



COACHELLA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT

Established in 1918 as a public agency

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD and Lead Agency) has prepared a Draft Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the proposed Mid-Canal Storage Project described below pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) State Guidelines §15000 et seq and CEQA-Plus federal requirements. Anyone desiring to comment on the IS/MND may do so in writing within the 30-day public review period, commencing December 23, 2022, and ending January 23, 2023.

Project Title: Mid-Canal Storage Project

Project Location: The proposed project is located on a 4.9-mile segment of the Coachella Canal in Imperial County northeast of the City of Niland and east of the Salton Sea. This segment of the federal right-of-way within which the entire canal is located is bounded by the Chocolate Mountains Aerial Gunnery Range to the east, and Imperial County desert lands and agricultural lands to the west.

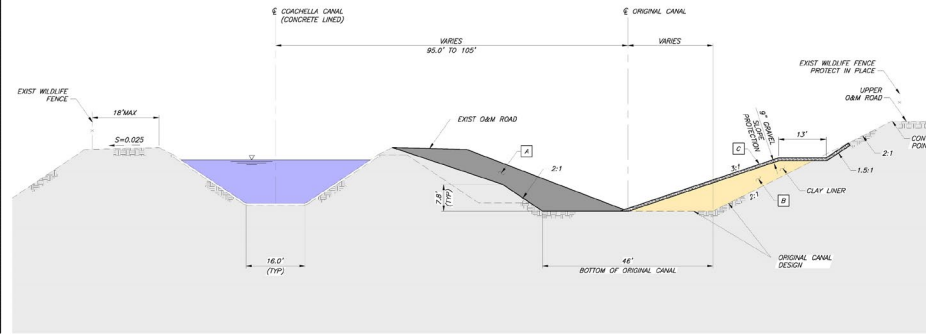
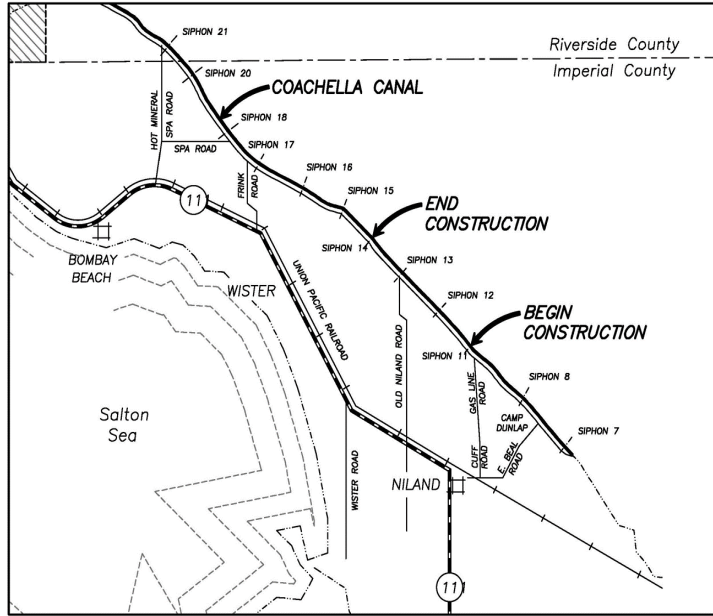
Brief Project Description: The project consists of creating a single wide channel by joining two existing parallel canal channels, one the original earthen canal constructed in the 1940s, and the second concrete-lined canal constructed in 2005 as a part of the Coachella Canal Lining Project (CCLP). All earthwork required to join the two channels and create the storage reservoir will be conducted within the existing fence lines defining boundaries of the federal right-of-way within which the parallel canals are located. The project will provide up to 728 acre-feet of water storage to alleviate water storage deficiencies and increase water storage capacity, reliability, and efficiency within the CVWD water distribution system. The project will also resolve an ongoing maintenance problem in the affected lined-canal segment caused by high-clay content that results in significant cracking of the concrete. All earthwork will be balanced on site with no material to be exported. Imported rock material will be placed on the eastern reservoir bank for erosion control. Work will be staged so that water supply deliveries are maintained throughout project development. Earthwork and related construction activities are expected to be completed in 6 to 8 months beginning in late summer 2023 and concluding in late-winter 2024.

Public Meeting: CVWD's Board of Directors will consider the proposed project at a publicly-noticed Board of Directors meeting scheduled for February 28, 2023 at 8:00 AM. Meetings are typically held at CVWD's Coachella Office, located at 51-501 Tyler Street in Coachella, California 92236. In an effort to protect public health, prevent the spread of COVID-19, and because State and/or local officials are recommending measures to promote social distancing, the public may view the Board meeting online or virtually. The meeting will be streamed live on the District's website at: www.cvwd.org/151/Board-Agendas. Members of the public may provide comments in-person at the meeting or via Zoom.

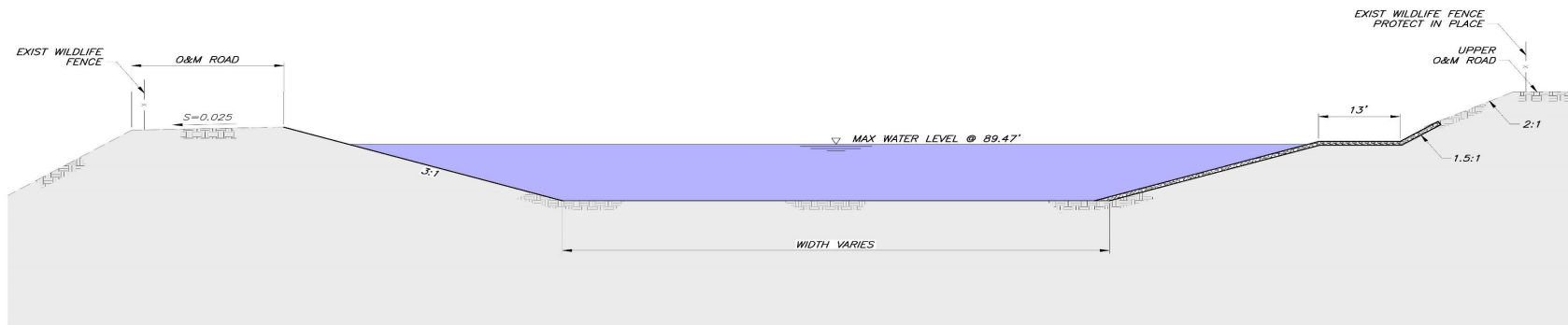
30-Day Document Review: The document may be reviewed online at: www.cvwd.org

Contact Person: Written comments may be submitted to: William Patterson, Environmental Supervisor, CVWD, 75-515 Hovley Lane East, Palm Desert, CA 92211, or emailed to: wpatterson@cvwd.org

Vicinity Map



Existing Canal Channels



Completed Mid-Canal Storage Project