

Ground Acceleration and Ground Shaking. More small to moderate earthquakes have occurred in the IID water service area than along any other section of the San Andreas fault system. The IID water service area has experienced 11 earthquakes of magnitude 6.0 or greater on the Richter Scale during the past century; the strongest was a magnitude 7.1 on the Imperial fault in 1940. The 7.1 Imperial Valley earthquake on May 18, 1940 caused MMI X ground shaking in the epicenter region.

Typically, some part of Imperial County is affected by a minor earthquake (less than magnitude 3.5) every few months. Every 5 years, the county might experience a moderately damaging event (magnitude of 5.5 or greater). At least once every 50 years, there is likely to be a major earthquake (magnitude of 6.8 or greater). Microseismicity (magnitude of less than 2.0) occurs almost continuously in the county, often with dozens and sometimes hundreds of events per day (County of Imperial 1997a).

Fault Rupture. Extensive fault rupture has occurred in the past in the IID water service area. The 1940 Imperial fault earthquake ruptured the ground for 40 miles, from Volcano Lake in Baja, California, to a point near the city of Imperial, California. Horizontal displacement across the completed, but unfilled, AAC was 14 feet 10 inches, and the International Boundary was permanently changed. Earthquakes have also caused abrupt elevation changes across fault lines in excess of 1 foot (County of Imperial 1997a). Zones with mapped surface rupture are shown in Figure 3.3-4.

Liquefaction. The IID water service area is especially susceptible to liquefaction where the soil is generally saturated. Liquefaction and related loss of foundation support are common hazards (County of Imperial 1997a).

Landslides. The potential for landslides in Imperial County is low to moderate along the western edge of the county, parallel to the Coast Range Mountains. Other areas in the county subject to landslides include the IID water service area between East Highline Canal and Westside Main Canal and the bluffs adjacent to the AAC, Coachella Canal, New River, Alamo River, and LCR (see Figure 3.3-5) (County of Imperial 1997a).

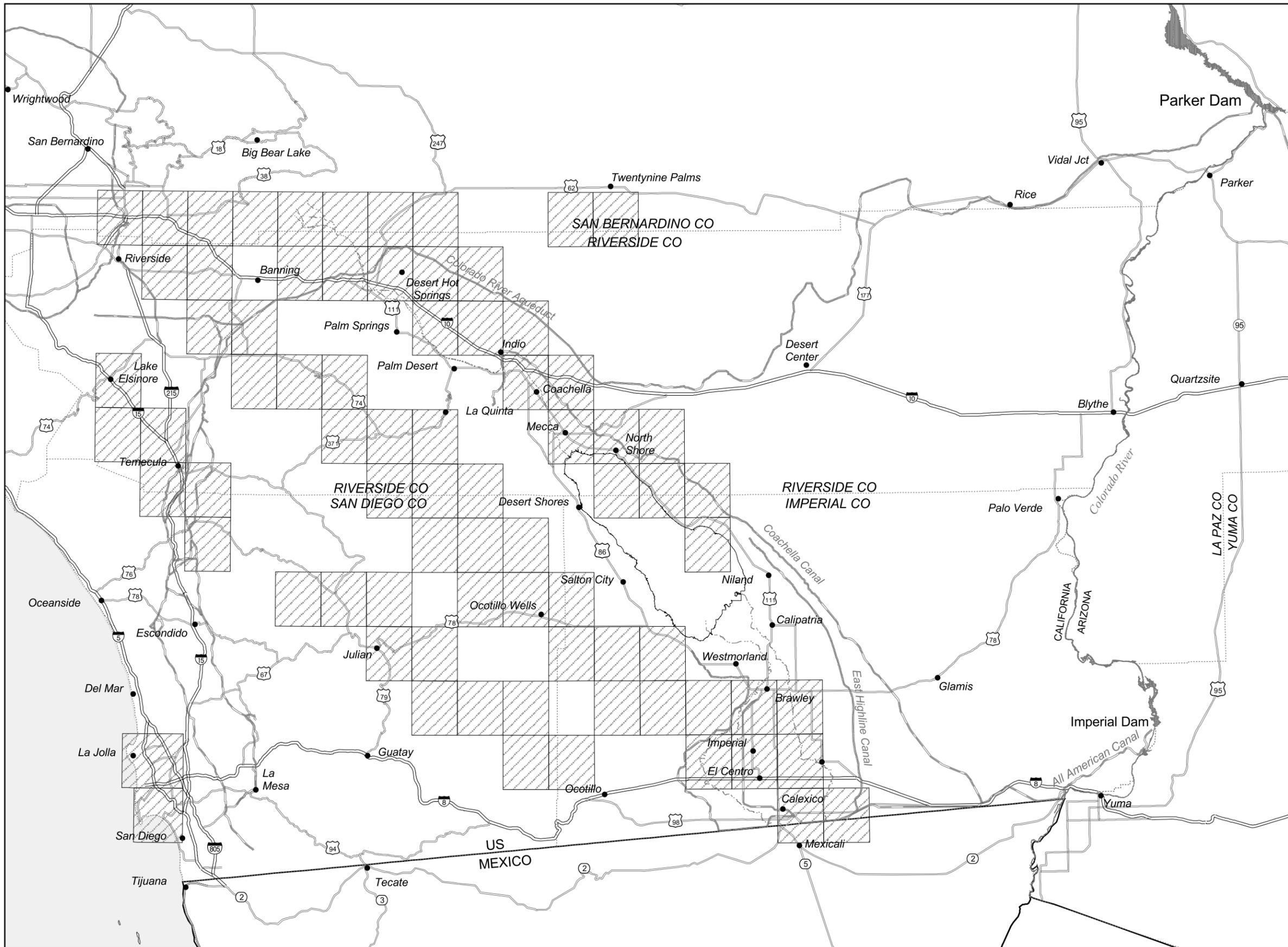
Seiches. The most likely location for a significant seiche to occur is in the Salton Sea. No record of seiches in the Salton Sea exists although there have been a number of seismic events since the formation of the Sea (County of Imperial 1997a).

