require that the Department issue a separate CEQA document for the issuance of a CESA permit unless the project CEQA document addresses all project impacts to listed species and specifies a mitigation monitoring and reporting program that will meet the requirements of a CESA permit. For these reasons, the following information is requested: S1z

    a. Biological mitigation monitoring and reporting proposals should be of sufficient detail and resolution to satisfy the requirement s for a CESA Permit. S1aa

    b. A Department-approved Mitigation Agreement and Mitigation Plan are required for plants listed as rare under the Native Plant Protection Act. S1bb

14. The Department opposes the elimination of watercourses and/or their channelization or conversion to subsurface drains. All wetlands and watercourses, whether intermittent or perennial, must be retained and provided with substantial setbacks which preserve the riparian and aquatic values and maintain their value to on-site and off-site wildlife populations. S1cc

    a. The Department has direct authority under Fish and Game code § 1600 et seq. In regard to any proposed activity which would divert, obstruct, or affect the natural flow or change the bed, channel, or bank of any river, stream, or lake. S1dd

    b. A discussion of potential adverse impacts from any increased runoff, sedimentation, soil erosion, and/or pollutants on streams and watercourses on or near the project site, with mitigation measures proposed to alleviate such impacts must be included. S1ee

    c. In order for the Department to process a SAA agreement, the CEQA-certified documents must include an analysis of the impacts of the proposed project on the lake or streambed, an analysis of the biological resources present on the site, copies of biological studies conducted on the site, biological survey methodology, and a discussion of any alternative measures, avoidance measures, mitigation measures which will reduce the impacts of the proposed development to a level of insignificance. If the EIR prepared by Imperial Irrigation District is not adequate for issuance of the SAA, an additional CEQA document will have to be prepared by the Department. S1ff

The Department appreciates the opportunity to comment on this project. Questions regarding this letter should be directed to Mr. Glenn Black, Environmental Services Supervisor, at (909) 597-5043.

Sincerely,

Ronald D. Rempel
Deputy Director

cc: G. Black
K. Nicol
T. Foreman
C. Hayes
L. Crum
J. Steele
B. Tippets
C.F. Raysbrook
C. Taucher
R. Pelzman

Winston H. Hickox
*Secretary for Environmental Protection*

# State Water Resources Control Board

**Division of Water Rights**
901 P Street • Sacramento, California 95814 • (916) 657-1359
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2000 • Sacramento, California • 95812-2000
FAX (916) 657-1485 • Web Site Address: http://www.swrcb.ca.gov

S2

**Gray Davis**
*Governor*

October 25, 1999

Mr. Steven R. Knell
Special Projects Coordinator
Imperial Irrigation District
333 E. Barioni Boulevard
P.O. Box 937
Imperial, CA 92251

Dear Mr. Knell:

COMMENTS ON NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF AN EIR/EIS FOR THE PROPOSED IMPERIAL IRRIGATION DISTRICT/SAN DIEGO COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY WATER CONSERVATION AND TRANSFER PROJECT.

State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) staff have reviewed the Notice of Preparation of the Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) for the above-titled project. Imperial Irrigation District and the San Diego County Water Authority have filed a petition with the SWRCB for approval of the proposed long-term water transfer. In the exercise of its authority over the proposed water transfer, the SWRCB will serve as a responsible agency under the California Environmental Quality Act and will review the information provided by the EIR/EIS.

The notice of preparation discusses a number of potential environmental effects that will be considered during the environmental review process. In addition to evaluating the potential environmental effects identified in the notice, the environmental review process should provide a sufficient level of detail to allow the SWRCB to determine: (1) any potential effects of the transfer on other legal users of water; and (2) any potential effects of the transfer on fish, wildlife and other instream beneficial uses of water in the New River, the Alamo River, the Salton Sea, the Colorado River, and any other sources of water affected by the transfer. The EIR/EIS should evaluate the effects of the proposed transfer in conjunction with cumulative impacts which may occur due to other ongoing or potential water conservation or water transfer programs. S2a S2b S2c

The SWRCB looks forward to review of the draft EIR/EIS. If you have any questions about these comments, please contact Tom Peltier, the Division's IID Coordinator, at (916) 657-1526.

Sincerely,

Harry M. Schueller, Chief
Division of Water Rights

(S3)

# Air Resources Board

Alan C. Lloyd, Ph.D.
Chairman
2020 L Street • P.O. Box 2815 • Sacramento, California 95812 • www.arb.ca.gov

Winston H. Hickox
*Agency Secretary*

Gray Davis
*Governor*

October 22, 1999

Mr. William Rinne
Bureau of Reclamation
Lower River Region
Boulder Canyon Operations Office
P.O. Box 61470
Boulder City, Nevada 89006-1470




Mr. Steven R. Knell
Imperial Irrigation District
P.O. Box 937
333 East Barioni Boulevard
Imperial, California 92251

Dear Mr. Rinne and Mr. Knell:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide input on the environmental issues we think should be addressed in the environmental impact evaluation of the Imperial Irrigation District/San Diego County Water Authority Water Conservation and Transfer Project.

The proposed water transfer will most likely result in less water flow to the Salton Sea causing the Salton Sea to recede and creating greater exposure of lakebed surfaces. Particulate emissions from dry or receding lakebeds such as Owens Lake and Mono Lake have caused serious air pollution problems in California. A receding Salton Sea could lead to similar types of particulate emission episodes. Additionally, years of runoff from alkali soils, agricultural fertilizers and pesticides, and waste contamination from the Mexican border mean that both acute and chronic health effects from exposure to the particulate emissions should be taken into consideration.

The Air Resources Board (ARB) believes that comprehensive particulate matter dispersion (e.g., wind tunnel studies of soil sediments from the Salton Sea), transport modeling and health risk studies are needed to adequately assess the potential environmental impact from exposing parts of the Salton Sea lakebed. S3a In addition, monitoring for particulate matter in the Salton Sea area is needed to establish current conditions (baseline monitoring) and to document the impact of the water transfer on the air quality in that area, determine the effectiveness of any mitigation measures, and help differentiate the air quality impact of the water transfer from other sources of pollution (long-term monitoring). S3b Baseline monitoring may be conducted as part of the Salton Sea restoration effort, however, no long-term monitoring is currently proposed.

Additional work may be needed to develop appropriate measures to mitigate adverse air quality effects due to the water transfer. ] S3c

ARB staff has considerable experience with these types of air quality issues and could assist the Imperial Irrigation District in developing scopes of work for suggested studies. If we can be of any assistance or you have any questions regarding our comments or need additional information, please contact me at (916) 322-8279.

Sincerely,

Dean Saito
Manager, Liaison Section

cc: Stephen Birdsall
Air Quality Control Officer
Imperial County Air Pollution Control District
150 South 9th Street
El Centro, California 92243-2801

Dr. Barry Wallerstein
Executive Officer
South Coast Air Quality Management District
21865 E. Copley Drive
Diamond Bar, California 91765-4182

Richard Sommerville
Air Pollution Control Officer
San Diego County Air Pollution Control District
9150 Chesapeake Drive
San Diego, California 92123-1096

Bart Christensen
California Environmental Protection Agency
Salton Sea Science Subcommittee
2014 P Street, Suite 130
Sacramento, California 95814

(S4)

(11)

THE STATE OF ARIZONA

# GAME & FISH DEPARTMENT

2221 West Greenway Road, Phoenix, Arizona 85023-4399 (602) 942-3000
www.gf.state.az.us

*Governor*
Jane Dee Hull

*Commissioners:*
Chairman, William Berlat, Tucson
W. Hays Gilstrap, Phoenix
Dennis D. Manning, Alpine
Michael M. Golightly, Flagstaff
Joe Carter, Safford

*Director*
Duane L. Shroufe

*Deputy Director*
Steve K. Ferrell

October 19, 1999

10-25

~~Ag 600/0000~~

Mr. William Rinne
Bureau of Reclamation
Lower Colorado Region, Boulder Canyon Operations Office
P.O. Box 61470
Boulder City, NV 89006-1000

Re: Notice of Intent (NOI) for the Imperial Irrigation District/San Diego Co. Water Authority Water Conservation and Transfer Project

The Arizona Game and Fish Department (Department) has reviewed the Notice of Intent (NOI) for the Imperial Irrigation District/San Diego Co. Water Authority Water Conservation and Transfer Project. Comments of the Arizona Game and Fish Department are based on the following provisions of Arizona law:

> "Wildlife, both resident and migratory, native or introduced, found in this state except fish and bullfrogs impounded in private ponds or tanks or wildlife and birds reared or held in captivity under permit from the commission [Arizona Game and Fish Commission], are property of the state and may be taken at such times, in such manner, and with such devices as provided by law or rule of the commission." (Arizona Revised Statutes § 17-102)

> "The laws of the state relating to wildlife shall be administered by the game and fish department. Control of the game and fish department is vested in the game and fish commission." (Arizona Revised Statutes § 17-201)

> "The [Arizona Game and Fish] Commission shall:"
> "2. Establish broad policies and long range programs for the management, preservation and harvest of wildlife."
> (Arizona Revised Statutes § 17-231)

The Arizona Game and Fish Department, therefor, has a trust responsibility for all fish and wildlife within the territorial jurisdiction of the State of Arizona.

On July 26, 1987, the Arizona Game and Fish Commission formally adopted a policy, titled "Wildlife and Wildlife habitat Compensation," in open public session, which states, in part, that:

> "It is the policy of the Arizona Game and Fish Commission that the Department shall seek compensation at a 100% level, when feasible, for actual or potential habitat losses resulting from land and water projects."
>
> "Among factors deemed important by the Commission are potential impacts to special category species and/or economically important wildlife species as well as issues which reflect the value, quantity, and quality of habitats which may be impacted by proposed projects."

Further, on October 16, 1987 the Arizona Game and Fish Commission formally adopted the following policy, titled "Riparian Habitat", in open public session:

> "It is the policy of the Arizona Game and Fish Commission that the Department shall recognize riparian habitats as areas of critical environmental importance to wildlife and fisheries. The Department shall actively encourage management practices that will result in maintenance of current riparian habitat, and restoration of past or deteriorated riparian habitat...."

The Department is the state wildlife agency for the purposes of consultation by Federal agencies pursuant to provisions of the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 USC 662 *et seq.*)

As identified several years ago during scoping for the proposed lining of the All-American Canal, the Department is concerned about effects of upstream changes in points of diversion of Colorado River water on aquatic, wetland, and riparian habitats along the lower river. Reductions in water surface elevations will affect the wetted perimeter of the river, an effect most notable in areas of gently sloping banklines with shallow water fringe. Those areas can be very important habitat for the rare California black rail and the Federally endangered Yuma clapper rail. S4

Changes in the water surface elevation of the river itself will result in changes in connectivity of adjacent sloughs and backwater areas. Such changes may result in significant adverse effects to water circulation in those areas. Since circulation of water is important seasonally in maintaining adequate dissolved oxygen in the water, changes may result in impacts to the quality or utility of the area as fish habitat. Based on telemetry work done by the Department on razorback sucker, those federally listed fish prefer well connected off-channel backwaters in the lower Imperial Division. S4

Changes in backwaters will affect recreational fishing. We note that the lower Colorado River is heavily utilized by anglers, with a substantial portion of this Nations population within three hours drive. Based on data derived from our 1992 Statewide Angler Survey, we estimate approximately 355,000 angler use days per annum, by Arizona licensed anglers, on the Colorado River below Parker Dam. S4c

We are also concerned about changes in water surface elevations on riparian vegetation adjacent to the Colorado River and in areas which may be affected by reductions in the water table elevation. We have seen changes along the lower river resulting from channelization work in the 1950's and 60's. While we still see trees, which became established during better conditions, many older trees are decadent and are unlikely to be replaced, as the present site conditions are inadequate to support regeneration. Much of this impact is from lowering of the groundwater adjacent to the river. S4d

Finally, Arizona Game and Fish has statutory responsibility for the boating safety program at the state level in Arizona and we are interested in how changes to the river affect navigation and boating safety. S4e

The Department has had informal discussions with Reclamation regarding approaches to quantification of impacts to habitat along the river which could result from changes in water surface elevations. We suggest that a meeting be convened to further those discussions and to identify basic data needs so that the quantification of impacts can be data driven and defensible. If you have any questions feel free to contact me at 602-789-3607.

Sincerely,

William E Werner

William E. Werner
Aquatic Habitat Coordinator
Habitat Branch

WWww

cc: Steven Knell, Imperial Irrigation District
Larry Voyles, Regional Supervisor, Yuma Regional Office

S5

STATE OF CALIFORNIA - RESOURCES AGENCY

GRAY DAVIS, Governor

DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION
P.O. BOX 942896
SACRAMENTO, CA 94296-0001
(916) 653-3460




October 27, 1999

Mr. Steven Knell
Imperial Irrigation District
333 East Baroni Boulevard
Imperial, California 92251

Dear Mr. Knell:

State Parks staff have reviewed your IID/SDCWA Water Conservation and Transfer Project, SCH #99091142, and have determined that this project to conserve agricultural water and transfer water from the Imperial Irrigation District and the Colorado River to San Diego will dramatically impact the natural and cultural resources of two Colorado Desert District units: Salton Sea State Recreation Area, located along the eastern shore of the Salton Sea in Riverside and Imperial Counties; and Picacho State Recreation Area, located on the lower Colorado River. Depending upon the ultimate plan, the project could also possibly impact Anza-Borrego Desert and Cuyamaca Rancho State Parks.

Regarding the preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report for this project, the following subjects are of particular concern and should be addressed.

1. **IMPACTS ON NATURAL RESOURCES, RECREATION AND ECONOMY OF THE SALTON SEA REGION.** Enforced conservation of water on agricultural lands and other lands within the Salton Sea's watershed will severely reduce the runoff waters which currently replenish the sea. This reduction will lower the level of the sea, resulting in a further increase of the already high salinity and nutrient levels which currently threaten the sea's biotic communities, its fishery and its important role as a foraging stop for millions of birds in the Pacific Flyway. In addition, a lower sea level would render many facilities at Salton Sea State Recreation Area, including launch ramps, fishing jetty and swim beaches, unusable, decreasing the area's recreational attraction and ultimately impacting the economy of the region. S5a + S5d

2. **IMPACTS ON NATURAL RESOURCES AND RECREATION IN THE LOWER COLORADO RIVER REGION.** Diversion of water away from the lower Colorado River will inevitably result in impacts to the natural environment, as low river levels contribute to silting up of backwater lakes and loss of vital wetlands. These shallow waters will also make navigation extremely difficult, creating long-term impacts on recreational opportunities on the river. S5b

3. **IMPACTS ON NATURAL AND AESTHETIC RESOURCES OF STATE PARK AND STATE WILDERNESS LANDS IN EASTERN SAN DIEGO COUNTY.** If the water transfer requires the construction of new canals or pipelines, routes traversing State Park and State Wilderness lands, specifically within Anza-Borrego Desert State Park and Cuyamaca Rancho State Park, should not be considered as alternatives. S5c

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposed project. It is vitally important for these issues to be evaluated during this early stage of the planning process so that appropriate alternatives and mitigations may be investigated. If there are any questions about our comments, please contact Salton Sea Sector Superintendent Steve Horvitz at (760) 393-3059.

Sincerely,

B. Noah Tilghman
Senior Park and Recreation Specialist

cc: State Clearinghouse
Nadell Gayou, The Resources Agency
Colorado Desert District
Salton Sea Sector

STATE OF CALIFORNIA GRAY DAVIS, *Governor*

**CALIFORNIA STATE LANDS COMMISSION**
100 Howe Avenue, Suite 100-South
Sacramento, CA 95825-8202

**PAUL D. THAYER,** *Executive Officer*
(916) 574-1800 FAX (916) 574-1810
*California Relay Service From TDD Phone* **1-800-735-2922**
*from Voice Phone* **1-800-735-2929**

***Contact Phone:*** **(916) 574-1833**
***Contact FAX:*** **(916) 574-1925**

S6

December 6, 1999

File Ref: YC – 99

Steven Knell
Imperial Irrigation District
333 East Baroni Boulevard
Imperial, California 92251

Dear Mr. Knell:

Staff of the California State Lands Commission (CSLC) has reviewed the Notice of Preparation (NOP) of a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the IID/SDCWA Water Conservation and Transfer Project, SCH 99091142. We apologize for the lateness of these comments and appreciate their consideration by the Imperial Irrigation District.

By way of general background, upon admission to the Union in 1850, California acquired nearly four million acres of sovereign land underlying the State's navigable waterways. Such lands include, but are not limited to, the beds of more than 120 navigable rivers and sloughs, nearly 40 navigable lakes, and the three mile wide band of tide and submerged land adjacent to the coast and offshore islands of the State. The CSLC holds its sovereign interest in these lands subject to the Public Trust for commerce, navigation, fisheries, open space, and preservation of natural environments, among others.

The proposed project area includes the Colorado River which is State-owned sovereign lands as described above. The CSLC is particularly concerned with the natural resources and public recreational opportunities of lands under its jurisdiction. Proposed development located within these waterways are subject to the CSLC's permitting process and the CSLC is a Responsible Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). S6a

Additionally, the CSLC is concerned with proposed projects that may have the potential for altering the water flows of Public Trust lands. As such, we are concerned with impacts to fisheries and navigation, amongst others. The California Supreme Court in National Audubon Society v. Superior Court (1983) 33 Cal. 3d 419 states that there is an "affirmative duty to take the public trust into account in the planning and allocation of S6b

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Services

water resources, and to protect trust uses whenever feasible....Unnecessary and unjustified harm to trust interests" should be avoided. Preservation of significant trust resources, such as fisheries, wetlands, and riparian habitat should be given their proper weight in decisions of water allocation and management. S16b con't

We appreciate the opportunity to comment and look forward to our review of the draft document. If you have any questions regarding the CSLC's permitting process, please contact Barbara Dugal at (916) 574-1833. For comments regarding content of the DEIR, please contact Betty Silva at (916) 574-1872.

Sincerely,

Mary Griggs

MARY GRIGGS
Assistant Chief
Division of Environmental
Planning and Management

cc: Betty Silva
Barbara Dugal
OPR

L1

ESTABLISHED IN 1918 AS A PUBLIC AGENCY

# COACHELLA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

POST OFFICE BOX 1058 • COACHELLA, CALIFORNIA 92236 • TELEPHONE (760) 398-2651

DIRECTORS
TELLIS CODEKAS, PRESIDENT
RUSSELL KITAHARA, VICE PRESIDENT
JOHN W. McFADDEN
JOHN P. POWELL, Jr.
DOROTHY M. NICHOLS

October 26, 1999

OFFICERS
THOMAS E. LEVY, GENERAL MANAGER-CHIEF ENGINEER
BERNARDINE SUTTON, SECRETARY
OWEN McCOOK, ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER
REDWINE AND SHERRILL, ATTORNEYS

File: 0645.741

Steven R. Knell
Special Project Coordinator
Imperial Irrigation District
Post Office Box 937
Imperial, California 92251

Dear Mr. Knell:

Subject: Imperial Irrigation District/San Diego County Water Authority Water Conservation and Transfer Project

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on the scoping of the above-referenced project.

We do not believe that the environmental caps are appropriate. The agencies, before certifying the Environmental Impact Report and Environmental Impact Statement, should determine the cost of any and all environmental mitigation and decide to go forward with the project or decide not to do the project. L1a

Enclosed are additional comments on the potential environmental impacts which should be covered by the Environmental Impact Report and Environmental Impact Statement.

If you have any questions please call me.

Yours very truly,

Tom Levy
General Manager-Chief Engineer

Enclosure/as

TEL:jl\ltrs\oct\knell

TRUE CONSERVATION
USE WATER WISELY

February 13, 1998

Mr. Gerald Shoaf
Redwine and Sherrill
1950 Market Street
Riverside, California 92501

Subject: Comments on Potential Environmental Impacts of Imperial Irrigation District-San Diego County Water Authority Water Transfer

Dear Mr. Shoaf:

Enclosed is our assessment of the potential environmental impacts that should be addressed regarding the proposed San Diego County Water Authority - Imperial Irrigation District Water Transfer Agreement. We have prepared our analysis using the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) checklist. We have considered potential impacts on:

- Imperial Irrigation District service area
- Salton Sea
- Colorado River below Parker Dam
- Coachella Valley Water District service area
- San Diego County Water Authority service area
- Metropolitan Water District of Southern California service area

The analysis includes a summary of the potential impacts in each area and detailed checklists for each area. Potential environmental impacts of the agreement include:

- Changes in agricultural resources and operations
- Changes in land use and cropping patterns
- Conflicts with Salton Sea Authority plans
- Impacts on urban development (especially in the Coachella Valley and Metropolitan)
- Compatibility with land use plans
- Geologic hazards especially changes in erosion patterns along the Colorado River
- Increased risk of land subsidence in the Coachella Valley due to reduced groundwater levels
- Changes in water flows and quality to agricultural drains and inflows to the Salton Sea
- Changes in Salton Sea levels and quality

301 North Lake Avenue
Suite 600
Pasadena, California
91101

Tel: 626 796 9141
Fax: 626 568 6101

- Changes in Colorado River quality and flow patterns
- Changes in regional water supply quality in San Diego and Metropolitan service areas
- Impacts on local groundwater quality due to changes in return water quality
- Reduced groundwater levels in Coachella Valley if Colorado River supplies are reduced
- Violation of air quality standards due to changes in agricultural practices
- Changes in humidity due to changes in agricultural practices
- Impacts on biological resources including rare and endangered species in the Imperial and Coachella Valleys and the Colorado River
- Impacts on the Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Plan
- Impacts on migratory birds populations and diseases in the Salton Sea
- Changes in wetlands habitats and phreatophytes
- Increased energy consumption due to lower groundwater levels in Coachella Valley and increased State Water Project pumping to the Metropolitan service area
- Changes in hydropower generation along the Colorado River
- Impacts on Salton Sea aesthetics due to changed water levels

Please review this information and let us know if you have any comments or require additional information.

Sincerely,

David J. Ringel, P.E.
Principal Engineer

Janet Fahey, D. Env., P.E.
Principal Environmental Scientist

c: Tom Levy, Coachella Valley Water District

Enc.

# SUMMARY OF THE POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS OF THE SAN DIEGO COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY - IMPERIAL IRRIGATION DISTRICT AGREEMENT FOR TRANSFER OF CONSERVED WATER

This document is a summary of potential environmental impacts of the San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA)-Imperial Irrigation District (IID) Agreement For Transfer Of Conserved Water. This analysis has been prepared from six different perspectives:

- Imperial Irrigation District impacts,
- Salton Sea impacts,
- Colorado River impacts,
- Coachella Valley Water District impacts,
- San Diego County Water Authority service area impacts, and
- The remainder of Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (MWD) service area.

Potential impacts for each of these areas are presented separately below. The impacts are based on a review of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) initial environmental study checklist and factors potentially affected if the agreement is implemented. These factors include: land use and planning, population and housing, geological hazards, water, air quality, biological resources, energy and mineral resources, utilities and service systems. A copy of the detailed checklists for each area is attached to this document for reference.

## POTENTIAL IMPERIAL IRRIGATION DISTRICT IMPACTS

There are a number of potential unknowns associated with the proposed implementation of the IID-SDCWA agreement. These include:

L1b
1. How will water conservation be implemented within IID?
2. How would individual land owners participate in conservation programs (specifically US Filter)?

L1c
3. Will land be fallowed? If so, how much land and, at what schedule?
4. Will crop selection change? If so, how will it change?
5. Would any physical facilities/improvements need to be constructed?

A review of the environmental checklist indicates potential impacts in the areas of land use planning, water, air quality, biological resources, and utilities and service systems.

L1d Implementation of the agreement could affect agricultural resources or operations within the IID service area by changing land use or crop patterns. This may be incompatible with existing land uses within the service area. Population growth and geologic hazards would not likely be impacted by the Agreement.

L1e Potential water resources impacts include changes in the flow rates or patterns of surface water discharged to the Salton Sea from the IID service area, as well as changes in the quality of surface water discharged to the sea. These issues are discussed separately under Salton Sea Impacts.

L1f The proposal could potentially violate air quality standards

L1f Con't. if reduced water use results in increase particulates from agricultural activities. The proposed agreement could also alter air movement, moisture, temperature, due to changes in agriculture practices. Transportation and circulation issues would not be affected by the Agreement.

L1g Potential impacts on biological resources could include impacts on endangered, threatened or rare species as pupfish and other aquatic species that are affected by water discharged to agricultural drains. Other species such as the Palm Springs ground squirrel could be affected by changed agricultural practices. Other potential impacts that could be significant unless mitigation is provided include effects of decreased agricultural drainage on wetlands habitats surrounding the drains and the Salton Sea. Energy and mineral resources, hazardous conditions and public service are not likely to be impacted.

L1h However, there could be potential impacts on regional water supply systems in the area including the location of water treatment or distribution facilities. There would be no impact on aesthetics, cultural resources or recreation.

## POTENTIAL SALTON SEA IMPACTS

There are several assumptions made in assessing potential impacts on the Salton Sea. These are listed below:

1. Water level in the sea is relatively stable but salinity is rising.
2. Total inflows to the sea are about 1.3 million acre-feet per year (MAF/yr).
3. Ninety percent of the inflow to the sea (about 1.17 MAF/yr) is from the IID area including flows from Mexico.
4. About 200,000 AF/yr are to be transferred from IID to SDCWA because of land fallowing or other demand reduction measures that could reduce flows to the Salton Sea by about 6 percent.
5. If the transferred water is conserved by on-farm practices, the annual flow to the sea could be reduced by the total amount of 200,000 acre feet or 17 percent.

There are several unknowns associated with the proposal that could affect the impacts including the plans for Salton Sea management selected by the Salton Sea Authority. Impacts of the proposed Salton Sea management plans as cumulative impacts with the water transfer proposal could be significant.

L1i A summary of the principal impacts expected on the Salton Sea are as follows. With respect to land use and planning, the proposal could significantly conflict with plans of other agencies including the Salton Sea Authority.

L1j There are no expected impacts with regard to population and housing. There may be a potential impact on growth if sea levels drop and more land becomes available for development.

L1k There are no geologic issues, as mentioned under the IID service area impacts. There would be potential changes in drainage patterns or the rates of surface runoff into the Salton Sea as indicated in the assumption above.

L1l With respect to discharged water quality, surface water quality could be altered as a result of increased temperature and decreased dissolved oxygen in drain flows as a result of decreased flows.

L1m There could also be impacts on ground water quality in the vicinity of the Salton Sea.

L1n No air quality, transportation or circulation impacts are expected. In terms of biological resources, the plan could potentially have an impact on rare and endangered species due to the effects of increased salinity in the sea

L1n Con't. resulting from a decrease in low TDS inflows. Lower Salton Sea levels could allow freshwater marshes of the north end of the sea to recover (a potentially beneficial impact). Impacts on wildlife refuges of the south end of the sea could be either positive or negative depending on the actual changes in Salton Sea levels. There could also be significant impacts on migratory bird populations and incidences of bird diseases if water levels in the sea change. No impacts on energy and mineral resources, hazardous conditions, noise, public service, utilities and service systems are anticipated. L1o The program could have a negative impact on aesthetics in the vicinity of the Salton Sea due to lower sea levels. In summary, L1p the proposed plan could have a potentially significant impact on the environment in the vicinity of the Salton Sea including cumulative impacts of this plan with the plans of the Salton Sea Authority.

## POTENTIAL COLORADO RIVER IMPACTS

The potential impacts of the Agreement of the Colorado River could include: conflicts with existing plans, geologic problems due to changes in flow patterns, impacts on water and biological resources and possible energy and mineral resources impacts. It is assumed that the plan would change the point of diversion from the Colorado River, so less water would flow in the reach between Parker and Imperial Dams. L1q Potential impacts of the plan on land use include: conflicts with the Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Plan, a potentially significant impact. In terms of geologic problems, L1r changes in river flow could affect the erosion characteristics of the river causing unstable conditions along the shoreline. L1s Water-related impacts include changes in river flow rates, although this may not be necessarily be significant. However, diverting more water from the river at Parker Dam could result in increased TDS at the Imperial Dam diversion. L1t Groundwater flow and quality near the river could potentially be affected. No impacts are expected on air quality transportation/circulation. L1u Biological resources could be significantly impacted by the plan including: potential impacts on river fishes, impacts of flow changes on phreatophytes near the river and impacts of flow changes on fish migration patterns along the river. L1v The proposed plan could result in less hydropower generation at Parker Dam because the water would be diverted upstream of the power facilities. In addition, more energy could potentially be consumed by Metropolitan to keep the aqueduct full and flowing to the Southern California service area. There are no expected impacts relative to hazardous conditions, noise or public services. There could be a potential impact on power systems due to changes in the amount of energy use. There could also be potential impacts on local and regional L1w water treatment or distribution facilities and water supplies. There would be no impacts on aesthetics, cultural resources or recreation.

## POTENTIAL COACHELLA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT IMPACTS

The identification of impacts of the IID-SDCWA Agreement on the CVWD is based on a number of assumptions.

L1x 1. It is assumed that water demand in the CVWD service area will increase by about 50 percent in the future.

L1y 2. The Agreement would essentially limit CVWD's use of water Colorado River water to existing use levels.

3. If no additional canal water is available, possible sources of water to meet demands include State Water Project (SWP) water or local groundwater. The future availability and reliability of SWP are uncertain due to supply issues in Northern California. The groundwater basin is already overdrafted and maybe be intruded with saline water from the Salton Sea.

L1z

L1aa

The environmental impacts of the Agreement on the Coachella Valley could include the following areas. The Agreement may conflict with local land use plans by limiting planned growth if sufficient water is not available to support approved developments. The Agreement may also adversely impact agricultural resources and operations if water supplies are diminished. If additional groundwater is pumped from the basin, there is an increased risk of land subsidence. Impacts on water resources could include water quality changes to drain flows and to the Salton Sea. Potential impacts on groundwater could include increased overdraft if other sources to meet demands are not available. The Agreement could change the location directions of flow and adversely impact groundwater quality through increased saltwater intrusion from the Salton Sea. Increased recharge of SWP water in the Upper Coachella Valley may be required to balance increased groundwater extraction. The Agreement could adversely impact air quality in the Coachella Valley. If land is fallowed in response to reduced water supply availability, increased dust and blowing sand could occur. No significant impacts are anticipated on transportation or circulation. Reduced flows in the drains could affect the endangered pupfish that inhabit the drains. Wetlands habitats could also be impacted adversely due to reduced flows in the drains. The Agreement could adversely impact adopted energy conservation plans by increasing the amount of energy required for groundwater pumping as water levels decline. There would probably be no significant impacts on hazardous conditions, noise or public services. However, impacts on natural gas or power resources due to increased groundwater pumping and impacts on local or regional water supplies could result from the proposal. No impacts on aesthetics, cultural resources or recreation are expected. In summary, the Agreement could have significant impacts on the Coachella Valley water supplies, biological resources, air quality and cumulative impacts on the environment.

L1x con't.

L1y con't.

L1aa con't.

L1 bb

L1aa con't.

L1cc

L1dd

L1ee

## POTENTIAL IMPACTS ON THE SDCWA AREA

The IID-SDCWA Agreement could have impacts on San Diego County. The following assumptions are made in assessing these impacts:

1. San Diego is seeking a supplemental supply of water that they hope is less expensive than their current sources.
2. The transfer would not necessarily provide a greater quantity of water to San Diego beyond its existing supplies, as the transferred water would displace an equal volume of water now supplied by Metropolitan.
3. Future water supplies to meet growth would still be purchased from Metropolitan.
4. San Diego would receive Priority 3 Colorado River water rather than Priority 4 water. This would, in theory, provide a higher supply reliability.
5. If Metropolitan is reduced to 550,000 AF/yr, as part of the California Plan to live within California's Colorado River entitlement, and San Diego receives 200,000

AF/yr through Metropolitan, costs for remaining supplies would likely increase as Metropolitan must purchase additional SWP water.

6. It is assumed that there would be no additional supply reliability to San Diego relative to earthquake and other supply interruptions in Metropolitan's conveyance system.
7. Initially, water transferred from IID could temporarily free up 200,000 AF/yr of water in Metropolitan's system. As water demands increase in Metropolitan's service area, the temporary surplus would be used.

L1ff The Agreement is anticipated to have following impacts on the SDCWA area. The Agreement may result in conflicts with existing regional plans as other projects could be dropped or delayed.

L1gg With regard to housing and population, the Agreement could result in changes in water charges that could indirectly impact development within the San Diego region. There are no expected impacts on geologic issues.

L1hh With regard to water resources, the Agreement would result in changes in surface water discharges or water quality by delivering water that potentially has a higher TDS than the blend of SWP water and Colorado River water that currently San Diego receives. The Agreement could also impact groundwater in the San Diego by increasing the TDS

L1ii of irrigation return flows that recharge the basin. There is no expected effect on air quality, transportation/circulation, biological, energy and mineral resources, hazards, noise, utilities and

L1jj public service systems. The Agreement would have an impact on regional or local water supplies. No impacts are expected on aesthetics, cultural resources or recreation.

## METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT IMPACTS

The evaluated impacts of the Agreement on Metropolitan are based on the following assumptions:

1. Metropolitan would potentially see reduced revenue as a result of the transfer.
2. Fixed aqueduct costs may not be covered in the transfer/wheeling costs based on the recent court judgment.
3. The IID-SDCWA transfer would temporarily free up about 200,000 AF/yr of water in MWD system until demands increase.
4. With implementation of a California Plan for the Colorado River, delivered water quality may improve as additional SWP water that has a lower TDS but a higher THM potential is used.

L1kk The Agreement is anticipated to have an adverse impact on land use and planning issues, population and housing within the region. Water supplies limits will arise during the 45-year life

L1ll of the transfer contract. Metropolitan's reliability could potentially be reduced and development may then focus on the San Diego area that would have greater supply reliability. There are no

L1mm anticipated impacts on geological issues. With regard to water issues, the project could have an impact on surface water quality due to changes in the TDS in the regional water supply. The

L1nn Agreement could indirectly affect the quality of return flows from irrigation use to groundwater and thus, improving groundwater quality within the region. There are no anticipated impacts relative to air quality, transportation, or biological resources within the MET service area.

L1oo However, there is a potential for impacts on energy resources, as additional energy could be

100 Con't.

required to bring additional State Water Project water into the Metropolitan service area compared with the current Colorado River supplies. No impacts are anticipated relative to hazards, noise or public services. Energy resource systems could be impacted by the need for additional power. Local water supplies may be affected and need for treatment may change if more State Water Project water results in increased trihalomethane formation. No impacts are anticipated relative to aesthetics, cultural resources or recreation within the area. In summary, the Agreement would likely have a significant impact on the quality of the environment within the Metropolitan region and affect the ability to meet both short term and long term environmental goals. It could have cumulative impacts relative to other projects, and could have a substantial affect on human beings within the reach.

1 mm Con't.

