

NOTICE OF DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY

Draft Program Environmental Impact Report for Coachella Valley Water Management Plan and State Water Project Entitlement Transfer

COACHELLA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

This is to inform you that the Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) has prepared a draft Program EIR of its Water Management Plan and the proposed transfer of SWP entitlement from The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan) to CVWD and Desert Water Agency (DWA). The location of the Proposed Project comprises the Coachella Valley and the Metropolitan service area.

The Proposed Project seeks to overcome overdraft in the Coachella Valley groundwater basins, by a combination of conservation, recycling, additional groundwater recharge and source substitution. The significant impacts of the Proposed Project are anticipated to be changes in groundwater quality from recharging the groundwater basin with Colorado River water; potential effects of water quality changes and water flows in Coachella Valley agricultural drains on sensitive species (desert pupfish and rails); and cumulative effects with other water transfer projects on Salton Sea air quality and fisheries.

The Draft PEIR and other documents referenced in the PEIR are available for review at the CVWD offices in Coachella and Palm Desert:

CVWD Headquarters
Avenue 52 and Tyler
Coachella, CA 92236

CVWD Palm Desert Facility
75-525 Hovley Lane
Palm Desert, CA 92211

For information regarding the Proposed Project, contact Steve Robbins, Assistant General Manager, at (760) 398-2651 on weekdays from 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. The PEIR may be obtained on a compact disc upon request to Mr. Robbins. Copies of the draft PEIR will also be available for review at the following libraries:

Palm Springs Library
300 South Sunrise Way
Palm Springs, CA 92262-7699

Indio Library
200 Civic Center Mall
Indio, CA 92201-4453

Coachella Library
1538 Seventh Street
Coachella, CA 92236

La Quinta Library
78-080 Calle Estado
La Quinta, CA 92253

Mecca Library
65-250A Coahuilla Street
Mecca, CA 92254-6602

Palm Desert Library
73-300 Fred Waring Drive
Palm Desert, CA 92260

Cathedral City Library
33-520 Date Palm Drive
Cathedral City, CA 92234

If you wish to comment on the Draft PEIR, you may submit comments from **June 26 through August 9, 2002** to Mr. Steve Robbins, Assistant General Manager, CVWD, P.O. Box 1058, Coachella, CA 92236.

Two public meetings will be held:

August 5, 2002

7:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m.

Palm Desert City Hall

City Council Chambers

73-510 Fred Waring Drive

Palm Desert, CA 92260

August 6, 2002

3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

CVWD Boardroom

CVWD Headquarters

Avenue 52 and Tyler

Coachella, CA 92236

You may contact Steve Robbins at (760) 398-2651 for specific meeting information. Meeting information will also be posted on the CVWD Website at www.cvwd.org. Individuals who require special accommodation are requested to contact Steve Robbins at least 14 days prior to the scheduled meeting dates. The meetings will be a moderated format with timed public presentations. CVWD staff and the engineers and environmental consultants who prepared the report will be present. Comments made at the public meetings will be recorded. All substantive comments on environmental issues will be addressed in the Final PEIR.