



## Notice of Completion / Notice of Availability

**SUBJECT:** Thousand Palms Flood Control Project Draft Environmental Impact Report and Impact Assessment.

Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) and the United States Army Corps of Engineers Regulatory Division (USACE) have prepared an Environmental Impact Report/Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) for the subject project. CVWD is the CEQA lead agency and USACE is the NEPA lead agency. The United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is a cooperating agency. The public is encouraged to review and provide comment on the proposed Project and the Draft EIR/EIS, project alternatives, and mitigation measures set forth in the Draft EIR/EIS. Pursuant to Public Resources Code 21092.6(a), none of the project facilities would be located on a hazardous waste site enumerated under Section 65962.5 of the California Government Code. A copy of the EIR/EIS and supporting documents are available for public review at CVWD's office at: 75515 Hovley Lane East, Palm Desert, CA 92211 and on CVWD's website at: [www.cvwd.org](http://www.cvwd.org)

**PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD:** April 1, 2022, through May 16, 2022.

**PROJECT DESCRIPTION AND LOCATION:** The proposed Project would provide flood protection for the community of Thousand Palms (see Figure 1-1). The proposed Project is designed to meet the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) 0.01 chance, or 100-year, flood. The proposed Project is also designed to support aeolian (wind-driven) transport of sand to the Coachella Valley Preserve (Preserve), where it forms habitat for the Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard (State-listed as endangered and federally-listed as threatened). The proposed Project is linear in nature, consisting of four reaches, and is generally located on the northern and eastern margins of the community of Thousand Palms. Components of the proposed Project include levees, channels, culverts, and a sediment basin.

Reach 1 is comprised of an approximately 2.4-mile levee. Water and sediment from the Indio Hills would flow naturally toward Reach 1 and be diverted to the 550-acre floodway located at the terminus of Reach 1. The height of Levee 1 would vary from 5 feet to 14 feet in height. Reach 2 is comprised of an approximately 0.32-mile levee with a height of approximately 5 feet. The levee is positioned in the mid-alluvial fan just northeast of SCE's Mirage Substation. Reach 3 is comprised of an approximately 1.2-mile levee and a 1.0-mile channel lined with soil cement. Levee 3 would vary from approximately 5 feet to 14 feet in height. Levee 3 would initiate 1,000 feet south of E. Ramon Road and approximately 2,000 feet southwest of the downstream end of Levee 2. Reach 3 would cross natural lands, private lands owned by Xavier College Preparatory High School, portions of the Preserve/Refuge and the Pegasus Riding Academy. Reach 4 is comprised of an approximately 2.0-mile channel. The Reach 4 Channel would range from 200 to 350 feet in

width and convey stormwater flows from the southeast end of the Classic Club Golf Course and continue south then east, adjacent to the south of the existing alignment of Avenue 38. The channel would be immediately adjacent to the Preserve/Refuge. The Reach 4 Channel would terminate at Washington Street and tie into existing stormwater conveyance facilities located in the Del Webb / Sun City development.

The proposed Project is located in the unincorporated community of Thousand Palms, Riverside County, California. The proposed Project would reduce flooding in the area between the Indio Hills and Interstate 10. Thousand Palms is within the Coachella Valley, east of the City of Palm Springs and north of the City of Palm Desert, and north of I-10.

**Potentially Significant Environmental Effects:** The Draft EIR/EIS made significance determinations for each of the environmental issue areas identified in the CEQA Guidelines Appendix G checklist. The Draft EIR/EIS concluded that project related impacts occurred to all Issue Areas and ranged from significant and unavoidable impacts to beneficial impacts. Significant and Unavoidable impacts occurred within Aesthetics, Air Quality, and Land Use. These occur from exceeding local air quality thresholds during construction (Air Quality), the construction of a new facility in the viewshed of Thousand Palms (Aesthetics), and the displacement of private residences and businesses (Land Use) from the placement of the levees or channels.