Flooding. Imperial County is subject to various degrees of flooding in the form of flash floods or slow floods caused by heavy precipitation. Flash flooding could also occur in desert areas. Flooding could occur either in floodplains or floodways. Floodplains are generally located adjacent to rivers and other bodies of water and in low-lying areas near a water source. The boundary of a floodplain is defined by the predicted extent of inundation.

Defined by discernible drainage channels, floodways are more hazardous because of the anticipated velocities of the floodwaters and expected damage to life and property. Figure 3.3-6 illustrates the areas in the county that are at risk for flooding.

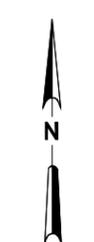
OTHER GEOLOGIC RESOURCES

Other geologic resources in the IID water service area and AAC geographic subregion include: mineral resources—rock and stone, sand, gravel, clay, and gypsum; metals—gold, silver, nickel, and lead; radioactive elements; and geothermal areas. Geothermal resource



- FAULT RUPTURE HAZARD ZONES REPRESENTED BY USGS QUAD MAPS
- AQUEDUCT/CANAL
- COUNTY LINE
- INTERSTATE HIGHWAY
- REGIONAL HIGHWAY
- INTERNATIONAL BORDER
- RIVER
- CITIES

Sources:
University of Redlands 1999; DOI 1999;
and Reclamation 1999



10 0 10 Miles
SCALE IS APPROXIMATE

Figure 3.3-4
Fault Rupture Hazard Zones
IID Water Conservation and
Transfer Project Final EIR/EIS