Imperial Irrigation District - City of San Diego Water Transfer

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FORMS

## ENVIRONMENTAL FACTORS POTENTIALLY AFFECTED:

Environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at lease one impact that is a "Potentially Significant Impact" as indicated by the checklist on the following pages.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ☒ Land Use and Planning | ☐ Transportation/ Circulation | ☐ Public Services |
| ☒ Population and Housing | ☒ Biological Resources | ☒ Utilities and Service Systems |
| ☒ Geological Problems | ☒ Energy and Mineral Resources | ☐ Aesthetics |
| ☒ Water | ☐ Hazards | ☐ Cultural Resources |
| ☒ Air Quality | ☐ Noise | ☐ Recreation |
| | ☒ Mandatory Findings of Significance | |

## 1. POTENTIAL IMPERIAL IRRIGATION DISTRICT IMPACTS

Unknowns:

1. How would conservation be effected within IID?
2. How would individual landowners participate (chiefly U.S. Filter)?
3. Would land be fallowed? Amount? Schedule?
4. Would crop selection change, and if so how?
5. Would any physical facilities/improvements need to be constructed?

| Issues | Potentially Significant Impact | Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| I. LAND USE AND PLANNING. Would the proposal: | | | | |
| a) Conflict with general plan designation or zoning? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| b) Conflict with applicable environmental plans or policies adopted by agencies with jurisdiction over the project? | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |
| *(See unknowns above)* | | | | |
| c) Be incompatible with existing land use in the vicinity? | | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ |
| d) Affect agricultural resources or operations (e.g. impacts to soils or farmlands, or impacts from incompatible land uses)? | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| *Transfer will require water conservation on or fallowing of agricultural lands or changes in cropping* | | | | |
| e) Disrupt or divide the physical arrangement of an established community (including a low-income or minority community? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| II. POPULATION AND HOUSING. Would the proposal: | | | | |
| a) Cumulatively exceed official regional or local population projections? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

| Issues | Potentially Significant Impact | Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| b) Induce substantial growth in an area either directly or indirectly (e.g. through projects in an undeveloped area or extension of major infrastructure)? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| *[See review of San Diego]* | | | | |
| c) Displace existing housing, especially affordable housing? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| III. GEOLOGIC PROBLEMS. Would the proposal result in or expose people to potential impacts involving: | | | | |
| a) Fault rupture? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| b) Seismic ground shaking? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| c) Seismic ground failure, including liquefaction? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| d) Seiche, tsunami, or volcanic hazard? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| e) Landslides or mudflows? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| f) Erosion, changes in topography or unstable soil conditions from excavation, grading, or fill? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| g) Subsidence of the land? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| h) Expansive soils? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| i) Unique geologic or physical features? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

| Issues | Potentially Significant Impact | Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| IV. WATER. Would the proposal result in: | | | | |
| a) Changes in absorption rates, drainage patterns, or the rate and amount of surface runoff? | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| b) Exposure of people or property to water related hazards such as flooding? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| IV. Water<br>c) Discharge into surface waters or other alteration of surface water quality (e.g. temperature, dissolved oxygen or turbidity? | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| *Change in drainage quality.* | | | | |
| d) Changes in the amount of surface water in any water body? | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| e) Changes in currents, or the course or direction of water movements? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| f) Change in the quantity of groundwaters, either through direct additions or withdrawals, or through interception of an aquifer by cuts or excavations or through substantial loss of groundwater recharge capability? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| g) Altered direction or rate of flow of groundwater? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| h) Impacts to groundwater quality? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| i) Substantial reduction in the amount of groundwater otherwise available for public water supplies? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

| Issues | Potentially Significant Impact | Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| V. AIR QUALITY. Would the proposal: | | | | |
| a) Violate any air quality standard or contribute to an existing or projected air quality violation? | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| *Increase in particulates with reduction in agriculture* | | | | |
| b) Expose sensitive receptors to pollutants? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| c) Alter air movement, moisture, or temperature, or cause any change in climate? | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| *Reduced humidity with reduction in agriculture* | | | | |
| d) Create objectionable odors? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| VI. TRANSPORTATION/ CIRCULATION: Would the proposal result in: | | | | |
| a) Increased vehicle trips or traffic congestion? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| b) Hazards to safety from design features (e.g. sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g. farm equipment)? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| c) Inadequate emergency access or access to nearby uses? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| d) Insufficient parking capacity on-site or off-site? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| e) Hazards or barriers for pedestrians or bicyclists? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

| Issues | Potentially Significant Impact | Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| f) Conflicts with adopted policies supporting alternative transportation (e.g. bus turnouts, bicycle racks)? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| g) Rail, waterborne or air traffic impacts? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| VII. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES. Would the proposal result in impacts to: | | | | |
| a) Endangered, threatened or rare species or their habitats (including but not limited to plants, fish, insects, animals, and birds)? | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| *Less water in drains could affect endangered pupfish, other species that depend on agriculture (Palm Springs ground squirrels)* | | | | |
| b) Locally designated species (e.g. heritage trees)? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| c) Locally designated natural communities (e.g. oak forest, coastal habitat, etc.)? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| d) Wetland habitat (e.g. marsh, riparian and vernal pool)? | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |
| *Potential for impacts with decrease in agricultural drainage* | | | | |
| e) Wildlife dispersal or migration corridors? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

| Issues | Potentially Significant Impact | Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| VIII. ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES. Would the proposal: | | | | |
| a) Conflict with adopted energy conservation plans?) | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| *Could conserve energy; water distribution is mostly gravity fed.* | | | | |
| b) Use non-renewable resources in a wasteful and inefficient manner? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| c) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of future value to the region and the residents of the State? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| IX. HAZARDS Would the proposal involve: | | | | |
| a) A risk of accidental explosion or release of hazardous substances (including, but not limited to: oil, pesticides, chemicals or radiation)? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| b) Possible interference with an emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| c) The creation of any health hazard or potential health hazard? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| d) Exposure of people to existing sources of potential health hazards? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| e) Increased fire hazard in areas with flammable brush, grass, or trees? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| X. NOISE. Would the proposal result in: | | | | |
| a) Increases in existing noise levels? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

| Issues | Potentially Significant Impact | Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| b) Exposure of people to severe noise levels? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| XI. PUBLIC SERVICES. Would the proposal have an effect upon, or result in a need for new or altered government services in any of the following areas: | | | | |
| a) Fire protection? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| b) Police protection? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| c) Schools? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| d) Maintenance of public facilities, including roads? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| e) Other governmental services? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| XII. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS. Would the proposal result in a need for new systems or supplies, or substantial alterations to the following utilities: | | | | |
| a) Power or natural gas? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| b) Communications systems? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| c) Local or regional water treatment or distribution facilities? | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |
| d) Sewer or septic tanks? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| e) Storm water drainage? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| f) Solid waste disposal? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| g) Local or regional water supplies? | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| *Local supply to IID would be reduced.* | | | | |

| Issues | Potentially Significant Impact | Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| XIII. AESTHETICS. Would the proposal: | | | | |
| a) Affect a scenic vista or scenic highway? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| b) Have a demonstrable negative aesthetic effect? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| c) Create light or glare? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| XIV. CULTURAL RESOURCES. Would the proposal: | | | | |
| a) Disturb paleontological resources? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| b) Disturb archaeological resources? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| c) Affect historical resources? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| d) Have the potential to cause a physical change which would affect unique ethnic cultural values? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| e) Restrict existing religious or sacred uses within the potential impact area? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| XV. RECREATION. Would the proposal: | | | | |
| a) Increase the demand for neighborhood or regional parks or other recreational facilities? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| b) Affect existing recreational opportunities? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

| Issues | Potentially Significant Impact | Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| XVI. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE. | | | | |
| a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory? | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| b) Does the project have the potential to achieve short-term, to the disadvantage of long-term, environmental goals? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| c) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects) | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| d) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly? | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |

## Imperial Irrigation District - City of San Diego Water Transfer

## 2. POTENTIAL SALTON SEA IMPACTS

### Assumptions

1. Water level is stable; salinity is rising.
2. Total inflow to Salton Sea is 1.3 million acre-feet (MAF) per year.
3. Ninety percent of the inflow is from IID, or about 1.17 MAF/yr.
4. 200,000 acre-feet are to be transferred because of that amount now applied for irrigation, about one- third, say 70,000 acre-feet, becomes drainage.
5. 70,000 ac-ft/ 1.17 MAF = 6 percent. The transfer would decrease Salton Sea inflow by 6%.
6. If water is conserved by on-farm practices, the flow to the sea could be reduced by 200,000 ac-ft, or 17 percent.

### Unknowns

1. Plans for Salton Sea management selected by the Salton Sea Authority.
2. Impacts of Salton Sea management plans, and cumulative impacts with the water transfer which could be significant.

| Issues: | Potentially Significant Impact | Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|

## ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FORM

I. LAND USE AND PLANNING.
Would the proposal:

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| a) Conflict with general plan designation or zoning? | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |
| *Could be beneficial if Salton Sea level decreased.* | | | | |
| b) Conflict with applicable environmental plans or policies adopted by agencies with jurisdiction over the project? | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| *Maybe—plans of Salton Sea Authority?* | | | | |
| c) Be incompatible with existing land use in the vicinity? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| d) Affect agricultural resources or operations (e.g. impacts to soils or farmlands, or impacts from incompatible land uses)? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| e) Disrupt or divide the physical arrangement of an established community (including a low-income or minority community? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| *Could be beneficial—rising sea level is a problem.* | | | | |

II. POPULATION AND HOUSING.
Would the proposal:

| | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| a) Cumulatively exceed official regional or local population projections? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

| Issues: | Potentially Significant Impact | Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| b) Induce substantial growth in an area either directly or indirectly (e.g. through projects in an undeveloped area or extension of major infrastructure)?<br><br>*Maybe—if more land becomes available for development?* | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| c) Displace existing housing, especially affordable housing? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| **III. GEOLOGIC PROBLEMS. Would the proposal result in or expose people to potential impacts involving:** | | | | |
| a) Fault rupture? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| b) Seismic ground shaking? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| c) Seismic ground failure, including liquefaction? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| d) Seiche, tsunami, or volcanic hazard? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| e) Landslides or mudflows? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| f) Erosion, changes in topography or unstable soil conditions from excavation, grading, or fill? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| g) Subsidence of the land? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| h) Expansive soils? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| i) Unique geologic or physical features? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

| Issues: | Potentially Significant Impact | Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| IV. WATER. Would the proposal result in: | | | | |
| a) Changes in absorption rates, drainage patterns, or the rate and amount of surface runoff? | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| b) Exposure of people or property to water related hazards such as flooding? | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |
| *Maybe beneficial if sea level drops* | | | | |
| c) Discharge into surface waters or other alteration of surface water quality (e.g. temperature, dissolved oxygen or turbidity? | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| *Decreased flow could increase temperature, decrease DO* | | | | |
| d) Changes in the amount of surface water in any water body. | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| e) Changes in currents, or the course or direction of water movements? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| f) Change in the quantity of groundwaters, either through direct additions or withdrawals, or through interception of an aquifer by cuts or excavations or through substantial loss of groundwater recharge capability? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| g) Altered direction or rate of flow of groundwater? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| h) Impacts to groundwater quality? | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ |
| i) Substantial reduction in the amount of groundwater otherwise available for public water supplies?) | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

| Issues: | Potentially Significant Impact | Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| V. AIR QUALITY. Would the proposal: | | | | |
| a) Violate any air quality standard or contribute to an existing or projected air quality violation? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| b) Expose sensitive receptors to pollutants? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| c) Alter air movement, moisture, or temperature, or cause any change in climate? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| d) Create objectionable odors? | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| *Maybe, if lower level leads to increased odor.* | | | | |
| VI. TRANSPORTATION/ CIRCULATION: Would the proposal result in: | | | | |
| a) Increased vehicle trips or traffic congestion? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| b) Hazards to safety from design features (e.g. sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g. farm equipment)? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| c) Inadequate emergency access or access to nearby uses? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| d) Insufficient parking capacity on-site or off-site? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| e) Hazards or barriers for pedestrians or bicyclists? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

| Issues: | Potentially Significant Impact | Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| f) Conflicts with adopted policies supporting alternative transportation (e.g. bus turnouts, bicycle racks)? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| g) Rail, waterborne or air traffic impacts? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| VII. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES. Would the proposal result in impacts to: | | | | |
| a) Endangered, threatened or rare species or their habitats (including but not limited to plants, fish, insects, animals, and birds)? | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| *Effects of increased salinity with decrease in lower TDS inflow* | | | | |
| b) Locally designated species (e.g. heritage trees)? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| c) Locally designated natural communities (e.g. oak forest, coastal habitat, etc.)? | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |
| *Maybe?* | | | | |
| d) Wetland habitat (e.g. marsh, riparian and vernal pool)? | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| *Lowering sea level could allow recovery of north end shoreline freshwater marshes previously inundated with saline water. Impact on south end wildlife refuges could be either positive or negative.* | | | | |
| e) Wildlife dispersal or migration corridors? | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| *Maybe—migratory birds, impact on incidence of bird diseases?* | | | | |

| Issues: | Potentially Significant Impact | Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **VIII. ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES. Would the proposal:** | | | | |
| a) Conflict with adopted energy conservation plans?) | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| b) Use non-renewable resources in a wasteful and inefficient manner? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| c) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of future value to the region and the residents of the State? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| **IX. HAZARDS Would the proposal involve:** | | | | |
| a) A risk of accidental explosion or release of hazardous substances (including, but not limited to: oil, pesticides, chemicals or radiation)? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| b) Possible interference with an emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| c) The creation of any health hazard or potential health hazard? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| d) Exposure of people to existing sources of potential health hazards? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| e) Increased fire hazard in areas with flammable brush, grass, or trees? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| **X. NOISE. Would the proposal result in:** | | | | |
| a) Increases in existing noise levels? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| b) Exposure of people to severe noise levels? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

| Issues: | Potentially Significant Impact | Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| XI. PUBLIC SERVICES. Would the proposal have an effect upon, or result in a need for new or altered government services in any of the following areas: | | | | |
| a) Fire protection? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| b) Police protection? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| c) Schools? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| d) Maintenance of public facilities, including roads? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| e) Other governmental services? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| XII. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS. Would the proposal result in a need for new systems or supplies, or substantial alterations to the following utilities: | | | | |
| a) Power or natural gas? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| b) Communications systems? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| c) ~~Local or regional~~ water treatment or distribution facilities? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| d) Sewer or septic tanks? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| e) Storm water drainage? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| f) Solid waste disposal? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| g) Local or regional water supplies? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

| Issues: | Potentially Significant Impact | Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| XIII. AESTHETICS. Would the proposal: | | | | |
| a) Affect a scenic vista or scenic highway? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| b) Have a demonstrable negative aesthetic effect? | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| *Maybe, if lower level leads to increased odor.* | | | | |
| c) Create light or glare? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| XIV. CULTURAL RESOURCES. Would the proposal: | | | | |
| a) Disturb paleontological resources? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | |
| b) Disturb archaeological resources? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| c) Affect historical resources? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| d) Have the potential to cause a physical change which would affect unique ethnic cultural values? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| e) Restrict existing religious or sacred uses within the potential impact area? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| XV. RECREATION. Would the proposal: | | | | |
| a) Increase the demand for neighborhood or regional parks or other recreational facilities? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| b) Affect existing recreational opportunities? | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ |

| Issues: | Potentially Significant Impact | Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **XVI. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE.** | | | | |
| a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory? | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| b) Does the project have the potential to achieve short-term, to the disadvantage of long-term, environmental goals? | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| c) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects) | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| d) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly? | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |

## 3. POTENTIAL COLORADO RIVER IMPACTS

## ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FORM

| Issues (and Supporting Information Sources): | Potentially Significant Impact | Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| I. LAND USE AND PLANNING. Would the proposal: | | | | |
| a) Conflict with general plan designation or zoning? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| b) Conflict with applicable environmental plans or policies adopted by agencies with jurisdiction over the project? | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| *Conflict with Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Plan?* | | | | |
| c) Be incompatible with existing land use in the vicinity? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| d) Affect agricultural resources or operations (e.g. impacts to soils or farmlands, or impacts from incompatible land uses)? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| e) Disrupt or divide the physical arrangement of an established community (including a low-income or minority community? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

| Issues (and Supporting Information Sources): | Potentially Significant Impact | Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **II. POPULATION AND HOUSING. Would the proposal:** | | | | |
| a) Cumulatively exceed official regional or local population projections? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| b) Induce substantial growth in an area either directly or indirectly (e.g. through projects in an undeveloped area or extension of major infrastructure)? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| c) Displace existing housing, especially affordable housing? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| **III. GEOLOGIC PROBLEMS. Would the proposal result in or expose people to potential impacts involving:** | | | | |
| a) Fault rupture? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| b) Seismic ground shaking? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| c) Seismic ground failure, including liquefaction? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| d) Seiche, tsunami, or volcanic hazard? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| e) Landslides or mudflows? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒☐ |
| f) Erosion, changes in topography or unstable soil conditions from excavation, grading, or fill? *Moving diversion and change in flows could change erosion characteristics of that reach of the river.* | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| g) Subsidence of the land? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

| Issues (and Supporting Information Sources): | Potentially Significant Impact | Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| h) Expansive soils? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| i) Unique geologic or physical features? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| IV. WATER. Would the proposal result in: | | | | |
| a) Changes in absorption rates, drainage patterns, or the rate and amount of surface runoff? | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ |
| b) Exposure of people or property to water related hazards such as flooding? | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ |
| c) Discharge into surface waters or other alteration of surface water quality (e.g. temperature, dissolved oxygen or turbidity? d) *TDS increase downstream of diversion.* | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| d) Changes in the amount of surface water in any water body? *Decrease in flow in affected reach.* | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| e) Changes in currents, or the course or direction of water movements? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| f) Change in the quantity of groundwaters, either through direct additions or withdrawals, or through interception of an aquifer by cuts or excavations or through substantial loss of groundwater recharge capability? | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ |
| g) Altered direction or rate of flow of groundwater? | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ |
| h) Impacts to groundwater quality? | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ |

| Issues (and Supporting Information Sources): | Potentially Significant Impact | Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| i) Substantial reduction in the amount of groundwater otherwise available for public water supplies? | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ |
| V. AIR QUALITY. Would the proposal: | | | | |
| a) Violate any air quality standard or contribute to an existing or projected air quality violation? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| b) Expose sensitive receptors to pollutants? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| c) Alter air movement, moisture, or temperature, or cause any change in climate? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| d) Create objectionable odors? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| VI. TRANSPORTATION/ CIRCULATION: Would the proposal result in: | | | | |
| a) Increased vehicle trips or traffic congestion? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| b) Hazards to safety from design features (e.g. sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g. farm equipment)? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| c) Inadequate emergency access or access to nearby uses? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| d) Insufficient parking capacity on-site or off-site? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| e) Hazards or barriers for pedestrians or bicyclists? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

| Issues (and Supporting Information Sources): | Potentially Significant Impact | Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| f) Conflicts with adopted policies supporting alternative transportation (e.g. bus turnouts, bicycle racks)? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| g) Rail, waterborne or air traffic impacts? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| VII. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES. Would the proposal result in impacts to: | | | | |
| a) Endangered, threatened or rare species or their habitats (including but not limited to plants, fish, insects, animals, and birds)? | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| *Potential impacts to river fishes* | | | | |
| b) Locally designated species (e.g. heritage trees)? | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| *See VII. a).* | | | | |
| c) Locally designated natural communities (e.g. oak forest, coastal habitat, etc.)? | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| *Impacts on phreatophytes* | | | | |
| d) Wetland habitat (e.g. marsh, riparian and vernal pool)? | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| *Impacts on phreatophytes* | | | | |
| e) Wildlife dispersal or migration corridors? | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| *Impacts of fish movement patterns in the river.* | | | | |

| Issues (and Supporting Information Sources): | Potentially Significant Impact | Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| VIII. ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES. Would the proposal: | | | | |
| a) Conflict with adopted energy conservation plans? | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| *Less hydropower energy created at Parker; less energy used for pumping. More energy consumed by MWD to keep the aqueduct full.* | | | | |
| b) Use non-renewable resources in a wasteful and inefficient manner? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| c) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of future value to the region and the residents of the State? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| IX. HAZARDS Would the proposal involve: | | | | |
| a) A risk of accidental explosion or release of hazardous substances (including, but not limited to: oil, pesticides, chemicals or radiation)? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| b) Possible interference with an emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| c) The creation of any health hazard or potential health hazard? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| d) Exposure of people to existing sources of potential health hazards? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| e) Increased fire hazard in areas with flammable brush, grass, or trees? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

| Issues (and Supporting Information Sources): | Potentially Significant Impact | Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| X. NOISE. Would the proposal result in: | | | | |
| a) Increases in existing noise levels? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| b) Exposure of people to severe noise levels? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| XI. PUBLIC SERVICES. Would the proposal have an effect upon, or result in a need for new or altered government services in any of the following areas: | | | | |
| a) Fire protection? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| b) Police protection? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| c) Schools? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| d) Maintenance of public facilities, including roads? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| e) Other governmental services? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| XII. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS. Would the proposal result in a need for new systems or supplies, or substantial alterations to the following utilities: | | | | |
| a) Power or natural gas? | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| *Possible impact on power systems.* | | | | |
| b) Communications systems? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| c) Local or regional water treatment or distribution facilities? | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ |
| d) Sewer or septic tanks? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| e) Storm water drainage? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| *No effect on existing dams.* | | | | |

| Issues (and Supporting Information Sources): | Potentially Significant Impact | Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| f) Solid waste disposal? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| g) Local or regional water supplies? | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| XIII. AESTHETICS. Would the proposal: | | | | |
| a) Affect a scenic vista or scenic highway? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| b) Have a demonstrable negative aesthetic effect? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| c) Create light or glare? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| XIV. CULTURAL RESOURCES. Would the proposal: | | | | |
| a) Disturb paleontological resources? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| b) Disturb archaeological resources? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| c) Affect historical resources? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| d) Have the potential to cause a physical change which would affect unique ethnic cultural values? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| e) Restrict existing religious or sacred uses within the potential impact area? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| XV. RECREATION. Would the proposal: | | | | |
| a) Increase the demand for neighborhood or regional parks or other recreational facilities? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| b) Affect existing recreational opportunities? | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ |

| Issues (and Supporting Information Sources): | Potentially Significant Impact | Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| **XVI. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE.** | | | | |
| a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory? | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| b) Does the project have the potential to achieve short-term, to the disadvantage of long-term, environmental goals? | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| c) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects) | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |
| d) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |

## 4. POTENTIAL COACHELLA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT IMPACTS

Assumptions/Discussion

1. CVWD water demand is projected to increase by 50 percent.
2. If no additional Canal water is available, possible sources are:
   a. Northern California water. Will it be available and reliable? What is future of water transfers from the north?
   b. Local groundwater. Basin is already overdrafted, probably being intruded with saline water from the Salton Sea.
   c. Other: Desalination?

## ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FORM

| Issues | Potentially Significant Impact | Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| I. LAND USE AND PLANNING. Would the proposal: | | | | |
| a) Conflict with general plan designation or zoning? | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| *If water is not available to support planned development* | | | | |
| b) Conflict with applicable environmental plans or policies adopted by agencies with jurisdiction over the project? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| *Unknown?* | | | | |
| c) Be incompatible with existing land use in the vicinity? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

| Issues | Potentially Significant Impact | Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| d) Affect agricultural resources or operations (e.g. impacts to soils or farmlands, or impacts from incompatible land uses)? | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| *Impacts of insufficient water supply.* | | | | |
| e) Disrupt or divide the physical arrangement of an established community (including a low-income or minority community? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| II. POPULATION AND HOUSING. Would the proposal: | | | | |
| a) Cumulatively exceed official regional or local population projections? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| b) | | | | |
| c) Induce substantial growth in an area either directly or indirectly (e.g. through projects in an undeveloped area or extension of major infrastructure)? | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| *Could create an obstacle to planned growth* | | | | |
| c) Displace existing housing, especially affordable housing? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| III. GEOLOGIC PROBLEMS. Would the proposal result in or expose people to potential impacts involving: | | | | |
| a) Fault rupture? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| b) Seismic ground shaking? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| c) Seismic ground failure, including liquefaction? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| d) Seiche, tsunami, or volcanic hazard? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

| Issues | Potentially Significant Impact | Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| e) Landslides or mudflows? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| f) Erosion, changes in topography or unstable soil conditions from excavation, grading, or fill? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| g) Subsidence of the land? | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| *Subsidence caused by overdraft resulting from insufficient surface water supplies.* | | | | |
| h) Expansive soils? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| i) Unique geologic or physical features? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| IV. WATER. Would the proposal result in: | | | | |
| a) Changes in absorption rates, drainage patterns, or the rate and amount of surface runoff? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| b) Exposure of people or property to water related hazards such as flooding? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| c) Discharge into surface waters or other alteration of surface water quality (e.g. temperature, dissolved oxygen or turbidity? | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| *As drain flows decrease, water quality degrades.* | | | | |
| d) Changes in the amount of surface water in any water body? | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| *Change in drain flows* | | | | |
| e) Changes in currents, or the course or direction of water movements? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

| Issues | Potentially Significant Impact | Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| f) Change in the quantity of groundwaters, either through direct additions or withdrawals, or through interception of an aquifer by cuts or excavations or through substantial loss of groundwater recharge capability? | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| *Exacerbates existing overdraft* | | | | |
| g) Altered direction or rate of flow of groundwater? | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| *Possibly, if groundwater production increases.* | | | | |
| h) Impacts to groundwater quality? | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| *Salt water intrusion; increased recharge of exchanged State Project water.* | | | | |
| i) Substantial reduction in the amount of groundwater otherwise available for public water supplies? | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| V. AIR QUALITY. Would the proposal: | | | | |
| a) Violate any air quality standard or contribute to an existing or projected air quality violation? | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| *Increase in dust from fallowing in area already in non-compliance for particulates.* | | | | |
| b) Expose sensitive receptors to pollutants? | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |

| Issues | Potentially Significant Impact | Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| c) Alter air movement, moisture, or temperature, or cause any change in climate? | ☐ | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |
| *Could reduce humidity if agricultural development declines.* | | | | |
| d) Create objectionable odors? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| VI. TRANSPORTATION/ CIRCULATION: Would the proposal result in: | | | | |
| a) Increased vehicle trips or traffic congestion? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| b) Hazards to safety from design features (e.g. sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g. farm equipment)? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| c) Inadequate emergency access or access to nearby uses? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| d) Insufficient parking capacity on-site or off-site? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| e) Hazards or barriers for pedestrians or bicyclists? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| f) Conflicts with adopted policies supporting alternative transportation (e.g. bus turnouts, bicycle racks)? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| g) Rail, waterborne or air traffic impacts? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

| Issues | Potentially Significant Impact | Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| VII. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES. Would the proposal result in impacts to: | | | | |
| a) Endangered, threatened or rare species or their habitats (including but not limited to plants, fish, insects, animals, and birds)? | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| *Lower flows in drains could affect endangered pupfish.* | | | | |
| b) Locally designated species (e.g. heritage trees)? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| c) Locally designated natural communities (e.g. oak forest, coastal habitat, etc.)? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| d) Wetland habitat (e.g. marsh, riparian and vernal pool)? | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| *Impacts on wetland/riparian habitat along drains.* | | | | |
| e) Wildlife dispersal or migration corridors? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| VIII. ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES. Would the proposal: | | | | |
| a) Conflict with adopted energy conservation plans? | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| *Increased use of energy for groundwater pumping.* | | | | |
| b) Use non-renewable resources in a wasteful and inefficient manner? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

| Issues | Potentially Significant Impact | Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| c) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of future value to the region and the residents of the State? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| IX. HAZARDS Would the proposal involve: | | | | |
| a) A risk of accidental explosion or release of hazardous substances (including, but not limited to: oil, pesticides, chemicals or radiation)? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| b) Possible interference with an emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| c) The creation of any health hazard or potential health hazard? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| d) Exposure of people to existing sources of potential health hazards? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| e) Increased fire hazard in areas with flammable brush, grass, or trees? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| X. NOISE. Would the proposal result in: | | | | |
| a) Increases in existing noise levels? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| b) Exposure of people to severe noise levels? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| XI. PUBLIC SERVICES. Would the proposal have an effect upon, or result in a need for new or altered government services in any of the following areas: | | | | |
| a) Fire protection? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| b) Police protection? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

| Issues | Potentially Significant Impact | Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| c) Schools? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| d) Maintenance of public facilities, including roads? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| e) Other governmental services? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| *Demand for services may be less than planned for.* | | | | |
| XII. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS. Would the proposal result in a need for new systems or supplies, or substantial alterations to the following utilities: | | | | |
| a) Power or natural gas? | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| *Increased demand for power for groundwater pumping.* | | | | |
| b) Communications systems? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| c) Local or regional water treatment or distribution facilities? | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| *Maybe?* | | | | |
| d) Sewer or septic tanks? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| e) Storm water drainage? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| f) Solid waste disposal? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| g) Local or regional water supplies? | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| *Could decrease regional supply by limiting CVWD diversions.* | | | | |
| XIII. AESTHETICS. Would the proposal: | | | | |
| a) Affect a scenic vista or scenic highway? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

| Issues | Potentially Significant Impact | Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| b) Have a demonstrable negative aesthetic effect? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| c) Create light or glare? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| XIV. CULTURAL RESOURCES. Would the proposal: | | | | |
| a) Disturb paleontological resources? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| b) | | | | |
| b) Disturb archaeological resources? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| c) Affect historical resources? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| d) Have the potential to cause a physical change which would affect unique ethnic cultural values? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| e) Restrict existing religious or sacred uses within the potential impact area? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| XV. RECREATION. Would the proposal: | | | | |
| a) Increase the demand for neighborhood or regional parks or other recreational facilities? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| *Would decrease projected demand.* | | | | |
| b) Affect existing recreational opportunities? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

| Issues | Potentially Significant Impact | Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| XVI. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE. | | | | |
| a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory? | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| b) Does the project have the potential to achieve short-term, to the disadvantage of long-term, environmental goals? | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| c) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects) | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| d) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly? | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |

## 5. POTENTIAL CITY OF SAN DIEGO IMPACTS

Assumptions/Discussion

1. San Diego seeks a supplemental water supply.
2. San Diego may get cheaper water.
3. The transfer would not necessarily provide a greater quantity of water to San Diego beyond existing, as the transferred water could replace an equal volume of water now supplied by Metropolitan Water District.
4. Future water supplies would still be purchased from Met.
5. San Diego would be getting more priority 3 water rather than priority 4 water (Met's priority), so they would get higher priority water, assuming no changes in priority.
6. If MWD is cut to 550 kaf as part of the California Plan (California stays within its entitlement), then San Diego gets 200 kaf via Met but the cost of water goes up, because additional, more expensive, State Project Water would be purchased.
7. There would be no additional reliability of supply to San Diego relative to earthquake impacts on Met's conveyance system.
8. Initially, San Diego's purchase of water from IID would in theory free up 200 kaf of water in Met's system. As water demands increase in Met's service area, the temporary surplus would be used.

## ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FORM

| Issues | Potentially Significant Impact | Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| I. LAND USE AND PLANNING. Would the proposal: | | | | |
| a) Conflict with general plan designation or zoning? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| b) Conflict with applicable environmental plans or policies adopted by agencies with jurisdiction over the project? | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| *Other more expensive projects may be delayed or dropped* | | | | |

| Issues | Potentially Significant Impact | Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| c) Be incompatible with existing land use in the vicinity? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| d) Affect agricultural resources or operations (e.g. impacts to soils or farmlands, or impacts from incompatible land uses)? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| e) Disrupt or divide the physical arrangement of an established community (including a low-income or minority community? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| II. POPULATION AND HOUSING. Would the proposal: | | | | |
| a) Cumulatively exceed official regional or local population projections? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| b) Induce substantial growth in an area either directly or indirectly (e.g. through projects in an undeveloped area or extension of major infrastructure)? | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| *Change in charges, connection charges may change development patterns.* | | | | |
| c) Displace existing housing, especially affordable housing? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| III. GEOLOGIC PROBLEMS. Would the proposal result in or expose people to potential impacts involving: | | | | |
| a) Fault rupture? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| b) Seismic ground shaking? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| c) Seismic ground failure, including liquefaction? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

| Issues | Potentially Significant Impact | Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| d) Seiche, tsunami, or volcanic hazard? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| e) Landslides or mudflows? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| f) Erosion, changes in topography or unstable soil conditions from excavation, grading, or fill? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| g) Subsidence of the land? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| h) Expansive soils? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| i) Unique geologic or physical features? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| IV. WATER. Would the proposal result in: | | | | |
| a) Changes in absorption rates, drainage patterns, or the rate and amount of surface runoff? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| b) Exposure of people or property to water related hazards such as flooding? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| c) Discharge into surface waters or other alteration of surface water quality (e.g. temperature, dissolved oxygen or turbidity? | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| *Delivered water quality and thus discharged effluent quality and runoff from irrigation will have higher TDS because there will be no mix with State Project water.* | | | | |
| d) Changes in the amount of surface water in any water body. | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| e) Changes in currents, or the course or direction of water movements? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

| Issues | Potentially Significant Impact | Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| f) Change in the quantity of groundwaters, either through direct additions or withdrawals, or through interception of an aquifer by cuts or excavations or through substantial loss of groundwater recharge capability? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| g) Altered direction or rate of flow of groundwater? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| h) Impacts to groundwater quality? | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| *Groundwater recharged by irrigation drainage will have a higher TDS.* | | | | |
| i) Substantial reduction in the amount of groundwater otherwise available for public water supplies? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| V. AIR QUALITY. Would the proposal: | | | | |
| a) Violate any air quality standard or contribute to an existing or projected air quality violation? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| *No impact if no secondary growth impact.* | | | | |
| b) Expose sensitive receptors to pollutants? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| c) Alter air movement, moisture, or temperature, or cause any change in climate? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| d) Create objectionable odors? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

| Issues | Potentially Significant Impact | Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| VI. TRANSPORTATION/ CIRCULATION: Would the proposal result in: | | | | |
| a) Increased vehicle trips or traffic congestion? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| *No impact if no growth anticipated.* | | | | |
| b) Hazards to safety from design features (e.g. sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g. farm equipment)? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| c) Inadequate emergency access or access to nearby uses? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| d) Insufficient parking capacity on-site or off-site? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| e) Hazards or barriers for pedestrians or bicyclists? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| f) Conflicts with adopted policies supporting alternative transportation (e.g. bus turnouts, bicycle racks)? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| g) Rail, waterborne or air traffic impacts? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| VII. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES. Would the proposal result in impacts to: | | | | |
| a) Endangered, threatened or rare species or their habitats (including but not limited to plants, fish, insects, animals, and birds)? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| b) Locally designated species (e.g. heritage trees)? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

| Issues | Potentially Significant Impact | Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| c) Locally designated natural communities (e.g. oak forest, coastal habitat, etc.)? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| d) Wetland habitat (e.g. marsh, riparian and vernal pool)? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| e) Wildlife dispersal or migration corridors? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| VIII. ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES. Would the proposal: | | | | |
| a) Conflict with adopted energy conservation plans? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| b) Use non-renewable resources in a wasteful and inefficient manner? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| c) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of future value to the region and the residents of the State? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| IX. HAZARDS Would the proposal involve: | | | | |
| a) A risk of accidental explosion or release of hazardous substances (including, but not limited to: oil, pesticides, chemicals or radiation)? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| b) Possible interference with an emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| c) The creation of any health hazard or potential health hazard? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| d) Exposure of people to existing sources of potential health hazards? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

| Issues | Potentially Significant Impact | Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| e) Increased fire hazard in areas with flammable brush, grass, or trees? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| X. NOISE. Would the proposal result in: | | | | |
| a) Increases in existing noise levels? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| b) Exposure of people to severe noise levels? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| XI. PUBLIC SERVICES. Would the proposal have an effect upon, or result in a need for new or altered government services in any of the following areas: | | | | |
| a) Fire protection? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| b) Police protection? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| c) Schools? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| d) Maintenance of public facilities, including roads? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| e) Other governmental services? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| XII. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS. Would the proposal result in a need for new systems or supplies, or substantial alterations to the following utilities: | | | | |
| a) Power or natural gas? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| b) Communications systems? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| c) Local or regional water treatment or distribution facilities? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| d) Sewer or septic tanks? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

| Issues | Potentially Significant Impact | Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| e) Storm water drainage? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| f) Solid waste disposal? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| g) Local or regional water supplies? | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| *See discussion preceding checklist.* | | | | |
| XIII. AESTHETICS. Would the proposal: | | | | |
| a) Affect a scenic vista or scenic highway? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| b) Have a demonstrable negative aesthetic effect? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| c) Create light or glare? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| XIV. CULTURAL RESOURCES. Would the proposal: | | | | |
| a) Disturb paleontological resources? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| b) Disturb archaeological resources? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| c) Affect historical resources? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| d) Have the potential to cause a physical change which would affect unique ethnic cultural values? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| e) Restrict existing religious or sacred uses within the potential impact area? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| XV. RECREATION. Would the proposal: | | | | |
| a) Increase the demand for neighborhood or regional parks or other recreational facilities? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

| Issues | Potentially Significant Impact | Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| b) Affect existing recreational opportunities? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| **XVI. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE.** | | | | |
| a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory? | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| b) Does the project have the potential to achieve short-term, to the disadvantage of long-term, environmental goals? | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| c) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects) | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| d) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

## 6. POTENTIAL METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA IMPACTS

Assumptions/Discussion

1. Met would see reduced revenue.
2. Fixed aqueduct costs will not be covered in transfers/wheeling (recent court case on the Katz Law).
3. IID-SD transfer temporarily frees up 200 kaf in Met's system (until demands increase).
4. With the implementation of a California Plan to reduce the state to its entitlement, delivered water quality could improve overall, as the deficit would be made up by additional State Project water which has lower TDS (but higher THM potential).
5. If no California Plan is developed, the water quality would not change.

## ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FORM

| Issues | Potentially Significant Impact | Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| I. LAND USE AND PLANNING. Would the proposal: | | | | |
| a) Conflict with general plan designation or zoning? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| b) Conflict with applicable environmental plans or policies adopted by agencies with jurisdiction over the project? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| c) Be incompatible with existing land use in the vicinity? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| d) Affect agricultural resources or operations (e.g. impacts to soils or farmlands, or impacts from incompatible land uses)? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

| Issues | Potentially Significant Impact | Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| e) Disrupt or divide the physical arrangement of an established community (including a low-income or minority community? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| II. POPULATION AND HOUSING. Would the proposal: | | | | |
| a) Cumulatively exceed official regional or local population projections? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| b) Induce substantial growth in an area either directly or indirectly (e.g. through projects in an undeveloped area or extension of major infrastructure)? | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| *Water supply limits will arise during the 45-year life of the transfer contract. Met's reliability is reduced; development may focus on San Diego which has greater reliability.* | | | | |
| c) Displace existing housing, especially affordable housing? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| III. GEOLOGIC PROBLEMS. Would the proposal result in or expose people to potential impacts involving: | | | | |
| a) Fault rupture? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| b) Seismic ground shaking? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| c) Seismic ground failure, including liquefaction? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| d) Seiche, tsunami, or volcanic hazard? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| e) Landslides or mudflows? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

| Issues | Potentially Significant Impact | Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| f) Erosion, changes in topography or unstable soil conditions from excavation, grading, or fill? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| g) Subsidence of the land? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| h) Expansive soils? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| i) Unique geologic or physical features? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| IV. WATER. Would the proposal result in: | | | | |
| a) Changes in absorption rates, drainage patterns, or the rate and amount of surface runoff? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| b) Exposure of people or property to water related hazards such as flooding? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| c) Discharge into surface waters or other alteration of surface water quality (e.g. temperature, dissolved oxygen or turbidity? *Increase in surface water TDS, more flows* | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| d) Changes in the amount of surface water in any water body. *Irrigation runoff has lower TDS and water demands.* | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| e) Changes in currents, or the course or direction of water movements? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

| Issues | Potentially Significant Impact | Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| f) Change in the quantity of groundwaters, either through direct additions or withdrawals, or through interception of an aquifer by cuts or excavations or through substantial loss of groundwater recharge capability? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| *Basins are adjudicated.* | | | | |
| g) Altered direction or rate of flow of groundwater? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| h) Impacts to groundwater quality? | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| *Lower TDS water percolating to groundwater basins.* | | | | |
| i) Substantial reduction in the amount of groundwater otherwise available for public water supplies? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| V. AIR QUALITY. Would the proposal: | | | | |
| a) Violate any air quality standard or contribute to an existing or projected air quality violation? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| *(if no secondary impacts)* | | | | |
| b) Expose sensitive receptors to pollutants? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| c) Alter air movement, moisture, or temperature, or cause any change in climate? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| d) Create objectionable odors? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

| Issues | Potentially Significant Impact | Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| VI. TRANSPORTATION/ CIRCULATION: Would the proposal result in: | | | | |
| a) Increased vehicle trips or traffic congestion? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| b) Hazards to safety from design features (e.g. sharp curves or dangerous intersections) or incompatible uses (e.g. farm equipment)? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| c) Inadequate emergency access or access to nearby uses? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| d) Insufficient parking capacity on-site or off-site? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| e) Hazards or barriers for pedestrians or bicyclists? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| f) Conflicts with adopted policies supporting alternative transportation (e.g. bus turnouts, bicycle racks)? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| g) Rail, waterborne or air traffic impacts? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| VII. BIOLOGICAL RESOURCES. Would the proposal result in impacts to: | | | | |
| a) Endangered, threatened or rare species or their habitats (including but not limited to plants, fish, insects, animals, and birds)? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| b) Locally designated species (e.g. heritage trees)? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

| Issues | Potentially Significant Impact | Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| c) Locally designated natural communities (e.g. oak forest, coastal habitat, etc.)? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| d) Wetland habitat (e.g. marsh, riparian and vernal pool)? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| e) Wildlife dispersal or migration corridors? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| VIII. ENERGY AND MINERAL RESOURCES. Would the proposal: | | | | |
| a) Conflict with adopted energy conservation plans? | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| *Additional energy will be required to bring additional State Project water to Met service area.* | | | | |
| b) Use non-renewable resources in a wasteful and inefficient manner? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| c) Result in the loss of availability of a known mineral resource that would be of future value to the region and the residents of the State? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| IX. HAZARDS Would the proposal involve: | | | | |
| a) A risk of accidental explosion or release of hazardous substances (including, but not limited to: oil, pesticides, chemicals or radiation)? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| b) Possible interference with an emergency response plan or emergency evacuation plan? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| c) The creation of any health hazard or potential health hazard? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

| Issues | Potentially Significant Impact | Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| d) Exposure of people to existing sources of potential health hazards? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| e) Increased fire hazard in areas with flammable brush, grass, or trees? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| X. NOISE. Would the proposal result in: | | | | |
| a) Increases in existing noise levels? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| b) Exposure of people to severe noise levels? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| XI. PUBLIC SERVICES. Would the proposal have an effect upon, or result in a need for new or altered government services in any of the following areas: | | | | |
| a) Fire protection? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| b) Police protection? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| c) Schools? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| d) Maintenance of public facilities, including roads? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| e) Other governmental services? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| XII. UTILITIES AND SERVICE SYSTEMS. Would the proposal result in a need for new systems or supplies, or substantial alterations to the following utilities: | | | | |
| a) Power or natural gas? | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| *Additional power needed to bring in State Project water.* | | | | |
| b) Communications systems? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

| Issues | Potentially Significant Impact | Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| c) Local or regional water treatment or distribution facilities? | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| d) *More treatment for THM's?* | | | | |
| d) Sewer or septic tanks? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| e) Storm water drainage? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| f) Solid waste disposal? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| g) Local or regional water supplies? | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| XIII. AESTHETICS. Would the proposal: | | | | |
| a) Affect a scenic vista or scenic highway? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| b) Have a demonstrable negative aesthetic effect? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| c) Create light or glare? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| XIV. CULTURAL RESOURCES. Would the proposal: | | | | |
| a) Disturb paleontological resources? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| b) Disturb archaeological resources? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| c) Affect historical resources? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| d) Have the potential to cause a physical change which would affect unique ethnic cultural values? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| e) Restrict existing religious or sacred uses within the potential impact area? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |

| Issues | Potentially Significant Impact | Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| XV. RECREATION. Would the proposal: | | | | |
| a) Increase the demand for neighborhood or regional parks or other recreational facilities? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| b) Affect existing recreational opportunities? | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ | ☒ |
| XVI. MANDATORY FINDINGS OF SIGNIFICANCE. | | | | |
| a) Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory? | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| b) Does the project have the potential to achieve short-term, to the disadvantage of long-term, environmental goals? | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |

| Issues | Potentially Significant Impact | Potentially Significant Unless Mitigation Incorporated | Less Than Significant Impact | No Impact |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| c) Does the project have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? ("Cumulatively considerable" means that the incremental effects of a project are considerable when viewed in connection with the effects of past projects, the effects of other current projects, and the effects of probable future projects) | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |
| d) Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly? | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ | ☐ |

**DAVID J. RINGEL**

**EDUCATION** M.S., Civil Engineering, Stanford University, California, 1972
B.S., Civil Engineering, Loyola University of Los Angeles, California, 1971

**REGISTRATION** Civil Engineer in California, #24015, 1974

**SUMMARY**

Mr. Ringel has 25 years of experience in civil and sanitary engineering on water supply and water reuse projects. His background includes project management, preparation of master plans and feasibility studies, financial and economic analysis of water supply and water reuse projects, various water quality studies, and computer hydraulic network analyses.

**EXPERIENCE**

**Water Resources**

Project Manager, Integrated Water Resources Plan - Water Demand and Supply Evaluation, Castaic Lake Water Agency. This evaluation included review of current growth projections, development of future water demands, analysis of existing water supply capabilities, analysis of future supply alternatives, and development of a plan for future supply utilization. The plan includes: water conservation, additional State Water Project entitlement, additional groundwater production capacity for dry year use, recycled water use and development of conjunctive use opportunities to improve dry year reliability.

Project Manager, Water Management Plan and Program Environmental Impact Report, Coachella Valley Water District, California. The management plan is intended to eliminate a current groundwater basin overdraft of 140,000 acre-feet/year. The plan includes the use of water conservation, substituting surface and reclaimed water for groundwater pumping, and increased groundwater recharge using Colorado River water. A groundwater model using MODFLOW is being used to analyze the groundwater response to various management plans.

Project Engineer, Chino Basin Water Resources Evaluation, Santa Ana Watershed Project Authority, California. The study, sponsored by a five agency task force, evaluated the effect of alternative management strategies on groundwater flow and quality using a detailed finite element groundwater model over a 50-year planning period. A comprehensive planning interface was developed to project water supply and waste disposal flows and quality based on current and ultimate land use for 41 water and 21 wastewater agencies.

Project Engineer, Water Management Programs Evaluation, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. These programs include the Local Projects Program for water reclamation projects, Groundwater Recovery Program for groundwater treatment projects, Water Conservation Credits Program, Seasonal Storage rates for seasonal and long-term surface and groundwater storage, and Interruptible Agricultural rates for agricultural customers. The evaluation focused on the costs, benefits, level of incentives, and the administrative structure of the programs.

Project Manager, Local Water Resources Strategic Assessment, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California. The project included preparation of background issues paper describing the general water supply issues, mission statement and goals, situation assessment summarizing projected water demands and supplies based on member agency data, and five issues papers focusing on water conservation and demand management, water reclamation, desalination, groundwater quality and treatment, and surface and groundwater storage. Information developed in this assessment was used in the District's Integrated Resources Plan.

Project Engineer, Chino Groundwater Basin Feasibility Studies, Metropolitan Water District of Southern California., Responsible, in the first study, for evaluation and preliminary design of water facilities to store and extract imported water from the basin. The second study was a feasibility investigation of using local agency wells for extracting stored water for either direct use by the agency or for export out of the basin.

Project Manager, Preliminary Facilities Assessment, Big Bear Lake and Bunker Hill Groundwater Basin, Big Bear Municipal Water District, California. The recommended water management plan provided groundwater extraction from the Bunker Hill Basin whenever the flow in the river is not sufficient to meet water demands. This stabilized lake levels for recreation except in time of extreme droughts.

Project Manager, Water Supply Evaluation, Water Master Plan Update, Palmdale Water District, California. The District's existing supplies include groundwater, surface water, and State Water Project (SWP) water. To meet projected shortages, the plan recommended participation in a regional management plan for the Antelope Valley, purchase of additional SWP entitlements, improvements to the existing surface water conveyance system, new wells and conjunctive use of surface and groundwater supplies.

Project Manager, Water Supply Evaluation, Water System Master Plan, City of Azusa, California. The plan focused on how to meet projected water demands from the combined system after the City purchased the assets of the Azusa Valley Water Company. Water supply improvements included acquisition of additional water rights and mutual water company stock, construction of facilities to treat SWP water at the City's existing filtration plant, and increased flexibility to store and extract groundwater.

Project Manager, Groundwater Management Plan/Flow Model, Pomona Valley Protective Association, California. Prepared plan and directed preparation of a database to maintain hydrologic records for the Association. Also developed a groundwater flow finite element model of five small basins utilizing Montgomery Watson's Integrated Groundwater and Surface Water Model (IGSM). The model was used to evaluate options for managing the Association's groundwater recharge activities. In addition, a spreadsheet model was developed to determine the maximum allowable spreading while minimizing high groundwater levels. This model tracked monthly precipitation, groundwater levels and pumping to estimate available storage capacity.

Project Engineer, Conjunctive Use Study, City of Santa Barbara, California. Study involved the coordinated operation of the City's surface and groundwater supplies to increase the firm yield of these supplies. Results indicated that the firm yield of Santa Barbara's water supplies could

be increased by 1,800 acre-feet a year, or 14.5 percent, with no new facilities and up to 2,400 acre-feet a year, or 19 percent, if new facilities were constructed.

Project Manager, Water Resources Development Strategic Plan, Central and West Coast Groundwater Basins, Los Angeles County, California. The plan identified key technical issues and potential management goals and objectives, recommended programs for expanded water management and funding procedures, and offered an approach for developing an overall water management strategy. Many of the recommended programs are being implemented.

Project Engineer, Water Supply Investigation, Anheuser-Busch Brewery, Los Angeles, California. This work involved development and evaluation of eight alternatives for ensuring a reliable water supply for the brewery during periods of mandatory water conservation as part of an environmental impact report for a new supplemental water supply involving water transfers. The project included a detailed field program and development of a groundwater model using MODFLOW to assess the impact of pumping. The recommended project included pumping groundwater from an Owens Valley ranch to the Los Angeles Aqueduct.

Project Manager, State Water Project Feasibility Studies, Ventura County, California. These studies included preliminary assessments of alternatives involving over 40 miles of large diameter pipelines and water treatment facilities.

Project Engineer, Pamo Dam and Reservoir Feasibility Study, Metropolitan Water District and San Diego County Water Authority, California. The project involved construction of a 100,000 acre-feet reservoir and interconnecting pipelines to provide seasonal and emergency storage. The results of the study concurred with the original feasibility study and recommended continued development of the Pamo Reservoir.

Project Manager, Long-Term Water Supply Alternative Study, City of San Buenaventura, California. Thirteen potential water supply alternatives were evaluated using a matrix approach to select four alternatives. The recommended plan includes development of additional Ventura River yield, increased groundwater production with treatment for salt removal as needed, and either SWP importation or seawater desalination. Evaluation of distribution system improvements and other operational considerations led to the selection of seawater desalination as a preferred approach.

Project Engineer, Facilities Evaluations, West Coast Basin Barrier Project Study, California. Evaluation involved the analysis of alternatives to improve the effectiveness of the barrier and control groundwater degradation caused by seawater intrusion. The recommended plan constituted additional injection along the barrier in two of the principal aquifers, local extension of the barrier in the deepest aquifer, selective extraction of saline water inland of the barrier, and somewhat reduced extractions of fresh water within the main portion of the West Coast Basin.

Project Manager, Saline Water Plume Mitigation Study, West Coast Basin, California. The plume was formed when intruded seawater was trapped inland of a seawater intrusion barrier and is gradually migrating toward major potable groundwater production facilities. The project recommended the construction of wells and desalters to extract the plume and control its migration. One desalter has been constructed and a second desalter is being designed.

Project Manager, Groundwater Contamination Mitigation Facilities Plan, Kaiser Steel, Fontana, California. A plume of high salinity water was migrating toward a major potable well field. The study evaluated alternative remediation strategies including extraction and treatment of degraded groundwater.

Project Manager, Feasibility Study, City of Pomona, California. Evaluated alternatives for reducing the nitrate levels in the City's groundwater supply and reducing dependence on imported water purchases. This study lead to the design and construction of a nitrate treatment facility.

Project Manager, Water Quality Management Plan Development, Colton and Riverside Groundwater Basins. The principal goals of this study were to protect and preserve the study area groundwater resources as a potable water supply and to protect the quality of Santa Ana River baseflow at Riverside Narrows.

Project Manager, Urban Water Management Plans for Pico Water District and the Cities of Banning, Corona, Pomona and Upland. Prepared plans in response to California legislation. These plans evaluated potential water conservation measures, and techniques to reduce the impacts of future droughts.

**Water Reclamation**

Project Manager, Reclaimed Water Master Plan Update, Chino Basin Municipal Water District, California. This project involved marketing, engineering, institutional and financial feasibility evaluations of increased water reclamation in a 200-square-mile area of western San Bernardino and Riverside Counties.

Senior Project Engineer, Water Reuse Study, Orange and Los Angeles County, California. Responsible for the preparation of engineering, economic and financial analyses for new water reuse projects in the Orange and Los Angeles Counties metropolitan area. Work included engineering evaluation of alternative ground water recharge projects, analysis of the benefits of water reuse as a new water source and as a means of reducing the energy consumption of the State Water Project, and management of environmental consultants.

Project Engineer, Proposed Reclaimed Water Facility, Hyperion Treatment Plant, City of Los Angeles, California. This proposed reclamation facility for seawater intrusion barrier injection was to be implemented in two phases, a demonstration phase and prototype phase, and would utilize nitrification, activated carbon adsorption and disinfection. Although the project was not constructed, it ultimately led to the construction of a similar reuse project by the West Basin Municipal Water District.

Technical Supervisor/Project Engineer, Pilot Facility, Headworks Spreading Grounds, City of Los Angeles, California. Project included operation of a test facility to evaluate the use of reclaimed water for groundwater recharge by spreading.

**Water Master Planning and Infrastructure**

Project Manager, Water Supply Investigation, Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District, California. This study evaluated the feasibility of constructing a pipeline from the Metropolitan Water District's Auld Valley Pipeline to the District to convey imported water. The project was subsequently constructed and provides a significant portion of the District's water supply.

Project Engineer, Water Supply Investigation, Pomona-Walnut-Rowland Joint Water Line Authority, California. This study evaluated alternatives to meet growing water demands in the Walnut Valley and Rowland Water Districts.

Project Manager, Water Facilities Evaluation, West Basin Municipal Water District, California. This study to improve supply reliability for the northern portion of the District evaluated facilities required to meet water demands during extended droughts and earthquake outages for six of the District's sub-agencies. Recommended facilities included agency interconnections, a desalination facility, injection-extraction wells, and standby power for wells and booster pumps.

Project Engineer, Greystone Pumping Station Design Modifications, City of Beverly Hills, California. The project included the installation of a diesel-driven emergency pump unit to an existing facility that required continued operation during construction. The existing pumping station enclosure was replaced with a building designed to look like a carriage house for the adjacent Greystone mansion.

Project Manager, Reservoir, Pumping Station and Pipelines Design, City of San Fernando, California. The 2.5 million gallon reservoir was designed to replace an undersized tank and provide additional storage for fire protection and emergencies. The project also included 10,900 feet of 20-, 16-, and 12-inch pipelines and a 45 HP pumping station. The project allowed the City to meet the demands of a major new commercial development.

Project Engineer, Pipelines Design, Palmdale Water District, California. The project conveys raw water from the east branch of the California Aqueduct to Lake Palmdale through a 30-inch pipeline. Finished water is conveyed from a new water treatment plant to the existing distribution system through a 42-inch pipeline.

Project Engineer, Owens Valley Aqueduct Water Supply Improvements, City of Los Angeles, California. Projects included a proposal to improve turbidity removal in Aqueduct reservoirs; analysis of potential water quality degradation due to the removal of several major storage reservoirs from service for reconstruction; evaluation of improvements at major distribution reservoirs to maintain water quality; and preparation of studies and reports on turbidity and bacteria removal in Owens Valley reservoirs.

Project Engineer, Well Collector System Preliminary Design, City of Los Angeles, California. Design resulted in substantial power cost savings to the water system.

Mr. Ringel has also served as Project Manager for the preparation of water system master plans and computer-based water distribution system analyses for the cities of Anaheim, Beverly Hills, Pomona, and San Fernando, California. He has also performed project review of water

system master plans for the Cities of Riverside and Burbank and has been the Project Manager or Project Engineer for the preliminary and detailed design of water facilities for Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District, Palmdale Water District, and the cities of Anaheim, Beverly Hills, Pomona and San Fernando, California.

**AFFILIATIONS**

American Public Works Association
American Society of Civil Engineers
American Water Works Association
Alpha Sigma Nu
Tau Beta Pi

**JANET L. FAHEY**

**EDUCATION** D. Env., Environmental Science and Engineering, University of California, Los Angeles, 1978
M.A., Biology, University of California, Los Angeles, 1973
B.A., Zoology, University of California, Los Angeles, 1967

**REGISTRATION** Civil Engineer in California, #31649, 1980
Civil Engineer in Arizona, #15692, 1983

**SUMMARY**

Dr. Fahey has over 25 years of experience, both domestic and overseas, in the areas of wastewater and water supply facilities planning, receiving water studies, wastewater reclamation, and environmental permitting and analysis. Her background includes evaluation of environmental impacts relative to water development, treatment, and storage; wastewater collection, treatment, and disposal; shoreline development; wastewater reclamation; endangered species evaluation and revegetation. Dr. Fahey currently heads the environmental group at Montgomery Watson's Pasadena headquarters.

**EXPERIENCE**

**MONTGOMERY WATSON**

**Principal Environmental Scientist:** Since joining Montgomery Watson in 1976, Dr. Fahey has directed or prepared many of the firm's environmental impact reports and studies. Dr. Fahey currently heads the environmental group at Montgomery Watson's Pasadena headquarters. She is thoroughly familiar with both state and federal environmental regulations and guidelines pertaining to environmental documents, permits, public participation in the environmental review process, endangered species, water and air quality, and cultural resources.

Dr. Fahey's experience includes numerous assessments of potential impacts of wastewater discharges on receiving water flows, quality and biota in Southern California and the southwestern United States. She prepared the environmental assessment of river treatment and diversion and access restriction alternatives to abate pollution and public health hazards from the New River in Imperial County, considered the most polluted river in California. Dr. Fahey acted as Project Manager on the Mittry Lake Wildlife Area Revegetation Project for the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. Soil, water and biological studies of the 300-acre site culminated in the master plan, design and construction of a state-of-the-art drip irrigation system for over 6,000 native riparian trees and upland shrubs planted along the Colorado River northeast of Yuma, Arizona.

Dr. Fahey acted as Project Scientist on the Environmental Impact Report for the Malibu Wastewater Facilities Plan, a major study of provision of a regional sewage collection, treatment and disposal system to replace failing septic tank systems to a 17-mile-long

shoreline community. Critical issues evaluated included public health hazards, traffic, growth inducement, archaeology, riparian and nearshore marine habitat protection, endangered species, noise, recreational use, and quality of life. For this controversial project, Dr. Fahey arranged and conducted nine public meetings in Malibu, and coordinated with all responsible federal, state, regional and local public agencies plus more than 55 active homeowners associations.

Environmental studies include a water quality study for the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, in which Dr. Fahey analyzed existing algae and midge fly problems and control alternatives for the San Joaquin Reservoir, an open drinking water reservoir source for potable water. She also assessed the expected impacts on taste and odor of blending waters from two sources for the North Central Texas Municipal Water District. Dr. Fahey also directed the Ventura River Study, which investigated the roles of wastewater nutrients and dissolved oxygen on riparian and aquatic biological conditions downstream, and culminated in design criteria for the Ojai Sanitary District wastewater treatment plant.

Dr. Fahey's experience also includes assessment of potential impacts associated with industrial facilities operations. For Rocketdyne, she prepared California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) environmental documentation for management of wastewater for the Santa Susana Facility. Dr. Fahey prepared an evaluation of hazardous materials liability and permit status on a small petroleum refinery in Wilmington for an industrial client. She also evaluated potential environmental liability associated with a fish cannery in Ventura County.

Dr. Fahey acted as Project Scientist for the Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Anheuser-Busch Companies Los Angeles Brewery Water Supply Study, which evaluated the potential impacts of water development on A-B's Cabin Bar Ranch adjacent to Owens Dry Lake near Cartago. The project team evaluated alternatives for providing supplemental water in order to maintain production in times of shortage imposed by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power. The preferred alternative involved water development on a ranch owned by A-B in the Owens Valley, with conveyance via the Los Angeles Aqueduct. The EIR provided regional groundwater modeling, extensive evaluation of sensitive biological resources, and evaluation of a full range of environmental factors including archaeological sites along the proposed pipeline alignment, construction traffic and operation, noise, and visual impacts. To address the sensitivity of the project to Valley public agencies and citizens, Dr. Fahey and the EIR team organized several public participation meetings, and worked closely with the County of Inyo, the California Department of Fish and Game, and neighboring property owners.

On the Orange and Los Angeles Counties (OLAC) Water Reuse Study, Dr. Fahey acted as Assistant Project Engineer, directing efforts to characterize the magnitude, location, type and constraints of potential uses of reclaimed wastewater in urban Los Angeles and Orange Counties. This pioneering study involved potential reclaimed water service areas for ten major wastewater treatment facilities in which over 500 potential industrial and landscape irrigation uses were identified, and determination of the feasibility of reclaimed water distribution systems. She also acted as project engineer on the design

of improvements to wastewater treatment, disposal and reclamation facilities for the California Institution for Men at Chino, a facility of the California Department of Corrections.

Dr. Fahey's experience includes numerous assessments of potential impacts of water conveyance systems Southern California. For Eastern MWD she acted as Project Scientist for two Environmental Impact Reports (EIRs) for 17 miles of 36-inch pipe involving an interbasin transfer of reclaimed water, and coordination with both the San Diego and Santa Ana Regional Water Quality Control Boards, seismic hazard analyses, land ownership issues and permitting for stream crossings. For the City of Los Angeles Wastewater Program Management Division, she directed the preparation of environmental directories and databases for an environmental constraints analysis of alignments for the North Outfall Sewer/North Central Outfall Sewer, comprising 30 miles of 96-in diameter pipeline. Over 20 maps were then prepared to assist in alignment selection. Environmental components mapped included cultural resources, biological resources, oil fields, railroads, seismic hazard zones, natural gas deposits, and groundwater levels. For the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, Dr. Fahey contributed heavily to the Chino Basin Conjunctive Use Program EIR, which included evaluation of the Chino Valley Pipeline, 6 miles of 96-in pipe and 6.5 miles of 30-inch to 42-inch pipeline.

Water resources planning projects include heavily involvement in the preparation and editing of the EIR for Chino Basin Ground Water Storage Project, a major conjunctive use project proposed for southern California. As a subcontractor to another firm, she prepared the water resources sections of the EIR for the Semitropic Water Banking project in the southern San Joaquin Valley for the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California.

The Municipality of Metropolitan Seattle contracted with Montgomery to prepare Environmental Impact Statements/Assessments to analyze the need for secondary treatment at four wastewater treatment plants discharging a total of 130 million gallons per day to Puget Sound. The Metropolitan Seattle area of over a million population also had combined sanitary and storm sewers that frequently overflowed into local lakes and private properties. Dr. Fahey extensively reviewed the results of a year-long study commissioned by Seattle Metro of existing discharges on Puget Sound and lake bathymetry, currents, water quality, ecology, and public health, and suggested modifications to the previous analytical designs for future monitoring efforts. For the EIS/EAs, she then prepared an analysis of potential impacts of more than 10 sets of area-wide alternatives for regional wastewater collection, treatment and disposal on these marine and freshwater systems. These alternatives included construction in marine environments, including extensions of existing or construction of new marine outfalls, and construction of pipeline across a bay busy with recreational and commercial ships and containing an important migratory salmon and trout fishery.

Dr. Fahey was responsible for the evaluation of handling/disposal of combined industrial/domestic sludges and facilities odor issues and for report review and editing for an Environmental Audit of the 30-year water and wastewater improvement programs planned for Greater Buenos Aires by Aguas Argentinas. The Audit was

required by the World Bank as a condition for completion of a $250 million loan, to identify potential liabilities resulting from implementation of the project. The Audit team reviewed existing and projected water quality in three major rivers and their tributaries, and in the Rio de la Plata with respect to its roles as potable water supply and receiving water for domestic and industrial wastes, and reviewed potential new outfall and intake locations. Meteorological conditions which affect circulation in the Rio were incorporated. The Audit also examined industrial waste practices for the study area, and waste management approaches to reducing water pollution. Potential contamination of upper and lower groundwater aquifers with respect to their existing uses and quality were considered, with respect to existing well systems. Health and safety practices at existing facilities were catalogued and reviewed. The Audit team worked closely with Aguas Argentinas Health and Safety staff to develop improved programs.

Dr. Fahey has prepared environmental impact analyses under NEPA for the US Army Corps of Engineers, US Navy, Engineering Staff at Fort Irwin, CA, and US Bureau of Reclamation (Boulder City, Yuma, and Sacramento offices). Dr. Fahey prepared an EA for the Corps on wastewater conveyance and disposal facilities in Prado Basin, a wetland habitat containing several endangered bird species, and developed construction mitigation measures with the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Dr. Fahey also prepared an environmental constraints analysis and EA for wastewater treatment and disposal facilities on the Naval Air Weapons Station at China Lake, CA, involving endangered fish and wetlands, hydrogeologic studies, and sludge disposal issues. For Fort Irwin, Dr. Fahey directed preparation of an EA for renewal of the operating permit for the Fort Irwin Sanitary Landfill, an analysis which involved air quality analyses, groundwater analyses, and solid waste management issues at the base and potential hazardous materials contamination issues. For the Bureau of Reclamation, Sacramento, Dr. Fahey participated in the EIS for the Central Valley Project Improvement Act (CVPIA) EIS, providing sections on potable water quality impacts in the San-Joaquin Sacramento Delta. For the USBR Boulder City, Nevada office, Dr. Fahey is directing preparation of an EIS for the Clark County Wetlands Park, which analyses surface water issues related to reclaimed water quality, stormwater flows and constituents, potable water supply and Colorado River return credits, and potential buildup of toxics in sediments in park streams associated with erosion control structures. Work for the USBR Yuma projects office was the Mittry Lake Revegetation Project, mitigation required for the Yuma desalter plant, and involved revegetating 350 acres with over 6,000 riparian trees and upland shrubs along the Colorado River, and coordination with the Yuma Proving Ground on potential public health issues related to mosquito habitat. Dr. Fahey acted as Project Manager, directing preparation of the master plan, irrigation system and planting design plans and specifications.

Dr. Fahey has also completed a number of overseas assignments. She prepared environmental assessments, with emphasis on ground and surface water quantity and quality, public health and wastewater reuse potential, of proposed improvements to water supply, wastewater management and drainage facilities for Madaba, Karak, Tafila and Ma'an, four cities in the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. In eastern Sudan, she evaluated a full range of environmental impacts of additional ground and surface water supply development for Gedaref Town and neighboring Ethiopian refugee settlements.

On Antigua, W.I., Dr. Fahey prepared an environmental assessment of ground and surface water development on water use patterns, public health, existing septic tank disposal systems, tourism, and endangered species. Dr. Fahey evaluated proposed projects for ameliorating conditions of critical aquatic ecosystems (Pasig River, Tenejeros-Tullahan River, Laguna de Bay, Manila Bay) and natural resources management for the Metro Manila Region Environmental Improvement Program, Philippines. For the Second Metro Manila Sewerage Project, Philippines, she evaluated past, present and projected conditions in Manila Bay and present bay monitoring programs, and developed area priorities for needed future sewer extensions and wastewater treatment. Dr. Fahey was responsible for evaluation of sludge handling/disposal and odor issues in an Environmental Audit of the 30-year water and wastewater improvement programs planned for Greater Buenos Aires by Aguas Argentinas. Recently, she provided technical and procedural review of environmental impact assessments for alum sludge disposal and other improvements at seven water treatment plants in the Territory of Hong Kong on the Kowloon peninsula, Hong Kong Island, and Lantau Island.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES

Graduate Research: Dr. Fahey investigated the effects of suburban development and recreational use on the water quality of the Bishop Creek Drainage in the Sierra Nevada Range, Inyo County, California. The study included field sampling, data processing and data interpretation which culminated in the formulation of land and water use policy recommendations. Another investigation involved the institutional and water quality aspects of hydroponics and aquaculture projects using reclaimed wastewater.

FRIDAY HARBOR LABORATORIES, UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

Dr. Fahey evaluated the feasibility and potential impacts of a major shoreline planned unit development and salmon hatchery proposed for San Juan Island, Washington. Field sampling and literature reviews were used to evaluate physical, biological and human environmental settings and impacts, with special reference to recreational use, aquaculture potential, marine and stream water quality planning.

REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD, LOS ANGELES REGION (4)

Graduate Student Assistant: Dr. Fahey prepared an evaluation of the present and projected discharges to surface and ocean waters of the Region. She participated in activities of the Board's Environmental Group, including field sampling and laboratory evaluation of water quality.

Dr. Fahey has also acted as field instructor for courses in southern California ecology, Hawaiian natural history, and general oceanography, the last on board the oceanographic vessel R/V Vantuna.

ORGANIZATIONS Association of Environmental Professionals
Environmental Science and Engineering Society
Water Environment Federation

L2

**EL CENTRO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE**
WATER COMMITTEE
636 State Street
El Centro, CA 92243

October 14, 1999

Steven Knell
Special Projects Coordinator
Imperial Irrigation District

Tom Peters
Project Manager
CH2M Hill

Re: IID-SDCWA Water Transfer Agreement: Input on Scope of EIR/EIS

Dear Sirs,

In response to the CAC's request for input on the possible socio-economic impacts of the IID-SDCWA water transfer for purposes of defining the scope of the EIR/EIS, on behalf of the El Centro Chamber of Commerce Water Committee, I respectfully request that the EIR/EIS address the issues on the attached list.

The IID-SDCWA water transfer contemplates the transfer of conserved water, but does not identify how the water will be conserved. Because specific methods of conservation are still being discussed, and because different conservation methods will impact the economy in different ways, it is difficult to identify the potential impacts of a water transfer with much specificity.[1] Nonetheless, almost any conservation scenario that contemplates a cutback in water deliveries, reduces acreage under cultivation, or reduces production will have an impact on the areas identified on the attached list. ] L2a

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this process. Please call me at (760) 352-6371 if you have any questions or if I can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

Mitchell A. Driskill
Chairman, Water Committee

[1]Although the Dornbusch Economic Impact Analysis considers the economics of permanent tailwater recovery systems, it assumes, without discussion, (1) that conservation of 52 acre-feet per year per 80-acre parcel can be achieved, (2) that crop productivity will not be adversely affected, (3) that landowners, who are often highly leveraged, are willing and able to incur substantial debt to finance these systems, (4) that landowners are willing or able to suffer through several years of negative cash-flow on the financing of these systems, and (5) that private lenders are willing to make substantial long-term loans on equipment.

**EL CENTRO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE- WATER COMMITTEE**
**POTENTIAL IMPACTS OF WATER TRANSFER AGREEMENT**

**I. Potential impacts of water transfer on the amount and productivity of cropland:**

L2b

- Decrease in irrigated cropland as a result of:
  - -decrease in water deliveries,
  - -increase in water prices,
  - -increase in production costs (additional conservation costs);
  - -changes in cropping patterns to accommodate conservation strategies;
  - -land required to implement conservation strategies (e.g., storage ponds for pumpback systems;

- Decreases in crop production (lower yields) due to:
  - - new watering practices that do not control salinity,
  - -irrigating with recycled water with higher salinity;
  - -diversion of water above Imperial Dam reduces downstream water quality (salinity)?

**II. Potential economic impacts of water transfer:**

L2c

- To the extent the water transfer reduces the number of acres under irrigation or reduces crop productivity, the following areas may be impacted:
  - -decrease in farm labor demand;
  - -decrease in packing, shipping, and hauling demand;
  - -decrease in demand for farm machinery, implements, equipment, parts, lubricants, fuel, etc.;
  - -decrease demand for seed, fertilizer, herbicides, pesticides, and other agricultural chemicals;
  - -decrease in demand for farm rental property;
  - -decrease in wage and salary income from each segment listed above, which could cause:
    - -decrease wholesale and retail trade throughout the local economy;
    - -decrease demand for engineering, architectural, management, consulting, legal, accounting, banking, real estate, and other services;
    - -decrease demand for both commercial and residential property;
    - -suppress building/construction trades and related businesses;
    - -depress commercial and residential land values;
    - -decrease City and County tax revenues;
    - -increase pressure on local government and social services;

**III. Potential economic impact of changes in cropping patterns due to water transfer:**

L2d

- To the extent the water transfer causes changes in cropping patterns or causes a shift from low-value/high consumption crops to high-value crops, the following areas may be impacted:
  - -reduced availability/increase price of forage crops may put pressure on local cattle and dairy producers;
  - -increased planting of high-value crops means increased downside price risk and increased production costs, subjecting the local economy to greater risk when market prices are down.

L3

# CAMPESINOS UNIDOS, INC.


POST OFFICE BOX 203
1005 "C" STREET
BRAWLEY, CALIFORNIA 92227

Administration (760) 344-6300
Social Service (760) 344-4500
FAX (760) 344-0322

JOSE M. LOPEZ
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

SOCORRO JUAREZ
PRESIDENT


## CAMPESINOS UNIDOS, INC. POLICY STATEMENT IID WATER CONSERVATION AND TRANSFER

The following issues were presented and adopted as a Policy Statement by the Campesinos Unidos, Inc. Board of Directors at its October 7, 1996 Special Meeting with IID Representative, Mr. Jesse Silva.

Today we confirmed these Policy Statements:

1. Request a study focusing on the farmworker economy, labor skills and labor force impact, as a result of a water transfer. ] L3a

2. Study on the impact of the water transfer in farm production cost, including water, fertilizer, seed, land, and labor costs. ] L3b

3. Study to realistically forecast, the coming of farmworkers' jobs, new technology, management approaches and governmental support; as a result of the water transfer. ] L3c

4. To insure and maintain the secured water rights of Imperial County, now and in the future. ] L3d

The Campesinos Unidos, Inc. Board of Directors respectfully request that the above mentioned written policy statement be made part of the records on the IID Public Hearing (Forum) on the proposed Water Conservation and Transfer on February 24, 1998.

Jose M. Lopez
Executive Director
Campesinos Unidos, Inc.

2/24/98
Date

Recorded again on 10/14/99 during scoping meeting at IID Board Room, 1285 Broadway, El Centro, CA.

