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Project Title

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT AND
NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING.

Filing Type

- Environmental Impact Report
- Mitigated/Negative Declaration
- Notice of Exemption
- Other: NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

Notes



COACHELLA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

Established in 1918 as a public agency

GENERAL MANAGER
Jim Barrett

ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER
Robert Cheng

CLERK OF THE BOARD
Sylvia Bermudez

ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER
Dan Charlton

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC MEETING

SUBJECT: Water Reclamation Plant No. 4 Non-Potable Water
Improvements Project (State Clearinghouse No. 2023100315)

This Notice of Availability (NOA) has been prepared to notify responsible and trustee agencies, interested organizations, and interested parties that Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD), as the Lead Agency pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR) for the for the Water Reclamation Plant No. 4 (WRP 4) Non-Potable Water Improvements Project (proposed project). The Draft EIR was prepared to comply with CEQA and the CEQA Guidelines and to provide agencies and the public with information on the potential significant environmental impacts of the proposed project, recommended mitigation measures to reduce or avoid those environmental effects, and the analysis of alternatives to the proposed project. The Draft EIR tiers from CVWD's Sanitation Master Plan Update 2020 Final Program EIR (SCH No. 2019090307), referring to and augmenting the analysis where appropriate pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15168. In addition, the Draft EIR was prepared in accordance with the CEQA-Plus requirements to fulfill the requirement of potential federal funding partners to comply with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD: July 30, 2025 through September 15, 2025

PROJECT LOCATION: WRP 4 is located southeast of Avenue 62 on Filmore Street in Thermal, CA, an unincorporated area of Riverside County. The property is bordered by Avenue 62 on the north, Avenue 64 on the south, Filmore Street on the west, and by the Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel (CVSC) on the east. The project site is shown in **Figure 1**.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The proposed project would construct tertiary treatment facilities within the existing WRP 4 plant site to enable production of up to 10 million gallons per day (MGD) of non-potable recycled water for irrigation. CVWD has developed three phases to achieve 10 MGD production and distribution: Phase 1 would produce 1 MGD, Phase 2 would produce an additional 1.5 MGD for a total of 2.5 MGD, and Phase 3 would produce up to 10 MGD. The project implementation schedule provided below is subject to the availability of grant funds and the approval of a Wastewater Change Petition. The proposed project will be implemented in three phases as further described below.

1. The Phase 1 project would design and construct a 1 MGD tertiary treatment facility and a distribution pipeline to deliver a blend of recycled water and canal water to three large agricultural customers south of WRP 4. It is currently at the 60% design stage, and CVWD anticipates completing the final design in early 2026, followed by bidding for construction in spring 2026, with an estimated construction completion by the end of the year 2027.

2. The Phase 2 project would expand the tertiary treatment capacity from 1 MGD to 2.5 MGD and construct additional distribution pipelines to connect new customers in the immediate vicinity of WRP 4, and would be carried out over a three-year period from 2028 through 2030.
3. Under Phase 3, CVWD would monitor the recycled water consumption and demand following Phase 2 completion, to determine the feasibility of connecting new recycled water users up to 10 MGD. It is anticipated that Phase 3 project will be constructed between 2031 and 2045.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS: The Draft EIR evaluates the potential impacts of the proposed project and, for identified potentially significant impacts, the Draft EIR recommends mitigation measures that would reduce the impacts of the proposed project to a less than significant level for the following environmental topics: Air Quality and Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Noise, Transportation, and Tribal Cultural Resources. All potentially significant impacts were determined to be mitigated to less than significant levels with incorporation of mitigation measures. Per Section 65962.5 of the Government Code, there are no open active cases for hazardous materials sites within the project site.

PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENT PERIOD: CVWD invites members of the public to review and comment on the Draft EIR. CVWD has established a 45-day review period compliant with the requirement of Section 21091 of the Public Resources Code. The review period begins July 30, 2025 and ends September 15, 2025. Written comments on the Draft EIR must be received by CVWD at the contact information provided below.

