

Appendix E

Notice of Preparation and Scoping Meeting Materials



NOTICE OF PREPARATION DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT PALM DESERT GROUNDWATER REPLENISHMENT PROJECT

The Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD), as Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), is publishing this Notice of Preparation (NOP) to prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the *Palm Desert Groundwater Replenishment Project* (Project) in accordance with CEQA Public Resource Code §§21000-21189.57 and CEQA Guidelines §§15000-15387.

The purpose of this NOP is to notify local, state, and federal agencies, Native American tribes, and other interested agencies, organizations and individuals that CVWD plans to prepare an EIR for the Project. CVWD is circulating this NOP to obtain input regarding the environmental scope, content, and issues relevant to the Draft EIR. The Project description, location, and the expected scope of environmental studies and analysis are described within this NOP.

To ensure that all potential environmental issues are considered and analyzed within the Draft EIR for the Project, **all comments regarding this NOP must be received within thirty (30) days of the start of the 30-day NOP public comment period, which begins April 27, 2017 and ends May 26, 2017.** If you wish to be placed on the mailing list to receive notices regarding the Project, have any questions, or need additional information, please use the Contact Person information identified below. CVWD will accept **written comments** regarding this notice **no later than 5:00 p.m. on May 26, 2017.**

Project Description

CVWD proposes to construct and operate the Project. This involves re-purposing existing secondary effluent ponds located in CVWD's Water Reclamation Plant No. 10 (WRP10), and constructing detention basins within the Whitewater River Stormwater Channel south of WRP10 for the purpose of replenishing the groundwater basin using Colorado River water. The Project's purpose is to directly improve groundwater conditions within the West Whitewater River Subbasin Area of Benefit of the Coachella Valley Groundwater Basin. Specifically, the Project would:

- Provide approximately 25,000 acre-feet per year of direct groundwater replenishment using imported Colorado River water in the Palm Desert area;
- Upgrade capacity of the Mid-Valley Pump Station; and
- Improve WRP10's Secondary Effluent Pump Station and expand the Secondary Effluent Storage.

The Project will require upgrading two pump stations and constructing groundwater replenishment basins, secondary effluent (effluent produced from secondary treatment facilities) storage ponds, pipeline extensions, and associated components and improvements. The Project is designed to be developed in two phases.

Phase I includes utilizing land within the northern area of CVWD's WRP10 site (currently occupied by secondary effluent ponds) to construct groundwater replenishment basins. These secondary effluent ponds are no longer needed for managing secondary effluent due to the WRP10 tertiary treated recycled water program. Colorado River water is currently delivered to WRP10 through a 54-inch diameter steel pipeline known as the Mid-Valley Pipeline and a pump station known as the Mid-Valley Pump Station. The Project includes constructing an extension of the Mid-Valley Pipeline within the greater WRP10 site to supply the groundwater replenishment basins.

Phase 2 includes the construction of additional groundwater replenishment basins within the Whitewater River Stormwater Channel south of WRP10. The existing Mid-Valley Pipeline would be extended into the Whitewater River Stormwater Channel to directly supply the planned groundwater replenishment basins. Additionally, although secondary effluent is able to be delivered to the existing secondary effluent storage ponds located on the southern end of the WRP10 site, the existing pump has limited capacity. Therefore, Phase 2 also includes constructing a new secondary effluent pump station to improve secondary effluent routing to new lower storage ponds, revised percolation ponds, and back to the existing headworks, all of which will help optimize the production and delivery of tertiary treated recycled water produced at WRP10.

Location

The Project is located in the city of Palm Desert, in the central portion of the Coachella Valley within Riverside County, California. The Project site includes lands within CVWD's WRP10, located east of Cook Street between Fred Waring Drive and Hovley Lane East, and within the Whitewater River Storm Channel between Cook Street and Fred Waring Drive. The Mid-Valley pumping station is located adjacent to the Coachella Canal where it crosses the Coachella Valley Storm Channel within the city of Indio. Refer to enclosed exhibit. The Project site is not listed on the Cortese list, Government Code 65962.5.

Environmental Effects To Be Analyzed

The EIR will evaluate the potential environmental effects associated with construction, operation, and maintenance of the Project. The following environmental resource areas will be analyzed in the EIR: aesthetics; air quality and greenhouse gas emissions; biological resources; cultural resources; geology and soils; hazards and hazardous materials; hydrology and water quality; land use and planning; noise; population and housing; public services; recreation; transportation and traffic; energy and mineral resources; and utilities and service systems. The EIR will also evaluate potential growth inducing effects, cumulative effects, and alternatives to the Project, as well as other CEQA-related topics.

Public Scoping Meeting

CVWD will conduct a public scoping meeting to share information about the Project, the environmental review process, and to solicit input on the Project. The public scoping meeting will be held at 6:00 p.m. on Tuesday, May 10, 2017 at CVWD's Steve Robbins Administration Building, located at 75-515 Hovley Lane East, Palm Desert, California 92211.

Contact Person

You are invited to submit written comments regarding this NOP to:

Mr. Luke Stowe, Environmental Supervisor

Coachella Valley Water District

75515 Hovley Lane East

Palm Desert, CA 92211

-or- Email: LStowe@cvwd.org

Due to the time limits mandated by State law, comments on the Project must be submitted not later than the close of the 30-day NOP comment period (May 26, 2017). All comments provided will become public record.

