

APPENDIX B

*Resources Considered but Eliminated from
Further Consideration*

Table B-1. Resources Considered but Eliminated from Further Analysis

Resource	Rationale for Elimination from Further Analysis
Areas of Critical Environmental Concern (ACECs)	The Proposed Action would utilize routes designed to avoid ACECs. As such, the Proposed Action would not be located on ACEC land, nor is the land proposed as ACEC.
Access and Transportation	The Proposed Action would not affect access or transportation due to the remote location of the project area and the restricted right-of-way. A discretionary permit for the abandonment of Holdridge Road is requested of the County of Imperial. Holdridge Road currently runs through the Proposed Action site however, a temporary detour to Highway 98 will be set in place to advise users.
Agricultural Resources	The majority of the site is located on prime farmland and farmland of statewide importance, with exception to the approximately 22-acre area in the northeastern corner of the site (DOC 2016). Portions of the Proposed Action site would convert from operational prime farmland to a reservoir and intake channel. The Proposed Action would support regional agricultural resources by managing the variations in downstream demands due to the increases in grower requests for shorter, 12-hour water deliveries or any reductions from the normal 24-hour water delivery period. The water temporarily retained in the proposed reservoir would be for agricultural use only; no municipal water delivery would be provided. The Proposed Action is considered an accessory agricultural use due to its purpose of supplying surrounding agricultural uses with a stable water supply. Therefore, the Proposed Action would not convert farmlands to non-agricultural uses. As such, agricultural resources would not be adversely affected by the Proposed Action.
Conservation Lands	No lands designated as conservation lands existed on or surrounding the site.
Environmental Justice and Socioeconomics	<p>Implementation of the Proposed Action would not disproportionately affect the minority and impoverished population in the area. Based on the analysis for air quality, water resources, and hazardous materials in this EA, changes resulting from implementing the project will not result in proportionately high and adverse effects to the environment or to the health of low-income and minority populations.</p> <p>The construction of the Proposed Action would involve a main canal off-line reservoir storage project and related infrastructure. The reservoir would be constructed as a single bay facility that would manage up to 2,900 acre-feet of water, located approximately 1.25-miles north of the AAC and on the east side of the EHL Canal. There would be no components that would disproportionately affect a group of people or socio-economic class.</p>
Floodplains	The Proposed Action will not significantly affect natural resources and unique geographical characteristics such as floodplains. The project site is not located within a 100-year flood hazard area (County of Imperial 1993), nor is it identified as a Flood Area in the County's Seismic and Public Safety Element. Additionally, according to the Department of Water Resources and the Imperial County General Plan, the project site is not located within a 100-year flood hazard area (DWR 2016). As such, no substantial effect would result.
Forestry	There are no forests located on or surrounding the project site. The nearest forest is the Cleveland National Forest, located approximately 93 miles northwest of the project site.

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Fuels and Fire Management	The California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) identifies the project site and surrounding areas as having a moderate risk for fire danger. The project site and surrounding areas would be serviced by fire protection agencies, including the Imperial County Fire Department. Construction equipment and activities would comply with State Building Construction Regulations, which minimizes fire risk related to construction activities. The project would also comply with the Uniform Building Code (UBC) and the Uniform Fire Code (UFC). Operations of the Proposed Action would consist of a reservoir and intake channel, and would not introduce any people or residences to the area. As such, it is unlikely that the project would expose people or structures to a significant risk of loss, injury, or death involving wildland fires, including where wildlands are adjacent to urbanized areas or where residences are intermixed with wildlands. Therefore, potential effects would not be substantial.
Livestock Grazing	No livestock are present on the project site, nor is the site considered suitable for livestock grazing. No effect to livestock grazing would occur.
Public Health and Safety	Public Health and Safety would not be affected by implementing the Proposed Action.
Recreation/Travel/Wild and Scenic Rivers	Operations of the Proposed Action consists of a main canal off-line operational reservoir project and related infrastructure, which would be un-manned. Construction of the proposed project would require construction workers in all phases of construction. Construction workers are anticipated to live within the existing residential areas in the greater Imperial County area. Therefore, construction of the proposed project would not generate substantial population growth. The proposed project would not introduce a new population to the area, and thus would not increase the use of existing neighborhoods, regional parks, or other recreational facilities. There are no designated recreation resources in the project area; therefore, there would be no direct effects on recreation from the Proposed Action. No scenic rivers or recreational facilities are located on or near the project site. Travel would not be adversely affected by the project, as no employees would be required for the project once operational.
Transmission Corridors	The study area includes existing transmission lines, however the Proposed Action would not interfere with transmission operation or maintenance activities.
Urban Quality and Design of the Built Environment	The Proposed Action site is located in a rural area, surrounding by agricultural fields and BLM land. The surrounding area is sparsely populated, therefore, the urban quality and design of the built environment would not be adversely effected. There are no urban resources that would be effected by the Proposed Action.
Wildlife Corridor	The Proposed Action study area is not located within a regional wildlife movement corridor or linkage planning area as identified in A Linkage Network for the California Deserts (Penrod et al. 2012). The Proposed Action study area is largely agricultural, but includes a portion of the intake channel on federal lands and is adjacent to undeveloped federal land to the east where wildlife can move freely throughout the area with little impediment.
Wild Horse and Burros	There are no wildlife refuges, wilderness, special management areas, or state or local parks within the study area. Wild horse and burro activity is not anticipated within the study area.

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Wilderness and Wild and Scenic Rivers	There are no wilderness areas, Wild and Scenic Rivers or Study Rivers within or adjacent to the project area (NPS 2015).