By Jose M. Lopez

cc:file
Attachments


AREA OFFICES

San Diego County

1145 Linda Vista Dr., No.102
San Marcos, CA 92069
(619) 744-2155

1140 Union St., No. 301
San Diego, CA 92101
(619) 239-1380 & 239-1506

Riverside County

Indio
83-115 Requa Ave. #2
Indio, CA 92201
(619) 347-4537

CHILD DEVELOPMENT SERVICES

Calexico
644 Pierce Avenue
Calexico, CA 92231
(760) 357 6560

El Centro
1026 E. Adams
El Centro, CA 92243
(760) 353 3576

Blythe
405 N. 7th Street
Blythe, CA 92225
(760) 922 5268

Coachella
51-996 Tyler Avenue
Coachella, CA 92236
(760) 398 6614

Indio
47-155 Van Buren St., #252
Indio, CA 92201
(760) 342-7784

San Ysidro
3798 Beyer Boulevard
San Ysidro, CA 92073
(619) 428-6364

REGION IX HEADSTARTS

Region IX Administration
642 State St
El Centro, CA 92243
(760) 353 9226
(760) 353 9274

Calexico
2220 Rockwood Ave
Calexico, CA 92231
(760) 357 5265 Fax 762

El Centro
351-12 Ross Avenue
El Centro, CA 92243
(760) 337-2944

220 S. Fairfield Dr.
El Centro, CA 92243
(760) 353 9413
(760) 337 5200

1100 N. 8th St.
El Centro, CA 92243

Westmorland
200 S. "C" St., RM #6
Westmorland, CA 92281
(760) 344 9135

Heber
1742 Heber Avenue
Bldg #33
Heber, CA 92249
(760) 353 9413

Imperial
303 South "D" St
RM #29
Imperial, CA 92251
(760) 355-2194

Holtville
602 Walnut Avenue
Holtville, CA 92250
(760) 356 2678
(760) 356 2672

# WRITTEN COMMENT CARD
# IID/SDCWA WATER CONSERVATION AND TRANSFER PROJECT
# PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING
# OCTOBER 14, 1999

L4

**Name** JEANNIE LENEFSKY

**Address** 418 CONESTOGA LN IMPERIAL

**Affiliation** CITY MANAGER

**Phone** 355-4373

**Date** 10/14/99

**COMMENTS:**
**(Attach additional sheets if necessary)**

SEE ATTACHED SHEET

We welcome your participation. Submit comments at the Public Scoping Meetings or mail to:

**Imperial Irrigation District**
333 East Barioni Boulevard
P.O. Box 937
Imperial, CA 92251
Attn: Mr. Steven R. Knell

or to:

**United States Bureau of Reclamation**
Lower Colorado River Region
P.O. Box 61470
Boulder City, NV 89006
Attn: Mr. William Rinne, BC-00-1000

**Please note that the deadline for public comments is October 27, 1999**

**Would you like to be added to our mailing list? Check here ____**

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

**Visit the project web site at http://www.is.ch2m.com/iidweb**

**Call the project toll-free hotline at 1-800-922-5270**

L4 cont

Scoping Issues

1. If there is less water flowing through canals, it will create more alkalinity (salt) in the water.

L4a

   A. How will this affect the crops that are being grown in the Imperial Valley?
   B. Who will provide funding for desalinization for safe drinking water which originates from the canal system?
   C. Why aren't those entities who need this water transfer utilizing desalinization of potable water from the ocean if it is feasible to do?

2. When cities annex property it creates more water availability toward a transfer from the canal system, will the cities be fairly compensated for saving water for the transfer in the same manner farm conservation will be?

L4b

3. The cities within the Imperial Valley do not have an agreement with IID for assurance of water being provided for potable water production.

L4c

   A. Will there be an agreement to assure that the Valley cities are encouraged and allowed to grow in the same manner that is being compelled by this water transfer?
   B. When the cities are required at some future date to institute water conservation measures, will this be considered a credit towards reimbursement?

L4

CITY COUNCIL
MARK GRAN
GARY (JR.) HATFIELD
TOM MAZEROLL
BETTY SAMPSON
STEVE SHANER

CITY CLERK
DEBRA JACKSON

CITY TREASURER
CHARLOTTE COOK

CITY ATTORNEY
DENNIS MORITA

# City of Imperial

INCORPORATED 1904

CITY MANAGER
JEANNIE LENEFSKY

CHIEF OF POLICE
AVIS R. MOORE

DIRECTOR OF
PUBLIC WORKS/PLANNING
WILLIAM MORDAH

FINANCE OFFICER
C. RAYMOND WOOD

April 9, 1999

Imperial Irrigation District
Attn: Steve Knell
333 E. Barioni Blvd.
P. O. Box 937
Imperial, CA 92251

**RE: Scoping Comments - IID/SDCWA Water Conservation and Transfer Project**

Dear Mr. Knell:

I attended the scoping meeting held in El Centro and turned in some comments regarding the transfer. I have another concern that should be addressed by the EIR/EIS preparation team.

Having lived north of Denver, CO for more than thirty years, I am well aware of methods that are necessary to conserve water. However, included in the study should be environmental impacts of utilizing desert landscaping. Specifically, study the PM10 issues related to long term use of this landscape source.

L4d

While living in Northglenn, CO in the early 1980's, the city decided to buy the water system and in order to finance this project our base water bill started at $90.00 and went incrementally up for usage. In order to conserve water many of the residents, including myself, installed landscaping rock over large areas of our properties. However, now in the 1990's the city has an ordinance that limits decorative rock and two-thirds of the yards must be in grass. This is due to the fact that this type of landscaping is not healthy for the environment, creates more warming, and particulate matter (PM10). In the Imperial Valley we have a problem with PM10 to begin with, how will we manage if more is created to justify the transfer?

I do agree that residents of the Imperial Valley waste water, as do most areas of California. However, conservation can be meted out, but environmental issues must be our foremost concern. Remember, having lived in Denver, we were mandated to only water every third day according to your address and, if you cheated, a very heavy citation ($100-1st time) was issued. Inspectors also went around and brought to people's attention that they were watering sidewalks gutters and driveways, which do not grow! The cities in the Imperial Valley can impact the choices that citizens make, but we will certainly need assistance to accommodate additional employees needed to monitor what is occurring in our neighborhoods.

Sincerely,

Jeannie Lenefsky

Jeannie Lenefsky
City Manager

cc: City Council

OCT 1999
Received
Water Admin.
Services

CITY HALL
420 South Imperial Avenue
Imperial, California 92251
Telephone (760) 355-4371
Fax (760) 355-4718

PUBLIC WORKS/PLANNING/BUILDING
420 South Imperial Avenue
Imperial, California 92251
(760) 355-1152 Planning
(760) 355-1064 Building
Fax (760) 355-1151

L5

# CITY OF BRAWLEY

JERRY SANTILLAN
CITY MANAGER

CITY HALL
400 MAIN ST. - PLAZA PARK
BRAWLEY, CALIFORNIA
92227
PHONE: (760) 344-9111
FAX: (760) 344-0907

October 27, 1999

Mr. Steven R. Knell
Special Project Coordinator
Imperial Irrigation District
333 East Barioni Boulevard
P.O. Box 937
Imperial, CA 92251

RE: City of Brawley's Comments to Notice of Intent - Water Conservation and Transfer Project

Dear Mr. Knell:

Please note our comments to the Notice of Intent to prepare an EIR/EIS for the Water Conservation and Transfer Project.

L5a 1) Discuss guarantee of water to cities and districts for current and future growth needs.

L5b 2) Consider potential loss of water and price of water to cities/district and potential impact on expansion of these communities.

L5c 3) Loss of water may hurt future recruitment of light manufacturing firms in Imperial Valley serving maquiladores in the Mexicali Valley. Both Brawley and Calexico have received special designation "Manufacturing Enhancement Areas" providing numerous state tax credits. Loss of water may damage the ability to recruit light industrial firms.

L5d 4) Loss of jobs. Jobs could be lost if land is taken out of production or if farmers go to less labor-intensive crops. This could impact suppliers, chemical production, and the general community.

L5e 5) What type of financial mitigations formula will be introduced to the cities/districts.

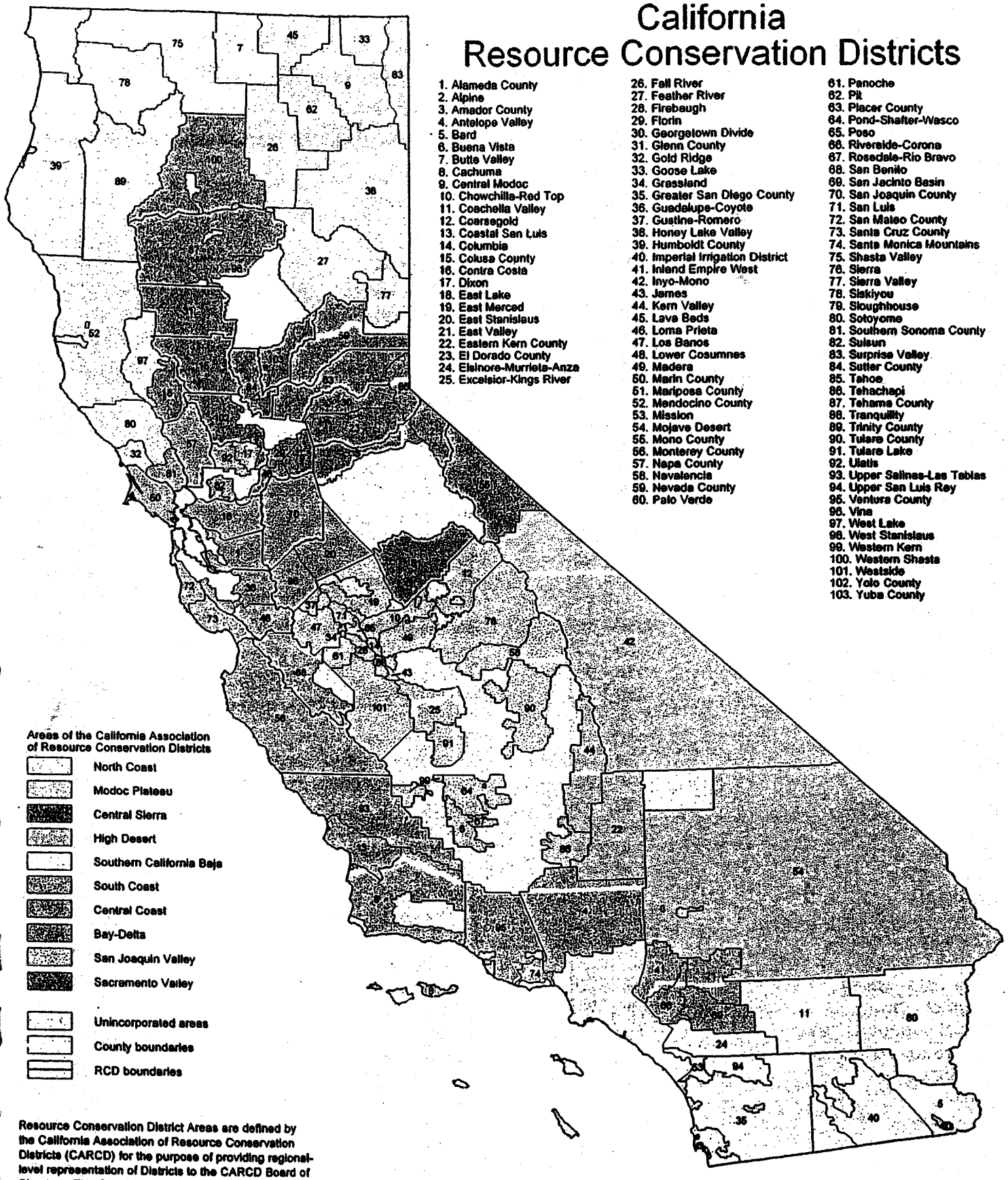
L5f 6) What impacts on farm economy will affect county, city district services?

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the NOI and reserve the right to comment further as the EIR/EIS document proceeds through the necessary public hearings, public notices, etc.

Sincerely,

Jerry Santillan
City Manager

# California
# Resource Conservation Districts



1. Alameda County
2. Alpine
3. Amador County
4. Antelope Valley
5. Bard
6. Buena Vista
7. Butte Valley
8. Cachuma
9. Central Modoc
10. Chowchilla-Red Top
11. Coachella Valley
12. Coarsegold
13. Coastal San Luis
14. Columbia
15. Colusa County
16. Contra Costa
17. Dixon
18. East Lake
19. East Merced
20. East Stanislaus
21. East Valley
22. Eastern Kern County
23. El Dorado County
24. Elsinore-Murrieta-Anza
25. Excelsior-Kings River
26. Fall River
27. Feather River
28. Firebaugh
29. Florin
30. Georgetown Divide
31. Glenn County
32. Gold Ridge
33. Goose Lake
34. Grassland
35. Greater San Diego County
36. Guadalupe-Coyote
37. Gustine-Romero
38. Honey Lake Valley
39. Humboldt County
40. Imperial Irrigation District
41. Inland Empire West
42. Inyo-Mono
43. James
44. Kern Valley
45. Lava Beds
46. Loma Prieta
47. Los Banos
48. Lower Cosumnes
49. Madera
50. Marin County
51. Mariposa County
52. Mendocino County
53. Mission
54. Mojave Desert
55. Mono County
56. Monterey County
57. Napa County
58. Navalencia
59. Nevada County
60. Palo Verde
61. Panoche
62. Pit
63. Placer County
64. Pond-Shafter-Wasco
65. Poso
66. Riverside-Corona
67. Rosedale-Rio Bravo
68. San Benito
69. San Jacinto Basin
70. San Joaquin County
71. San Luis
72. San Mateo County
73. Santa Cruz County
74. Santa Monica Mountains
75. Shasta Valley
76. Sierra
77. Sierra Valley
78. Siskiyou
79. Sloughhouse
80. Sotoyome
81. Southern Sonoma County
82. Suisun
83. Surprise Valley
84. Sutter County
85. Tahoe
86. Tehachapi
87. Tehama County
88. Tranquility
89. Trinity County
90. Tulare County
91. Tulare Lake
92. Ulatis
93. Upper Salinas-Las Tablas
94. Upper San Luis Rey
95. Ventura County
96. Vina
97. West Lake
98. West Stanislaus
99. Western Kern
100. Western Shasta
101. Westside
102. Yolo County
103. Yuba County

Areas of the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts

- North Coast
- Modoc Plateau
- Central Sierra
- High Desert
- Southern California Baja
- South Coast
- Central Coast
- Bay-Delta
- San Joaquin Valley
- Sacramento Valley

- Unincorporated areas
- County boundaries
- RCD boundaries

Resource Conservation District Areas are defined by the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts (CARCD) for the purpose of providing regional-level representation of Districts to the CARCD Board of Directors. The CARCD Board of Directors provides leadership for the Association as an instrument of its member Districts in carrying out state-level soil and water conservation policies. The Association also provides policy input to state and federal agencies and to other conservation and agricultural organizations. The boundaries of individual Districts and CARCD Areas represented on this map reflect all changes to January 1, 1998.

0 100 200 km
scale

Map compiled and produced by the California Department of Conservation, Land Conservation Unit. Sources for Resource Conservation District (RCD) boundaries and RCD Areas include the United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service; individual RCD offices; and the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts. County lines produced by the Department of Conservation, Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program from United States Geological Survey 1:100,000 scale topographic quadrangle maps. Copyright (c) 1998, California Department of Conservation. The Department of Conservation makes no warranties as to the suitability of this product for any particular purpose.

# California Resource Conservation Districts
## (Acreages Per District)

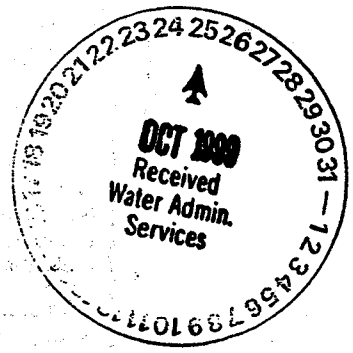
| District | Acres |
|---|---|
| Alameda County | 383,208 |
| Alpine | 303,765 |
| Amador County | 462,971 |
| Antelope Valley | 1,800,080 |
| Bard | 621,816 |
| Buena Vista | 220,663 |
| Butte Valley | 746,973 |
| Cachuma | 1,434,754 |
| Central Modoc | 1,029,500 |
| Chowchilla-Red Top | 285,328 |
| Coachella Valley | 1,546,620 |
| Coarsegold | 555,481 |
| Coastal San Luis | 476,610 |
| Columbia | 39,271 |
| Colusa County | 739,520 |
| Contra Costa | 486,017 |
| Dixon | 115,454 |
| East Lake | 348,864 |
| East Merced | 475,364 |
| East Stanislaus | 575,468 |
| East Valley | 441,516 |
| Eastern Kern County | 1,195,710 |
| El Dorado County | 638,187 |
| Elsinore-Murrieta-Anza | 533,161 |
| Excelsior-Kings River | 461,599 |
| Fall River | 1,175,370 |
| Feather River | 1,440,510 |
| Firebaugh | 84,708 |
| Florin | 97,301 |
| Georgetown Divide | 359,100 |
| Glenn County | 848,076 |
| Gold Ridge | 146,219 |
| Goose Lake | 429,923 |
| Grassland | 14,791 |
| Greater San Diego County | 1,944,320 |
| Guadalupe-Coyote | 356,892 |
| Gustine-Romero | 64,028 |
| Honey Lake Valley | 2,202,300 |
| Humboldt County | 2,295,520 |
| Imperial Irrigation District | 1,025,584 |
| Inland Empire West | 362,523 |
| Inyo-Mono | 7,510,740 |
| James | 24,547 |
| Kern Valley | 702,579 |
| Lava Beds | 611,292 |
| Loma Prieta | 314,906 |
| Los Banos | 340,549 |
| Lower Cosumnes | 140,897 |
| Madera | 343,090 |
| Marin County | 335,558 |
| Mariposa County | 934,764 |
| Mendocino County | 2,198,300 |

| District | Acres |
|---|---|
| Mission | 118,763 |
| Mojave Desert | 11,575,900 |
| Mono County | 1,038,800 |
| Monterey County | 2,121,430 |
| Napa County | 506,245 |
| Navalencia | 736,595 |
| Nevada County | 932,348 |
| Palo Verde | 2,154,220 |
| Panoche | 140,297 |
| Pit | 725,538 |
| Placer County | 849,512 |
| Pond-Shafter-Wasco | 395,450 |
| Poso | 50,885 |
| Riverside-Corona | 250,064 |
| Rosedale-Rio Bravo | 54,669 |
| San Benito | 732,988 |
| San Jacinto Basin | 462,528 |
| San Joaquin County | 913,041 |
| San Luis | 82,266 |
| San Mateo County | 183,401 |
| Santa Cruz County | 284,384 |
| Santa Monica Mountains | 117,715 |
| Shasta Valley | 1,791,830 |
| Sierra | 1,236,270 |
| Sierra Valley | 462,107 |
| Siskiyou | 1,177,320 |
| Sloughhouse | 206,524 |
| Sotoyome-Santa Rosa | 678,593 |
| Southern Sonoma County | 193,243 |
| Suisun | 91,073 |
| Surprise Valley | 507,366 |
| Sutter County | 389,609 |
| Tahoe | 253,518 |
| Tehachapi | 287,094 |
| Tehama County | 1,701,280 |
| Tranquility | 79,445 |
| Trinity County | 2,052,610 |
| Tulare County | 758,037 |
| Tulare Lake | 258,861 |
| Ulatis | 146,968 |
| Upper Salinas-Las Tablas | 1,476,340 |
| Upper San Luis Rey | 276,484 |
| Ventura County | 1,059,750 |
| Vina | 126,855 |
| West Lake | 502,067 |
| West Stanislaus | 393,946 |
| Western Kern | 128,781 |
| Western Shasta | 1,709,830 |
| Westside | 1,016,630 |
| Yolo County | 507,609 |
| Yuba County | 411,909 |

L6

# THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

**Science, Industry and Government Documents Section**




October 21, 1999

Imperial Irrigation District
333 E. Banoni Blvd.
P.O. Box 937
Imperial, CA 92251

Attention: Mr. Steven R. Knell

Dear Imperial Irrigation District:

Please send us one copy of the publication described in the enclosed newspaper clipping.

We are California depository library and attempt to collect all California government publications. We know this will be a useful addition to our collection.

Thank you.

Sincerely yours,

Gary R. Klockenga,
Government Documents Librarian

GK/bpl

# Notice of Public Scoping Meetings to Solicit Comments on the Imperial Irrigation District/San Diego County Water Authority Water Conservation and Transfer Project

**SUMMARY:** Pursuant to section 102 (2) (c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the State of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and Imperial Irrigation District (IID or District) will prepare a joint EIR/EIS to assess the impacts of the IID/San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA) Water Conservation and Transfer Project. The proposed project consists of the conservation by IID of up to 300,000 acre-feet of Colorado River water per year (af/yr), and the subsequent transfer of all or a portion of the diverted water to the SDCWA. IID and Reclamation are holding public scoping meetings soliciting input from the public on the types of issues and extent of analysis that should be contained in the EIR/EIS.

**PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING DATES:** Public scoping meetings will be held at the following locations (both written and oral comments will be accepted at the public scoping meetings):

**Northern Imperial Valley***
Elks Lodge
161 South Plaza
Brawley, CA 92227
Tuesday, October 12, 1999
7 PM to 9 PM

**Salton Sea Area**
Salton Sea Community Service District
2098 Frontage Road
Salton City, CA 92275
Wednesday, October 13, 1999
7 PM to 9 PM

**Southern Imperial Valley***
IID Board Room
1285 Broadway
El Centro, CA 92243
Thursday, October 14, 1999
7 PM to 9 PM

**Lower Colorado River Region**
Clark County Library
1401 East Flamingo Road
Las Vegas, NV 89119
Monday, October 18, 1999
7 PM to 9 PM

**Northern San Diego County**
Carlsbad Senior Center
799 Pine Avenue
Carlsbad, CA 92008
Tuesday, October 19, 1999
7 PM to 9 PM

**Southern San Diego County**
SDCWA Board Room
3211 5th Avenue
San Diego, CA 92103
Wednesday, October 20, 1999
7 PM to 9 PM

Please notify the Bureau of Reclamation if you have special needs for this meeting two (2) weeks prior to the event. Contact Ms. Molly Sweat at (702) 293-8415 or through the Federal Relay Service at (800) 877-8339.

*A Spanish interpreter will be present.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments will be accepted until October 27, 1999. Send written comments to:

Bureau of Reclamation
Lower Colorado River Region, Boulder Canyon Operations Office
P.O. Box 61470
Boulder City, NV 89006-1470
Attn: William Rinne, BC-00-1000

or to:
Imperial Irrigation District
333 E. Banoni Blvd.
P.O. Box 937
Imperial, CA 92251
Attn: Steven R. Knell

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. William Rinne, at the Bureau of Reclamation (702) 293-8414; or Mr. Steve Knell, Special Projects Coordinator, Imperial Irrigation District, at (760) 339-9266. Further information can also be obtained from the Notice of Intent published in the Federal Register on Monday, September 27, 1999, or on the project website at: http://www.is.ch2m.com/iidweb.

10/5, 10/7, 10/9, 10/11 (47107)

L7

# PLANNING DEPARTMENT

## IMPERIAL COUNTY

PLANNING / BUILDING INSPECTION / PLANNING COMMISSION / A.L.U.C. / L.A.F.Co.

Jurg Heuberger – Director

October 19, 1999




Steven R. Knell
Special Projects Coordinator
Imperial Irrigation District
333 E. Barioni Boulevard
P. O. Box 937
Imperial, CA 92251

SUBJECT: Response to IID/DOI Notice of Preparation/Intent for Draft Environmental Impact Report/Statement "Water Conservation & Transfer Project

Dear Mr. Knell:

The Planning/Building Department recently received a copy of the Imperial Irrigation District (IID) "Notice of Preparation" (NOP) and U.S. Department of Interior (DOI) "Notice of Intent" (NOI) for a Draft EIR/EIS on the proposed "Water Conservation and Transfer Project" between the IID and the San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA).

Your cover letter indicates that there is an October 25th deadline to respond to the NOP/NOI from all responsible/cooperating agencies. The primary concern and mandate of Imperial County is the following from page 2 of the County's 1996 General Plan, Land Use Element, "Purpose of the Land Use Element" :

"...The intent of the County of Imperial in preparing the Land Use Element is to maintain and promote the economic prominence of agricultural enterprises, determine appropriate urban development centers and encourage their economic development, protect the existing character of rural and recreational communities and areas, and preserve the unique natural and cultural resources of the Imperial Valley region..."

The following are a few of the concerns on the NOP/NOI, but the Department reserves the right to comment more fully when the Draft EIR/EIS has been received.

As a responsible agency pursuant to the provisions of CEQA, we offer the following comments and respectfully request that each be comprehensively addressed in the Draft EIR/EIS. The joint federal and state environmental document should discuss the full range of environmental issues required under NEPA and CEQA, including but not limited to, the potential impacts to agricultural, the Salton Sea and other waterways, L7a

939 MAIN STREET, EL CENTRO, CALIFORNIA, 92243-2856 (COURTHOUSE) (619) 339-4236
FAX NO (619) 353-8338

L7a biological resources and the secondary and third-party impacts to valley communities as follows:

| | |
|---|---|
| Agricultural/fallowing Impacts | Air Quality Impacts |
| Biological Impacts | Cultural Resources Impacts |
| Environmental Commitments | Hydrological Impacts |
| Indian Reservation Impacts | Impacts on Mexico |
| Legal Constraints | Impacts on Potential Growth |
| Power Rate Increases | Recreational Impacts |
| Socioeconomic Impacts | Visual Impacts |
| Water Quality Impacts | Cumulative Impacts |
| Relationship vs. Short Term & Long Term Productivity | Irreversible Resource Commitments |
| | Alternatives to the Water Transfer |

L7b The EIR/EIS should strive for accurate scientific analysis in the collection/compilation of baseline data, in order to understand the environmental consequences of the proposed water transfer of "...up to 300,000 acre-feet of Colorado River water per year (af/yr), and the subsequent transfer of all or a portion of the diverted water to the SDCWA and, under certain circumstances, other designees (See Map)..."

L7c (1) The Map does not show the Coachella Valley Water District service area which may become part of the proposed California 4.4 Plan being developed by the Colorado River Board of California and the State Department of Water Resources at the request of the Secretary of the Interior and other Colorado River basin states.

(2) The previous water transfer to MWD by IID in 1986 was analyzed in the "Program EIR - Proposed Water Conservation Program and Initial Water Transfer" (SCH No. 86012903) reviewed the transfer of 250,000 af/yr of Colorado River water and the final Agreement resulted in 106,000 af/yr being transferred to MWD. As part of this transfer, approximately twenty two million dollars ($22,000,000) was provided by MWD for secondary impacts to the Salton Sea and other environmental considerations. The

L7d proposed Agreement between SDCWA and the IID proposes a cap of thirty million ($30,000,000) for environmental compliance (unless the actual mitigation costs exceed the contractual right to void this Agreement). Why?

L7e (3) Since the proposed Agreement discusses up to 300,000 af/yr of on-farm water to be transferred and this has not been proven to be available nor comprehensively environmentally assessed at this time, this figure may be unsupportable. The NOP indicates that "...other potentially affected water rights holders are engaged in quantification discussions regarding Colorado River water..." When will this

L7h quantification discussion become public? The Draft EIR/EIS should include a discussion of what SDCWA is doing to conserve water in San Diego County.

L7i Furthermore, any transfer of water should be based on documented and proven methodologies by those wishing to conserve on-farm water as well as the resultant and

subsequent impacts to the District's electric-generating water facilities, the New and Alamo Rivers, IID reservoirs, and the Salton Sea.

(4) Who will pay for the increased costs to treat Colorado River water than will become increasing more polluted and contaminated as water flows decrease in the future? The County's General Plan has numerous goals and policies such as the following in the "Water Element", page 27, Coordinated Water Management:

> "Goal 5: Water Resources shall be managed effectively through inter-agency and inter-jurisdictional coordination and cooperation.
>
> Objective 5.1 Encourage and provide for the management and wise use of water resources for contact and non-contact recreation, groundwater recharge, hydroelectric energy production, and wildlife habitat as well as for domestic and irrigation use..."

(5) The County encourages both IID and the DOI to summarize previous NEPA and CEQA documentation and reference all previous water transfer studies to include but not be limited to the IID and Metropolitan Water District environmental documents referenced above. Whatever transpires regarding this second water transfer by IID to SDCWA, or any other transferee, it will definitely impact local land use decisions by both Imperial County and local cities. Any responsible agency, special district, local residents and/or landowners should not be left with the financial burden caused by any impacts of this new IID water conservation and transfer project.

We look forward to reviewing the proposed Draft EIR/EIS on this IID/SDCWA "Water Conservation and Transfer Project".

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this Notice of Preparation/Intent and if you have any questions on the above, please contact the Planning/Building Department.

Sincerely,

JURG HEUBERGER, AICP
Planning Director

cc: Board of Supervisors
Rich Inman, County Administrative Officer
Tom Fries/Joanne L. Yeager, County Counsel
Darrell Gardner, Planning Division Manager
IID Correspondence File
10.105
JH/DG/RC/pav/IIDNOPResp

**MWD**
METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

L8

*Office of the General Manager*

October 25, 1999

**VIA FACSIMILE**

Bureau of Reclamation
Lower Colorado River Region
Boulder Canyon Operations Office
P.O. Box 61470
Boulder City, Nevada 89006-1470

Attention: Mr. William Rinne, BC-00-1000

Imperial Irrigation District
P.O. Box 937
Imperial, California 92251

Attention: Steven R. Knell

Dear Messrs. Rinne and Knell:

Comments in Response to the Notice of Intent and Notice of Preparation to Prepare an Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement on the Imperial Irrigation District/San Diego County Water Authority Water Conservation and Transfer Project

Metropolitan (MWD) fully supports the conservation of Colorado River water by agricultural users to make water available to urban uses, consistent with applicable law. Metropolitan is dedicated to the successful implementation of the proposed Imperial Irrigation District (IID) conservation program for the benefit of San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA or Authority) and is committed to the successful development and implementation of the "Key Terms For Quantification Settlement" dated October 15, 1999. As a potential responsible agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), Metropolitan appreciates the opportunity to provide comments in response to the:

- "Notice of Intent to Prepare an Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement on the Imperial Irrigation District/San Diego County Water Authority Water Conservation and Transfer Project" and

- "Notice of Preparation, Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement for the IID/San Diego County Water Authority Water Conservation and Transfer Project, Imperial Irrigation District, Imperial, California."

L8a

Neither the Notice of Intent nor the Notice of Preparation mentions the means by which water conserved by IID would be made available to SDCWA. The November 10, 1998 "Agreement Between the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and the San Diego County Water Authority for the Exchange of Water" is the means by which water conserved by IID for SDCWA will be made available. Provided that the water conserved by IID has been made available to Metropolitan by the Bureau of Reclamation, Metropolitan will deliver exchange water to SDCWA.

The Notice of Intent and Notice of Preparation state that after 10 years of primary transfers, an additional discretionary component not to exceed 100,000 acre-feet per year may be transferred to SDCWA, or at IID's option to Metropolitan or Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD). Since publication of the Notice of Intent and Notice of Preparation, the boards of directors of IID, CVWD, and Metropolitan have authorized the use of "Key Terms for Quantification Settlement Among the State of California, IID, CVWD, and MWD, October 15, 1999" (Key Terms) as the basis for completing a New Quantification Agreement among the parties. The Key Terms call for CVWD to acquire up to 100,000 acre-feet of Conserved Water from IID annually in two 50,000 acre-foot increments, in annual steps of either 3,000, 4,000, or 5,000 acre-feet. Under the Key Terms, Metropolitan has the option to acquire:

- any "occasional reduction" water that becomes available by CVWD informing IID that it is reducing the amount of Conserved Water it is acquiring from IID in any given year, and
- any portion of the Conserved Water to which CVWD waives acquisition.

L8c

Metropolitan would have certain obligations with respect to payments for conservation of this water as well as environmental process and mitigation costs. Also, one of the water supply alternatives to be evaluated in the Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) is the transfer of water conserved in another agricultural region with conveyance through the State Water Project and Metropolitan's system. As such, Metropolitan, as a potential responsible agency, requests that it be afforded the opportunity to participate as part of the project team in the preparation of the EIR/EIS and the alternatives development report mentioned at the October 14, 1999 scoping meeting.

L8d

Furthermore, under the Key Terms, Metropolitan would have an obligation to reimburse CVWD for certain environmental process and mitigation costs associated with the second 50,000 acre-foot increment of Conserved Water. The April 29, 1998 Agreement For Transfer of Conserved Water by and between IID, and SDCWA (Agreement), specifies an Authority Environmental Cost Ceiling, an IID Environmental Cost Ceiling, and provisions for terminating the Agreement should initial or additional mitigation costs exceed specified dollar amounts. Considering these matters, the EIR/EIS should distinguish between environmental process and mitigation requirements and costs for: the 130,000 to 200,000 acre-feet of water to be made available in accordance with the Agreement, the first 50,000 acre-foot increment for CVWD, and the second 50,000 acre-foot increment for CVWD.

L8e

Metropolitan recommends that the Bureau of Reclamation and IID consider the manner in which environmental impacts were evaluated in IID's May 1994 Final Environmental Impact Report for Modified East Lowline and Trifolium Interceptors, and Completion Projects (EIR), as a basis for preparation of the EIR/EIS which is the subject of this Notice of Intent and Notice of

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA



Preparation. That EIR was prepared for conservation projects within IID's service area, a number of which have not yet been implemented. The preparation of feasibility-level details for on-farm and distribution system conservation measures would permit the impacts of each measure to be addressed individually and cumulatively. Additionally, in describing impacts to environmental resources in the Imperial Valley, Lower Colorado River Area, and San Diego County, careful attention should be given to comparing the state of these resources under the various levels of conservation to be considered with the future state of these resources under the no project alternative.

L8f

Metropolitan requests copies of all future notices and documents related to the pending EIR/EIS. Should you have any questions regarding Metropolitan's comments, or wish to arrange for a meeting to discuss Metropolitan's request to participate on the project team, I may be reached at (213) 217-6588.

Very truly yours,

Dennis B. Underwood
Executive Assistant to the General Manager

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cc: Mr. Laurence J. Purcell
San Diego County Water Authority
3211 Fifth Avenue
San Diego, California 92103

L9

*Thomas M. Fries*
*County Counsel*

IMPERIAL COUNTY
County Counsel
CALIFORNIA
1907

*Telephone:*
*(760) 339-4400*
*Telefax:*
*(760) 353-9347*

*County Administration Center*
*940 W. Main Street, Suite 205*
*El Centro, CA 92243*

October 20, 1999

Mr. Ronald Hull
Imperial Irrigation District
333. E. Barioni Boulevard
P.O. Box 937
Imperial, CA 92251

Re: **Request for Extension of Time to Respond to the IID/DOI Notice of Preparation for Draft EIR/EIS**

Dear Mr. Hull:

Enclosed is a copy of a letter regarding the above referenced matter faxed to you this afternoon; if you have any questions or need further information, please call Mr. Thomas Fries at (760) 339-4400.

Very truly yours,

THOMAS M. FRIES
County Counsel

Patricia Gonzales
PATRICIA GONZALES
Legal Office Assistant

tg
enc.

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Water Admin.
Services

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L9a

We feel that it is to the benefit of both the IID and Bureau of Reclamation to provide a limited extension of time in which to provide Mr. Rossmann's comments on the scope of the EIR/EIS for the IID/SDCWA Water Conservation and Transfer Project.

We would appreciate your consideration of our request.

Very truly yours,

Thomas M. Fries

THOMAS M. FRIES
County Counsel

JLY:tg
cc: Members, Board of Supervisors
Antonio Rossmann, Special Counsel
Richard H. Inman, Sr. CAO
Jurg Heuberger, Planning Director
Timothy Jones, Public Works Director

*Thomas M. Fries*
*County Counsel*

IMPERIAL COUNTY
**County Counsel**
CALIFORNIA
1907

*County Administration Center*
*940 W. Main Street, Suite 205*
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OCT 2000
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October 20, 1999

**VIA FACSIMILE**

Mr. Steven R. Knell
Special Projects Coordinator
Imperial Irrigation District
333 E. Barioni Boulevard
P.O. Box 937
Imperial, CA 92251

Re: **Request for Extension of Time to Respond to the IID/DOI Notice of Preparation for Draft EIR/EIS**

Dear Mr. Knell:

The County of Imperial is respectfully requesting an extension of time in which to respond to the "Notice of Preparation" of the Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement for the IID/San Diego County Water Authority Water Conservation and Transfer Project. We believe given the importance of the document that a short extension to allow Antonio Rossmann, the County's special counsel on water issues, to respond is not unreasonable.

We assume from reviewing the "Notice of Preparation" that it was prepared sometime prior to September 24, 1999. Yet despite the fact our office requested written notice on behalf of the County on all issues relating to the water transfer issues, we did not receive the Notice of Preparation. (At least one County Department did receive the NOP on October 6, 1999 and we believe that the department will be responding to the technical issues raised in the NOP).

In addition, Mr. Rossmann did not receive notice despite the fact that he filed a protest before the State Water Resources Control Board on behalf of the County for the specific purpose, among other things, of participating in the NEPA/CEQA process. When our office finally obtained a copy of the NOP and forwarded it to Mr. Rossmann on October 14th, he was out of town. He requested that he be given an opportunity to respond after the October 25th deadline provided for in the Notice of Preparation.

(L10)

# County of San Diego

JOHN L. SNYDER
(858) 694-2233
FAX: (858) 268-0461
LOCATION CODE S50

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

5555 OVERLAND AVE, SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92123-1295

COUNTY ENGINEERING
COUNTY AIRPORTS
COUNTY ROAD COMMISSIONER
TRANSIT SERVICES
COUNTY SURVEYOR
FLOOD CONTROL
WASTEWATER MANAGEMENT

October 18, 1999

OCT 1999
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Water Admin.
Services

Imperial Irrigation District
333 East Barioni Blvd.
P.O. Box 937
Imperial, CA 92251

**NOTICE OF PREPARATION ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT/ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE IID/SAN DIEGO COUNTY WATER AUTHORITY WATER CONSERVATION AND TRANSFER PROJECT, IMPERIAL IRRIGATION DISTRICT, IMPERIAL, CALIFORNIA.**

The Department of Public Works (DPW) has reviewed the above referenced Notice of Preparation, dated September 24, 1999, and received October 4, 1999. DPW has no comment on this project at this time. However, DPW requests that a copy of the Draft Environmental Impact Report be sent to the following person: L10a

Nelson Olivas
Public Works Manager
Department of Public Works
Environmental Services Unit
5471 Kearny Villa Road, Ste. 300
San Diego, CA 92123-1295

If you have any questions, please call Kaylene Fleming at (858) 874-4056.

