



— BUREAU OF — RECLAMATION

Submitting Your Comments

A 60-day public comment period is open from December 6, 2019 to February 4, 2020. The draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) is available on the project website, www.usbr.gov/uc/progact/paradox/index.html.

The Bureau of Reclamation is seeking public input on this draft document. A comment card with instructions on how to submit comments is provided on the back page of this document.

Why Public Comments Are Important

Public comment periods offer the opportunity for you to provide information to be considered in the decision-making process and to offer your thoughts on alternative ways to accomplish the proposal. This is an opportunity for you to offer data that the agency can use in its analysis of the environmental effects of the proposed alternatives, as well as possible mitigation of potential harmful effects of such actions.

The National Environmental Policy Act "... is intended to help public officials make decisions that are based on the understanding of environmental consequences..." (40 Code of Federal Regulations, Subpart 1501[e]). To achieve this, the DEIS considers the effects of the alternatives on economic, cultural, and natural resources in the project area. Citizens such as you often have valuable information about places and resources they consider important and the potential effects proposed federal actions may have on those places and resources.

Providing Effective Comments

Comments that provide relevant and new information with sufficient detail are the most useful and are referred to as substantive comments. The Bureau of Reclamation reviews all comments and identifies topics that are substantive for consideration in the final published document. Try not to provide comments that offer opinion only.

Substantive comments do one or more of the following:

- Question, with reasonable basis, the accuracy of information in the DEIS
- Question, with reasonable basis, the adequacy of, methodology for, or assumptions used for the environmental analysis
- Present new information relevant to the analysis
- Present reasonable alternatives other than those analyzed in the DEIS
- Cause changes or revisions in one or more of the alternatives
- Suggest changes within the scope of Reclamation's authority

Comments that are not substantive include:

- Comments in favor of or against an action without any reasoning (such as "I do/don't like ____" without providing any rationale)
- Comments that only agree or disagree with Bureau of Reclamation policy
- Comments that take the form of vague, open-ended questions