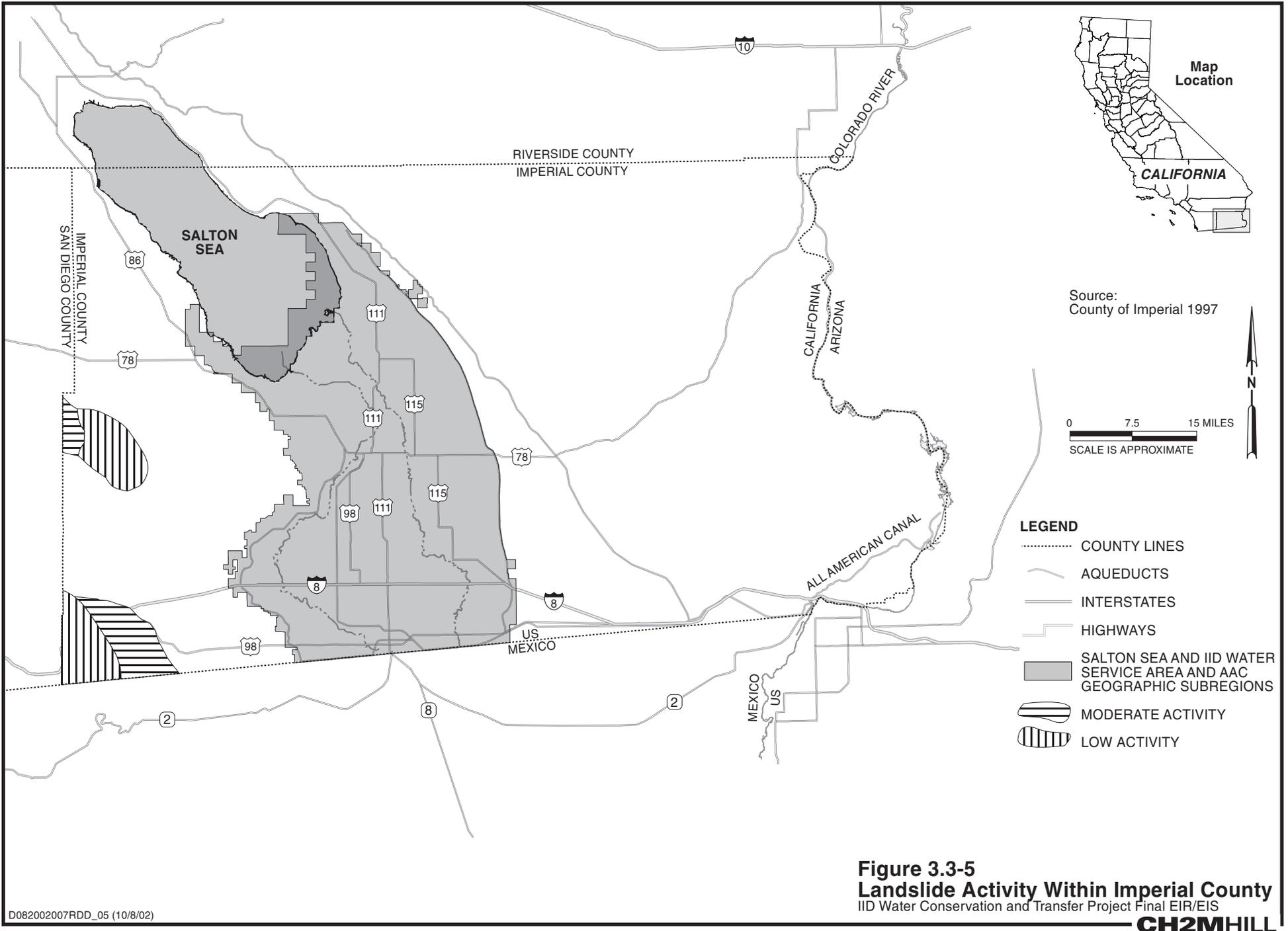
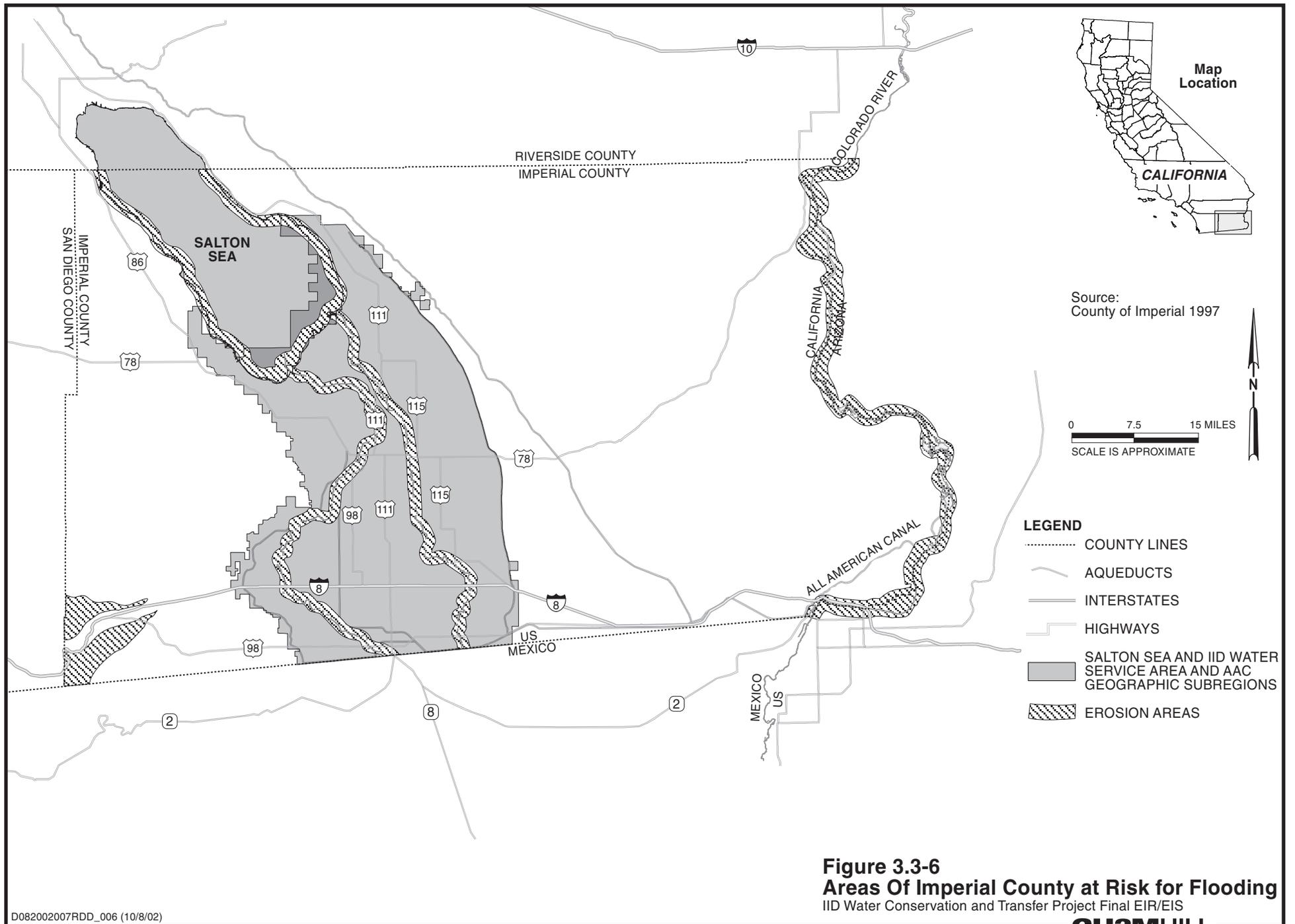