Sincerely,

for JOHN L. SNYDER
Director

JLS:NEO:kf

cc: Robert R. Copper, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer (A6)

RECEIVED
OCT 22 1999
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS

L18

LAW OFFICE OF ANTONIO ROSSMANN

*Attorneys at Law*

380 HAYES STREET, SUITE ONE
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94102 USA
TEL (01)(415) 861-1401 FAX (01)(415) 861-1822
www.landwater.com

ANTONIO ROSSMANN
ADMITTED IN CALIFORNIA
NEW YORK AND
THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA
ar@landwater.com

ROGER B. MOORE
ADMITTED IN CALIFORNIA
rbm@landwater.com

23 November 1999

*via facsimile (760) 339-9356 and mail*

Steve Knell, Special Projects Coordinator
Imperial Irrigation District
P.O. Box 937
Imperial, CA 92251

Re: EIR/EIS IID Water Conservation and Transfer Project

Dear Mr. Knell:

Thank you for your courtesy in granting the County of Imperial an additional 30 days beyond 25 October to comment on the notice of preparation of the above-referenced document. The comments below are submitted in behalf of the County pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) to you as state lead agency. We are not clear whether your request for comments was also in behalf of the federal lead agency, the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation; but request by the copy transmitted that these comments also be considered by the Bureau in the event they do not separately solicit scoping comments prior to preparation of the draft EIR/EIS.

In its formal protest to the State Water Resources Control Board, the County of Imperial states its interest as follows:

> The County of Imperial encompasses the entire territory of petitioner Imperial Irrigation District (IID), which holds the water rights that are the subject of the petition. The County includes within its territory not only the owners and occupants of all the lands embraced within the IID, but also a significant additional territory. The County includes an equally significant constituency of citizens, residents, and landowners who do not control or use

the waters entrusted to IID, but who can be adversely affected by the environmental and economic impacts of the proposed transfer and change of place of use. Additionally, the County as a political subdivision of the state can be adversely affected in its ability to provide public services and conduct County business because of adverse environmental and economic impacts of the proposed transfer and change of place of use. Finally, the County as the government of general jurisdiction over the affected Imperial Valley bears a responsibility to articulate and protect public interests such as avoidance of public nuisance, protection of public trust values, assurance of county of origin protections, and maintenance of public health.

In particular, as the county of origin within California of the water to be transferred, Imperial County seeks to preserve opportunities for its own reasonable municipal, industrial, and agricultural growth. The quantity of water to be transferred (up to 200,000 acre-feet a year), with a long-term potential of an additional 100,000 acre-feet, and the term of the transfer (up to 75 years) give rise to Imperial County's concerns.

Thus, the County's primary interest in the preparation of the EIR/EIS is to ensure that it identifies, assesses, and defines mitigation of impacts that the project will produce on Imperial County as a governmental entity and on Imperial County citizens who may not necessarily hold proprietary water rights under California law. In this respect the County's interest is distinct and potentially broader than that of the District or its individual members who are entitled to rely on the District's rights to water under federal and state law. L18a

In the past the County's interests, both as a governmental entity and in behalf of its citizens and their environment, have often been dismissed as those of "third parties." This labeling often has led to the discounting or outright disregard of impacts on those considered "third parties." The County firmly believes that such categorizations can no longer be relied upon by the drafters of the EIR/EIS or by the decision-makers who will ultimately engage the EIR/EIS in their respective public responsibilities. Above all, the County of Imperial requests that potential adverse impacts to individual County residents, and to the general environment of the County as a whole, be treated with equal concern as impacts to individual or corporate water right holders. L18b L18c

The County additionally requests that the EIR/EIS recognize and protect Imperial's unique status as the California county of origin of waters from the Colorado River that form the subject of the proposed project. L18d

The County requests that the project definition be revisited to ensure that it conforms to the project now anticipated as a result of the recently-announced "quantification settlement." We also request that the project definition make clear that the transfer of conserved water excludes water "obtained" from non-temporary fallowing of productive agricultural lands, and also excludes the increased extraction of groundwater to compensate for surface supplies that are to be transferred. If the County misapprehends that the project is so defined, then the EIR/EIS should expressly state that project definition includes non- L18e L18f L18g

temporary land fallowing, or increased groundwater extraction, as applicable, and account for the consequent impacts. L18f con't L18g con't

The notice of preparation states that the District "intends" that the transfer will not result in the loss of IID's historic Colorado River priorities and water rights. To the extent that this "intention" has been modified by the "quantification settlement," this premise must be acknowledged in the EIR/EIS. More broadly, the County remains concerned that at present apparently no authoritative determination has been made about the priority and quantity of Imperial Valley water rights after this project is carried out. L18d con't

We recognize that the EIR/EIS should not focus on legal issues. Nonetheless, the County asks that the EIR/EIS as a necessary part of its assessment of project impact either (1) include from authoritative sources a determination of the impact of the project on these rights, or (2) assess the impact of the project if the District realizes its present "intention" and also the impact of the project if the District's "intention" is not realized (that is, if the transfer were to result in the loss of Imperial Valley water rights and their priority). L18d con't

The County similarly remains concerned that despite the terms of years written into the project definition, a water transfer of this magnitude and duration will de facto become a permanent and irreversible transfer. This circumstance should be addressed in one of two ways: either expressly stating as part of the assessment that the transfer will be assumed a permanent one, or else including assessment of an alternative project that is a permanent and irreversible transfer. L18h

The County notes that the notice of preparation states the project purpose to serve both urban and agricultural uses in the receiving (San Diego County) area. Project impacts in that receiving area, and hence an assessment of project benefits or detriments there, cannot be ascertained without identification of the quantity of water to be used over time in the separate urban and agricultural sectors of San Diego County. This information vital to understand the relative benefits of the transfer in Imperial and San Diego Counties, and also to inform the identification and evaluation of other potential receiving areas, if any, for the conserved water. L18i

Finally, in returning to the County's concern that its interests not be treated as those of a "third party," we ask that the EIR/EIS expressly identify the decisions that are to be made by each lead and responsible or trustee agency, state and federal, together with an identification of each agency's scope of discretion in their decisions. Specifically, but not exclusively, the County desires affirmation that the State Water Resources Control Board has within its "public interest determination" authority the ability to disapprove or condition the requested transfer in response to impacts within Imperial County, whether they be to water rights holders, public trust values, or non-trust but nonetheless vital environmental amenities. The County also desires specification of the approvals that the Secretary of Interior is empowered and expected to render in review of this project, and the ability of such approvals to respond to the County's environmental concerns as stated here. L18j L18j con't

The County emphasizes that when this project was initially announced, the project proponents asked the County and others to rely for assurances on the preparation of the EIR/EIS announced by the present notice of preparation. The County responded positively to these requests, expressly forbearing from litigation under CEQA in the expectation that the pending EIR/EIS would respond to the County's concerns.

In the end, however, assurance does not flow from an environmental document, but instead from the knowledge that public agencies will use that document to modify the proponents' project, if necessary, to protect environmental quality. The public participation of the County of Imperial and others cannot be effective without a clear understanding of the authority that the respective lead and responsible agencies will exercise. Accordingly, it is imperative that by the time the draft EIR/EIS is issued, the reviewing public, including the County of Imperial, be given definition of the exact purposes for which the lead and responsible agencies will use the assessment. L18K

On behalf of the County of Imperial and its Board of Supervisors, County Counsel and this writer reiterate our appreciation for your courtesy in granting extra time to submit these comments. The successful completion of an EIR/EIS on this project will largely determine, in our view, the ultimate political and popular acceptance of the decisions to be made. We look forward in cooperation to assist the Imperial Irrigation District and Bureau of Reclamation in attaining that overriding public goal.

Respectfully submitted,

Tony Rossmann

cc: U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Lower Colorado River Office
Board of Supervisors, County of Imperial
County Counsel, County of Imperial

L19

150 SOUTH NINTH STREET
EL CENTRO, CA 92243-2850

TELEPHONE: (760) 339-4606
FAX: (760) 353-9420

# AIR POLLUTION CONTROL DISTRICT

JAN 2000
Received
Water Admin.
Services

January 19, 2000

Mr. Steven R. Knell
Imperial Irrigation District
P.O. Box 937
Imperial, CA 92251

Dear Mr. Knell:

The Imperial County Air Pollution Control District (ICAPCD) would like the opportunity to provide comments on the environmental impact evaluation of the Imperial Irrigation District/San Diego County Water Authority Conservation and Transfer Project.

L19a

ICAPCD's concern is that the proposed water transfer will result in less water flow to the Salton Sea causing the Salton Sea to recede and create greater exposure of lakebed surfaces. A receding Salton Sea could create serious air pollution problems due to particulate emissions from the increased exposure of lakebed surfaces. Increased particulate emissions also pose a threat to public health.

To date the ICAPCD has not been in receipt of any environmental documents for this project. We would like to be placed on your mailing list for future documents, and would like copies of anything that has been made available to the public thus far.

Please direct all mail to: Jeannette Bryant, Deputy Air Pollution Control Officer, 150 so. 9th St., El Centro, CA.

Sincerely,

Stephen L. Birdsall
Air Pollution Control Officer

PACIFIC INSTITUTE
FOR STUDIES IN DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT, AND SECURITY

William Rinne, BC-00-1000
Bureau of Reclamation
Lower Colorado River Region
Boulder Canyon Operations Office
PO Box 61470
Boulder City NV 89006-1470

October 25, 1999

Dear Mr. Rinne:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the Imperial Irrigation District/San Diego County Water Authority Water Conservation and Transfer Project (Project) and the scope of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)/State of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) process. In the following the Pacific Institute for Studies in Development, Environment, and Security offers comments on the geographic scope of the NEPA/CEQA process, the importance of integration with other on-going and proposed projects in the region, and the issue of verification.

The two regions most immediately and directly impacted by the Project are the Salton Sea/ Imperial Valley and the lower Colorado River from Lake Havasu to Imperial Dam. The Project would have marked, and likely significant, impacts on both water quantity and water quality flows in the Alamo and New rivers, surface and sub-surface drains in the Imperial Valley, and into the Salton Sea. As noted in the following, the actual impact of the Project on the amount of tailwater and tilewater generated in the Imperial Valley is not known. A reasonable maximum would be the quantity of water transferred; at the maximum Project level of 300,000 acre-feet/year, this could potentially reduce inflows to the Salton Sea to approximately one million acre-feet/year (maf/y), lowering the elevation of the Sea by 15 feet and exposing some 41,000 acres of hypersaline lakebed. The State of California Air Resources Board is working with the Salton Sea Science Subcommittee to assess the potential impacts of airborne dispersal of lakebed contaminants as a result of reduced inflows. The NEPA/CEQA process should integrate the findings of this on-going research. The scope of the Project should include the area potentially impacted by these airborne contaminants, which could extend southeast of the Salton Sea through the population centers of the Imperial Valley and further south into Mexico and the city of Mexicali.

G1a

Water conservation efforts will disproportionately reduce the quantity of higher-quality tailwater relative to tilewater produced in the fields of the Imperial Valley, affecting the overall water quality and quantity of flows through local streams and drains. These watercourses provide habitat for a broad array of aquatic and terrestrial species, including endangered species such as desert pupfish and Yuma clapper rails. Such habitat should be mapped and assessed in light of changes generated by reductions in quality and quantity of flows due to the Project. Because the implementation of conservation practices and infrastructure will not be uniform across the Imperial Valley, reductions in agricultural drainage can also be expected to vary across space.

G1b

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G1c The Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) should specifically identify the areas expected to conserve water and the differential impacts this will have on discharge into and through local streams and drains, and how these changes to the timing, quantity, and quality of flows will impact riparian and wetland habitat.

These water quality changes will likely impact the concentrations of salts, nutrients, and other constituents in these watercourses and in the Salton Sea. Changes in concentration of these constituents and the impacts of these changes on habitat, fish, and wildlife should be clearly stated in the EIS/EIR for each of the alternatives under consideration. The Bureau of Reclamation and the Imperial Irrigation District, as federal and state project leads, should each coordinate and collaborate with state agencies charged with improving water quality in the basin, most notably the Colorado River Basin Region of the Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB). The RWQCB is currently developing a series of Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) guidelines for the Salton Sea basin. Information developed in the NEPA/CEQA process should be shared with the RWQCB, and the TMDL process should be integrated into the EIR/EIS.

G1d

The Project will affect the elevation and water quality of the Salton Sea. The Sea is itself the focus of a restoration project and EIS/EIR documentation. The Bureau of Reclamation, which is the lead federal agency on both of these projects, should coordinate the environmental assessments of the two projects so that information is quickly and freely shared between the environmental contractors and other interested parties. Baseline assumptions for the Project should be clearly and explicitly documented, particularly those regarding potential impacts of the Salton Sea Restoration Project. The proposed actions of the two projects should be clearly defined and assessed in each EIS/EIR. The Project's "no action" alternative should not assume as an environmental baseline a projected beneficial impact from the Salton Sea Restoration Project. Baseline assumptions should be based on credible, scientifically valid data, including that generated by research administered by the Salton Sea Science Subcommittee. It is not credible to assume an improved environmental baseline due to proposed actions.

G1e

Because of the Project's expected reduction of the Sea's elevation below that targeted by the Salton Sea Restoration Project and the latter's identification of Colorado River flood release flows as a means of reducing salinity and stabilizing elevation, the Project could indirectly impact the quantity of flood release flows reaching the Colorado River delta and the Upper Gulf of California. These indirect Project impacts could be significant and should be identified and assessed as part of the NEPA/CEQA process.

G1f

The Project, as presently conceived, would change the diversion point for the transferred water approximately 150 river miles upstream. As a percentage of total annual flows along the mainstem of the Colorado River between Parker Dam and Imperial Dam, the proposed depletion would likely not be significant, especially in the context of the major hydrological changes along this reach caused by upstream impoundments, channel modifications, the presence of non-native species, and alterations to the river's historic flow regime. However, the Project could significantly impact the maximum instantaneous discharge in this reach. Maximum flow rates are correlated with inundation of environmentally-critical backwaters along the mainstem. The EIS/EIR should include a water balance for the lower Colorado River that projects changes in

G1g

G1g flow due to the variety of proposed and on-going management changes. This water balance should project flows across a variety of time frames, from instantaneous release rates to annual flows to multi-year wet and dry cycles. The EIS/EIR should account for the environmental impacts due to changes in discharge across each of these temporal scales.

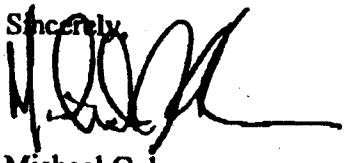
G1h The Project EIS/EIR should be coordinated with the on-going lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Program (MSCP). Estimated impacts from the Project must be integrated into the MSCP. Other actions affecting the lower Colorado River that should be addressed in the Project EIS/EIR include the California 4.4 Plan, the Salton Sea Restoration Project, the development of surplus flow criteria for the operations and management of the lower Colorado River, and the settlement of Native American claims to Colorado River water.

G1i As noted above, there are multiple actions under consideration and review that would impact the Salton Sea and the lower Colorado River. The Bureau of Reclamation directly manages, or is a participant in, many of these proposed actions. Yet the perception continues to be that these processes are very fragmented. The EIS/EIR should clearly enumerate the various actions proposed within the Project area, how these various actions may combine to produce unintended or synergistic impacts, and the efforts being made to coordinate actions, within the Bureau of Reclamation itself and among the other participating federal and state agencies. The NEPA/CEQA process should pro-actively solicit the participation of stakeholders to each of these various actions.

G1j The issue of verification is critical to the Project and the EIS/EIR in particular. Despite a water conservation/transfer agreement with the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, IID's consumptive use of Colorado River water actually increased more than 150,000 af over the past decade. Absent verified reductions in IID's consumptive use, Project water would likely come from reservoir storage, reducing the quantity of such storage and increasingly the likelihood of future shortage conditions on the river. Shortage conditions would have real, and potentially profound, environmental impacts along the Colorado River mainstem and delta region. The EIS/EIR should describe the verification mechanisms to be used and other criteria that the Bureau of Reclamation will employ to identify water conserved under the Project and available for transfer.

Thank you for the opportunity to participate in this important process. Do not hesitate to contact me should you need clarification or elaboration on any of these comments. Please send one copy of the draft EIS/EIR to the Pacific Institute when it becomes available.

Sincerely,



Michael Cohen
Research Associate

G2

October 25, 1999

Attn: William Rinne
BC-00-1000
Bureau of Reclamation
Lower Colorado River Region
Boulder Canyon Operations Office
P.O. Box 61470
Boulder City, NV 89006-1470

Attn: Steven R. Knell
Imperial Irrigation District
333 East Barioni Boulevard
P.O. Box 937
Imperial, CA 92251

Re: Imperial Irrigation District/San Diego County Water Authority Water Conservation and Transfer Project – Notice of Intent to Prepare an EIR/EIS

On behalf of Defenders of Wildlife and the Center for Biological Diversity, our over 350,000 members and supporters, including over 13,000 in California, we submit these comments regarding the scope of the environmental analyses of the transfer of water from the Imperial Irrigation District (IID) to the San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA). Defenders of Wildlife (Defenders) is a national non-profit organization with more than 350,000 members and supporters that works to conserve native wildlife and plants in their natural communities. The Center for Biological Diversity (Center) is a 4,500 member conservation organization dedicated to the protection of imperiled ecosystems and dependent wildlife plant species throughout western United States and northern Mexico. Defenders and the Center have developed a keen interest in the Bureau of Reclamation's operations and initiatives over the past several years, such as the Lower Colorado River (LCR) Multi-Species Conservation Plan (MSCP), off-stream banking regulations, and surplus criteria, and have repeatedly stressed integration of ecological values into these processes.

The entire Lower Colorado River Basin Ecosystem is in the earliest stages of ecological investigation and restoration. As a result, the cause and effect relationships between the various activities on the River – dam operations, hydropower production, maintenance, water deliveries, surplus

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declarations – and endangered species and fish and wildlife habitat is unclear. As we have repeatedly urged in the context of surplus criteria, offstream banking, and other Bureau of Reclamation proposals/programs, without a proven baseline it is very difficult, bordering on impossible, to determine the effects of proposed activities, such as the present one. Therefore, environmental safeguards and ecological criteria in the implementation of this transfer are mandatory and should ideally occur before these types of agreements are approved in their entirety.

The National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) requires federal agencies to prepare an EIS that considers the environmental impacts, including direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts, of their actions. It "serve[s] as an action-forcing device to insure" that environmental protections "are infused into the ongoing programs and actions of the Federal Government." 40 C.F.R. § 1502.1. In order to adequately examine the environmental consequences, Reclamation must comprehensively define its role in the proposed action and its alternatives. Reclamation must also look at direct impacts, impacts that are reasonably foreseeable (indirect impacts), and the impacts of this action added to past, present and future impacts regardless of the cause. 40 C.F.R. § 1508.7, 1508.8; 14 C.C.R. §§ 15126.2(a), 15130.

G2a

*Bureau of Reclamation's Role in the Transfer.*

Several entities have already taken action to facilitate the transfer of water. Metropolitan Water District (MWD) and SDCWA's Water Exchange Agreement calls for MWD to take delivery of the transfer water via the Colorado River Aqueduct, contingent upon state funding for lining of the All-American Canal and its Coachella Branch and construction of conjunctive use storage facilities for Colorado River water. California's legislature allocated $235 million for these purposes in 1998. In addition, the MWD/SDCWA Agreement will require a change in the point of diversion from Imperial Dam to Lake Havasu. The use of the water will change from entirely irrigation to mixed irrigation, municipal, and industrial. Lastly, Reclamation must verify beneficial use, according to Bureau regulations and the Law of the River.

This EIS/EIR must explore what actions the Bureau may take to facilitate this transfer, including those mentioned in the Federal Register notice, from approving any of the above actions to taking as yet unknown actions. This exploration should extend to the possibility of amending IID's contract with the Secretary – amendments to implement the transfer **plus** amendments to benefit fish and wildlife and their habitats. O'Neill v. United States, 50 F.3d 677, 686 (9th Cir. 1995) (contracts with federal government are not immune from subsequently enacted statutes, including the ESA) (cited in Natural Resources Defense Council v. Houston, 146 F.3d 1118, 1126 (9th Cir. 1998) (Reclamation can alter contract terms to comply with environmental laws)). For example, some percentage of the conserved water should be dedicated to instream flows that remain in the Colorado River through to the Delta and upper reaches of the Gulf of California.

G2b

In addition, the EIS/EIR must take into account the effects of the implementing

agreements and resultant new infrastructure as well. Water savings, water wheeling, and water quantification are all parts of the overall transfer agreement. Over 65,000 acre-feet (af) of water will be conserved by lining the All-American Canal and Coachella Branch. What currently happens to this water, and what will be the effects of its disappearance? What are the effects, if any, of quantifying IID's water rights at 3.1 million af? Piecemeal environmental review for each water budget will not satisfy the impacts analysis that NEPA demands. G2c

*Growth-Inducing Impacts*

NEPA and CEQA analysis will need to consider the effects of increasing San Diego's water supply by roughly 50 percent. One acre-foot (af) of water can supply a family of four for one year; the implications of an additional 20,000 to 300,000 af flowing into San Diego County are abound – increased population, residential and commercial growth, infrastructure and support facilities are just a few examples. See 40 C.F.R. § 1508.8(b); 14 C.C.R. § 15126.2(d).

This 50% increase in San Diego's water supply must undergo section 7 consultation under the Endangered Species Act (ESA), 16 U.S.C. § 1536(a)(2). San Diego County is home to more listed threatened and endangered species than any other County in the United States. Vast areas of San Diego County served by the water transfer have never undergone ESA review and compliance. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) has only considered and approved regional ESA compliance under sections 7 and 10 for the City of San Diego and a small portion of the County under the 'San Diego Multiple Species Conservation Program.' However, most other jurisdiction participants in the San Diego MSCP have not yet prepared their subarea plans or secured section 10 permits.

Even so, the San Diego MSCP document is inadequate ESA compliance here because it gives no consideration to the massive growth-inducing effects of this particular water transfer. Nor has the FWS formally consulted on the effects of these possible permits on listed species. Reclamation, therefore, must prepare a biological assessment addressing growth-inducing effects of the water transfer on all areas served by SDCWA. G2d

*Water Quality in the River, the Salton Sea, and the Delta in Mexico.*

As a result of this transfer, water quantity and quality in various parts of the river will change. All of these effects need to be explored thoroughly, in all contingencies. Effects to the Salton Sea include reduced drainage, less water, higher levels of salt, selenium and other harmful chemicals, and harm to wildlife. Effects to the Colorado River include less water in a 150-mile stretch of the River, increased salinity, reduced backwaters for fish habitat, and less potential secure water for downriver ecological purposes. All of these effects – to water quality, wildlife, and endangered fish and birds – must be considered both individually and cumulatively under the ESA and NEPA. For example, the change in diversion point from Imperial Dam to Lake Havasu will substantially reduce water availability downstream of Havasu for necessary riparian and aquatic restoration projects under the MSCP and otherwise. G2e

G2f

The Endangered Species Act (ESA) requires Reclamation not only to conserve listed species such as the Yuma clapper rail, razorback sucker, and bonytail chub, but also to avoid jeopardizing the existence of listed species here in the U.S. and in Mexico. Federal and non-federal entities are also prohibited from 'taking' threatened and endangered species without an incidental take permit.

Also, the Federal Register notice makes no mention of the Endangered Species Act or steps taken towards compliance. Due to the presence of endangered species all along the River and in the Delta, this is certainly important, especially since the significance of federal activities increases when the impacts involve endangered species. 40 C.F.R. § 1508.27(b)(9). The biological opinion for Operations and Maintenance Activities on the Lower Colorado River (April 1997) does not take this transfer into account either.

*Conclusion*

We appreciate the opportunity to comment on the proposed water transfer. We hope that Reclamation and IID include the cumulative effects of the several agreements that implement the IID-SDCWA transfer and the indirect effects of induced growth in their NEPA/CEQA analysis. In so doing, they should include assurances for environmental protections for the entire Lower Colorado River Basin Ecosystem.

Sincerely,

Kara Gillon, Staff Attorney
William J. Snape, III, Legal Director
Defenders of Wildlife
Washington, D.C.

David Hogan
Center for Biological Diversity
San Diego, CA

# APPENDIX H METHODOLOGY FOR CATEGORIZING SCOPING COMMENTS

# Yuma Valley Rod & Gun Club, Inc.

G3

ORGANIZED 1936

INCORPORATED 1938

POST OFFICE BOX 10450 • YUMA, ARIZONA 85366

October 19, 1999

**ATTENTION: Mr. Steven R. Knell**

OCT 1999 Received Water Admin. Services

Mr. William Rinne
Attn: BC-00-1000
Bureau of Reclamation
LCR Region, Boulder Canyon Operations Office
P.O. Box 61470
Boulder City, NV 89006-1470

RE: Comments Concerning Notice Of Intent (NOI) For The Imperial Irrigation District (IID) / San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA) Water Conservation And Transfer Project (Project)

Dear Mr. Rinne,

The Yuma Valley Rod and Gun Club (YVRGC) would like to take this opportunity to thank Bureau of Reclamation (BR) and The Imperial Irrigation District (IID) for the opportunity to provide comments on the NOI and conservation alternatives and issues which should be addressed in the development of the Environmental Impact Report / Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS). We believe that it would be beneficial for BR to hold a public scoping meeting in the Yuma area, because it is stated in the NOI there could be reductions in river flows between Parker and Imperial Dams. G3a

It is our understanding the EIR/EIS will be prepared to evaluate impacts associated with implementing the Project . We understand the purpose of the Project will be to conserve and divert up to 300,000 acre feet at Parker Dam and transfer all or a portion of the water to the SDCWA and under certain circumstances, to other designees. The EIR/EIS should evaluate potential impacts to fish, wildlife, habitats and recreation associated with flows in the river between Parker and Imperial Dam. G3b We also believe the EIR/EIS should address river flows between Imperial Dam and the Northerly International Boundary (NIB) because it is our understanding that IID receives revenue from the Pilot Knob Power Plant located near the NIB. Water is currently diverted from the Colorado River into the All American Canal at Imperial Dam and run through the Pilot Knob Power Plant before being returned into the river near the NIB. This diversion of water results in impacts associated with reduced river flows between Imperial Dam and the NIB. G3c

Sincerely,

Jon Fugate, Chairman
Legislative Affairs

# LAW OFFICES OF ART BUNCE

ART BUNCE
KATHRYN CLENNEY
ATTORNEYS AT LAW

G4




October 19, 1999

Mr. Steven R. Knell,
Special Projects Coordinator
Imperial Irrigation District
333 E. Barioni Blvd.
P.O. Box 937
Imperial, CA 92251

Re: Comments on scoping of Environmental Impact Report/ Environmental Impact Statement for the Imperial Irrigation District/San Diego County Water Authority Water Conservation and Transfer Project

Dear Mr. Knell,

The Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians (hereinafter, the "Tribe") is a federally-recognized Indian Tribe for which I serve as general legal counsel. The Tribe exercises sovereign authority over the lands and waters of the Agua Caliente Indian Reservation (hereinafter, the "Reservation"), which is located in Riverside County, California. The Reservation is within the service areas of both the Coachella Valley Water District and the Desert Water Agency. Because of the potential impact of the above proposed project on the Tribe and its reservation, the Tribe received the Notice of the Preparation of the EIR/EIS for the project. The purpose of this letter is to present the Tribe's initial comments on the scoping of the EIR/EIS for this proposed project.

The Tribe takes no position at this time on the merits of the proposed project. However, the Tribe does wish to ask that the scope of the EIR/EIS be broad enough to include not only those factors and alternatives identified in the Notice of Preparation of the EIR/EIS, but also a discussion of the ability of the Coachella Valley Water District to perform its functions, including pumping groundwater to meet the needs of customers in its service area, if the proposed project is or is not approved and implemented, in light of the unresolved claims of federally-recognized Indian tribes to groundwater appurtenant to their respective federal Indian reservations.

G4a

As you are no doubt aware, under the doctrine of *Winters v. U.S.*, 207 U.S. 564 (1908), the creation of a federal Indian reservation necessarily creates an appurtenant federally-reserved water right in the tribe for which the reservation was created to

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sufficient water to fulfill the purposes of its reservation, with a priority date of the date of the creation of the reservation. The Agua Caliente Indian Reservation was created for the benefit of the Tribe by the Executive Orders of President Grant of May 15, 1876 and of President Hayes of September 29, 1877. Therefore, the Tribe possesses a federally-reserved water right sufficient to fulfill the purposes of the Reservation as of 1876 and 1877, which is prior to and paramount to any later rights in other parties, including the Coachella Valley Water District or its predecessors. Other tribes whose federal Indian reservations are located within the service areas of this district, or other districts, possess similar rights, but the Tribe does not speak for any of them.

The Coachella Valley Water District has been pumping groundwater from various locations in the Coachella Valley for many years, in addition to importing water. The Tribe does not know if the proposed project would or would not have any effect on that pumping, or if the successful assertion of those water rights would affect that pumping. The answers to these questions may be altered by the approval and implementation of the proposed project. Therefore, the Tribe requests that the scope of the EIR/EIS for the proposed project be expanded to include a discussion of what effect, if any, the approval and implementation of the proposed project would have on the activities of the Coachella Valley Water District and its ability to meet its obligations to service its customers in the event of the successful assertion of such federally-reserved water rights.

G4b

In addition, as requested at the end of the Notice of Preparation, the Tribe hereby designates its Tribal Attorney, whose name and address are noted on the letterhead, to be the Tribe's contact person through whom others may communicate with the Tribe regarding the proposed project.

Sincerely yours,

Art Bunce
Tribal Attorney

cc: Richard M. Milanovich, Chairman

G5

# WRITTEN COMMENT CARD

## IID/SDCWA WATER CONSERVATION AND TRANSFER PROJECT
## PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING
## OCTOBER 12, 1999


**Name** John R. (Dick) Kershaw

**Address** 338 Andrita Pl. Brawley, CA

**Affiliation** BRAWLEY RESEARCH CENTER

**Phone** (760) 344 3138


**Date** October 12, 1999

We welcome your participation. Submit comments at the Public Scoping Meetings or mail to:

**Imperial Irrigation District**
333 East Barioni Boulevard
P.O. Box 937
Imperial, CA 92251
Attn: Mr. Steven R. Knell

or to:

**United States Bureau of Reclamation**
Lower Colorado River Region
P.O. Box 61470
Boulder City, NV 89006
Attn: Mr. William Rinne, BC-00-1000

**Please note that the deadline for public comments is October 27, 1999**

**Would you like to be added to our mailing list? Check here** X

**COMMENTS:**
**(Attach additional sheets if necessary)**

There have been several models developed to conserve water in Imperial Valley for transfer.

G5a Any practice or combination of practices should provide safeguards against salinity buildup. Allowances for flushing remediation on fields served by pumpback installations, for example, should be included in longterm plans. The previous conservation practice of lining the service laterals addressed the more obvious candidates for that practice vis a vis Metropolitan. There might be additional lateral candidates for that proven conservation method.

G5b Of great concern to labor and service organizations is the potential that farming crop selections might be made only on the basis of water consumption. If a high labor intensive crop could be feasible using market potential, it would be sad to ignore that rule in order to avoid water consumption. The same scenario applies to crops with lower labor requirements but that might generate great equipment and service revenue. A weighted reward or penalty schedule might work to avoid non-market crop decisions.

SEE NEXT PAGE

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

**Visit the project web site at http://www.is.ch2m.com/iidweb**

**Call the project toll-free hotline at 1-800-922-5270**

OCT 1999
Received
Water Admin.
Services

CATEGORY K

IMPACT ON FUTURE ECONOMIC GROWTH

G5c [There must be reserves of competitively priced water available for future economic development. It might be wise to divide economic development into 2 main categories.

1. Agricultural processing and manufacturing complexes.

   Example of category 1: Paper of fibreboard plants. Sugar Cane additions to the existing sugar beet plant, a dehydrating complex for various crops and manufacturing plants of all kinds.

2. Suburban or urban development of all kinds.

   Example of category 2: Mobile home parks, subdivisions, commercial tracts, parks, expansion of existing cities.

The interdependence of agriculture and water should be basic and easy to identify. When you get beyond the obvious direct interdepence, it begins to get more complicated. As an example, if a new crop or an old one uses a lot of water then it is possible that a farmer might elect not to grow that crop if it will negatively impact his or her basis for a water transfer. Normally a farmer makes most planting decisions based upon a market or a perceived future market.

Introducing the factor of water usage as a weighted cost will really impact crop selection. Those planting decisions will in turn affect labor and equipment needs.

Solution: Allow for some additional water availability for crops requiring more water in a utilization schedule which does not penalize some crops and their growers so long as water is not being wasted.

In regards to category 2, it should be noted that the direction and quantification of city expansion is very much unknown. However, the needs of all components in Category 2 are known when viewed in multiples.

Solution: Allow at the outset a 100 percent expansion usage over the period of the agreement. Tie a review of expansion needs into the transfer agreement and allow those needs to be met at current costs so as not to discourage expansion.

# COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMISSION

October 27, 1999

Steve Knell
Special Projects Coordinator
Imperial Irrigation District
333 E. Barioni Blvd
Imperial, CA 92251

Dear Mr. Knell:

The Imperial Irrigation District (IID) Board of Directors appointed the Community Advisory Commission (CAC) in 1998 to assess possible community benefits and impacts of the water transfer between the IID and the San Diego County Water Authority. It is the job of the CAC also to recommend to the Board possible mitigation measures.

In that regard, we have been meeting for the past 12 months assessing various issues in connection with the proposed transfer.

Enclosed are some specific issues identified by the CAC at its October 19 meeting that it wishes to be included into the official scoping process of the EIR/EIS.

Sincerely,

Dilda McFadden

DILDA McFADDEN
Chairman

Encl.
cc: CAC Members
Bill Gay

BILL GAY, P. O. BOX 1944, EL CENTRO, CA 92244 760-337-1700 760-337-1732(FAX) E-MAIL relcom2@aol.com
SUSIE CARRILLO, P. O. BOX 937, IMPERIAL, CA 92251 760-339-9426 760-339-9191(FAX) E-MAIL scarrillo@iid.com

# COMMUNITY ADVISORY COMMISSION'S KEY ISSUES ON EIR/EIS

## Economic Development & Employment Issues

G6a

1) **Loss of Jobs**
Jobs could be lost if land is taken out of production or if farmers go to less labor-intensive crops. This could impact farm workers as well as suppliers and the general community.

What will losses of jobs do to the primary and secondary job markets in the Imperial Valley?

Where will jobs come from?

G6b con't.

2) **Valley's reputation will be hurt**
The Valley's reputation could be hurt if people elsewhere in the nation perceive the Valley "sold out" its water rights. This occurred in the Owens Valley.

G6a con't.

3) **Loss of water will hurt future development of NAFTA-related industry in the border area.**
Major firms that are looking at moving into Mexicali and into this region of the U.S. are attracted by an abundant water supply as well as other factors.

G6b con't.

4) **Price of Water**
If there is a reduction in water availability, the price will be higher.

G6a con't.

5) **There will be changes in the nature of jobs available in the Valley.**
As we move from labor-intensive work to a more mechanized and white-collar economy, training issues at IVC and SDSU need to be addressed to ensure we have a qualified work force.

G6b

6) **There will be positive impacts to the economy with the money coming into the Valley as a result of the transfer.**
How will it be distributed? Who will say where it will go? It is important that this money stays in the Valley economy.

G6e

7) **Reduction of Flowing Water**
Will the reduction of flowing water affect or damage the free falling charge? Will less water affect the amount of hydropower that we generate on the Colorado River or the All-American Canal?

G6a con't.

8) **Growth of New Industry**
Will the reduction in water affect the possible growth of new industry, such as dairy industry, fiberboard production, etc.?

## Business Issues

G6a con't

1) **Reserve water for business expansion and attraction.**
Current figures state only 2% of the IID water is used by cities. Need to take into consideration the loss of water and price of water to the cities and the impact on expansion of incorporated and un-incorporated communities.

G6a con't.

2) **How will the water transfer effect the possibilities of future expansion of the IID service area to unincorporated communities such as Ocotillo and those along the shores of Salton Sea.**
Salton Sea communities currently receive water from CVWD, but not enough. They would like to be included in our service area.

## Business Issues contd...

3) **What are the Water Conservation Effects on:**
   1) Land Values
   2) Cropping patterns/crop quality
   3) I.V.'s market position in state/world ag markets
   4) Price of water
   5) Use of farm inputs/labor

G6c

If there is not enough money for true conservation, people will choose lower value crops even though they are not asking for those crops.

