

Summary Form for Electronic Document Submittal

Form F

Lead agencies may include 15 hardcopies of this document when submitting electronic copies of Environmental Impact Reports, Negative Declarations, Mitigated Negative Declarations, or Notices of Preparation to the State Clearinghouse (SCH). The SCH also accepts other summaries, such as EIR Executive Summaries prepared pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15123. Please include one copy of the Notice of Completion Form (NOC) with your submission and attach the summary to each electronic copy of the document.

SCH #: _____

Project Title: Reservoirs 4711-3 and 4711-4 Project

Lead Agency: Coachella Valley Water District

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Project Location: Unincorporated Community of Indio Hills

Riverside County

City

County

Project Description (Proposed actions, location, and/or consequences).

The proposed Project includes the construction of two 1,000,000-gallon (1MG) aboveground welded-steel tanks (Reservoirs 4711-3 and 4711-4), followed by the demolition of the two existing 100,000-gallon aboveground bolted-steel tanks (Reservoirs 4711-1 and 4711-2), which were originally constructed in 1993 and 1999.

Identify the project's significant or potentially significant effects and briefly describe any proposed mitigation measures that would reduce or avoid that effect.

See attachment.

If applicable, describe any of the project's areas of controversy known to the Lead Agency, including issues raised by agencies and the public.

N/A

Provide a list of the responsible or trustee agencies for the project.

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Regional Water Quality Control Board
California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Biological Resources

Construction activities could disturb habitat for special status species.

- **Mitigation Measure BIO-1: Worker Environmental Awareness Program Training:** A biological resources Worker Environmental Awareness Program (WEAP) training shall be conducted by a qualified biologist prior to the initiation of any ground-disturbing activities associated with proposed Project. The purpose of the WEAP training is to educate construction personnel about the potential for biological resources within the Project site – including foraging birds as well as the Townsend’s big-eared bat, San Diego desert woodrat, Palm Spring pocket mouse, and desert tortoise – and the measures to protect these resources if they are encountered. The WEAP shall explain the applicable measures to be implemented to avoid potential impacts to biological resources. The WEAP training shall be given to all construction personnel at project initiation, and copies of the WEAP sign-in sheets submitted to CVWD.
- **Mitigation Measure BIO-2: Pre-Construction Survey for Nesting Birds:** To the maximum extent practicable, construction activities shall avoid the nesting bird season (January 1 through July 31 for raptors and March 1 through September 15 for songbirds). This will avoid potential violations of the MBTA and California Fish and Game Code Sections 3503, 3503.5, and 3513. However, if activities with the potential to disrupt nesting birds are scheduled to occur during the bird breeding season, a pre-construction nesting bird survey shall be conducted by a qualified biologist. Nest surveys shall include the Project site and adjacent areas where construction activities have the potential to cause nest failure. If no nesting birds are observed during the survey, site preparation and construction activities may begin as originally planned. If nesting birds (including nesting raptors) are found to be present, then avoidance or minimization measures shall be undertaken. Measures shall include establishment of an avoidance buffer until nesting has been completed. The width of the buffer shall be determined by the qualified biologist. Typically, this is a minimum of 300 feet from the nest site in all directions (500 feet is typical for raptors), until juveniles have fledged and there has been no evidence of a second attempt at nesting. The qualified biologist will monitor the nest(s) during construction and document any findings.

The construction of the proposed welded-steel tanks would involve excavation and grading within one or more of the defined streambed channels.

- **Mitigation Measure BIO-3: Clean Water Act and California Department of Fish and Game Code Section 1600 Permits:** Prior to the commencement of construction, all appropriate applicable permits, such as a Clean Water Act Section 404, Section 401 Water Quality Certification and/or Waste Discharge Requirement, Section 1602 Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement (LSAA), and a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) Construction General Permit shall be obtained. These permits may include avoidance and minimization measures as well as mitigation for impacts to jurisdictional wetlands, other regulated waters of the U.S. or State, and/or riparian habitat under jurisdiction of the CDFW at an appropriate mitigation ratio negotiated with the appropriate jurisdictional agencies (i.e., USACE, RWQCB, and CDFW, as necessary).

Cultural Resources

Potential for inadvertent discovery of previously unknown archaeological materials and/or human remains.