Figure 3.3-5
Landslide Activity Within Imperial County
 IID Water Conservation and Transfer Project Final EIR/EIS



areas and sources of sand and gravel are generally located along the southern border of the Salton Sea; other resources are found in the surrounding hills. Six known geothermal resource areas (KGRAs) cover approximately 254,827 acres in Imperial County: the Dunes KGRA, East Mesa KGRA, Glamis KGRA, Heber KGRA, Brawley KGRA, and Salton Sea KGRA. In both Imperial and Riverside Counties, sand and gravel are significant economic resources. Most of these materials are derived from shoreline deposits from ancient Lake Cahuilla. Additional sources of lower quality sand and gravel are found in alluvial fan deposits.

3.3.3.3 Salton Sea

GEOLOGY

The Salton Sea is in the northern portion of the Salton Trough. The geology of the Salton Trough is discussed in Section 3.3.3.2.

SOILS

Soil associations within the Salton Trough are discussed in Section 3.3.3.2.

SEISMICITY/GEOLOGIC HAZARDS

The Salton Sea regularly experiences earthquake swarms of detectable and perceptible large-scale seismic events. Situated in the Salton Trough, the Salton Sea is located in one of the most active seismic areas in the world. The seismicity and geologic hazards in Imperial and Riverside Counties, including the Salton Trough, are discussed in Sections 3.3.3.1 and 3.3.3.2.

Ground Acceleration and Ground Shaking. Ground acceleration and ground shaking in Imperial and Riverside Counties, including the Salton Trough, are discussed in Sections 3.3.3.1 and 3.3.3.2.

Fault Rupture. Throughout the Salton Trough, a number of fault-rupture hazard zones have been identified (see Figure 3.3-4). The potential for fault ruptures is discussed in Sections 3.3.3.1 and 3.3.3.2.

Liquefaction. The geologically young, unconsolidated sediments of the Salton Trough are subject to failure during earthquakes. Liquefaction and related loss of foundation support are common hazards (County of Imperial 1997a). These seismic hazards are discussed in Sections 3.3.3.1 and 3.3.3.2.

Landslides. The potential for landslides within the Salton Trough is discussed in Sections 3.3.3.1 and 3.3.3.2.

Seiches. The potential for seiches is discussed in Sections 3.3.3.1 and 3.3.3.2.

OTHER GEOLOGIC RESOURCES

Other geologic resources in Imperial and Riverside Counties are discussed in Sections 3.3.3.1 and 3.3.3.2.

3.3.4 Impacts and Mitigation Measures

3.3.4.1 Methodology

The impact assessment methodology used to support the geology and soils analysis presented in this section is based on the proximity of active faults, frequency and types of seismic events, existing ground acceleration data and models, and the type of existing soils. In addition, the Project and/or Project Alternatives' susceptibility and/or contribution to geotechnical hazards are described in terms of their potential impact on the public or geological resources.

Severity of Seismic Events. Earthquakes are normally classified as to severity according to their magnitude. Magnitude is usually classified using the Richter scale, a logarithmic scale used to measure the maximum motions of the seismic waves as recorded by a seismograph. A magnitude 8 (Richter) earthquake is not twice as large as a magnitude 4 earthquake; it is 10,000 (i.e., 10^4) times larger.

