

**NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A TIERED NEGATIVE DECLARATION
COACHELLA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT**

**TRANSFER OF STATE WATER PROJECT TABLE A WATER FROM BERRENDA MESA
WATER DISTRICT TO COACHELLA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT AND DESERT
WATER AGENCY**

Notice is hereby given that the Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) has completed an Initial Environmental Study (IES) of the project described as the Transfer of 16,000 acre-ft/yr of State Water Project (SWP) Table A Water From Berrenda Mesa Water District (BMWD) to CVWD and Desert Water Agency (DWA). The BMWD is located in Kern County in California's San Joaquin Valley. CVWD, the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) lead agency, and DWA are located in eastern Riverside County, California.

The IES was completed in accordance with the CVWD Guidelines for implementing CEQA. This IES was undertaken for the purpose of deciding whether the project may have a significant effect on the environment. On the basis of such IES, the CVWD staff has concluded that the project will not have a significant effect on the environment, and therefore intends to adopt a Negative Declaration. The IES considers the effects of the Table A Water transfer on the transferor, the BMWD -- tiering off the 1996 EIR for Transfer of Water Entitlements from Berrenda Mesa Water District for use in the Dougherty Valley Area (BMWD, 1996) and the 2002 Addendum to the EIR (BMWD, 2002). The IES also considers the potential impacts of the transfers on the San Joaquin-Sacramento Delta, the SWP, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California Colorado River Aqueduct, and on the transferees (CVWD and DWA) and the Coachella Valley, tiering off the Coachella Valley Water Management Plan Program EIR (CVWD, 2002).

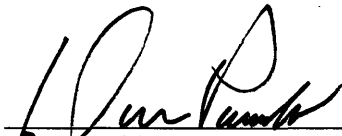
The IES reflects the independent judgment of the CVWD. The project sites are not contained on the lists compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5. The proposed Project is not considered a project of statewide, regional or areawide significance. The proposed Project will not affect highways or other facilities under the jurisdiction of the State Department of Transportation. The lead agency will not hold a scoping meeting.

Copies of the IES, Negative Declaration, the CVWD PEIR, the Berrenda Mesa EIR and EIR Addendum, and related documents are on file at the CVWD offices: 85-995 Avenue 52, Coachella, CA 92336, and are available for public review during normal working hours.

The comment period is from December 5, 2005 to January 10, 2006. Any person wishing to comment on this matter must submit such comments in writing to Mr. Luke Stowe at the CVWD prior to the end date. Mr. Stowe may also be contacted for further information at (760) 398-2651. Comments of all Trustee and other Responsible Agencies are also requested. Responsible agencies under CEQA for the project are the BMWD, as the transferor of Table A Water; the Kern County Water Agency, as the SWP transferor contractor; the DWA as co-transferee, and the California Department of Water Resources which, as administrator of the SWP, must approve all entitlement transfers.

The CVWD Board of Directors will consider the Project and the Negative Declaration. If the Board of Directors finds that the Project will not have a significant effect on the environment, it may adopt the Negative Declaration. This means that the Board of Directors may proceed to consider the project without the preparation of an Environmental Impact Report.

Date: November 22, 2005.



Steve Robbins
for: General Manager-Chief Engineer