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Notice of Availability of a Draft Environmental Impact Report for the East Highline Reservoir and Intake Channel Project

Notice is hereby given by the Imperial Irrigation District of the availability for public review of a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the East Highline Reservoir and Intake Channel Project State Clearing House No. 2019011070.

The proposed project consists of a main canal off-line reservoir and related infrastructure. The reservoir would manage up to 3,400-acre-feet of water. A proposed intake structure off the north side of the All-American Canal (AAC) would direct Colorado River flows (via gravity flow) to the reservoir at up to 1,500 cubic feet per second (cfs). Water temporarily stored in the reservoir would be delivered via gravity flow through an automated gate outlet at approximately 1,500 cfs into the East Highline Canal for delivery to the eastern Imperial Valley. The purpose of the Project is to augment IID's current levels of water management and operational flexibility while creating an additional tool to assist in meeting system and on-farm conservation program goals.

The reservoir is proposed to be sited on the east side of the East Highline Canal and north of the AAC, at Verde School Road, in Imperial County, California. The proposed reservoir is located approximately 1.1 miles north of State Route 98, and two miles south of Interstate 8. The proposed intake channel would extend from the north side of the AAC approximately 1.3 miles north to the proposed reservoir site.

The Draft EIR evaluates Aesthetics, Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Hydrology and Water Quality, Land Use and Planning, Noise and Cumulative Impacts. Mitigation measures have been identified for impacts associated with Air Quality, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources and Hazards and Hazardous Materials. No significant unavoidable impacts are identified in the Draft EIR. Project alternatives, including a reduced size reservoir alternative and an alternative intake route are also assessed in the Draft EIR.

PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD: The Draft EIR will be available for public review and comment for 45 days (from April 24, 2020 through June 9, 2020) on the Imperial Irrigation District's website – www.iid.com. Any requests for copies of the Draft EIR shall be directed to Donald Vargas at the phone number listed below. All comments concerning the Draft EIR must be submitted in writing by 5:30 p.m. on June 9, 2020 to the following:

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