4) **Cropping patterns is a big issue that needs to be discussed.**

Crop quality (if they put less water on alfalfa, for example) will affect our yields as a county. Making cropping decisions is part of state and global ag market. If the price of water goes up, it would affect farming.

G6c cont.

5) **What will be the net effect of the Valley's agricultural product?**

G6d

6) **Need to assure that cities, private water districts, small water providers have enough water for the current and future populations.**

Will a binding agreement be signed with these providers?

7) **Need assured sources of water for existing systems.**

If there is less water, how will water providers be expected to supply water over the long term when canals are out?

G6d cont.

8) **Need more than one water source for water providers.**

How will the IID cope with this?

## Community-based Organization Issues

G6b cont.

1) **Should money be returned to the community through additional financial support for non-profit organizations?**

What will the community get out of this water transfer?

G6b cont.

2) **Power rate reduction on power bills to consumers.**

Should money be returned to the community through power rate reductions to consumers?

G6b

3) **What will the impact be to community charitable groups, for example – emergency assistance – EFSP/United Way, etc.**

Food and shelter programs in which Imperial County residents can qualify may be impacted. Amount of services and shelters needed, in the event of people not working, may increase.

There would be financial impacts on those agencies.

## Government Issues

G6e

1) **How do impacts on the farm economy affect tax receipts:**
   a) **Property taxes/funding for schools**
   b) **Public services: parks, public safety**
   c) **Etcetera**

If there were negative impacts to the farm community, it would trickle down to schools, local services, and quality of life issues.

2) **What are the Certification and compliance requirements?**

G6e

3) **Will water transfer increase welfare cost to government?**

If there should be a rise in unemployment, would the cost of welfare increase?

G6f

4) **Salton Sea**

Once a water conservation program is started, it will have drastic modification to the Salton Sea. The Salton Sea is a major economic base to Coachella Valley and Imperial County. It brings in a lot of revenue.

## Government Issues contd..

G6g

**5) How will the State Fish & Game and U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service react to agreement?**

Salton Sea is a major game preserve. There is a big concern if the level of the Salton Sea changes, it will affect fish/bird life. Also, looking at drainage as a problem – lowering the quality in the Salton Sea.

G6h

**6) What will the affect of limited water supplies be to Mexico?**

Their own source of water is the Colorado River. Somewhere in the future they could back and say they need more of our water due to impact to their groundwater supplies.

**7) Identify government agencies that collect and record socio-economic data for Imperial County.**

G6i

The EIR/EIS process is going to involve socio-economic models, requiring collection of data and input into models. Need to ensure that the data is reliable data and the assumptions are correct.

G6g con't.

**8) Flow of water to the Colorado Delta will be reduced if not eliminated, hurting spawning species of fish and nesting areas for endangered birds.**

Relates to #4 & #6. A variety of fish spawn in the area. If we are taking water from the river and send it to San Diego, there will be that much less water for spawning of species.

67

[redacted]

**Nadine L. Scott**
*Attorney at Law*

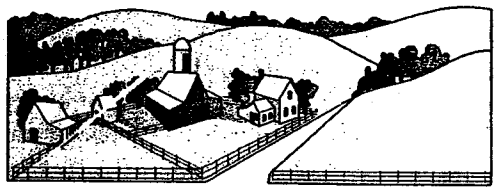
*Policy Chair, CARCD*

550 Hoover St. 760-757-6685
Oceanside CA 92054 760-757-9223 fax

E-mail: deannies@cari.net

# RCDS- WHAT ARE THEY?

**Resource Conservation Districts [RCDs] are non-regulatory, not for profit, political subdivisions of the State of California**
*[Public Resources Code, Article 9]*



**RCDs provide local leadership to deliver conservation measures to your constituents, without direct funding. Districts have provided locally led conservation services for over 50 years.**

**RCDs partner with state, federal, local agencies and private organizations.**

## RESOURCE CONSERVATION IS OF FUNDAMENTAL IMPORTANCE TO THE PROSPERITY AND WELFARE OF THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE

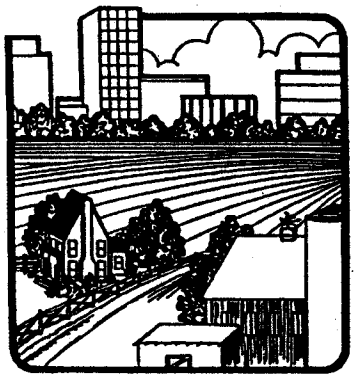
*[Public Resources Code Sec. 9001]*
*85% of California land is located in an RCD*

**Board members are unpaid officials who are dedicated to voluntary, locally led delivery of conservation services. Voluntary assistance builds TRUST , offers the landuser an option for self-determined behaviors and saves costs associated with regulatory actions.**



**RCDs do streambed restorations, provide conservation education and public outreach, coordinate and develop watershed planning and habitat restoration , and many other projects.**

**There are 103 RCDs statewide to serve rural, agricultural and urban areas.**



**For more information contact:**

California Association of Resource Conservation Districts

**801 K. St., Suite 1318,**
**Sacramento CA 95814**
**916-447-7237/447-2532 fax**
**carcd@sac.verio.net;**
**www.ceres.ca.gov/carcd**

**RCDs are authorized by the State of California to provide leadership and resource conservation assistance at the local level**



# WHAT IS AN RCD?

**Where did they come from? What are they for?**
**Who operates them? What do they do?**

**RCDs are <u>non-regulatory</u>, political subdivisions of the State of California.**
*[Public Resources Code, Article 9]*

**RCDs provide local leadership and deliver conservation measures to your constituents. Board members are unpaid volunteers who are dedicated to local delivery of conservation services. All services are delivered on a strictly <u>voluntary</u> basis.**

**In the 1930's "Dust Bowl Era" the federal government recognized erosion as a number one priority if this country were to continue with agricultural production that would feed our nation. Conservation Districts were authorized to increase leadership and provide assistance at the local level to landowners, farmers, and ranchers. Districts provide locally led conservation.**

**California recognized the importance of Conservation Districts, and in 1938 authorized their formation.** 80% of California land is located in an RCD. **Many changes have taken place since then but Resource Conservation Districts are empowered with the obligation and responsibility to provide local leadership and assistance to your constituency. Voluntary assistance builds TRUST!**

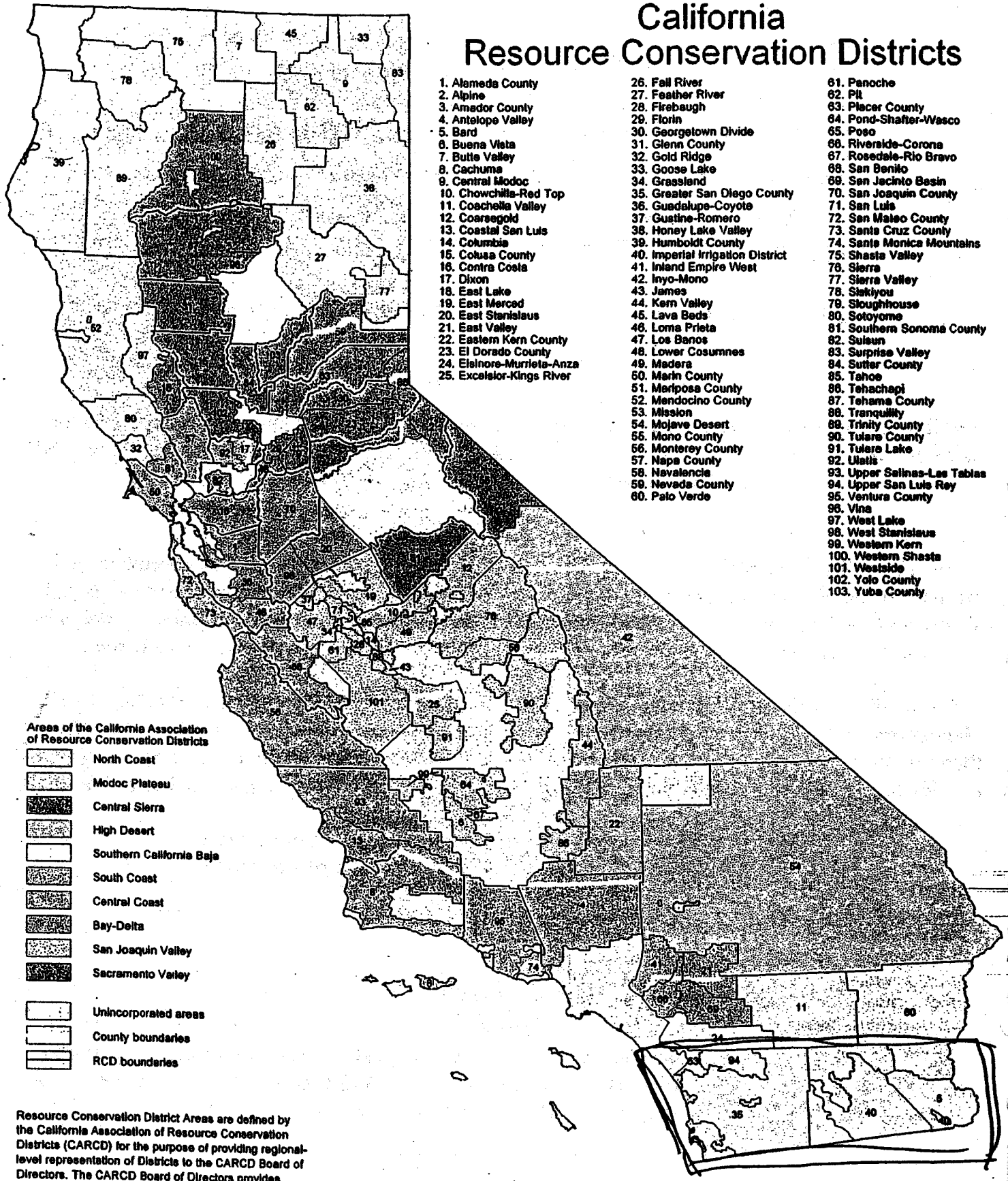
*"...resource conservation is of fundamental importance to the prosperity and welfare of the people of the state"*
*[Public Resources Code Sec. 9001]*



**RCDs do streambed restorations, provide conservation education, develop watershed planning and habitat restoration and many other projects. There are 103 Districts statewide to serve not only rural and agricultural areas, but urbanized areas as well.**

**For more information contact:**
California Association of Resource Conservation Districts
**801 K. St., Suite 1318, Version 1.b**
**Sacramento CA 95814**
**916-447-7237/ 916-447-2532 fax email: carcd@sac.verio.net**

# California
# Resource Conservation Districts



1. Alameda County
2. Alpine
3. Amador County
4. Antelope Valley
5. Bard
6. Buena Vista
7. Butte Valley
8. Cachuma
9. Central Modoc
10. Chowchilla-Red Top
11. Coachella Valley
12. Coarsegold
13. Coastal San Luis
14. Columbia
15. Colusa County
16. Contra Costa
17. Dixon
18. East Lake
19. East Merced
20. East Stanislaus
21. East Valley
22. Eastern Kern County
23. El Dorado County
24. Elsinore-Murrieta-Anza
25. Excelsior-Kings River
26. Fall River
27. Feather River
28. Firebaugh
29. Florin
30. Georgetown Divide
31. Glenn County
32. Gold Ridge
33. Goose Lake
34. Grassland
35. Greater San Diego County
36. Guadalupe-Coyote
37. Gustine-Romero
38. Honey Lake Valley
39. Humboldt County
40. Imperial Irrigation District
41. Inland Empire West
42. Inyo-Mono
43. James
44. Kern Valley
45. Lava Beds
46. Loma Prieta
47. Los Banos
48. Lower Cosumnes
49. Madera
50. Marin County
51. Mariposa County
52. Mendocino County
53. Mission
54. Mojave Desert
55. Mono County
56. Monterey County
57. Napa County
58. Navalencia
59. Nevada County
60. Palo Verde
61. Penoche
62. Pit
63. Placer County
64. Pond-Shafter-Wasco
65. Poso
66. Riverside-Corona
67. Rosedale-Rio Bravo
68. San Benito
69. San Jacinto Basin
70. San Joaquin County
71. San Luis
72. San Mateo County
73. Santa Cruz County
74. Santa Monica Mountains
75. Shasta Valley
76. Sierra
77. Sierra Valley
78. Siskiyou
79. Sloughhouse
80. Sotoyome
81. Southern Sonoma County
82. Suisun
83. Surprise Valley
84. Sutter County
85. Tahoe
86. Tehachapi
87. Tehama County
88. Tranquility
89. Trinity County
90. Tulare County
91. Tulare Lake
92. Ulatis
93. Upper Salinas-Las Tablas
94. Upper San Luis Rey
95. Ventura County
96. Vina
97. West Lake
98. West Stanislaus
99. Western Kern
100. Western Shasta
101. Westside
102. Yolo County
103. Yuba County

Areas of the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts

- North Coast
- Modoc Plateau
- Central Sierra
- High Desert
- Southern California Baja
- South Coast
- Central Coast
- Bay-Delta
- San Joaquin Valley
- Sacramento Valley

- Unincorporated areas
- County boundaries
- RCD boundaries

Resource Conservation District Areas are defined by the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts (CARCD) for the purpose of providing regional-level representation of Districts to the CARCD Board of Directors. The CARCD Board of Directors provides leadership for the Association as an instrument of its member Districts in carrying out state-level soil and water conservation policies. The Association also provides policy input to state and federal agencies and to other conservation and agricultural organizations. The boundaries of individual Districts and CARCD Areas represented on this map reflect all changes to January 1, 1998.

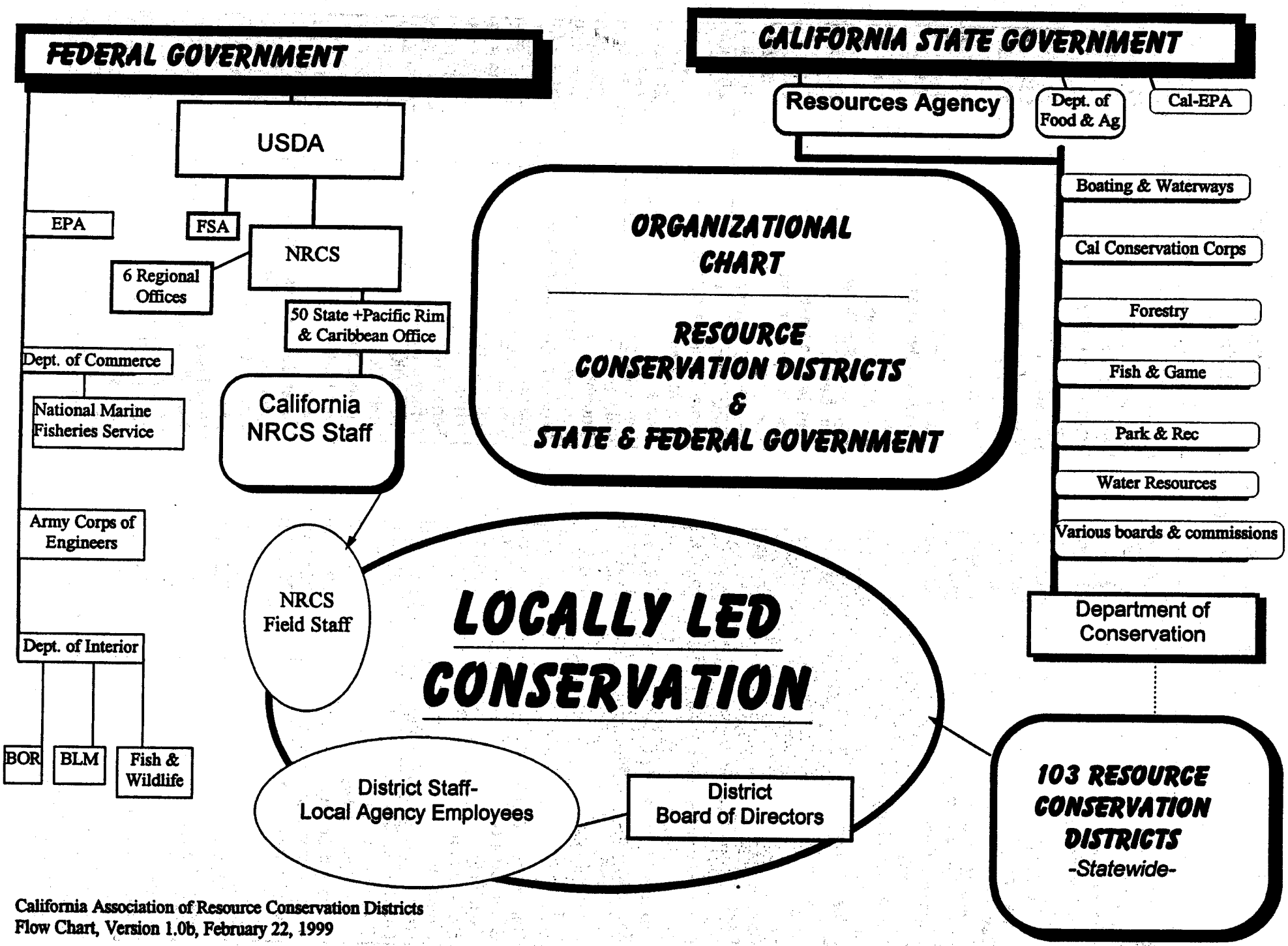
0 100 200 km
scale

Map compiled and produced by the California Department of Conservation, Land Conservation Unit. Sources for Resource Conservation District (RCD) boundaries and RCD Areas include the United States Department of Agriculture, Natural Resources Conservation Service; individual RCD offices; and the California Association of Resource Conservation Districts. County lines produced by the Department of Conservation, Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program from United States Geological Survey 1:100,000 scale topographic quadrangle maps. Copyright (c) 1998, California Department of Conservation. The Department of Conservation makes no warranties as to the suitability of this product for any particular purpose.

# California Resource Conservation Districts
## (Acreages Per District)

| District | Acres |
|---|---|
| Alameda County | 383,208 |
| Alpine | 303,765 |
| Amador County | 462,971 |
| Antelope Valley | 1,800,080 |
| Bard | 621,816 |
| Buena Vista | 220,663 |
| Butte Valley | 746,973 |
| Cachuma | 1,434,754 |
| Central Modoc | 1,029,500 |
| Chowchilla-Red Top | 285,328 |
| Coachella Valley | 1,546,620 |
| Coarsegold | 555,481 |
| Coastal San Luis | 476,610 |
| Columbia | 39,271 |
| Colusa County | 739,520 |
| Contra Costa | 486,017 |
| Dixon | 115,454 |
| East Lake | 348,864 |
| East Merced | 475,364 |
| East Stanislaus | 575,468 |
| East Valley | 441,516 |
| Eastern Kern County | 1,195,710 |
| El Dorado County | 638,187 |
| Elsinore-Murrieta-Anza | 533,161 |
| Excelsior-Kings River | 461,599 |
| Fall River | 1,175,370 |
| Feather River | 1,440,510 |
| Firebaugh | 84,708 |
| Florin | 97,301 |
| Georgetown Divide | 359,100 |
| Glenn County | 848,076 |
| Gold Ridge | 146,219 |
| Goose Lake | 429,923 |
| Grassland | 14,791 |
| Greater San Diego County | 1,944,320 |
| Guadalupe-Coyote | 356,892 |
| Gustine-Romero | 64,028 |
| Honey Lake Valley | 2,202,300 |
| Humboldt County | 2,295,520 |
| Imperial Irrigation District | 1,025,584 |
| Inland Empire West | 362,523 |
| Inyo-Mono | 7,510,740 |
| James | 24,547 |
| Kern Valley | 702,579 |
| Lava Beds | 611,292 |
| Loma Prieta | 314,906 |
| Los Banos | 340,549 |
| Lower Cosumnes | 140,897 |
| Madera | 343,090 |
| Marin County | 335,558 |
| Mariposa County | 934,764 |
| Mendocino County | 2,198,300 |

| District | Acres |
|---|---|
| Mission | 118,763 |
| Mojave Desert | 11,575,900 |
| Mono County | 1,038,800 |
| Monterey County | 2,121,430 |
| Napa County | 506,245 |
| Navalencia | 736,595 |
| Nevada County | 932,348 |
| Palo Verde | 2,154,220 |
| Panoche | 140,297 |
| Pit | 725,538 |
| Placer County | 849,512 |
| Pond-Shafter-Wasco | 395,450 |
| Poso | 50,885 |
| Riverside-Corona | 250,064 |
| Rosedale-Rio Bravo | 54,669 |
| San Benito | 732,988 |
| San Jacinto Basin | 462,528 |
| San Joaquin County | 913,041 |
| San Luis | 82,266 |
| San Mateo County | 183,401 |
| Santa Cruz County | 284,384 |
| Santa Monica Mountains | 117,715 |
| Shasta Valley | 1,791,830 |
| Sierra | 1,236,270 |
| Sierra Valley | 462,107 |
| Siskiyou | 1,177,320 |
| Sloughhouse | 206,524 |
| Sotoyome-Santa Rosa | 678,593 |
| Southern Sonoma County | 193,243 |
| Suisun | 91,073 |
| Surprise Valley | 507,366 |
| Sutter County | 389,609 |
| Tahoe | 253,518 |
| Tehachapi | 287,094 |
| Tehama County | 1,701,280 |
| Tranquility | 79,445 |
| Trinity County | 2,052,610 |
| Tulare County | 758,037 |
| Tulare Lake | 258,861 |
| Ulatis | 146,968 |
| Upper Salinas-Las Tablas | 1,476,340 |
| Upper San Luis Rey | 276,484 |
| Ventura County | 1,059,750 |
| Vina | 126,855 |
| West Lake | 502,067 |
| West Stanislaus | 393,946 |
| Western Kern | 128,781 |
| Western Shasta | 1,709,830 |
| Westside | 1,016,630 |
| Yolo County | 507,609 |
| Yuba County | 411,909 |




California Association of Resource Conservation Districts
Flow Chart, Version 1.0b, February 22, 1999

G12

**YUMA AUDUBON SOCIETY**
**P.O. BOX 6395**
**YUMA, ARIZONA 85366-6395**




November 23, 1999

Bureau of Reclamation
Lower Colorado River Region
Boulder Canyon Operations Office
P.O. Box 61470
Boulder City, NV 89006-1470
Attn: William Rinne, BC-00-1000

Dear Mr. Rinne:

I am writing in response to the proposed Imperial Irrigation District/San Diego County Water Authority Water Conservation and Transfer Project. Inasmuch as this project is in its early environmental compliance stages, I would like to add my concerns about the effects of this project on water quality, wildlife, and recreation on the Colorado River and Salton Sea, and strongly urge that these potential effects be given the fullest consideration and analysis in the forthcoming Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). G12a G12b G12c

This project could remove as much as ten percent of the water now flowing in the Colorado River between Parker Dam and Imperial Dam. There may be other proposals to change the point of diversion of Colorado River water from Imperial Dam to Parker Dam. It is extremely important that the EIS evaluate the effects of similar, cumulative actions which would reduce river flows in any division of the Lower Colorado River. G12d

Some of the effects of changes in point of diversion include lower water quality, adverse impacts to wildlife, and riparian and marsh vegetation, disappearance of backwaters because of lower water levels, and sandbars as navigation hazards to boaters. The Salton Sea, already a highly compromised ecosystem with periodic, serious dieoffs of birds, fish, and other water-dependent species, could be further stressed if not totally destroyed by reduced inflows from agricultural runoff in the Imperial Valley. G12a con't G12b con't G12c con't G12b con't

A variety of alternatives should be addressed in the EIS, including water conservation and growth control measures in San Diego County, return of cleaned "waste" water to the Colorado River by a canal or aqueduct, and desalinization of sea water. G12e

Please include us on your mailing list for the EIS and any other documents for public distribution relevant to this proposed project. You can reach me at (520) 782-3552 by phone and *cwm@primenet.com* by e-mail.

Sincerely,

Cary W. Meister

Cary W, Meister
Conservation Chairman

Cc: Steven R. Knell, IID

DON CORTUM, M.D., Inc.
P.O. BOX 2270, PALMS SPRINGS, CALIFORNIA 92263-2270

I1

October 26, 1999




Bureau of Reclamation
Lower Colorado River Region
PO Box 61470
Boulder City, Nevada
89006-1470

Gentlemen:

Re: Salton Sea

I1a

I would suggest original expenditure of funds to bring sea water in from the Gulf of Mexico.

Because of the drop is sea level, electricity production could occur.

This would provide a large recretation area that is fed by sea water.

As time goes on and water requirements in this area and desalinization becomes more advanced water production would increase.

The idea of dikes with salt production is such a short lived solution and not a good solution for the environment there.

Sincerely yours,

Don Cortum MD

Don Cortum, M.D.

(7)

# WRITTEN COMMENT CARD
# IID/SDCWA WATER CONSERVATION AND TRANSFER PROJECT
# PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING
# OCTOBER 13, 1999

I2

**Name** John Pavlich

**Address** 116 Venice Lane

**Affiliation** Home owner in Desert Shores

**Phone** (760) 395-0317

**Date** 10-21-1999

**COMMENTS:**
**(Attach additional sheets if necessary)**

We welcome your participation. Submit comments at the Public Scoping Meetings or mail to:

**Imperial Irrigation District**
333 East Barioni Boulevard
P.O. Box 937
Imperial, CA 92251
Attn: Mr. Steven R. Knell

or to:

**United States Bureau of Reclamation**
Lower Colorado River Region
P.O. Box 61470
Boulder City, NV 89006
Attn: Mr. William Rinne, BC-00-1000

**Please note that the deadline for public comments is October 27, 1999**

**Would you like to be added to our mailing list? Check here** X

I2a Water conservation by Imperial Irrigation District should be used for irrigation of south-eastern California and for delution of Salton Sea salinity.

I2b San Diego county should get its water with other counties from central California,if ~~neccessary from Sacramento River. The aggreement made for sharing the Colorado River~~ water shows that Los Angeles area will be short of considerable ammount of water and will require another source of water. In order to provide for gro th rather than cutting back, the source from central California is a logical choice.

I2c ~~Colorado River water contains lot of salt and will eventually degrade the quality of~~ soil Besides the drinking of water that contains salt is detrimental for some people

I2b con't. San Diego county should build more water reservoirs to decrease the demand for additional water and increase the conservation. I have lived in San Diego county and know of their lack of reservoirs.

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

**Visit the project web site at http://www.is.ch2m.com/iidweb**

**Call the project toll-free hotline at 1-800-922-5270**

I3

Statement of
William R. Condit
At
Scoping Hearing
For EIR On
IID/San Diego Water Transfer

El Centro, California
Thursday, October 14, 1999

My name is William R. Condit. I live with my wife in the city of El Centro at 1630 Smoketree Drive. I am appearing here as a resident of El Centro. I am currently a candidate for the El Centro City Council. For twenty years I was a member of the IID Board of Directors and am proud to have been one of the four directors to protect IID water rights by voting for the transfer agreement with San Diego.

I3a I have one request to make this evening. This EIR needs to include urban water conservation programs for Imperial Valley cities and the unincorporated areas of the county.

For the years that I represented this Valley on the IID Board of Directors, I saw the water conservation programs of our urban neighbors, which included installing low-flush toilets, low-flow shower heads, and desert landscaping. Those urban neighbors got to retain title to the water they conserved.

Imperial Valley cities have not had the money to finance those programs. Now, the San Diego agreement provides the needed money. Therefore, part of the water conservation for the San Diego agreement needs to come from programs in the Imperial Valley urban areas similar to those developed by other urban areas.

I envision the Imperial Valley urban areas being able to finance their conservation measures by receiving the $250 per acre-foot revenues provided by the San Diego agreement. I beleive that this program could become an important source of money for the cities and the county, particularly as the price escalates over time.

Please include urban water conservation as a part of the proposed action being evaluated in the EIR. Thank you.

# IMPERIAL IRRIGATION DISTRICT PROJECT

I4

## PROJECT FILE TRANSMITTAL COVER SHEET

CONTRACT No.: _____

DOCUMENT CONTROL No.: _____
(to be assigned by Cyndy Butler/IID)

METHOD OF DELIVERY: _____

TO: Cyndy Butler/IID
333 E. Barioni Blvd.
P.O. Box 937
Imperial, CA 92251

DATE OF DELIVERY: _____

PRIVILEGED/CONFIDENTIAL: _____

FROM: Steve Knell

DESCRIPTION: Cliff Hurley letter on NOI/NOP

TYPE: ___ Report ___ Memorandum ✓ Letter ___ Other (If so, specify)_____

DATE OF DOCUMENT (if any): 10/7/99

ADMIN RECORD FILE/PUBLIC FILE: ___ PROJECT FILE: ✓

FILE MATRIX NO.: 3.1.1 Scoping Comments IF NEW, INDICATE NEW FILE MATRIX NO.: ✓

Number of Copies: ___.

Copies To: _____

DATE STAMP RECEIVED

Rec'd 10/11/99

Steve K

FYI

JE

I4

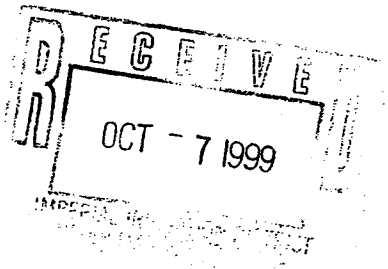
10-7-99

To: IID board




I4a The project description within the NOP is inadequate. It contains neither the "potentials" approach, as mentioned by Don Cox earlier, nor the "actual" approach based on a water conservation plan, or may include systems as well as on-farm conservation measures.

Because of this deficiency, the water conservation plan, being prepared by Elston, could fill at least part of this void.




Cliff Hurley • 1108 W. Hwy. 80, El Centro, CA 92243 • Ph & Fax (760) 352-6496

Therefore, I request that it be heard in a meaningful manner, i.e.

(1) Introduced as an information item

(2) Heard subsequently as an action item.

Cliff Hartley

Rcd 10-12-99 from Sue Biller

To: Steve Knell, special projects coordinator

From: Cliff Hurley

Subject: Comments on The NOP

I4c

1. The water transfer agreement needs to be qualified, i.e.
   a. The wheeling period with MWD
   b. Conveyance after that wheeling period

2. The word "project" is used several times, including:
   -Project impact
   -Other feasible project alternatives

I4b

Neither potential nor actual water conservation measures for the IID's system nor for on-farm is describe.

Therefore, basically there is no project description.

3. The waivers within the MOU process facilitate water transfers. For IID, it constitutes the capping of third priority use.

   Because quantification is such a central issue of this and future water transfers, as well as for the Rivermaster in managing the California apportionment, "managing IID's entitlement water" is a central project issue.

   IID's only water management proposal came from the "Allen/Kuhn study group and staff", i.e.
   -Allocate water to the gate
   -Intra-district marketing
   -Rationing

   "Allocating water to the gate" has been characterized in terms of winners and losers. And rationing is likewise an impact issue.

I4d

Therefore, water management proposals should be recognized and included within the scope of the EIR.

I4e

4. The growth-inducing impacts on San Diego should be zero. This is because the law concerning "developments having a reliable source of water" is ineffective. This is evidenced by the California water plan update wherein it is estimated that the shortage in the Southern California area in 1998 was 800,000 a.f. and by the year 2020 it will be 2 million a.f.

Cliff Hurley • 1108 W. Hwy. 80, El Centro, CA 92243 • Ph & Fax (760) 352-6496

If the Colorado River were under normal flow, I suspect that the MWD water delivered to the SDCWA would be reduced dramatically, and the San Diego area would be forced into rationing.

Notwithstanding, the San Diego County board of supervisors approved a 4-5000 unit development near Rancho Bernardo. And the only concern was impact on I-15 traffic.

I submitted this problem to the Colorado River Board of California and requested that the California 4.4 plan recognize this new demand and estimated shortage information on the demand side of its planning.

14f The political implications and impact on IID's water rights are obvious. Therefore, the EIR process should include the following project alternatives:

(1) Alternate source of water
(2) Rationing

14g 5. There is an alternative approach to the MOU process and the quantification and waiving of rights therein. And it has already been submitted, i.e.

14h -A proposed water conservation plan
-The MOU process and related issues

14g Therefore, I request that the attached information be recognized as an alternative to the existing assumption that there has to be quantification and the waiving of rights.

14g Con't.

Sincerely,

Cliff Hurley

I4h

# Proposed Water Conservation Plans

On 6-22-99, IID director, Andy Horne, invited me to submit my ideas on water conservation measures.

I see the issues grouped as follows:

(1) Conservation/management
   (a) Regular water conservation
   (b) Extraordinary water conservation
   (c) Managing IID's water rights

(2) Water transfers
   (a) Agreement
   (b) Grower participation
   (c) Processing the transfer

(3) Imperial trust fund and programs, based on excess revenues from transfers

The regular water conservation plan and programs are based on assuring that IID is using its water efficiently.

Behind this is:

-The Law of the River concerning reasonable and beneficial use
-Reclamation's Part. 417 process and its contention that 200,000 a.f. of IID's water is not being used efficiently
-SWRCB dealing with reasonable and beneficial use (as one of the steps in processing the transfer )

The objective is to have Reclamation agree that "its approval of IID's regular water conservation plan and programs" constitutes a finding that IID is/will be using its water efficiently.

The regular conservation plan applies to system as well as on-farm water.

The two basic approaches include:

(1) Mainstream approach
(2) Problem and remedy approach

The on-farm mainstream approach concerns:

(1) Reducing excess leach water based on the crop approach
(2) Keeping tailwater within the 15% standard

The on-farm problem and remedy issues include:

(1) Sandy ground and excess leach water
(2) Improperly leveled land with 3 to 4 tenths fall

The economic sanction approaches for remedying these problems include:

(1) A tiered pricing approach by crop where the break is at the average crop use level
(2) An effective triple charge program based on metering the tailwater

Cliff Hurley • 1108 W. Hwy. 80, El Centro, CA 92243 • Ph & Fax (760) 352-6496

9/30/99

**To Whom It May Concern:**

Subject: **The MOU process and related issues.**

Just as I think IID's "dream team" is tired and threadbare, I think the MOU process suffers from the same malady.

I called Reclamation's regional office to see if there was anyway to open-up a crack in an otherwise exclusive and behind closed door MOU process (so that new ideas and approaches could be introduced).

My idea was that IID could voluntarily and unilaterally (good-faith effort) peg its third priority entitlement at 3.1 maf, plus and minus adjustments. This would apply to IID's annual water order/budget for normal flow water under the Part. 417 process. This approach is directed to making the California ag entitlement water manageable.

(Granted, the MOU scope is much broader than this and includes waivers by Coachella and MWD to IID's water transfers.)

But importantly, it would require IID to develop effective water management policies and procedures, which will be needed under either quantification or pegging.

I assume that Reclamation suffers from a lack of Part. 417 watermaster policies concerning "allowed" and "priority of consumptive and conjunctive uses" for the water components, i.e.

(1) Normal flow water
(2) Surplus flow water
(3) Scheduled flood release water
(4) Shortage flow water

If this assumption is correct, Reclamation needs to address the establishment of effective watermastering policies too.

The State Water Resources Control Board staff has confirmed that I have protest standing on the matter of the IID/San Diego water transfer not being approved until Reclamation as well as SWRCB find that IID is putting its water to reasonable and beneficial use.

I have proposed that the expeditious way for this to be accomplished is for IID's water conservation plan, under Sec. 212 of the Reclamation Reform Act and AB 3616, be upgraded to a regular water conservation plan wherein the purpose of the plan is for IID to demonstrate that it is or shall be putting its water to reasonable and beneficial use.

Based on this, this regular water conservation plan and programs would be recognized as an important adjunct to the Part. 417. process wherein Reclamation's approval of the plan would be recognized as a finding that IID is or will be putting its water to reasonable and beneficial use.

Cliff Hurley • 1108 W. Hwy. 80, El Centro, CA 92243 • Ph & Fax (760) 352-6496

Problem and remedy lands are those which cannot meet the mainstream goals/standards.

Except for the triple charge program which already exists, the balance of the mainstream issues are procedural, i.e.

-Ordering
-Scheduling deliveries
-Modifying the order
-Sequential runs*
-Minimizing/eliminating reject water
*Sequential runs could be part of the "tiered" (management) pricing system.

The extraordinary mainstream water conservation measures would be based on reducing tailwater below 15%

The extraordinary problem and remedy approach is scoped to:

(1) Eliminating excess leach water (e.g. drip irrigation)
(2) IID offering to acquire problem land where the cost of mitigation is too high and IID converting it to other uses (e.g. hunting reserves, potential industrial development locations). Note: This "acquisition/conversion" is not provided for in Section 1011 of the California Water Code.

It is proposed that the water "generated" from acquisition/conversion, as adjusted to reasonable use levels, would be subject to transfer by IID. And the excess revenues therefrom would go into the Imperial trust fund.

It is deemed important that the management of IID's water rights be based on recognizing and respecting the trusteeship principles of the Law of the River, i.e.

-Unused entitlement water shall remain in the River for the benefit of the junior stakeholders
-IID holds the water rights in trust for the benefit of the landowners

The plan for IID to effectively manage its water rights is to voluntarily propose to Reclamation to peg its entitlement to 3.1 m.a.f. plus and minus adjustments for return flow credits and water transfers.