The level of destruction of an earthquake at a particular location is commonly reported using a seismic intensity scale. Based on reports of ground shaking and damage caused by past earthquakes, seismic intensities are subjective classifications. The commonly used Modified Mercalli Intensity scale has 12 levels of intensity; the higher the number, the greater the ground-shaking intensity and/or damage. Earthquakes have only one magnitude, but they have variable intensities that generally decrease with increasing distance from the source. Additionally, other factors, such as building type, shallow groundwater, and local geology, affect the intensities of earthquakes at a location.

Subregions Excluded From Impact Analysis. No impacts to geology and soils would occur in the LCR subregion or SDCWA service area because construction of new facilities or changes in operation of existing facilities would not occur in those subregions; therefore, those areas are not discussed in the impact discussions for each alternative below.

3.3.4.2 Significance Criteria

The Proposed Project and/or Alternatives would have a significant impact on geology and soils if they:

- Expose people or structures to potential substantial adverse effects, including the risk of loss, injury, or death involving any of the following circumstances:
 - Fault rupture
 - Strong seismic ground shaking
 - Seismic-related ground failure, including liquefaction
 - Landslides
- Result in substantial soil erosion or loss of topsoil, degradation of soils or farmland, changes in topography, or unstable soil conditions.
- Are located on a geologic unit or soil that is unstable, or that would become unstable as a result of the project, and potentially result in on- or off landslide, lateral spreading, subsidence, liquefaction, or collapse.

- Are located on expansive soil, as defined in Table 18-1-B of the Uniform Building Code (International Conference of Building Officials 1994), creating substantial risks to life or property.
- Place septic tanks or alternative wastewater disposal systems on soils incapable of adequately supporting these systems where sewers are not available for the disposal of wastewater.
- Result in the loss of a known mineral resource of value to the region and the residents of the state.
- Result in the loss of availability of a locally important mineral resource recovery site delineated on a local general plan, specific plan, or other land use plan.

3.3.4.3 Proposed Project

LOWER COLORADO RIVER

Biological Conservation Measures in USFWS Biological Opinion

Implementation of the biological conservation measures may result in temporary impacts to geology and soils through physical activities such as dredging, removal of salt cedar by mechanical or other means, and conversion of agricultural lands to native habitat. Reclamation will conduct subsequent environmental analysis, as appropriate, prior to implementation of the biological conservation measures.

Impacts resulting from the implementation of the biological conservation measures in USFWS' Biological Opinion would be the same for Alternatives 2, 3, and 4; therefore, they are not discussed under each Alternative.

IID WATER SERVICE AREA AND AAC

Water Conservation and Transfer

Impact GS-1: Soil erosion from construction of conservation measures. If methods requiring construction were implemented, construction of conservation measures could require removal of existing vegetation, excavation, regrading, and temporary soil stockpiling. The potential for soil erosion and deposition from stormwater and wind activity could increase as a result of these measures. The extent of soil erosion, however, would depend on the degree of slope, the total exposed area, and the amount of wind and rainfall. IID currently obtains a Stormwater Pollution and Prevention Plan (SWPPP) for Individual Permits issued by the CRB RWQCB, which includes best management practices (BMPs) for site-specific construction activities occurring within the IID water service area. All construction of conservation measures resulting in the disturbance of more than 5 acres would require compliance with a site-specific Individual Permit and SWPPP, which would require implementation of BMPs; therefore, the potential for erosion would be a less than significant impact. In addition, potential erosion impacts would be short-term. (Less than significant impact.)

Impact GS-2: Soil erosion from operation of conservation measures. Operation of the conservation measures could increase the potential for soil erosion. Wind and water erosion could occur within the new, unlined interceptor laterals/canals and the 5- to 10-acre reservoirs. The new interceptors/canals and reservoirs, however, represent minor

additional components of an already extensive, existing canal/drain system within the Imperial Valley. The additional components would represent a minor extension of the existing system. (Less than significant impact.)

Impact GS-3: Reduction of soil erosion from reduction in irrigation. Soil erosion from irrigation water applied to the fields could be reduced upon implementation of the Proposed Project. The Proposed Project would reduce the amount of tailwater entering the drains, which could potentially diminish the amount of soil removed from each field. This decreased erosion could represent a beneficial impact to the geology and soils of the IID water service area. (Beneficial impact.)

Impact GS-4: Ground acceleration and shaking. The IID water service area could be subjected to seismic ground acceleration and ground shaking during the life of the Proposed Project. Large earthquakes along major faults, such as the San Andreas and Imperial faults, could produce potentially destructive ground shaking in the Salton Trough. Estimated maximum Mercalli intensities for faults within the Salton Trough range from VII to IX. At these intensities, damage could occur to specially designed structures and underground pipes. Ground acceleration as intense as 0.6 g near Westmorland has been projected for a magnitude 7.0 earthquake along one of the Superstition Hills faults (SSA and Reclamation 2000).

