

ESTABLISHED IN 1918 AS A PUBLIC AGENCY

COACHELLA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

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REDWINE AND SHERRILL, ATTORNEYS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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May 17, 2001

Water directors certify EIS, EIR for Coachella Canal Project

Coachella Valley Water District directors have certified during a public hearing the environmental impact statements and environmental impact report for the Coachella Canal lining project.

The purpose of the project is to conserve 30,850 acre-feet annually of water being lost as seepage from the earthen reaches of the canal. As a part of California's efforts to reduce dependence on Colorado River water, the work will begin in 2002 and will be handled by Metropolitan Water District of Southern California using state funding.

The lining project involves installation of concrete lining along approximately 33.2 miles of unlined portions of the canal. The project area is located in Imperial and Riverside Counties several miles to the east and generally parallel to the Salton Sea between the communities of Calipatria on the south and Mecca on the north.

CVWD retained KEA Environmental, Inc. to perform the EIR and EIS to analyze the effect of lining the canal as required under the National Environmental Planning Act and the California environmental quality act.

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