Sylvia Bermudez, Clerk of the Board
Coachella Valley Water District

Date

Public Scoping Meeting

Palm Desert Groundwater Replenishment Project Environmental Impact Report

Coachella Valley Water District

Wednesday, May 10, 2017 at 6:00PM
75515 Hovley Lane East, Palm Desert, CA
Steve Robbins Administrative Building



Public Scoping Meeting Agenda

- Introductions
- Lead Agency: *Coachella Valley Water District*
- Overview of the Proposed Project
- Environmental Review Process
- Public Comment Period (April 24 – May 25, 2017)



Project Team

- CVWD Project Manager: *Carrie Oliphant*
- CVWD Assistant PM: *Armando Rodriguez*
- CVWD Environmental Team: *Steve Bigley, Luke Stowe, Elizabeth Meyerhoff*
- **GEI**: *David Watson – Project Design*
- **Rincon**: *Aubrey Mescher – Environmental Consultant*



Purpose of a Scoping Meeting

- Provide information on the Project
- Describe environmental review process
- Identify any potential environmental issues
- Solicit input on environmental topics, project alternatives, and potential mitigation



Public Comments

- *Comments period after the presentation*
- Please complete speaker card; each speaker will be announced
- Please limit comments to 3 minutes
- You may provide written comment up to May 25, 2017
- Future comment opportunities as well...



Project Purpose

To directly improve groundwater conditions within the West Whitewater River Subbasin Area of Benefit of the Coachella Valley Groundwater Basin.



Palm Desert Groundwater Replenishment Project

- Phase I of the proposed project would occur at and adjacent to CVWD's existing Water Reclamation Plant No. 10 (WRP10), located at 43-000 Cook Street in Palm Desert.
- Phase II of the proposed project would occur within the existing Whitewater River Stormwater Channel, located adjacent to the south-southwest of WRP10.





Key Features

- ✓ Provide approximately 25,000 acre-feet per year of direct groundwater replenishment using imported Colorado River water in the Palm Desert area;
- ✓ Upgrade capacity of the Mid-Valley Pump Station;
- ✓ Improve WRP10 Secondary Effluent Pump Station and expand the Secondary Effluent Storage.



Palm Desert Groundwater Replenishment Project

Operations & Maintenance:

- Conveyance of Colorado River water within the Mid-Valley Pipeline
- Maintenance of secondary effluent storage ponds at the WRP10 site
- Vegetation and sediment management within the Phase I and Phase II ponds/basins to optimize groundwater replenishment
- Operation of pump stations



Environmental Review

State mandated review of discretionary projects

California
Environmental
Quality
Act

CVWD is the Lead Agency and will prepare an Environmental Impact Report to assess the project and project alternatives.



Purpose of CEQA

- Identify & characterize potentially significant environmental effects
- Consider feasible alternatives to proposed project
- Avoid or reduce adverse environmental effects
- Foster interagency coordination
- Enhance public participation in the planning process



Environmental Resource Topics

- Aesthetics
- Agriculture and Forest Resources
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural and Tribal Resources
- Geology and Soils
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Hazards & Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology & Water Quality
- Land Use & Planning
- Mineral Resources
- Noise
- Population & Housing
- Public Services
- Recreation
- Transportation & Traffic
- Utilities & Service Systems

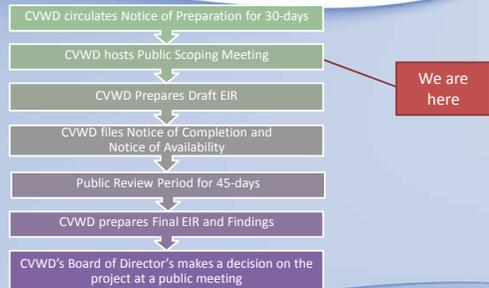


Objective of Environmental Review

- Identify significant issues
- Assess potential impacts
- Identify ways to avoid or reduce impacts
- Disclose information about environmental impacts
- Include public participation at various stages
- Provide environmental information to CVWD's decision makers
 - Decision makers will consider a range of factors in rendering their decisions, not just environmental factors
 - The EIR does not make any recommendations for approving or denying the proposed project



CEQA Environmental Review Process



Public Comments: What do you think?

- Verbal comments:
 - Please complete a speaker card - each speaker will be announced with comments recorded
 - Please limit verbal comments to 3 minutes
- Written comments:
 - Please provide during the scoping meeting, or via mail by May 26, 2017



How to Submit Written Comments

- Focus comments on environmental concerns
- Submit comments in any of the following ways:
 - [Submit tonight](#)
 - **Mail:** 75-515 Hovley Lane East, Palm Desert, CA 92211
 - **Email:** Lstowe@cvwd.org
- Comments must be received by May 25, 2017



All comments become public information

Public Comments: What do you think?

- Please fill out a speaker card
- Please focus your comments on environmental concerns
 - *All comments become public record*
 - *Court reporter to record meeting*

**Thank you for participating
in the CEQA process**



Thank you for coming out tonight!