

## **CHAPTER V**

# **Short-Term Use of Man's Environment Versus Maintenance of Long-Term Productivity**

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# SHORT-TERM USE OF MAN'S ENVIRONMENT VERSUS MAINTENANCE OF LONG-TERM PRODUCTIVITY

### CULTURAL VALUES

#### Parallel Canal Construction

The parallel canal would begin downstream from Pilot Knob and would not physically affect cultural resources there. However, the canal excavation could unearth some Native American burial or cremation sites, the relocation of which may be a concern to the Quechan Indian Tribe (Tribe). In the event that cultural resources are discovered during construction, work would be suspended until evaluation and mitigation is complete.

#### In-Place Lining and Well Field

The noise and visual presence of heavy construction activity within several hundred feet of an area sacred to the Tribe would be a short-term impact (approximately a year). While adverse to the spiritual values held by the Tribe, the Tribe is not unduly disturbed by this short-term impact considering the potential benefits of the project.

### NATIVE VEGETATION

#### Parallel Canal Construction

Construction of the new canal would involve disturbance of vegetation for equipment travel and access. It would take decades (30 to 50 years) for vegetation to reestablish itself.

Ordinarily, disturbance of such vegetation might be counted as irreversible. However, disturbance has occurred once before, natural revegetation has occurred to a lower density than originally, and projections are that the process would repeat itself. Thus, impact of construction activity is counted as a short-term impact to habitat. This impact would be acceptable in view of the water conservation achieved.

#### In-Place Lining and Well Field

As discussed in chapter 3, "Terrestrial Habitat," reuse of areas disturbed in the past would eradicate some natural vegetation. This vegetation would take decades (30 to 50 years) before ultimately reestablishing.

## *Chapter V*

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To some extent, rehabilitation of the canal and its associated disturbance was implicit in the original All-American Canal construction.