

SECTION 1.0

INTRODUCTION

1.1 FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT ORGANIZATION

The Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Water Supply Improvement Project was circulated for public and agency review and comment from October 25, 2011 to December 9, 2011. According to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guideline Section 15132, a Final EIR must be prepared and must include a list of persons, agencies, and organizations commenting on the Draft EIR; copies of the comments received during public review of the Draft EIR; and the Lead Agency's response to those comments.

As required by Section 15132 of the CEQA Guidelines, this Final EIR responds to comments regarding significant environmental issues and concerns raised in the public and agency review process. This document provides responses to comments on significant environmental issues, describes the disposition of the issues, and explains the Draft EIR analysis by either supporting Draft EIR conclusions or providing clarifying information, as appropriate.

This Final EIR is organized as follows:

- ◆ Section 1 provides a discussion of the purpose of the Final EIR and discusses the structure of this document;
- ◆ Section 2 lists the agencies, organizations, and individuals that commented on the contents of the Draft EIR;
- ◆ Section 3 includes the comments received on the Draft EIR and the responses to those comments;
- ◆ Section 4 provides revisions to the Draft EIR; and
- ◆ Section 5 provides the Mitigation Monitoring Program prepared consistent with CEQA requirements.

This Final EIR incorporates by reference the Draft EIR and technical appendices. These documents, and other information contained in the environmental record, constitute the Final EIR for the Water Supply Improvement Project.

1.2 SUMMARY OF DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT COMMENT PERIOD

The Draft EIR and Notice of Availability (NOA) were distributed for review and comment to a mailing list of twenty-two federal, state, and local agencies; the State Clearinghouse; and other interested parties for a 46-day public and agency review

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period from October 25, 2011 to December 9, 2011. The NOA was also filed at the Kern County Clerk, and transmitted to the District's in-house email list, which also included all persons who provided an email contact on the scoping meeting sign-in sheet or on a scoping comment letter (164 addresses). Those persons who did not provide an email address on the scoping meeting sign-in sheet or on a scoping comment letter received the NOA via US Postal Service mail (twenty-nine addresses). The Draft EIR and NOA were also available for review at the IWWWD offices, the Ridgecrest branch of the Kern County library, and on the IWWWD website. The NOA was also published in the following newspapers:

- ◆ *The Daily Independent*, legal notice, October 26, 2011
- ◆ *The Daily Independent*, display advertisement, November 5, 2011
- ◆ *News Review*, display advertisement, November 3, 2011

Two public meetings were held during the public comment period. These meetings were moved to larger facilities and one meeting was held in Inyokern, in response to comments received during the scoping period. The meetings were held on the following dates and locations:

November 8, 2011
Inyokern Senior Center
1247 Broadway Ave.
Inyokern, CA 93527

November 9, 2011
Ridgecrest City Hall Council Chambers
100 W. California Ave.
Ridgecrest, CA 93527

At each meeting, a presentation was held to provide an opportunity for the public to learn more about the changes of the Proposed Project as a result of scoping comments, the results of the analysis in the Draft EIR, and their opportunities to comment on the analysis in the Draft EIR.

In addition to the public meetings, a separate meeting was held at the District offices on November 9, 2011 with a member of the public, Don Decker, at his request, and the District's General Manager, consulting hydrogeologist, and consulting hydrogeologist/groundwater modeler.