Additionally, extensive fault rupture along known faults within the Salton Trough (*e.g.*, horizontal displacement of 14 feet, 10 inches along the AAC in 1940) is known to occur. Fault rupture hazard zones within the Salton Trough are shown in Figure 3.3-4. In the IID water service area subregion, the Proposed Project could include the construction of on-farm irrigation system improvements and water delivery system improvements. These measures could be subject to seismic activity. Because these measures would be placed in underdeveloped, largely unpopulated rural areas, the public safety impacts would be less than significant impact. (Less than significant impact.)

Inadvertent Overrun and Payback Policy (IOP)

Impact GS-5: Soil erosion from compliance with the IOP. Conservation of the average 59 KAFY required for the IOP can be accomplished via fallowing or other measures. The potential for erosion from additional conservation measures would be similar to, and in addition to the erosion described in Impacts GS-1, 2 and 6. The amount of erosion would depend on the conservation measures selected to generate the average 59 KAFY required for the IOP. If fallowing is selected, about 9,800 additional acres would be required. Fallowing is not anticipated to be a source of erosion. As described in Impact GS-1, construction of conservation resulting in the disturbance of more than 5 acres would require compliance with a site-specific Individual Permit and SWPPP, which would require implementation of BMPs; therefore, the potential for erosion would be a less than significant impact. (Less than significant impact.)

Impacts resulting from compliance with the IOP in would be the same for Alternatives 2, 3, and 4; therefore, they are not discussed under each Alternative.

Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP-IID) (IID Water Service Area Portion)

Impact HCP-IID-GS-6: Soil erosion from construction of HCP components. Construction of the ponds and managed marsh could cause minor short-term degradations in environmental

values as a result of construction and operation of the HCP. Specifically, construction would result in temporary increases in soil erosion potential. Implementation of the HCP could cause temporary adverse impacts on soil resources and erosion potential as a result of construction. However, construction of the HCP would require a site-specific Individual Permit and a SWPPP to be issued by the CRB RWQCB. This permit and SWPPP would require implementation of BMPs during construction, thereby reducing this short-term, potentially significant impact to a less than significant level as part of the Project. (Less than significant impact.)

Salton Sea Habitat Conservation Strategy (HCP-SS)

Mitigation water for the Salton Sea Habitat Conservation Strategy could be generated via fallowing within the IID Water service area, although other sources of water could be used as described in Section 2.2.6.7. If fallowing within the IID water service area is used to create mitigation water, additional acres would be required to be fallowed in addition to land fallowed to generate conserved water for transfer, however fallowing is not anticipated to be a source of erosion and no impacts to geologic resources are anticipated.

Impacts to geology and soils resulting from the implementation of the HCP would be the same for Alternatives 2, 3, and 4; therefore, they are not discussed under each Alternative.

SALTON SEA

Water Conservation and Transfer

Impact GS-7: Potential for increased soil erosion along exposed playa of Salton Sea. During operation of the Proposed Project, there might be an increased potential for impact from soil erosion in the Salton Sea area. Implementation of the Proposed Project would result in a decrease in the elevation of the Salton Sea (over the life of the Project) of previously inundated area (compared to the Baseline condition). If the Proposed Project is implemented using on-farm or system-based conservation measures to conserve water for transfer, about 49,500 acres of shoreline could be exposed. If fallowing is used to conserve water for transfer under the Proposed Project then about 15,800 acres of shoreline could be exposed. With implementation of the Salton Sea Habitat Conservation Strategy, about 15,100 acres of shoreline would be exposed.

As described in Section 2.2.6.7, the Salton Sea Habitat Conservation Strategy has been evaluated in this Final EIR/EIS with the assumption that mitigation water would be generated by fallowing within the IID water service area. Other sources of water could be used, but they have not been evaluated in this EIR/EIS.

Additionally, under the Proposed Project, the implementation of the Salton Sea Habitat Conservation Strategy in concert with the on-farm irrigation system improvement approach to conserving water for transfer was determined not to be feasible because of the number of total acres that would be needed. This is because the “efficiency conservation” measures require a 1 to 1 ratio of mitigation water to the Sea. Therefore, the combination of only on-farm and/or delivery system efficiency conservation measures required to produce 300 KAFY for transfer plus fallowing within the IID water service area as the sole method of providing the mitigation water associated with the Salton Sea Habitat Conservation Strategy has not been assessed in this Final EIR/EIS.

Additional details of the Salton Sea Habitat Conservation Strategy can be found in Section 2.2.6.7.

(For information on the Baseline condition of the Salton Sea, see the discussion on the Development of the Baseline in the Introduction to Section 3.0, Environmental Analysis.) The newly exposed shoreline could be subject to wind and water erosion. However, the high salt content of the Salton Sea and the soils underlying the Sea cause a crust to form on the soils as they dry, which minimizes both wind and soil erosion. Additional information regarding the content of the soils is included in Section 3.7, Air Quality. (Less than significant impact.)