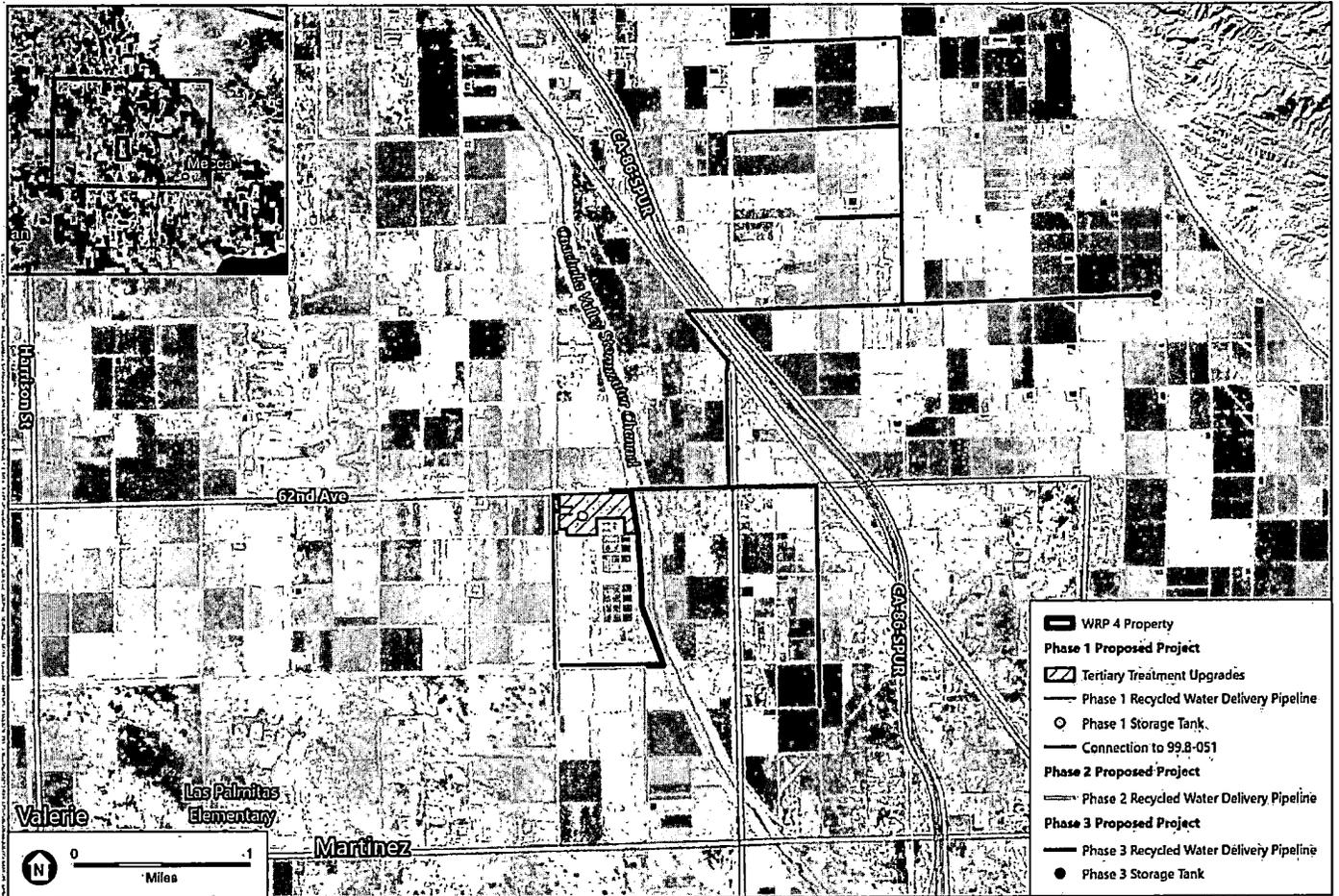
Written comments may be submitted to: William Patterson, Environmental Services Program Supervisor, CVWD, PO BOX 1036, Coachella, CA 92236, or emailed to: wpatterson@cvwd.org.

DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY: Copies of the Draft EIR are available for public review and inspection at CVWD, 75-515 Hovley Lane East, Palm Desert, CA 92211 and on the CVWD's website at: www.cvwd.org/368/Environmental-Documents. Additionally, copies of the Draft EIR are available at the following public libraries:

- Coachella Branch Library: 1500 6th Street, Coachella, CA 92236
- Mecca Library: 91260 66th Ave, Mecca, CA 92254
- La Quinta Library: 78275 Calle Tampico, La Quinta, CA 92253

PUBLIC MEETING: One public meeting will be held on the proposed project to receive public comments on the environmental analysis in the Draft EIR. The public meeting will include a brief presentation providing an overview of the proposed project and findings of the Draft EIR. The public meeting will be held as follows:

<u>Public Meeting</u>	
Date:	August 26, 2025
Time:	5:00 PM – 6:00 PM
Address:	Forbes Auditorium 51-501 Tyler Street, Coachella, CA 92236



SOURCE: ESA, 2022

CVWD WRP No. 4 Project

Figure 1
Project Location and Proposed Project Site