- **Mitigation Measure CR-1: Worker Environmental Awareness Program Training:** A cultural resources WEAP training shall be conducted by a registered professional archaeologist prior to the initiation of any ground-disturbing activities associated with proposed Project. The purpose of the WEAP training is to educate construction personnel about the potential for cultural resources within the Project site and the measures to protect these resources if they are encountered. The WEAP shall explain the measures to avoid impact to cultural resources and the consequences of not complying with protective measures. The WEAP training shall be given to all construction personnel and copies of the WEAP sign-in sheets submitted to CVWD.
- **Mitigation Measure CR-2: Inadvertent Discovery of Archaeological Resources:** If subsurface deposits believed to be archaeological resources (e.g., stone tools, pottery, or milling-related artifacts like manos or metates, or historic-age resources such as cans or glass bottles) are discovered during construction, all work must halt within a 100-foot radius of the discovery. A registered professional archaeologist, meeting *The Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards for Prehistoric and Historic Archaeology*, shall be retained to evaluate the significance of the find, and shall have the authority to modify the no-work radius as appropriate, using professional judgement. If the registered professional archaeologist determines that the find does not represent an archaeological resource, work may resume immediately and no agency notifications are required. If the registered professional archaeologist determines that the find does not represent an archaeological resource from any time period or cultural affiliation, he or she shall immediately notify the Construction Inspector and CVWD environmental staff. CVWD shall consult on a finding of eligibility for inclusion in the NRHP and California Register of Historical Places (CRHR). Work may not resume within the no work radius until CVWD determines, through consultation as appropriate, that the site is either: 1) not eligible for the NRHP or CRHR; or 2) that the treatment measures have been completed to their satisfaction.
- **Mitigation Measure CR-3: Inadvertent Discovery of Human Remains:** Consistent with CEQA Guidelines Section 15064.5, if human remains are accidentally discovered or recognized during construction excavation and grading activities, State Health and Safety Code Section 7050.5 requires that no further disturbance shall occur until the County Coroner has made the necessary findings as to origin and disposition pursuant to Public Resources Code Section 5097.98. If the remains are determined to be of Native American descent, the coroner has 24 hours to notify the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC). The NAHC would then identify the person(s) thought to be the Most Likely Descendent of the deceased Native American, who would then help determine what course of action should be taken in dealing with the remains. Per Public Resources Code Section 5097.98, CVWD shall ensure that the immediate vicinity, according to generally accepted cultural or archaeological standards or practices, where the Native American human remains are located, is not damaged or disturbed by further development activity until the landowner has discussed and conferred, as prescribed in this section (Public Resources Code Section 5097.98), with the most likely descendants regarding their recommendations, if applicable, taking into account the possibility of multiple human remains.

Geology and Soils

Potential for inadvertent discovery of previously unknown paleontological resources

- **Mitigation Measure GEO-1: Worker Environmental Awareness Program Training:** A paleontological resources WEAP training shall be conducted by a qualified paleontological monitor prior to the initiation of any ground-disturbing activities associated with proposed Project. The purpose of the WEAP training is to educate construction personnel about the potential for paleontological resources within the Project site and the measures to protect these resources if they are encountered. The WEAP shall explain the measures to avoid impact to paleontological resources and the consequences of not complying with protective measures. The WEAP training shall be given to all construction personnel and copies of the WEAP sign-in sheets submitted to CVWD.
- **Mitigation Measure GEO-2: Inadvertent Discovery of Paleontological Resources:** The qualified paleontological monitor shall be present during the first day of grading activities to visually inspect the excavated or graded areas and trench sidewalls. The monitor shall make recommendations on subsequent monitoring based on observations during that initial phase. If paleontological resources are encountered during the course of construction and monitoring, CVWD shall halt or divert work and notify a qualified paleontologist who shall document the discovery as needed, evaluate the potential resource, assess the significance of the find, and develop an appropriate treatment plan in consultation with CVWD. At a minimum, the monitor will assign a unique field number to each specimen identified; photograph the specimen and its geographic and stratigraphic context along with a scale near the specimen and its field number clearly visible in close-ups; record the location using a global positioning system (GPS) unit with accuracy greater than 1 foot horizontally and vertically (if such equipment is not available, horizontal measurements and bearings to nearby permanent features or accurately surveyed benchmarks, and vertical measurements by sighting level to points of known elevation will be used); record the field number and associated specimen data (identification by taxon and element, etc.) and corresponding geologic and geographic site data (e.g., location, elevation, etc.) in the field notes and in a daily monitoring report; stabilize and prepare all fossils for identification; identify to lowest taxonomic level possible by paleontologists, qualified and experienced in the identification of that group of fossils; and record on the outside of the container or bag the specimen number and taxonomic identification, if known.

Tribal Cultural Resources

No tribal cultural resources are known to occur within the Project site; however, CVWD has agreed to provide for Native American monitoring as a part of AB 52 Consultation

- **Mitigation Measure TCR-1 Native American Monitoring:** CVWD shall provide a Native American monitoring during earth work activities, including site clearing and excavation. If previously undiscovered tribal cultural resources are discovered during construction, CVWD shall ensure that all work in the vicinity of the find is redirected until all appropriate recovery and recordation has occurred.