



# Imperial Irrigation District Water Conservation and Transfer Project

## Final Environmental Impact Report/ Environmental Impact Statement



Volume 1



Prepared for



Imperial Irrigation District



U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

Prepared by



**CH2MHILL**

October 2002

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*Final Environmental Impact Report/  
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**Imperial Irrigation District  
Water Conservation and Transfer Project**

**VOLUME 1 of 6  
(Preface – Section 3.2)**

Prepared for  
**Bureau of Reclamation  
Imperial Irrigation District**

October 2002

**CH2MHILL**

155 Grand Avenue  
Suite 1000  
Oakland, CA 94612

## **Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR)/Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) Imperial Irrigation District Water Conservation and Transfer Project**

Co-Lead Agencies: Imperial Irrigation District (IID) (Lead Agency for the EIR); U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation (Lead Agency for the EIS). Cooperating Agency: U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS).

### **ABSTRACT**

This October 2002 Final EIR/EIS has been prepared pursuant to the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended (NEPA), and the California Environmental Quality Act of 1970 (CEQA).

IID is proposing to implement a water conservation and transfer project that would conserve and transfer up to 300,000 acre-feet of its Colorado River entitlement per year. The conserved water would be transferred by IID to San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA), Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD), and/or The Metropolitan Water District (MWD). The terms of the water conservation and transfer transactions are set forth in the Agreement for Transfer of Conserved Water (IID/SDCWA Transfer Agreement) executed by IID and SDCWA in 1998, and a proposed Quantification Settlement Agreement (QSA) to be executed by IID, CVWD, and MWD. These transfers, which are to remain in effect for up to 75 years, will facilitate efforts to reduce California's diversions of Colorado River water in normal years to its annual 4.4 million acre-feet apportionment. The Secretary of the Interior must approve the change in the point of delivery for the transferred water.

The proposed project includes implementation of a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) to address impacts to covered species and habitats within the IID water service area, the right-of-way of the All American Canal (AAC), and the Salton Sea. Pursuant to Section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Federal Endangered Species Act, FWS must approve the HCP and issue a Section 10 permit to authorize the incidental take of covered species associated with IID's proposed water conservation and transfer project, as well as IID's ongoing operation and maintenance activities.

This October 2002 Final EIR/EIS is intended to complete the administrative process of filing a Final EIR/EIS with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, consistent with Council on Environmental Quality regulations implementing the provisions of NEPA. It provides NEPA and CEQA compliance for the HCP as submitted by IID and included in the Final EIR/EIS certified by the IID Board of Directors on June 28, 2002, pursuant to CEQA. This October 2002 Final EIR/EIS also provides a basis for comparison in addressing any future changes made to the HCP prior to issuance of a section 10 permit by the FWS. At this time, FWS does not anticipate taking an action on the HCP as currently drafted and presented in this document. This is because IID, SDCWA, CVWD, and MWD are currently negotiating certain revisions to terms of the QSA. These changes may result in modifications to the HCP as currently drafted and presented in this document. If and when modifications are proposed to the HCP, FWS will supplement the NEPA documentation as applicable, including, as appropriate, additional opportunities for public review and comment.

For information regarding this October 2002 Final EIR/EIS, please contact Bruce D. Ellis, Bureau of Reclamation Phoenix Area Office (PXA0-1500), P.O. Box 81169, Phoenix, Arizona 85069-1169, telephone 602-216-3854, faxogram 602-216-4006; or Ms. Tina Shields, Imperial Irrigation District, P.O. Box 937, Imperial, California 92251, telephone 760-339-9751, faxogram 760-339-9009.

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