The regular water conservation plan and programs establishes the foundation (i.e. participants and non-participants alike are involved in regular water conservation).

The important task is to clearly and concisely describe the division between regular water conservation and extraordinary water conservation.

This division establishes the domains of (1) unused entitlement water and (2) water subject to transfer. Coachella and MWD, as the junior stakeholders, will have a major interest in that determination.

Importantly, going back to the MOU process, IID receiving an entitlement of 3.1 maf, plus and minus adjustments, is basically a cap rather than an entitlement. For Reclamation, through its Part. 417 process, has indicated that our "effective entitlement" will be no more and perhaps less than 2.9 maf. (Reclamation is using but does not necessarily agree with the 15% tailwater standard established by IID.)

Therefore, the difference between formal quantification and voluntary pegging may be more of an illusion than fact.

Sincerely,

Cliff Hurley

(I5)

(14)

OCT 20 1999

SIMONE
3751 Capri Lane
Desert Shores, CA 92274-8395
760 395-2313

10-21 8000 1000

October 18, 1999

WILLIAM RINNIE BB-00-1000
Bureau of Reclamation, Lower Colorado River Region
Boulder Canyon Operations Office
P O Box 61470
Boulder City, NV 89006-1470

Re: Imperial Irrigation District and proposed water transfer acting against Saving the Salton Sea

I protest the proposed sales and transfers of fresh waters from the Salton Sea and Imperial County to Los Angeles and San Diego under the Metropolitan Water District. The political history of these negotiations are very suspect. They have denominated these waters as 'surplus', a very false description easily disputed by viewing our undeveloped desert communities.

The Metropolitan Water District and the cities it serves waste the water they receive, have shown no greater need for more water and moreover have not undertaken or demonstrated any water recycling or conservation in their areas. Nor have they looked for other water resources in their areas. These developed communities have more rain in one year than we have in ten and they waste most of it.

I5a It is unfair to jeopardize our communities, county, waterfowl and wild life, by these transactions. It is also very

I5b unfair for these greedy consumers to foreclose any growth in our area because there won't be enough water for our development. And there is no doubt that what water is supplied will be much more expensive. Yet, they want to grow at our expense.

We in the greater Coachella Valley and Imperial County areas are threatened by this continuing encroachment of our resources. Don't let them make an 'Owens Valley' of our communities. Please do not support or allow this to continue.

Simone

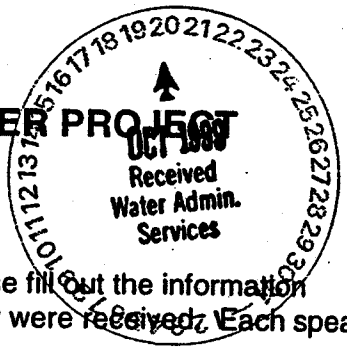
(Ms.) Simone

Comment

# ~~SPEAKER~~ CARD
(PLEASE PRINT)

E6

## IID/SDCWA WATER CONSERVATION AND TRANSFER PROJECT
## PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING
## OCTOBER 13, 1999




If you would like to verbally present your comments at this evening's meeting, please fill out the information below. Speakers will be asked to present their comments in the order in which they were received. Each speaker will have five minutes to make his or her comments.

**Name** Jo Ann/Ken Evans **Affiliation** Vista del Mar Estates

**Address** 1317 Beach Club Dr. **Phone** (760) 394-0092
Salton City, CA 92275

**Comments**

Thank you for your input at the Scoping Meeting 10/13/99.

San Diego will, obviously, continue to grow. How can selling our water for 75 years to them solve that problem? At 75 years, they will need more water than they are asking for now. We do not need a "Band-Aid" solution. San Diego must find a way to convert their own salt water sources for long-term solutions.

CHERON\PROJECTS\IID\149838\OUTREACH\SCOPING\PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING MATERIALS\SCOPING MEETING MATERIALS_COMMENTS INCORPORATED\SPEAKER CARD_10-6.DOC

I6a

October 12, 1999

I7

Bureau of Reclamation
P.O. Box 61470
Boulder City, NV 89006-1470

Dear Sirs:

As a long time resident of North Shore, the proposed water transfer deeply disturbs me.

I7a 1. What impact will it have on the qualify of life and property value of residents around the Sea?

I7b 2. What impact will it have on the wildlife that depend on the Sea for food and reproduction?

I7c 3. What impact will it have on cities such as Mecca, Thermal, Indio, Palm Desert, La Quenta etc.?

I7d 4. Who will be liable for damage done to property owners by this transfer?

I7e 5. Does IID have the resources to pay the damages this transfer will cause?

I7f It seems to me that the transfer will leave a major environmental disaster behind. Each year the salt, pesticides, fertilizers, etc. will become more and more concentrated--thereby destroying the area surrounding the Sea.

I7g San Diego needs to control it's growth not take resources from it's neighbor.

This whole proposal smells as bad as the Sea will if it becomes reality.

Sincerely,

Barbara Todd

Barbara Todd
73610 West Palm
North Shore, CA 92254
(fax/phone) 760 393-1127

[redacted]

OCT 1999
Received
Water Admin.
Services

I8

Barbara J. Shirey
652 S. Vista Oro
Palm Springs, CA 92264-7670

I8a

As a Registered voter and a resident of many years in the Valley, I am most interested in Saving the Salton Sea.

Thank you

Barbara J. Shirey

I9

Oct. 13, 1999

Dear Mr. Steven R. Knell and Who it concerns,

I am writting to you in reguards of Imperial Irrigation District and their continued effort to sell concerned water to San Diego and Metropoletan Water District.

My family and I live and own a business next to the Salton Sea. I believe before any water should be sold the Coachella Valley - Imperial Valley, all desert, should be able to refill the underground water table reserve, the water needs for the people, farming, the future growth of the valley and enough water to keep the Salton Sea stablized at present level so our valley doesn't turn into another Lone Pine to Bishop valley.

I9a

Sincerely,

Bobette Felton

Bobette Felton
132 Naples Lane
Desert Shores, Ca
92274-7171



I10

10-18-99

Dear Imperial Irrigation District:

re: Make a difference Day Oct 23
Mary Risch Salton Sea area

I10a [

May I request (as per telephone conversation Mr. Krell 10-18-99) to have a support saving the Salton Sea" note printed on the bill of customers in your area. This note should simply urge customers to send a post card.... "SAVE SALTON SEA" printed with signatures of as many customers as possible ... sent to Congress people or any one else that will help. I am pleased to include I.I.D on my "contact" paper for Make a Difference Day Oct 23rd.

Mary Risch
Homemaker/wife

I11

OCTOBER 22, 1999

TO THE IID BOARD OF DIRECTORS:

As an Imperial Valley landowner, I have two concerns regarding the water transfer.

I would preface my first concern with the fact the farmers of the Imperial Valley could save 10 – 15% of their water usage if they had the same water quality (salinity) as their counterparts in the Salinas area. Understanding this, the IID should insist the term "water quality" include the phrase "salinity level's." According to IID figures, the average T.D.S. for 1999 is 697 p.p.m. Regardless of the reasons why this figure is so low, the IID should insist the salinity of our water, during a transfer, would not exceed a certain number. Pick a number, preferably below 700. I11a

This is a once in a life time chance to guarantee to the farmers in the Imperial Valley they will have a water source that is more than adequate in quality. The other side will say they cannot guarantee it. We should not let up on this demand. In this water transfer, the federal government is subsidizing many entities. Our state government is doing the same. There should be no reason why the IID cannot add the salinity problem to the list of things the IID would demand from the federal government, the state government, or any other entity involved in the transfer. You cannot take out 10-15% of our water from the river without affecting the salinity level. I feel if the board was to ask 100 farmers about the salinity in our water, that 100% would agree it should be addressed. Remember the salinity problem Mexico had about 25 or 30 years ago; that was caused by years of low water flowing into that country.

My second concern is that MWD over the next 45 years will be receiving water from the lining of the All-American canal valued at about $900,000,000. The IID has always repaid anything that the state or federal government has fronted. Why should MWD be different? Every entity involved in this transfer will receive some type of a subsidy except the IID. The IID needs to insist that not only Coachella, but also MWD, be a part of the EIR. We cannot tell what the future may bring on environmental problems. The EIR could say nothing is going to happen to the "desert pupfish." But who would be responsible ten years from now if the government say the "desert pupfish" must be further protected, and it will cost an additional $250,000,000? I11b

This process should be like selling a used automobile- "AS IS". Any future problems should be part of the purchaser's problem. We, as a seller, are acting in good faith under current law. If the rules change down the road, the water receivers should bear the burden of the cost. And that includes MWD's water from the lining of the All-American canal. Also, the MWD should be responsible for any litigation brought by Mexico. I11c

Sincerely,

David Cason
El Centro

FAXED TO STEVE IGNOFFO
10-22-99

I12

P.O. Box 703
Palm Desert, Calif.
92261

October 25, 199

Imperial Irrigation District
333 E. Barioni Boulevard
P.O. Box 937
Imperial, Calif. 92251
Attn: Steven R. Knell

Dear Sirs:

I12a I am writing to express my concern about the impact on the Colorado River water transfers, especially as it impacts the fragile eco-system of the Salton Sea and the land of the original residents, the indigenous Cahuilla.

I am in favor of developments and restoration that will respect and preserve the future of indigenous lands. I strongly request your support and consideration of this vital part of our heritage and future, since it is vital to everyone's success.

Sincerely,

Shirley J. Mendoza

I13

Imperial Irregation Distuct
333 E. Barioni Blvd
P.O. Bx 937
Imperial, Ca 92251
attn: Steven R. Knell

Dear Mr. Knell;

as property owners + Community members ~~ok protest the proposed sales + transfers of fresh waters from the Salton Sea and Imperial County to Los Angeles and San Diego under the Metropolitan water Distuc.~~ The political history of these negotiations are very suspect. They have denomenated these waters as "surpluse" a false descriptions easily disputed by viewing our underdeveloped desert communities. I13a

The Metropolitan water district and cities it serves waste the water they receive + have shown no Conservation or recycling in their areas for water.

It is unfair + we are unwilling participants in this move to restrict our own interests + needs for our communities + County to serve the needs of the greedy + wasteful.

Sincerely
Lorin + Carlene Ness

Imperial Irrigation District
333 E. Barioni Boulevard
P.O. Box 937
Imperial, CA 92251
Attn: Steven R. Knell




I14

Dear Mr. Knell;

Here are some ideas about cleaning up the Salton Sea. It seems that around the Salton Sea we have an abundance of sunlight, land and high saline water. These components present an opportunity for a solution. I have over 15 years of experience in the treatment of industrial waste, water/wastwater including the re-engineering of various aspects of two treatment plants. Where I currently work we have just installed a sodium hypochlorite generation facility that uses salt and water to produce liquid chlorine that we use to disinfect our domestic wastewater.

I14a

I would like to see a large ( or several ) solar powered sodium removal and sodium hypochlorite generation plants located around the Salton Sea. This large plant(s) would eventually lower the salinity level. These plants, in conjunction with a domestic/industrial wastewater treatment plant, would also increase the purity level in the Salton Sea by replenishing the water taken out with purer and less salty water along with some commercially viable by-products such as salt and liquid chlorine (bleach).

With the solar power aspect the plant would generate it's own electricity with the possibility that there would be a surplus of electrical energy that could be sold back to the electrical companies which could help pay for itself. This system would use natural processes as much as possible and would be a long term solution. The result would be much cleaner water by removing salt and hazardous or toxic waste. A cleaner Salton Sea would benefit the wildlife, the economy, and would be very good for our environment. In short a win-win situation.

Sincerely,

Stephen J. Bost

Stephen J. Bost
57759 Lisbon Dr.
Yucca Valley, CA 92284
(760) 228- 5031
E-mail ancwisdom@earthlink.net

# WRITTEN COMMENT CARD
# IID/SDCWA WATER CONSERVATION AND TRANSFER PROJECT
# PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING
# OCTOBER 13, 1999

I-19

**Name** Margot Overholt
**Address** 131 Beach Club Dr
**Affiliation** Homeowner
**Phone** 760-394-0091
**Date** 10-13-99

We welcome your participation. Submit comments at the Public Scoping Meetings or mail to:

**Imperial Irrigation District**
333 East Barioni Boulevard
P.O. Box 937
Imperial, CA 92251
Attn: Mr. Steven R. Knell

or to:

**United States Bureau of Reclamation**
Lower Colorado River Region
P.O. Box 61470
Boulder City, NV 89006
Attn: Mr. William Rinne, BC-00-1000

**Please note that the deadline for public comments is October 27, 1999**

**Would you like to be added to our mailing list? Check here ____**

**COMMENTS:**
**(Attach additional sheets if necessary)**

IID was organized in 1911 to deliver Col. River water to lands within the Imperial Valley - - - - "

Is IID prepared to guarantee water to the communities on the west shore of the Salton Sea if this water transfer adversely affects CVWD so it can no longer provide water to the west shore communities - at the same or a lower rate that CVWD charges? What about the environmental impact of constructing those pipelines?

I-9a

**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

**Visit the project web site at http://www.is.ch2m.com/iidweb**

**Call the project toll-free hotline at 1-800-922-5270**

# Methodology for Categorizing Scoping Comments

During the scoping comment period, the Lead Agencies received comments and questions concerning several issues. In an effort to simplify the discussion and response to all 341 comments received, several steps were taken to organize the comments into a sortable database. As comments were received, they were assigned a code and source identification and entered into an Excel database. Code identifications were assigned according to the following method:

(1) Comments were separated by commentor category: federal agency (F), state agency (S), local agency (L), special interest or environmental group (G), individual (I), business (B).

(2) Codes were assigned to identify comment letters by commentor category and by sequence. For example, the third letter received from a federal agency would be assigned "F3."

(3) When more than one issue was raised within any given comment, an additional alpha character was used to define the order in which issues were raised. For example, the first comment within the third letter received from a federal agency would be assigned "F3a."

The specific issues raised within a written comment or letter, or during a public scoping meeting were coded according to the above method for easy reference between the original source of the comments and the sortable Excel database (see Appendix D for coded Public Scoping Meeting Transcripts and Appendix G for coded Written Comments and Letters).

In addition, comments were assigned source identifications to help differentiate between written comment letters and oral comments made at public scoping meetings. Source identifications were assigned according to the following method:

(1) Comments were separated by source: written comment (WC) and public scoping meeting comment (PSM).

(2) The date on which the comments were received was also included as part of the source identification. For example, a written comment received on October 20, 1999, was assigned "WC 10-20," a public scoping meeting comment made at the public scoping meeting held on October 18, 1999 was assigned "PSM 10-18."

# APPENDIX I
## SCOPING COMMENTS DATABASE

# Appendix I
# Scoping Comments Database

# Water Quantity-Quality Issues

| # | Code | Comment | Proposed Response |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | G10a<br>I33a<br>I25a<br>I17b | The Salton Sea is considered a valuable resource of the state. Will the Salton Sea receive water as a result of the proposed Project? | Mitigation for significant impacts of the proposed Project, including impacts to the Salton Sea, will be addressed in the Draft EIR/EIS. |
| 2 | I16a<br>I46d<br>I17a<br>F2z<br>L1o<br>I29a | Is the proposed Project beneficial to the Salton Sea? Until the Salton Sea Restoration Project is settled in Congress we do not know what the Sea will require in terms of fresh water to decrease salinity. The Draft EIR/EIS should address the impacts of the water conservation and transfer on the Salton Sea (i.e. decreasing water levels in the Sea) and the Salton Sea Restoration Project and describe mitigation for these impacts. | Comment noted. Refer to general response in Scoping Summary Report, section 4.2.5 - Other Projects Related to the Proposed Project. |
| 3 | I9a | Before any water should be sold, the Coachella Valley - Imperial Valley, all desert, should be able to refill the underground water table reserve, the water needs for the people, farming, the future growth of the Valley and enough water to keep the Salton Sea stabilized at present level. | Comment noted. Refer to general response in Scoping Summary Report, section 4.2.1 - Water Rights. |
| 4 | I46a<br>I46b | The Draft EIR/EIS should address blending the new transfer water to reduce the salt content. | Mitigation for significant impacts of the proposed Project will be addressed in the Draft EIR/EIS. |
| 5 | I7f<br>L1bb<br>L1l<br>L1e<br>G12a<br>L1k<br>S1ee | The Draft EIR/EIS should address changes in the flow rates and patterns, and the quality of the surface water discharged to the Salton Sea and other streams and watercourses as a result of the proposed Project. Include mitigation measures to alleviate such impacts. | Comment noted. IID plans to develop water quality models to predict potential impacts to drain water caused by alternative conservation methods. These issues will be addressed in the Hydrology/Water Quality section of the Draft EIR/EIS. Mitigation for significant impacts of the proposed Project will also be addressed in the Draft EIR/EIS. |
| 6 | G8a<br>I17c<br>I15a<br>I37f | The Draft EIR/EIS should address the impacts of the proposed Project at different levels of water transferred, that is, at 100,000 af/yr, 200,000 af/yr, and 300,000 af/yr. Will previously approved water conservation projects continue to occur such that the actual amount of water conserved in the Imperial Valley is greater than that defined by the proposed Project? Is it possible for Project proponents to return at a later date and demand more water than is currently proposed for Project implementation? | Comment noted. This issue will be modeled and addressed in the Hydrology and Water Quality section of the Draft EIR/EIS. Existing water conservation projects will be considered as part of the baseline conditions in analyzing the proposed Project. Additional future water transfers, if proposed, would require further environmental review if not assessed in the Draft EIR/EIS. Cumulative impacts of projects related to the proposed Project will be addressed in the Draft EIR/EIS. |

# Water Quantity-Quality Issues

| # | Code | Comment | Proposed Response |
|---|---|---|---|
| 7 | G1d<br>F2m<br>F2o | The Draft EIR/EIS should ensure the protection of water quality and maintenance of beneficial uses by addressing the proposed Project's compliance with surface and instream water quality standards established by Federal, State, Tribal, and local agencies and integrating Total Maximum Daily load (TMDL) guidelines into the Draft EIR/EIS. | Comment noted. Issues to be addressed in Hydrology/Water Quality section of the Draft EIR/EIS. |
| 8 | I11a<br>L7b | The Draft EIR/EIS should clearly define and ensure accurate scientific analysis in the use of baseline data in order to fully analyze the impacts of the proposed Project. When evaluating water quality impacts, the Draft EIR/EIS should include a discussion of salinity levels. | Comment noted. Issues to be addressed in Hydrology/Water Quality section of the Draft EIR/EIS. |
| 9 | G2e<br>F2f<br>F2n<br>F2p<br>F2r<br>L1mm<br>L1s<br>L1r<br>L4a<br>G3c<br>G1f | The Draft EIR/EIS should address Colorado River, Salton Sea, and the Delta in Mexico water quality and quantity as a result of diversions and return flow impacts to surface water, groundwater, drinking water, channel stability, and beneficial uses. Discuss specific programs to monitor these impacts. | Comment noted. Refer to general response in Scoping Summary Report, section 4.2.3 - Transboundary Issues. Water quantity and quality impacts resulting from the proposed Project will be addressed in the Hydrology and Water Quality section of the Draft EIR/EIS, and cumulative impacts will also be addressed. |
| 10 | I28c<br>I26a<br>I28a | The Draft EIR/EIS should address the feasibility of providing San Diego County with desalinated ocean water. | Comment noted. Refer to general response in Scoping Summary Report, section 4.2.6 - Alternatives to the Proposed Project. |
| 11 | L5a<br>I31a | Discuss guarantee of water to cities and districts in Imperial County and the SDCWA service area for current and future growth needs. | Comment noted. Growth-inducing impacts associated with the transfer of conserved water to SDCWA will be analyzed in the Draft EIR/EIS. |

# Water Quantity-Quality Issues

| # | Code | Comment | Proposed Response |
|---|---|---|---|
| 12 | I42e<br>F1b<br>F1a<br>L15a<br>I47a<br>I49a | Will the Draft EIR/EIS address environmental effects to the border area and Mexico? | Comment noted. Refer to general response in Scoping Summary Report, section 4.2.3 - Transboundary Issues. |
| 13 | L2b<br>I2c | The Draft EIR/EIS should address the impacts of the proposed Project on soil quality in Imperial County affecting the amount and productivity of cropland. | Comment noted. Issue to be addressed in the Agricultural Land Resources section of the Draft EIR/EIS. |
| 14 | S4b<br>F2q<br>G1c | The Draft EIR/EIS should address changes in water surface elevation and resulting impacts to sensitive aquatic sites such as wetland, riparian, and fish habitats (specifically the federally listed razorback sucker). Outline past and potential beneficial uses of these areas, and disclose potential impacts to threatened and endangered species from the proposed Project. | Comment noted. Issue to be addressed in the Biological Resources section of the Draft EIR/EIS. It is anticipated that an incidental take authorization will be required under the state and federal Endangered Species Act as a result of impacts to endangered species and their habitats. A preliminary consultation process with the USFWS and the CDFG to identify an appropriate compliance process for the Project and to coordinate this process with other ongoing efforts (such as the LCR MSCP) has been initiated. |
| 15 | L14b<br>L1hh<br>L1jj<br>L1h<br>L1w | San Diego currently receives a combination of State Water Project (SWP) and Colorado River water, the Draft EIR/EIS should conduct a water quality analysis on water transferred to SDCWA under the proposed Project that may contain a higher TDS and this transferred water's affect on the treatment and distribution of this supply to regional and local water customers in the San Diego area. | Comment noted. Issues to be addressed in the Hydrology/Water Quality and Public Health sections of the Draft EIR/EIS. |
| 16 | L1z | If no additional canal water is available, possible sources of water to meet demands include SWP water or local groundwater. The future availability and reliability of SWP are uncertain due to supply issues in Northern CA. | Comment noted. Refer to general response in Scoping Summary Report, section 4.2.6 - Alternatives to the Proposed Project. |
| 17 | L7i | Any transfer of water should be based on documented and proven methodologies by those wishing to conserve on-farm water as well as the resultant and subsequent impacts to the District's electric-generating water facilities, the New and Alamo Rivers, IID reservoirs, and the Salton Sea. | Comment noted. Alternative conservation methods will be assessed in the Draft EIR/EIS. Refer to general response in Scoping Summary Report, section 4.2.6 - Alternatives to the Proposed Project. Impacts of alternative conservation methods, including impacts to electric-generating water facilities, will also be addressed. |

# Water Rights Issues

| # | Code | Comment | Proposed Response |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | L7c<br>I42d<br>I41a<br>I42c<br>I43a | Address the Project's relationship to the California 4.4 Plan and illustrate this relationship in associated Project documents such as the Project map. | Comment noted. Refer to general response in Scoping Summary Report, section 4.2.1 - Water Rights, section 4.2.4 - SWRCB Proceeding and section 4.2.5 - Other Projects Related to the Proposed Project. |
| 2 | I32a | What is the CVWD allotment from IID and what are some of the simplest terms of that agreement? | Refer to general response, section 4.2.1 - Water Rights. |
| 3 | I30a | Why should we make this operation get richer when that water should be turned back to the government and let the government reallocate it. I see farmers getting richer every day. | Comment noted. Refer to general responses in Scoping Summary Report, section 4.2.1 - Water Rights and section 4.2.2 - Socioeconomics. |
| 4 | L3d<br>F2a<br>I37e<br>F2h<br>I4g<br>I40e<br>S2a<br>F2I<br>I21i<br>I45b | The Draft EIR/EIS should describe relevant water rights law, the Colorado River allocation process and regulations, and the history of water rights and the water supply allocation within the Project area. Potential impacts of the proposed Project to the water rights of Coachella Valley Water District and the Imperial Valley should be evaluated. | Comment noted. Refer to general responses in Scoping Summary Report, section 4.2.1 - Water Rights and section 4.2.4 - SWRCB Proceeding. |
| 5 | I4c | Quantify the wheeling period with MWD. | The Exchange Agreement between MWD and SDCWA defines the wheeling period as 30 years. |
| 6 | L8c | MWD, as a potential responsible agency, requests that it be afforded the opportunity to participate as part of the project team in the preparation of the Draft EIR/EIS and the alternatives development. | The Lead Agencies will provide an appropriate opportunity to participate to responsible agencies. At this time, it is not expected that MWD will qualify as a responsible agency for the proposed Project. This issue is being discussed with MWD. Refer to general response in Scoping Summary Report, section 4.2.5 - Other Projects Related to the Proposed Project. |
| 7 | G4b | Address the Aqua Caliente's ongoing legal dispute with the CVWD regarding groundwater resources. | If the Quantification Settlement is approved and implemented, a portion of the water conserved by IID would be transferable to CVWD. The Draft EIR/EIS is expected to address the impacts of the delivery of water to CVWD at a programmatic level. A separate environmental document would be needed to consider the impacts of the transfer of water within the CVWD service area. Refer to general response in Scoping Summary Report, section 4.2.5 - Other Projects Related to the Proposed Project. |

# Water Rights Issues

| # | Code | Comment | Proposed Response |
|---|---|---|---|
| 8 | I18b | It is not possible to conserve 300,000 af/yr of prior beneficially used water. The water that IID is going to sell to San Diego is excess water that they could not use to begin with. IID is trying to establish a right to that water so they can sell it in the future. | Comment noted. Refer to general response in Scoping Summary Report, section 4.2.1 - Water Rights and section 4.2.4 - SWRCB Proceedings. |
| 9 | L12a | If transfer is approved and all the surplus IID water Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) has first claim to is diverted, CVWD can no longer serve water to the community of West Shores. Is IID prepared to build water lines and provide us with water at either the same time or at a lesser cost than CVWD, and has IID considered the impact of having to build those pipelines and supply that water in their environmental report? | Comment noted. Refer to general response in Scoping Summary Report, section 4.2.1 - Water Rights and section 4.2.4 - SWRCB Proceedings. |
| 10 | I21g | How does the project team plan to address the lawsuit from Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD)? | The CVWD lawsuit has been dismissed and therefore will not be addressed in the Draft EIR/EIS. |
| 11 | L7e | Since the proposed Agreement discusses up to 300,000 af/yr of on-farm water to be transferred and this has not been proven to be available nor comprehensively environmentally assessed at this time, this figure may be unsupportable. The NOP indicates that "...other potentially affected water rights holders are engaged in quantification discussion regarding Colorado River water..." When will this quantification discussion become public? | Comment noted. Refer to general response in Scoping Summary Report, section 4.2.5 - Other Projects Related to the Proposed Project. |
| 12 | L18e | The Imperial County requests that the Project definition be revisited to ensure that it conforms to the Project now anticipated as a result of the recently announced "quantification settlement". | Comment noted. Refer to general response in Scoping Summary Report, section 4.2.5 - Other Projects Related to the Proposed Project. |
| 13 | L18d | The Imperial County requests that the Draft EIR/EIS recognize and protect Imperial's unique status as the California county of origin of waters from the Colorado River that form the subject of the proposed Project. The Notice of Preparation states that IID "intends" that the transfer will not result in the loss of IID's historic Colorado River priorities and water rights. To the extent that this "intention" has been modified by the "quantification agreement," this premise must be acknowledged in the Draft EIR/EIS. The Draft EIR/EIS should also address the potential of the water transfer to result in the loss of Imperial Valley water rights and their priority. Apparently no authoritative determination has been made about the priority and quantity of Imperial Valley water rights after this Project is carried out. | Comment noted. Refer to general response in Scoping Summary Report, section 4.2.1 - Water Rights, section 4.2.4 - SWRCB Proceeding, and section 4.2.5 - Other Projects Related to the Proposed Project. |

# Water Use Issues

| # | Code | Comment | Proposed Response |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | I21h<br>I24a<br>F2x<br>L7h | SDCWA should pursue a water conservation program to meet their water needs. Water conserved within the Imperial County should be used within the Imperial County. The Draft EIR/EIS should include a discussion of how compliance with urban and agricultural water conservation plans will be monitored. | Comment noted. Refer to general response in Scoping Summary Report, section 4.2.6 - Alternatives to the Proposed Project. Mitigation will be included as part of the Draft EIR/EIS, and a mitigation and monitoring program will be included as part of the Final EIR/EIS. |
| 2 | L14c | The IID/SDCWA Water Conservation and Transfer Project should be approached as an opportunity to augment the various water supply facilities in San Diego county. | Comment noted. Refer to general response in Scoping Summary Report, section 4.2.6 - Alternatives to the Proposed Project. |
| 3 | I2b | San Diego County should obtain needed water to accommodate future growth from central California rather than from Imperial County, or they should build new reservoirs to store water. | Comment noted. Refer to general response in Scoping Summary Report, section 4.2.6 - Alternatives to the Proposed Project. |
| 4 | I23a<br>I29b<br>L18i<br>I37a | Analyze the potential impacts of the proposed Project with respect to the transfer of Colorado River water to SDCWA. The Draft EIR/EIS must convince people that the methods used to analyze the impacts from the transfer of 300,000 af/yr are reasonable and that impacts are indeed less than significant. | Comment noted. The Draft EIR/EIS will identify standards of significance and assess the potential impacts of the proposed Project. The public will have the opportunity to comment on the proposed standards of significance and applicable regulations. |
| 5 | I37d<br>L1b<br>L2a<br>F2v<br>I2a<br>I4b<br>I3a<br>L8a<br>G1j<br>I45c | The Draft EIR/EIS should identify how the water will be conserved. Define the on-farm conservation methods. | Comment noted. The details of on-farm conservation measures have not yet been determined. Various plans are being studied, and will be addressed in the Draft EIR/EIS. |
| 6 | F2w<br>I37b | During the evaluation and selection of appropriate conservation methods reuse of seepage and return flows and the utilization of unused gates in the Imperial Valley drainage system should be considered. | Comment noted. Issue to be addressed in the Draft EIR/EIS. |
| 7 | L1y | The Draft EIR/EIS should address impacts to agricultural resources and operations if water supplies are diminished. | IID will use hydrologic models to assess impacts in the Draft EIR/EIS. IID intends to have a canal system model to simulate the delivery of water, an on-farm model to simulate water conservation activities, and a water quality model to assess changes of water quality in the drainage system. |

# Water Use Issues

| # | Code | Comment | Proposed Response |
|---|---|---|---|
| 8 | I40d | Will the Draft EIR/EIS consider the effects of the increase to the irrigated acreage within the present confines of IID's irrigated area? | Issue to be addressed in the Agricultural Land Resources section of the Draft EIR/EIS. |
| 9 | I42a | Identify which canal systems would be involved in the Project. At what point does the canal exit the Colorado River? From which canal would the water be diverted to San Diego? | Comment noted. Issue to be addressed in the Draft EIR/EIS. |
| 10 | I4d | Water management proposals should be included within the scope of the Draft EIR/EIS. | Comment noted. Issue to be addressed in the Draft EIR/EIS. |
| 11 | G1g | The Draft EIR/EIS should include a water balance for the lower Colorado River that projects changes in flow due to the variety of proposed and on-going management changes. | Comment noted. Issue to be addressed in the Draft EIR/EIS. |
| 12 | F2c<br>G2b | Consider allocating and transferring part of the conserved water to other beneficial uses such as restoration of the Lower Colorado River ecosystem. | Comment noted. Alternatives to the proposed Project will be considered in the Draft EIR/EIS, as well as significant impacts and mitigation measures. |
| 13 | G2c | Over 65,000 acre feet of water will be conserved by lining the All American Canal and the Coachella Canal. What currently happens to this water, and what will be the effects of its disappearance? | Comment noted. Refer to general response in Scoping Summary Report, section 4.2.5 - Other Projects Related to the Proposed Project. Cumulative impacts associated with the proposed Project will be addressed in the Draft EIR/EIS. |
| 14 | I19a | If transfer is approved and all the surplus IID water CVWD has first claim to is diverted, CVWD can no longer serve water to the community of West Shores. Is IID prepared to build water lines and provide us with water at either the same time or at a lesser cost than CVWD, and has IID considered the impact of having to build those pipelines and supply that water in their environmental report? | Comment noted. Refer to general response in Scoping Summary Report, section 4.2.1 - Water Rights and section 4.2.5 - Other Projects Related to the Proposed Project. |
| 15 | I1a | The commentor is opposed to dikes with salt production. He suggests importing sea water from the Gulf of Mexico to create a large recreation area. The sea level would drop, and electricity production could occur. | Comment noted. The proposed Project does not propose dikes or the importation of seawater form Mexico. Significant impacts to the Salton Sea associated with the proposed Project and mitigation for these impacts will be addressed in the Draft EIR/EIS. |

# Water Use Issues

| # | Code | Comment | Proposed Response |
|---|---|---|---|
| 16 | G6d | Will cities, private water districts, and small water providers have assured sources of water for existing systems? | Refer to general responses section 4.2.1 - Water Rights, section 4.2.4 - SWRCB Proceeding, and section 4.2.6 - Alternatives to the Proposed Project. |
| 17 | I21e | Once the water is lost to San Diego (up to 75 years) will it ever be regained from San Diego? | The transfer will be authorized by a contractual agreement with a specified term. At the end of the contract term (45 years) the Agreement is subject to renewal for an additional 30 years (75 years total). IID retains the water rights related to the conserved water and a new agreement would be required to effect continued transfers after the 75 year term. |
| 18 | I4h | IID should demonstrate that it is putting its water to reasonable and beneficial use before Reclamation approves the IID/SDCWA transfer agreement. IID needs to establish a regular water conservation program. | Comment noted. The petition pending before the SWRCB requires the Board to make a finding of reasonable, beneficial use and SWRCB approval is a condition to the proposed Project. See general response in Scoping Summary Report, section 4.2.1 - Water Rights and section 4.2.4 - SWRCB Proceeding. |

# Groundwater Issues

| # | Code | Comment | Proposed Response |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | I21b<br>I21d | What effect will the water loss through the transfer to San Diego have on our aquifer? | Comment noted. Potential impacts to the aquifer in the IID service area will be addressed in the Hydrology and Water Quality section of the Draft EIR/EIS. |
| 2 | I46e<br>L1aa<br>G4a<br>G11a | The Coachella Valley Water District is already drawing down the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indian Tribe's water table. A portion of the reservation is serviced by the CVWD. The Tribe has an on-going question with the CVWD regarding their priority water rights. What is the effect of the Project on the ability of the CVWD to continue pumping groundwater in the area? | The significant effects of the proposed Project on groundwater resources will be evaluated in the Draft EIR/EIS, however the evaluation does not extend to the Coachella Valley. This is not currently anticipated to require an evaluation of groundwater resources within CVWD's service area. CVWD is currently preparing a program EIR relating to its groundwater recharge program. |
| 3 | G6h<br>F1c<br>F2e | Assess project effects on groundwater resources in Mexico. Describe whether IID water, such as canal seepage and over-irrigation replenishes groundwater that could be used in the Mexicali Valley. | Refer to general response in Scoping Summary Report, section 4.2.3 - Transboundary Issues. |
| 4 | L1ii<br>L1m<br>L1nn<br>L18g<br>L1t | Address the potential impacts to groundwater quantity and quality in the vicinity of the Salton Sea, near the Colorado River, and in San Diego County as a result of the proposed Project. | Comment noted. The potential effects to groundwater quality in the vicinity of the Salton Sea, near the Colorado River, and in San Diego County will be addressed in the Hydrology and Water Quality section of the Draft EIR/EIS. |

# Air Quality Issues

| # | Code | Comment | Proposed Response |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | G1a<br>I18a<br>L1cc<br>L1f<br>L4d<br>S3a<br>S3b<br>S7a<br>L19a | The Draft EIR/EIS should address the potential impacts to air quality with respect to the increase in particulate matter caused by the decrease in Salton Sea elevation, land fallowing and other agricultural activities, and increased use of desert landscape to conserve water. Increased particulate emissions also pose a threat to public health. Monitoring to establish baseline conditions and health risk studies are needed to adequately assess the impacts to air quality. Findings of the CA Air Resources Board / Salton Sea Science Subcommittee study should be integrated into discussion. | Comment noted. Issue to be addressed in Air Quality and Public Health and Environmental Hazards sections of the Draft EIR/EIS. |