3.3.4.4 Alternative 1: No Project

IID WATER SERVICE AREA

Water Conservation and Transfer

Implementation of the No Project Alternative would result in the continuation of current agricultural and water conservation practices. No additional impacts would occur.

SALTON SEA

Water Conservation and Transfer

Implementation of the No Project Alternative would also result in a decline of the elevation of the Salton Sea, resulting in a potential for impact from soil erosion in the Salton Sea area. Baseline conditions of the Salton Sea, which are the same as the No Project Alternative, are described in the discussion on the Development of the Baseline in the Introduction to Section 3.0, Environmental Analysis. The No Project Alternative would result in the exposure of 16,000 acres (over a 75-year period) of previously inundated area (compared to the existing condition). The newly exposed shoreline could be subject to wind and water erosion. However, the high salt content of the Salton Sea and the soils underlying the Sea cause a crust to form on the soils as they dry, which minimizes both wind and soil erosion. Additional information regarding the content of the soils is included in Section 3.7, Air Quality. (Less than significant impact.)

3.3.4.5 Alternative 2 (A2): Water Conservation and Transfer of Up To 130 KAFY to SDCWA (On-farm Irrigation System Improvements as Exclusive Conservation Measure)

IID WATER SERVICE AREA

Impact A2-GS-1: Potential increase in soil erosion from construction of conservation measures. The potential for an increase in soil erosion would be similar to that for the Proposed Project, but would likely be of smaller magnitude because only 130 KAFY would be conserved in Alternative 2. However, in Alternative 2, on-farm irrigation system improvements are required to be constructed, whereas in the Proposed Project, other conservation measures, including fallowing could be implemented instead. Nonetheless, the potential for erosion would be expected to be reduced when compared to the Proposed Project. See Impact GS-1 for more details. (Less than significant impact.)

Soil erosion from operation of conservation measures. Increased erosion is not anticipated from the operation of the conservation measures for Alternative 2.

Impact A2-GS-2: Reduction of soil erosion from reduction in irrigation: Similar to the effects of Proposed Project, soil erosion from irrigation water applied to the fields could be reduced with implementation of Alternative 2. This Alternative would also reduce the amount of tailwater entering the drains, which could diminish the amount of soil removed from each field. This decreased erosion could represent a beneficial impact to the geology and soils of the IID water service area; however, the beneficial impact would be greater with the Proposed Project because the reduction in irrigation would be greater. (Beneficial impact.)

Impact A2-GS-3: Ground acceleration and shaking: The potential impacts from ground acceleration and shaking would be similar to those for the Proposed Project but potentially of smaller magnitude because Alternative 2 does not include construction of water delivery system based improvements. However, the Proposed Project could also exclude construction of water delivery system improvements if other conservation measures are selected for implementation. See Impact GS-4 for more details on the potential impacts associated with ground acceleration and shaking. Because these measures would be placed in underdeveloped, largely unpopulated rural areas, the public safety impacts would be less than significant. (Less than significant impact.)

SALTON SEA

Water Conservation and Transfer

Impact A2-GS-4: Soil erosion along exposed playa of Salton Sea. The potential for soil erosion along the exposed playa of the Salton Sea would be similar to that of the Proposed Project but would be of smaller magnitude. Implementation of Alternative 2 would result in a decrease in the elevation of the Salton Sea, exposing about 21,700 acres (over the life of the Project) of previously inundated area (compared to the Baseline condition). With implementation of the Salton Sea Habitat Conservation Strategy in concert with Alternative 2, about 21,200 acres of shoreline would be exposed.

As described above and in Section 2.2.6.7, the Salton Sea Habitat Conservation Strategy has been evaluated in this Final EIR/EIS with the assumption that mitigation water would be generated by fallowing within the IID water service area. Other sources of water could be used but they have not been evaluated in this EIR/EIS.

Additional details of the Salton Sea Habitat Conservation Strategy can be found in Section 2.2.6.7.

Baseline conditions of the Salton Sea are described in the discussion on the development of the Baseline in the introduction to Section 3.0, Environmental Analysis. See Impact GS-6 for more details. (Less than significant impact.)

3.3.4.6 Alternative 3 (A3): Water Conservation and Transfer of Up To 230 KAFY to SDCWA, CVWD, and/or MWD (All Conservation Measures)

IID WATER SERVICE AREA AND AAC

Impact A3-GS-1: Soil erosion from construction of conservation measures. The potential impacts would be similar to those of the Proposed Project, but would likely be of lesser magnitude because only 230 KAFY would be conserved in Alternative 3. See Impact GS-1 for details. (Less than significant impact.)

