

**NOTICE OF PREPARATION
NOTICE OF SCOPING MEETING
SUBSEQUENT PROGRAM ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT FOR THE
COACHELLA VALLEY WATER MANAGEMENT PLAN 2007 UPDATE**

The Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) will be the Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and will prepare a Subsequent Program Environmental Impact Report (SPEIR) for the 2007 Update to the Coachella Valley Water Management Plan (CVWMP) to manage water resources and eliminate the groundwater overdraft in the Coachella Valley groundwater basin (Whitewater River Subbasin) through 2040. This notice provides information on the project description, location and potential environmental effects. CVWD requests input on the scope and content of the SPEIR. Please direct written comments within 30 days of receipt of this notice, in compliance with State law, to:

Ms. Patti Reyes, Assistant Director of Engineering
Coachella Valley Water District
P.O. Box 1058
Coachella, CA 92236

You are cordially invited to a public Scoping Meeting on the Subsequent Program Environmental Impact Report (SPEIR) for the CVWMP 2007 Update. The meeting will include a briefing on the status of the 2007 Plan Update, a recap of the 2002 Plan, and elements of the proposed Plan Update, potential environmental effects, and next steps in the CEQA process. The meeting provides an opportunity for the public to comment on the scope and content of the environmental document. For further information, please call Patti Reyes, Assistant Director of Engineering at (760) 398-2651 extension 2270.

9:00 a.m., Thursday, September 27, 2007
Rummonds Training Room
Coachella Valley Water District
85-995 Avenue 52
Coachella, CA 92236

Background – The 2002 Coachella Valley Water Management Plan

CVWD is a public agency that provides domestic water, wastewater (sanitation), non-potable water (reclaimed wastewater and Colorado River water), irrigation/drainage, stormwater and groundwater management services to a population of 265,000 throughout the Coachella Valley, California. In 2002, CVWD prepared the CVWMP with the stated goal of eliminating groundwater overdraft in the basin.

A Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) was prepared for the 2002 Plan that evaluated Plan elements at a programmatic level, and is the foundation for second tier, site-specific CEQA documents for elements implemented subsequently and for the present 2007 Plan update Subsequent PEIR (SPEIR). In the past 5 years CVWD has proceeded to implement the eight major elements of the CVWMP: water conservation, water transfers, Mid-Valley Pipeline project, Dike 4 and Martinez recharge projects, and pilot testing of desalination of agricultural drain water and Colorado River water.

The 2007 Update of the Plan and CEQA Document

In preparing the 2007 CVWMP Update, CVWD has: reviewed the 2002 CVWMP Implementation Program in light of Riverside County population and housing projections adopted in early 2007; reviewed changes in the environment since 2002; updated related projects identified in 2002 and new related projects with potential cumulative impacts (such as the Salton Sea Restoration Project); initiated review of climate change issues; and anticipated long-term changes in the availability of SWP water.

CVWD is also revisiting the analysis of significant impacts identified in the 2002 Program EIR. The 2007 Plan continues implementation of the 2002 Plan with the following changes:

- Analysis of three State Water Project (SWP) water reliability contingency scenarios, in response to Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and Delta smelt issues: 77 percent, 65 percent and 50 percent;
- Evaluation of climate change effects
- Analysis of 2007 Riverside County/Coachella Valley Association of Governments (CVAG) adopted population and housing projections
- Additional water conservation measures;
- Additional effluent recycling
- Use of Colorado River water for municipal and residential irrigation;
- Treatment of additional Colorado River water for domestic use.
- Desalination of additional agricultural drain water;
- Impacts of construction and operation of additional infrastructure to serve new developments approved by others
- Analysis of groundwater impacts resulting from shifts in water demands among agricultural, municipal, and golf course uses

Potential environmental impacts of the 2007 Plan are:

- Groundwater basin overdraft reduction would be achieved by different mixes of water management elements.
- Projected agricultural drain and CVSC flows could increase or decrease
- Projected flows to the Salton Sea could change from previous projections
- Impact of desalination brine disposal.
- Construction/operation of additional infrastructure to serve projected population
- Impacts of increased water conservation,
- Accommodation of growth projected by Riverside County/CVAG
- Climate change: greenhouse gas emissions; effect on water supply reliability
- Cumulative impacts of related projects