

# Coachella Valley Water District



## NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF AN ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

### Palm Desert Groundwater Replenishment Project

Pursuant to Sections 15086 and 15087, Title 14, California Code of Regulations, this Notice is given to advise interested parties that the Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) has completed a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed project, described below, and that the Draft EIR is available for public review. The project description, location, and the potential environmental effects are discussed below.

**Project Title:** Palm Desert Groundwater Replenishment Project

**Project Applicant:** Coachella Valley Water District (same as CEQA Lead Agency)

**Project Description:** The Palm Desert Groundwater Replenishment Project is a water supply reliability project located in the central portion of the Coachella Valley in the city of Palm Desert, in central Riverside County. The proposed project would be implemented in two phases:

- **Phase I** of the proposed project would occur on and adjacent to the north of CVWD's Water Reclamation Plant No. 10 (WRP10), located at 43-000 Cook Street in Palm Desert, California. Components of Phase I of the project are summarized below.
  - Re-purpose existing ponds located adjacent to the north of CVWD's WRP10 site, to function as groundwater replenishment basins. Colorado River water would be delivered to the revised ponds for groundwater replenishment.
  - Extend existing water transmission pipeline within the WRP10 site to provide transmission of imported Colorado River water from the existing pipeline to the re-purposed ponds located adjacent to the north of CVWD's WRP10 site.
  - Install a Colorado River water pump station adjacent to the Back Feed Reservoir, including a minimum of two pumps with a pumping horsepower (HP) in the range of 100 to 200 HP, and a sound wall surrounding the new pump station.
  - Relocate the existing WRP10 operations parking area adjacent to the north of the WRP10 site by repurposing the northeastern-most percolation basin currently located within the WRP10 site, in order to concentrate the parking and storage of operations and maintenance vehicles to one area.
  - Install two new 800-HP pumps and a hydropneumatic tank within the existing MVP Pump Station, which is an existing structure and entirely enclosed; the existing MVP Pump Station was designed to accommodate these additional pumps.
- **Phase II** of the proposed project would occur on the WRP10 site and within the existing Whitewater River Stormwater Channel, located adjacent to the south-southwest of CVWD's WRP10 site. Components of Phase II of the project are summarized below.
  - Construct berms using native sediments within the Whitewater River Stormwater Channel for the purposes of creating detention basins to receive and infiltrate Colorado River water for replenishing the underlying groundwater basin.
  - Extend the existing MVP within the Whitewater River Stormwater Channel beyond the WRP10 site to convey Colorado River water to the new detention basins included under Phase II of the project.
  - Expand and reconfigure the existing secondary effluent storage ponds within the southern portion of the existing WRP10 site to store approximately 100 million gallons of secondary effluent.

- Construct a new Secondary Effluent Pump Station within the WRP10 site to improve the routing of secondary effluent within the existing WRP10 site to the new lower storage ponds and subsequently back to the headworks at the WRP10 site.

**Project Location:** The proposed project is located on and adjacent to the north of CVWD's Water Reclamation Plant No. 10 (WRP10), located at 43-000 Cook Street in Palm Desert in California. The project would also occur within a portion of the Whitewater River Stormwater Channel located adjacent to CVWD's WRP10 site, and within the stormwater channel to the existing Mid-Valley Pipeline Pump Station located in the City of Indio, approximately three miles downstream.

**Potentially Significant Environmental Effects:** The Draft EIR made the impact significance determinations for each of the environmental issue areas identified in the CEQA Guidelines Appendix G Checklist. As such, No impacts would occur for: Agriculture and Forestry; Land Use / Planning; Mineral Resources; Population / Housing; Public Services; Recreation. Impacts would be Less than Significant (with no mitigation) for: Aesthetics; Air Quality; Utilities / Services Systems. Impacts would be Less than Significant (with mitigation) for: Biological Resources; Cultural and Tribal Resources; Geology / Soils; Hazards and Hazardous Materials; Noise; Transportation / Traffic. Finally, impacts would be Significant and Unavoidable for: Greenhouse Gas Emissions and Hydrology / Water Quality. The Draft EIR identifies a significant unavoidable impact to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions during project operations (due to the operation of existing and new pumps), as well as to groundwater quality (due to increased total dissolved solids [TDS] concentrations near the recharge areas). As a result of significant unavoidable impacts occurring during project implementation, cumulative impacts associated with GHG emissions and groundwater quality would also be significant.

**Review Period:** As specified in the CEQA Guidelines, the Draft EIR will be available for public comment for a 45-day review period. The public comment period for the Draft EIR will begin on Monday, November 6, 2017, and will end on Wednesday, December 20, 2017. Comments may be submitted in writing, by 5:00 p.m. on December 20, 2017; written comments should be addressed to:

Luke Stowe, Environmental Supervisor, Coachella Valley Water District  
75515 Hovley Lane East  
Palm Desert, California 92211

Fax: (760) 398-2651  
Email: [Lstowe@cvwd.org](mailto:Lstowe@cvwd.org)

**Public Meeting:** CVWD will hold a Public Meeting to receive comment on the project on November 30, 2017, from 5:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m., in the CVWD's Steve Robbins Administration Building, located at 75515 Hovley Lane East in Palm Desert, California 92211.

**Document Availability:** The Draft EIR is available for public review at the CVWD's offices at 51-501 Tyler Street in Coachella, CA 92236 and at 75515 Hovley Lane East in Palm Desert, California 92211, and at Palm Desert Public Library, located at 73-300 Fred Waring Drive. The Draft EIR may also be accessed from the CVWD website, <http://www.cvwd.org/>.

  
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J. M. Barrett, General Manager  
Coachella Valley Water District

November 6, 2017

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Date