Impact A3-GS-2: Soil erosion from operation of conservation measures. The potential impacts from soil erosion from the operation of the conservation measures would be similar to those of the Proposed Project but likely would be of lesser magnitude because only 230 KAFY would be conserved in Alternative 3. If water delivery system based improvements are implemented, wind and water erosion could occur within the new, unlined interceptor laterals/canals and the 5- to 10-acre reservoirs. However, the new interceptors/canals and reservoirs represent minor additional components of an already extensive, existing canal/drain system within the IID water service area. The additional components could represent a minor extension of the existing system. (Less than significant impact.)

Impact A3-GS-3: Reduction of soil erosion from reduction in irrigation: Similar to the results of Proposed Project, soil erosion from irrigation water applied to the fields could be reduced with implementation of Alternative 2. This Alternative would also reduce the amount of tailwater entering the drains, which could diminish the amount of soil removed from each field. This decreased erosion could represent a beneficial impact on the geology and soils of the IID water service area. (Beneficial impact.)

Impact A3-GS-4: Ground acceleration and shaking: The potential impacts from ground acceleration and shaking would be similar to those of the Proposed Project. There is a potential that the magnitude of impact would be less with Alternative 3 because only 230 KAFY would be conserved, requiring fewer conservation measures. However, because both the Proposed Project and Alternative 3 could be implemented with any combination of conservation measures, the risk of damage from ground acceleration and shaking would be greatest for whichever alternative, when implemented, included the most constructed facilities. More importantly, because these measures would be placed in underdeveloped, largely unpopulated rural areas, the public safety impacts would be less than significant. (Less than significant impact.)

SALTON SEA

Water Conservation and Transfer

Impact A3-GS-5: Soil erosion along exposed playa of Salton Sea. The potential for soil erosion along the exposed playa of the Salton Sea would be similar to that of the Proposed Project but would be of lesser magnitude. Implementation of Alternative 3 would result in a decrease in the elevation of the Salton Sea (over the life of the Project) of previously inundated area (compared to the Baseline condition). If Alternative 3 is implemented using on-farm or system-based conservation measures to conserve water for transfer, about 38,500 acres of shoreline could be exposed. If fallowing is used to conserve water for transfer under Alternative 3, then about 11,600 acres of shoreline could be exposed. With implementation of the Salton Sea Habitat Conservation Strategy, about 37,700 acres of shoreline would be

exposed if on-farm or system based conservation measures are used to conserve water for transfer and about 11,100 acres would be exposed if fallowing is used to conserve water for transfer.

As described above and in Section 2.2.6.7, the Salton Sea Habitat Conservation Strategy has been evaluated in this Final EIR/EIS with the assumption that mitigation water would be generated by fallowing within the IID water service area. Other sources of water could be used, but they have not been evaluated in this EIR/EIS.

Additional details of the Salton Sea Habitat Conservation Strategy can be found in Section 2.2.6.7.

Baseline conditions of the Salton Sea are described in the discussion on the development of the Baseline in the introduction to Section 3.0, Environmental Analysis. See Impact GS-6 for more details. (Less than significant impact.)

3.3.4.7 Alternative 4 (A4): Water Conservation and Transfer of Up To 300 KAFY to SDCWA, CVWD, and/or MWD (Fallowing As Exclusive Conservation Measure)

IID WATER SERVICE AREA AND AAC

No construction of conservation measures would occur in the IID water service area with the implementation of Alternative 4.

Water Conservation and Transfer

Impact A4-GS-1: Potential soil erosion from fallowing. Implementation of Alternative 4 would result in the fallowing of up to 50,000 acres of previously irrigated area within the IID water service area to conserve 300 KAFY for transfer plus 30,500 acres to meet the obligations of the Salton Sea Habitat Conservation Strategy (if fallowing is selected to create mitigation water). There would be no application of water to the fallowed areas. The potential for wind erosion of these areas is discussed in Section 3.7, Air Quality. No water erosion of soils would occur. (Less than significant impact.)

SALTON SEA

Water Conservation and Transfer

Impact A4-GS-2: Potential for increased soil erosion along exposed playa of Salton Sea. The potential for soil erosion along the exposed playa of the Salton Sea would be significantly reduced in Alternative 4 compared to that of the Proposed Project. Implementation of Alternative 4 would result in a decrease in the elevation of the Salton Sea, exposing about 15,800 acres (over the life of the Project) of previously inundated area (compared to the Baseline condition). With implementation of the Salton Sea Habitat Conservation Strategy about 15,100 acres of shoreline would be exposed. Baseline conditions of the Salton Sea are described in the discussion on the development of the Baseline in the introduction to Section 3.0, "Environmental Analysis." See Impact GS-6 for more details. (Less than significant impact.)