# Biological Resources Issues

| # | Code | Comment | Proposed Response |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | I21c<br>S5d<br>L11b<br>I7b<br>I27a<br>L1n<br>S1f<br>G12b<br>S1h | In terms of biological resources, the plan could potentially have an impact on rare and endangered species due to the effects of increased salinity in the Sea resulting from the decrease in low Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) inflows. Lower Salton Sea levels could allow freshwater marshes in the north end of the Sea to recover (a potentially beneficial impact). Impacts on wildlife refuges of the south end of the Sea could be either positive or negative depending on the actual changes to Salton Sea levels. There could also be significant impacts on migratory bird populations and incidences of bird diseases if water levels in the Sea change. | Comment noted. The potential impacts of the Project on rare and endangered species, wetland habitat and wildlife refuges adjacent to the Salton Sea will be assessed in the Draft EIR/EIS. Potential impacts to the elevation and shoreline of the Salton Sea, migratory birds, and water quality will also be addressed. |
| 2 | S1d<br>S1c<br>S1b<br>S4d<br>S4a<br>S1cc | Analyze the loss of surface acreage in the affected river reach and associated backwaters, along with a reduction in median flows, water depth, and volume and how this loss will impact fish and wildlife. Include a discussion of the change in the rate of succession and loss of wetland habitat to upland terrestrial habitat. | Comment noted. Issues to be addressed in the Biological Resources section of the Draft EIR/EIS. |
| 3 | F2d<br>F2s<br>S2b<br>L1u<br>S5b<br>S1a<br>S1o<br>G3b | Describe and evaluate relationships and resulting cumulative impacts for other water supply and ecosystem restoration projects in the region (Salton Sea and other Imperial Valley Total Daily Maximum Load (TMDL) efforts, Torres-Martinez Indian Tribal water right and water related activities, Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Plan, California 4.4 Plan, and restoration of the Colorado River Delta). Assess biological resources within the Colorado River area including potential impacts on river fishes, impacts of flow changes on phreatophytes near the river and impacts of flow changes on fish migration patterns along the river. | Comment noted. A discussion of direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts expected to affect biological resources and water supply within the Colorado River Basin region will be included in the Biological Resources and Cumulative Impacts sections of the Draft EIR/EIS. |
| 4 | F2t<br>G2d<br>G2f<br>S1dd<br>S1ff<br>S1k<br>S1m<br>S1n<br>S1l<br>S1z | Reclamation must comply with the Endangered Species Act, and is prohibited from "taking" threatened and endangered species without an incidental take permit. The Federal Register notice makes no mention of steps taken towards ESA compliance. In order for the Department to process a Streambed Alteration Agreement, the CEQA-certified documents must include an analysis of the impacts of the proposed Project on the lake or streambed, an analysis of the biological resources present on the site, copies of biological studies conducted on the site, biological survey methodology, and a discussion of any alternative measures, avoidance measures, mitigation measures which will reduce the impacts of the proposed development to a level of insignificance. | Comment noted. All state and federal permits and approvals required to implement the proposed Project will be processed and referenced in the Draft EIR/EIS. The Lead Agencies anticipate that the Draft EIR/EIS will include the analysis of impacts to endangered species and habitats which is required to support state and federal Endangered Species Act permits. The Lead Agencies are consulting with USFWS and CDFG to ensure a proper scope for this purpose. |

# Biological Resources Issues

| # | Code | Comment | Proposed Response |
|---|---|---|---|
| 5 | G1b<br>L1dd<br>L1g | Assess potential impacts on biological resources including impacts on endangered, threatened, or rare species such as pupfish and other aquatic species that are affected by water discharged to agricultural drains. Other species such as the Palm Springs ground squirrel could be affected by changed agricultural practices. Other potential impacts that could be significant unless mitigation is provided include effects of decreased agricultural drainage on wetlands habitats surrounding the drains and the Salton Sea. | Comment noted. Issues to be addressed in the Agricultural Land Resources and the Biological Resources sections of the Draft EIR/EIS. |
| 6 | G6g | How will State Fish & Game and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service react to the water transfer agreement, and the effects to fish spawning areas and nesting areas for endangered birds? | The Lead Agencies have initiated preliminary consultation with the USFWS and CDFG to identify an appropriate compliance process for the proposed Project and the appropriate scope of the Draft EIR/EIS. |
| 7 | S1j<br>S1g<br>S1i<br>S1p<br>S1q<br>S1r<br>I5a<br>S1x | Project impacts should be analyzed relative to their effects on off-site habitats including nearby public lands, open space, adjacent natural habitats, and riparian ecosystems. Analyze impacts to maintenance of wildlife corridor/movement areas, including access to undisturbed habitat in adjacent areas. The Department considers Rare Natural Communities as threatened habitats having both regional and local significance. Thus, these communities should be fully avoided and otherwise protected from Project-related impacts. | Comment noted. Potential indirect or direct impacts to species and habitats of regional and local significance will be addressed in the Biological Resources section of the Draft EIR/EIS. |
| 8 | S6b | The California State Lands Commission is concerned with proposed projects that may have the potential for affecting natural resources and altering water flows of Public Trust Lands. Preservation of significant trust resources, such as fisheries, wetlands, and riparian habitat should be given their proper weight in decisions of water allocation and management. | Comment noted. Issue is to be addressed in the Biological Resources section of the Draft EIR/EIS. |

# Land Use Issues

| # | Code | Comment | Proposed Response |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | L16a<br>L1c<br>L1d<br>I38c<br>L18f<br>I40a | The Draft EIR/EIS Project alternatives should discuss crop rotation (will crop selection change?) and fallowing (how much land? at what schedule?). Examine the effect on agricultural resources and operations (would any physical facilities/improvements need to be constructed?). Crop rotation and fallowing may be incompatible with existing land uses within the service area. | Comment noted. CEQA and NEPA require that the Lead Agencies consider a reasonable range of Project alternatives, and the Lead Agencies expect to evaluate a range of alternative conservation methods, including fallowing. See general response in Scoping Summary Report, section 4.2.4 - Alternatives to the Proposed Project. |
| 2 | L1ff<br>L1i<br>L1kk<br>L1q<br>L1x | In the Draft EIR/EIS address proposed adverse impacts on land use and planning issues that may conflict with existing regional and local land use plans with respect to SDCWA, MWD, CVWD, the Colorado River region and plans of the Salton Sea Authority. | Comment noted. Issue to be addressed in Land Use and Planning section of the Draft EIR/EIS. |
| 3 | F3a | Examine leaching of salinity from the soil and discuss the importance of this action to the productiveness of Imperial Valley cropland, Address the possible impact this water transfer will have on USDA Highly Erodible Land compliance plans. | Comment noted. Issues to be addressed in the Draft EIR/EIS. |

# Recreation Issues

| # | Code | Comment | Proposed Response |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | S1e<br>S4c<br>S4e<br>G12c<br>S6a | Analyze the proposed Project's impact to navigation and boating (recreation) on the Colorado River. | Comment noted. Issue to be addressed in Recreation section of Draft EIR/EIS. |
| 2 | S5a | The CA Department of Parks and Recreation is concerned about impacts to recreation and the economy of the Salton Sea region by lowering the sea level. | Comment noted. Issue to be addressed in the Draft EIR/EIS. |
| 3 | S5c | If the water transfer requires constructing new canals or pipelines, routes traversing State Park and State Wilderness lands in Eastern San Diego County, specifically within Anza-Borrego Desert State Park and Cuyamaca Rancho State Park, should not be considered as alternatives. | Comment noted. No new canals or pipelines are proposed for construction in these areas. |

# Energy (Public Services and Utilities) Issues

| # | Code | Comment | Proposed Response |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | I14a | Commentor suggests installing several solar-powered sodium removal and sodium hypochlorite generation facilities to decrease the salinity of the Salton Sea. | Comment noted. The proposed Project will result in the transfer of water out of the Imperial Valley, potentially impacting the Salton Sea. The Draft EIR/EIS will address feasible mitigation measures for significant impacts of the proposed Project on the Salton Sea. The Salton Sea Authority has examined a range of alternatives to control salinity. These alternatives could be considered as mitigation to any impacts the proposed Project may have on the Salton Sea. |
| 2 | L1ee<br>L1oo<br>L1v | Analyze the potential impact to energy resources. | Comment Noted. Issue to be addressed in Public Services and Utilities section of Draft EIR/EIS. |

# Socioeconomic Issues

| # | Code | Comment | Proposed Response |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | B2a<br>I16b<br>I20a<br>I21f<br>G5c<br>I7a<br>I5b<br>L18c<br>G6f | Address the potential impacts of the proposed Project on the residents and local economy of the Salton Sea and Imperial Valley. Also address the impact the proposed Project will have on growth in the Salton Sea and Imperial Valley. Impacts to residents and the general environment to the Salton Sea area and Imperial County as a whole should be treated with equal concern as impacts to individual or corporate water rights holders. | Comment noted. Refer to general response in Scoping Summary Report, section 4.2.1 - Water Rights and section 4.2.2 - Socioeconomics. |
| 2 | I22a | A few years ago when the water level in the sea was high, saltwater seeped into the sewage lines and was pumped into lagoons in Desert Shores which ruined my well and property. What is IID's responsibility toward this? | Comment noted. The impact of the proposed Project on Salton Sea elevation will be studied and addressed in the Draft EIR/EIS. |
| 3 | L3a<br>L3c<br>I35a<br>I35b<br>L3b<br>I38a<br>G6a<br>G6e<br>L5d<br>L5f<br>I37c<br>B6a | Address the potential impacts of the proposed Project on the agricultural economy and the farm worker's jobs and labor skills and on farm-related businesses (fertilizers, pesticides, seeds, equipment, mechanics, etc.) . Address the impact to farm production costs and agricultural products. Address how impacts to the agricultural economy may affect county, city, and district services. | Comment noted. Refer to general response in Scoping Summary Report, section 4.2.2 - Socioeconomics. |
| 4 | L2c<br>L2d<br>G5b<br>G6c | Address the potential impacts of the proposed Project on the number of irrigated acres under crop production now and in the future. Address how the proposed project may impact cropping patterns and crop selection and the land value of farmland that is currently in production, or that could be in future production. | Comment noted. Issue to be addressed in Agricultural Land Resources section of Draft EIR/EIS. |
| 5 | G9a | Has the project considered Torres-Martinez and what effects it would have on the Tribe? | Potential impacts to tribal grounds around the Salton Sea will be assessed in the Draft EIR/EIS. The Lead Agencies will be soliciting input from the tribes regarding these impacts. |
| 6 | G9b | Would this water transfer affect any trust responsibilities to the Indian Tribes in the Bureau of Reclamation? | Comment noted. Issue to be addressed in Indian Trust Assets section of Draft EIR/EIS. |

# Socioeconomic Issues

| # | Code | Comment | Proposed Response |
|---|---|---|---|
| 7 | I7c | What impact will the proposed water transfer have on cities such Mecca, Thermal, Indio, Palm Desert, La Quinta, etc.? | Comment noted. Refer to general response in Scoping Summary Report, section 4.2.2 - Socioeconomics. |
| 8 | I7d | Who will be liable for damage done to property owners by this transfer? | Socioeconomic impacts will be analyzed in the Draft EIR/EIS and mitigation will be developed for significant impacts. |
| 9 | F2b<br>F2u<br>I12a | Address the potential impacts of the proposed Project on minority communities, e.g. Indian Tribes (the Lower Colorado River Tribes, Tribes located in the Salton Sea watershed, and the San Diego County Tribes), and low-income populations. Provide the opportunity for affected communities to participate in the NEPA process. | Comment noted. These issues will be addressed in the Socioeconomics section of the Draft EIR/EIS. |
| 10 | G6i | The Draft EIR/EIS needs to ensure that the data collected for the socioeconomic models is reliable and that the assumptions are correct. The document should identify government agencies that collect and record socioeconomic data for Imperial County. | Comment noted. Issue to be addressed in Socioeconomics section of the Draft EIR/EIS. |
| 11 | L5c | Loss of water may damage the ability for the Imperial Valley to recruit light industrial firms. | Comment noted. Issue to be addressed in Socioeconomics section of the Draft EIR/EIS. |

# Cost Issues

| # | Code | Comment | Proposed Response |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | L5e<br>B1a | What type of financial mitigation formula will be introduced to the cities/districts of the Imperial Valley and Salton Sea area as a result of the proposed Project? | Refer to general response in Scoping Summary Report, section 4.2.2 - Socioeconomics. The Lead Agencies will identify and assess significant impacts and propose mitigation measures in the Draft EIR/EIS. |
| 2 | I15b | Reduce amount and cost of litigation associated with water transfers in the Imperial Valley. | Comment noted. Issue not included within the scope of the Draft EIR/EIS and will not be addressed. IID has stated that one of its objectives for the proposed Project is to protect its historic water rights. |
| 3 | I21a | Will water transfers and the pipeline cost more to the taxpayers than the benefit of the water San Diego receives? | The proposed Project does not change or adversely effect IID's priority among Colorado River water users or IID's historic water rights. Socioeconomic impacts associated with the proposed Project will be addressed in the Draft EIR/EIS. |
| 4 | I39a<br>I39b<br>I46f<br>G6b<br>I23b<br>L4b | Address economic incentive benefits to the general public (non-farm community) and the distribution of the revenue generated from the proposed Project. | Refer to general response in Scoping Summary Report, section 4.2.2 - Socioeconomics. The Lead Agencies will identify and assess significant impacts and propose mitigation measures in the Draft EIR/EIS. |
| 5 | I40b | What is the true cost of the proposed Project, including all of the mitigation? | This issue cannot be fully evaluated until the Draft EIR/EIS has been completed, together with other permits and approvals including those related to Endangered Species Act compliance. |
| 6 | I45a<br>L14a<br>L1gg | Address the potential impact on water rates in San Diego as a result of the project. | Comment noted. Issue to be addressed in the Socioeconomics section of the Draft EIR/EIS. |

# Cost Issues

| # | Code | Comment | Proposed Response |
|---|---|---|---|
| 7 | L7d<br>L1a<br>L8d | The Draft EIR/EIS should distinguish between environmental processes and mitigation requirements for the 130,000 to 200,000 af/yr transfer to SDCWA and the 2-50,000 af/yr transfers to CVWD. Explain the $30,000,000 environmental mitigation cap proposed in the Agreement between IID and SDCWA. Address the cost of any and all environmental mitigation and ensure that the proposed environmental caps are appropriate. | The appropriate method for analyzing the impacts of the proposed Project and those of the proposed Quantification Settlement, including cumulative impacts, are being reviewed by the Lead Agencies with SDCWA, CVWD, and MWD. See general response in Scoping Summary Report, section 4.2.5 - Other Projects Related to the Proposed Project. |
| 8 | I7e<br>L7f | Who will pay for the costs to mitigate impacts caused by the IID/SDCWA Water Conservation and Transfer Project (i.e. increased costs to treat Colorado River water that will become increasingly more polluted and contaminated as water flows decrease in the future)? | The Draft EIR/EIS will propose mitigation measures. A portion of the purchase price payable by SDCWA for the conserved water will be used to offset IID's costs of the proposed Project, including costs of mitigating significant environmental impacts. |
| 9 | L4c<br>L5b | Consider potential loss of water and price of water to cities/districts and potential impact on the ability of these communities to grow. When the cities are required at some future date to institute water conservation measures, will this be considered a credit toward reimbursement? | Refer to general response in Scoping Summary Report, section 4.2.1 - Water Rights and section 4.2.2 - Socioeconomics. |
| 10 | I11b | Commentor suggests that CVWD and MWD be included in the Draft EIR/EIS process. | Comment noted. The Lead Agencies have solicited and received comments from these agencies. |

# Growth-Inducing Issues

| # | Code | Comment | Proposed Response |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | F2k<br>I46c<br>I4e<br>I6a<br>I7g<br>L1ll | Evaluate the potential impacts of the proposed Project on growth in San Diego County and how this increased rate of growth could adversely affect water quality, wetlands, and other natural resources. | The socioeconomics section of the Draft EIR/EIS will evaluate growth-inducing effects of the proposed Project. |
| 2 | S1t<br>S1u | Analyze the potential impact of the proposed Project on the completion and implementation of 1) regional and/or subregional conservation plans (i.e. Colorado River Multi-Species Conservation Plan and Coachella Valley Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan) and 2) Natural Community Conservation Plans in SD County (i.e. Multiple Habitat Conservation Program Plan and Multiple Species Conservation Program Plan). Include the potential growth-inducing affects associated with the water transfers. | Comment noted. Issues to be addressed in the Draft EIR/EIS. |
| 3 | L1j | Address the potential impact on growth in the Salton Sea Area if sea levels drop and more land becomes available for development. | Comment noted. Significant impacts related to shoreline exposure as a result of the Project will be assessed in Hydrology and Water Quality section of the Draft EIR/EIS. |

# Cumulative Impacts Issues

| # | Code | Comment | Proposed Response |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | L7a<br>I15c<br>F2i<br>G1h<br>G1i<br>G2a<br>S1s<br>L1p<br>L1pp<br>L18b<br>S2c | Address all direct, indirect, third-party, and cumulative impacts including the effects of the proposed Project in conjunction with other ongoing or potential water conservation or water transfer programs. | Comment noted. Issue to be addressed in Cumulative Impacts section of the Draft EIR/EIS. |
| 2 | I46g | This Draft EIR/EIS should be integrated with the Salton Sea Restoration Project Draft EIR/EIS. | Comment noted. Refer to general response in Scoping Summary Report, section 4.2.5 - Other Projects Related to the Proposed Project. |
| 3 | G12d | This Project could remove as much as ten percent of the water now flowing in the Colorado River between Parker Dam and Imperial Dam. There may be other proposals to change the point of diversion of Colorado River water from Imperial Dam to Parker Dam. It is extremely important that the EIS evaluate the effects of similar, cumulative actions which would reduce river flows in any division of the Lower Colorado River. | Comment noted. Issue to be addressed in Cumulative Impacts section of the Draft EIR/EIS. |

# Mitigation-Monitoring Issues

| # | Code | Comment | Proposed Response |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | F2aa<br>F2j<br>S1aa<br>S1bb<br>S1w<br>F2y<br>S1y | The Draft EIR/EIS should provide appropriate mitigation measures and mitigation monitoring and reporting for the Project that fulfill requirements set by the CA Department of Fish and Game (CESA permit, Native Plant Protection Act) and are made a part of public record. Mitigation measures should emphasize evaluation and selection of alternatives which avoid or otherwise minimize Project impacts. Address off-site compensation for unavoidable Project impacts. | Comment noted. Issues to be addressed in the Draft EIR/EIS. |
| 2 | S3c | Additional work may be needed to develop appropriate measures to mitigate adverse air quality effects due to the water transfer. | Comment noted. Issue to be addressed in the Draft EIR/EIS. |
| 3 | G5a | Any on-farm conservation practices should mitigate for salinity buildup. | Comment noted. Issue to be addressed in the Draft EIR/EIS. |
| 4 | L11a | Ensure approval and use of funded mitigation measures. | Comment noted. Issue to be addressed in the Draft EIR/EIS. |
| 5 | L13a | How will mitigation responsibilities be determined? | The Draft EIR/EIS will propose mitigation measures for significant impacts. The Project proponents (IID and SDCWA) will be responsible for implementing mitigation measures. It is anticipated that the Mitigation and Monitoring Program will specify the responsible party. An initial sharing of mitigation responsibilities and costs between IID and SDCWA was included in the Agreement used as a basic description of the proposed Project. |
| 6 | L18a | The County's primary interest in the preparation of the Draft EIR/EIS is to ensure that it identifies, assesses, and defines mitigation of impacts that the Project will produce on Imperial County as a governmental entity and on Imperial County citizens who may not necessarily hold proprietary water rights under California law. | Comment noted. Issue to be addressed in the Draft EIR/EIS. |

# Alternatives Issues

| # | Code | Comment | Proposed Response |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | L16b<br>F2bb<br>F2cc<br>F2g<br>G1e<br>I4f<br>L8f<br>S1v | The Draft EIR/EIS should consider all reasonable alternatives to the proposed Project, in addition to the No Action/No Project alternative, including considering an alternative source of water for SDCWA and water rationing, and a range of alternatives that avoid or minimize impacts to sensitive biological resources. The No Action/No Project alternative should not assume implementation of the Salton Sea Restoration Project. | Comment noted. A reasonable range of alternatives to the proposed Project will be identified and assessed in the Draft EIR/EIS. Refer to general response in Scoping Summary Report, section 4.2.6 - Alternatives to the Proposed Project for information on the alternatives development process. Refer to section 4.2.5 - Other Projects Related to the Proposed Project for information on the Salton Sea Restoration Project. |
| 2 | I40c | What combination of various conservation methods will the Project assume (i.e., pop-back drip sprinklers, dead-level sprinklers, or new crops)? What will the conservation alternatives be? | The details of on-farm conservation measures have not yet been determined. Various alternatives are being studied and will be addressed in the Draft EIR/EIS. Refer to general response in Scoping Summary Report, section 4.2.6 - Alternatives to the Proposed Project for information on the alternatives development process. |
| 3 | I40f | Will SDCWA look at a range of water transfer mechanisms (i.e., drilling, or putting in a pipeline)? | Comment noted. A reasonable range of alternatives to the proposed Project will be identified and assessed in the Draft EIR/EIS. Refer to general response in Scoping Summary Report, section 4.2.6 - Alternatives to the Proposed Project for information on the alternatives development process. |
| 4 | G12e | A variety of alternatives should be addressed in the EIS, including water conservation and growth control measures in San Diego County, return of cleaned "waste" water to the Colorado River by a canal or aqueduct, and desalinization of sea water. | Comment noted. A reasonable range of alternatives to the proposed Project will be identified and assessed in the Draft EIR/EIS. Refer to general response in Scoping Summary Report, section 4.2.6 -Alternatives to the Proposed Project for information on the alternatives development process. |

# Miscellaneous Issues

| # | Code | Comment | Proposed Response |
|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | G3a<br>L16c<br>I17d<br>L3e<br>I38b | Public scoping meetings should be held in Yuma and Calexico. The project team should return to the Salton Sea community and probe for more of their opinions on the proposed Project. They care about the Salton Sea. | Six public scoping meetings were held during the month of October to solicit input from the public on the various issues and the extent of analyses that should be included in the Draft EIR/EIS. Scoping meetings were held in Brawley, Salton Sea, El Centro, Las Vegas, Carlsbad, and San Diego. Additional opportunities for public comment will occur after the release of the Project Alternatives Report and the Draft EIR/EIS is released for public review. |
| 2 | L9a | We feel that it is to the benefit of both IID and the Bureau of Reclamation to provide a limited extension of time in which to provide you comments from Antonio Rossmann, the County's special counsel on water issues, on the scope of the Draft EIR/EIS for the IID/SDCWA Water Conservation and Transfer Project. | Comment noted. Additional time has been provided for the County's response. |
| 3 | L6a | We are a California depository library and attempt to collect all California government publications. Please send us one copy of the Public Notice announcing the proposed Project and public scoping meetings. | Comment noted. A copy was sent. |
| 4 | F2dd<br>L8e<br>L7g | The Draft EIR/EIS should reference associated environmental documentation (i.e. previous water transfer studies such as IID and MWD environmental documents), but also present decisions that are complete enough to stand alone without continued references to other documents. | Comment noted. The Draft EIR/EIS will reference relevant environmental documents, and will provide sufficient information for the public to review the full nature and potential impacts of the Project. |
| 5 | L17a | We have two lawsuits filed, one with the State Water Resources Control Board and one filed with the U.S. Federal Board in San Diego. The details of these lawsuits are posted on our web page under current events at www.cvwd.org. All the issues raised should be incorporated and addressed in the Draft EIR/EIS. | Comment noted. Potentially significant environmental impacts of the proposed Project and mitigation measures will be addressed in the Draft EIR/EIS. |
| 6 | I48a | How did you determine the length of time it would take to approve the water conservation and transfer project and the number of agencies required to approve the project? If two years isn't enough time, what happens to our contract? | The IID/SDCWA Agreement could be extended to accommodate the time required to complete the environmental review process and to obtain required permits and approvals, if IID and SDCWA agree to do so. |
| 7 | I4a | The Project description is inadequate because it contains "potential" impacts versus "actual" impacts based on a water conservation plan. | Comment noted. CEQA and NEPA require an assessment of potentially significant impacts. |
| 8 | I28b | While San Diego County may be expecting 1 million more residents over the next 10 years and will need additional water, there are other places in the state to get water. | Comment noted. Refer to general response in Scoping Summary Report, section 4.2.6 - Alternatives to the Proposed Project. |
| 9 | I10a | Please print, "Support Saving the Salton Sea" on IID water bills. I am pleased to include IID on my "contact" list for "Make A Difference" Day, October 23. | Comment noted. |

# Miscellaneous Issues

| # | Code | Comment | Proposed Response |
|---|---|---|---|
| 10 | I8a | I am a registered voter and resident of the Valley. I am MOST interested in saving the Salton Sea. | Comment noted. Significant impacts of the proposed Project on the Salton Sea and mitigation measures will be addressed in the Draft EIR/EIS. |
| 11 | I13a | Commentor protests the proposed water transfer project. | Comment noted. |
| 12 | I11c | This process should be like selling a used automobile - "AS IS". Any future problems should be part of the purchaser's problem. MWD should be responsible for any litigation brought by Mexico. | Comment noted. |
| 13 | L10a<br>G7a | Commentor has no comment at this time. | Comment noted. |
| 14 | L18h | Imperial County is concerned that despite the terms of years written into the Project definition, a water transfer of this magnitude and duration will de facto become a permanent and irreversible transfer. This circumstance should be addressed in one of two ways: either expressly stating as part of the assessment that the transfer will be assumed a permanent one, or else including assessment of an alternative project that is a permanent and irreversible transfer. | Comment noted. The proposed Project includes a specified term. Refer to general response in Scoping Summary Report, section 4.2.6 - Alternatives to the Proposed Project, for information on the alternatives development process. |
| 15 | L18j | The Draft EIR/EIS should expressly identify the decisions that are to be made by each lead and responsible or trustee agency, state and federal, together with an identification of each agency's scope of discretion in their decisions. Imperial County also desires specification of the approvals that the Secretary of Interior is empowered and expected to render in review of this Project, and the ability of such approvals to respond to the County's environmental concerns. | Comment noted. The Draft EIR/EIS will identify anticipated permits and approval required to implement the proposed Project. |
| 16 | L18k | It is imperative that by the time the Draft EIR/EIS is issued, the reviewing public, including the County of Imperial, be given definition of the exact purposes for which the Lead and responsible agencies will use the assessment. | Comment noted. The Draft EIR/EIS will identify anticipated permits and approval required to implement the proposed Project. |

# APPENDIX J

## DRAFT EI/EIS OUTLINE

# Appendix J
# Draft EIR/EIS Outline

# Contents


## Executive Summary

1. Introduction

   Background

   Purpose and Need

2. Description of the Proposed Action and Alternatives

   IID/SDCWA Water Conservation and Transfer Project

   Alternatives Summary

3. Comparison of Alternatives

   Introduction

   Impacts Comparison

4. Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures

   Hydrology and Water Quality

   Geology and Soils

   Transportation and Traffic

   Noise

   Air Quality

   Biological Resources

   Aesthetics

   Land Use and Planning

   Agricultural Resources

   Recreational Resources

   Public Services and Utilities

   Socioeconomics

   Public Health and Environmental Hazards

   Cultural Resources

Indian Trust Assets

Transboundary Effects

Cumulative Impacts

5. Impact Summary Tables

# Chapter 1 – Introduction

## 1.1 Consultation and Coordination

Scoping Process
Agency Consultation and Coordination

## 1.2 Background

## 1.3 Purpose and Need

## 1.4 Goals and Objectives

## 1.5 Use of this EIR/EIS

## 1.6 EIR/EIS Organization and Contents

# Chapter 2 – Description of the Proposed Action and Alternatives

## 2.1 Introduction

## 2.2 Description of the Proposed Project

Project Location and Geographic Focus Areas
Project Components

## 2.3 Overview and Screening of Alternatives

NEPA and CEQA Requirements for Alternatives
Alternatives Screening Methodology
Summary of Screening Results
Alternatives Eliminated from Further Consideration

## 2.4 Description of Alternatives

# Chapter 3 – Environmental Setting

## 3.1 Introduction

## 3.2 Hydrology and Water Quality

Environmental Baseline

Introduction
Characteristics of the Geographic Focus Areas

## 3.3 Geology and Soils

Environmental Baseline

Introduction
Characteristics of the Geographic Focus Areas

## 3.4 Transportation and Traffic

Environmental Baseline

Introduction
Characteristics of the Geographic Focus Areas

## 3.5 Noise

Environmental Baseline

Introduction
Characteristics of the Geographic Focus Areas

## 3.6 Air Quality

Environmental Baseline

Introduction
Characteristics of the Geographic Focus Areas

## 3.7 Biological Resources

Environmental Baseline

Introduction
Characteristics of the Geographic Focus Areas

## 3.8 Aesthetics

### Environmental Baseline

#### Introduction
#### Characteristics of the Geographic Focus Areas

## 3.9 Land Use and Planning

### Environmental Baseline

#### Introduction
#### Characteristics of the Geographic Focus Areas

## 3.10 Agricultural Resources

### Environmental Baseline

#### Introduction
#### Characteristics of the Geographic Focus Areas

## 3.11 Recreational Resources

### Environmental Baseline

#### Introduction
#### Characteristics of the Geographic Focus Areas

## 3.12 Public Services and Utilities

### Environmental Baseline

#### Introduction
#### Characteristics of the Geographic Focus Areas

## 3.13 Socioeconomics

### Environmental Baseline

#### Introduction
#### Characteristics of the Geographic Focus Areas

## 3.14 Public Health and Environmental Hazards

### Environmental Baseline

#### Introduction
#### Characteristics of the Geographic Focus Areas

## 3.15 Cultural Resources

### Environmental Baseline

#### Introduction
#### Characteristics of the Geographic Focus Areas

## 3.16 Indian Trust Assets

### Environmental Baseline

#### Introduction

Characteristics of the Geographic Focus Areas

## 3.17 Transboundary Effects

Environmental Baseline

Introduction
Characteristics of the Geographic Focus Areas

# Chapter 4 – Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures

## 4.1 Introduction

## 4.2 Hydrology and Water Quality

Impacts Summary
Significance Criteria and Regulatory Setting
Assessment Methods
Proposed Action
Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures
Unavoidable Significant Impacts
Alternative 1
Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures
Unavoidable Significant Impacts
Alternative 2
Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures
Unavoidable Significant Impacts
No Project Alternative
Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures
Unavoidable Significant Impacts

## 4.3 Geology and Soils

Impacts Summary
Significance Criteria and Regulatory Setting
Assessment Methods
Proposed Action
Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures
Unavoidable Significant Impacts
Alternative 1
Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures
Unavoidable Significant Impacts
Alternative 2
Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures
Unavoidable Significant Impacts
No Project Alternative
Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Unavoidable Significant Impacts

## 4.4 Transportation and Traffic

Impacts Summary
Significance Criteria and Regulatory Setting
Assessment Methods
Proposed Action
- Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures
- Unavoidable Significant Impacts

Alternative 1
- Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures
- Unavoidable Significant Impacts

Alternative 2
- Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures
- Unavoidable Significant Impacts

No Project Alternative
- Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures
- Unavoidable Significant Impacts

## 4.5 Noise

Impacts Summary
Significance Criteria and Regulatory Setting
Assessment Methods
Proposed Action
- Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures
- Unavoidable Significant Impacts

Alternative 1
- Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures
- Unavoidable Significant Impacts

Alternative 2
- Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures
- Unavoidable Significant Impacts

No Project Alternative
- Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures
- Unavoidable Significant Impacts

## 4.6 Air Quality

Impacts Summary
Significance Criteria and Regulatory Setting
Assessment Methods
Proposed Action
- Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures
- Unavoidable Significant Impacts

Alternative 1
- Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures
- Unavoidable Significant Impacts

Alternative 2
Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures
Unavoidable Significant Impacts
No Project Alternative
Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures
Unavoidable Significant Impacts

## 4.7 Biological Resources

Impacts Summary
Significance Criteria and Regulatory Setting
Assessment Methods
Proposed Action
Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures
Unavoidable Significant Impacts
Alternative 1
Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures
Unavoidable Significant Impacts
Alternative 2
Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures
Unavoidable Significant Impacts
No Project Alternative
Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures
Unavoidable Significant Impacts

## 4.8 Aesthetics

Impacts Summary
Significance Criteria and Regulatory Setting
Assessment Methods
Proposed Action
Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures
Unavoidable Significant Impacts
Alternative 1
Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures
Unavoidable Significant Impacts
Alternative 2
Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures
Unavoidable Significant Impacts
No Project Alternative
Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures
Unavoidable Significant Impacts

## 4.9 Land Use and Planning

Impacts Summary
Significance Criteria and Regulatory Setting
Assessment Methods
Proposed Action
Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Unavoidable Significant Impacts

Alternative 1

Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Unavoidable Significant Impacts

Alternative 2

Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Unavoidable Significant Impacts

No Project Alternative

Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Unavoidable Significant Impacts

## 4.10 Agricultural Resources

Impacts Summary

Significance Criteria and Regulatory Setting

Assessment Methods

Proposed Action

Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Unavoidable Significant Impacts

Alternative 1

Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Unavoidable Significant Impacts

Alternative 2

Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Unavoidable Significant Impacts

No Project Alternative

Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Unavoidable Significant Impacts

## 4.11 Recreational Resources

Impacts Summary

Significance Criteria and Regulatory Setting

Assessment Methods

Proposed Action

Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Unavoidable Significant Impacts

Alternative 1

Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Unavoidable Significant Impacts

Alternative 2

Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Unavoidable Significant Impacts

No Project Alternative

Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures

Unavoidable Significant Impacts

## 4.12 Public Services and Utilities

Impacts Summary
Significance Criteria and Regulatory Setting
Assessment Methods
Proposed Action
- Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures
- Unavoidable Significant Impacts

Alternative 1
- Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures
- Unavoidable Significant Impacts

Alternative 2
- Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures
- Unavoidable Significant Impacts

No Project Alternative
- Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures
- Unavoidable Significant Impacts

## 4.13 Socioeconomics

Impacts Summary
Significance Criteria and Regulatory Setting
Assessment Methods
Proposed Action
- Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures
- Unavoidable Significant Impacts

Alternative 1
- Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures
- Unavoidable Significant Impacts

Alternative 2
- Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures
- Unavoidable Significant Impacts

No Project Alternative
- Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures
- Unavoidable Significant Impacts

## 4.14 Public Health and Environmental Hazards

Impacts Summary
Significance Criteria and Regulatory Setting
Assessment Methods
Proposed Action
- Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures
- Unavoidable Significant Impacts

Alternative 1
- Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures
- Unavoidable Significant Impacts

Alternative 2
Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures
Unavoidable Significant Impacts
No Project Alternative
Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures
Unavoidable Significant Impacts

## 4.15 Cultural Resources

Impacts Summary
Significance Criteria and Regulatory Setting
Assessment Methods
Proposed Action
Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures
Unavoidable Significant Impacts
Alternative 1
Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures
Unavoidable Significant Impacts
Alternative 2
Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures
Unavoidable Significant Impacts
No Project Alternative
Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures
Unavoidable Significant Impacts

## 4.16 Indian Trust Assets

Impacts Summary
Significance Criteria and Regulatory Setting
Assessment Methods
Proposed Action
Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures
Unavoidable Significant Impacts
Alternative 1
Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures
Unavoidable Significant Impacts
Alternative 2
Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures
Unavoidable Significant Impacts
No Project Alternative
Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures
Unavoidable Significant Impacts

## 4.17 Transboundary Effects

Impacts Summary
Significance Criteria and Regulatory Setting
Assessment Methods
Proposed Action
- Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures
- Unavoidable Significant Impacts

Alternative 1
- Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures
- Unavoidable Significant Impacts

Alternative 2
- Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures
- Unavoidable Significant Impacts

No Project Alternative
- Environmental Impacts and Mitigation Measures
- Unavoidable Significant Impacts

## Chapter 5 – Other CEQA/NEPA Topics

5.1 Relationship Between Short-Term Uses of the Environment and the Maintenance and Enhancement of Long-Term Productivity

## Chapter 6 – Cumulative Impacts

6.1 Introduction

6.2 Baseline Description

6.3 Description of Projects Considered for this Analysis

6.4 Cumulative Impact Assessment and Mitigation Measures

## List of Preparers

## Index

## Glossary

## References

## Appendixes

| | |
|---|---|
| Appendix A | Agency Consultation and Notification |
| Appendix B | Scoping Summary Report |
| Appendix C | IID/SDCWA Water Conservation and Transfer Project Methodology Report |
| Appendix D | Technical Memorandums |
| Appendix E | Mitigation Monitoring, Compliance, and Reporting Plan |

# Appendix K Summary of Issues Determined to be Outside the Proposed Scope of Draft EIR/EIS

# Appendix K
# Summary of Issues Determined to be Outside the Proposed Scope of Draft EIR/EIS

# Summary of Issues Determined to be Outside the Proposed Scope of the Draft EIR/EIS

| Comment | Explanation |
|---|---|
| • How does the Project Team plan to address the lawsuit from CVWD? | The CVWD lawsuit has been dismissed. |
| • If the water transfer requires constructing new canals or pipelines, routes traversing State Park and State Wilderness lands in eastern San Diego County, specifically within Anza-Borrego Desert State Park and Cuyamaca Rancho State Park, should not be considered as alternatives. | No new canals or pipelines are proposed for construction in these areas. |
| • Reduce the amount and cost of litigation associated with water transfers in the Imperial Valley. | Comment noted. |
| • Please print, "Support Saving the Salton Sea" on IID water bills. I am pleased to include IID on my "contact" list for "Make A Difference" Day, October 23. | Comment noted. |
| • This process should be like selling a used automobile – "AS IS." Any future problems should be part of the purchaser's problem. MWD should be responsible for any litigation brought by Mexico. | Comment noted. |
| • A few years ago, when the water level in the Salton Sea was high, saltwater seeped into the sewage lines and was pumped into lagoons in Desert Shores, which ruined my wells and property. What is IID's responsibility toward this? | The comment does not address an environmental impact resulting from the proposed Project and will not be addressed in the Draft EIR/EIS. The impact of the proposed Project on Salton Sea elevation will be studied and addressed in the Draft EIR/EIS. |