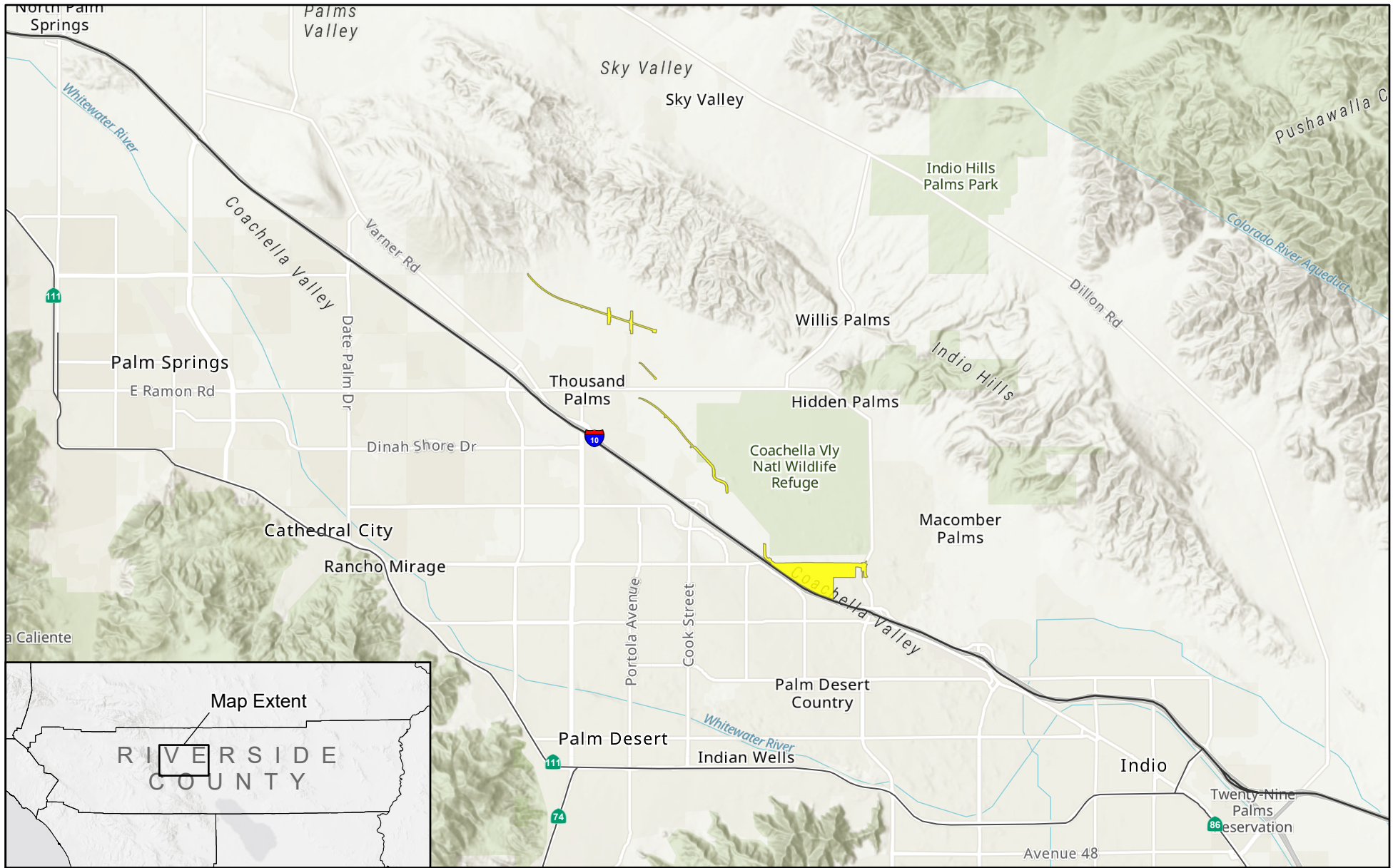
Less Than Significant Impacts with Mitigation occurred within the following Issue Areas, Aesthetics, Sand Migration, Biological Resources, Land Use, Paleontological Resources, Public Safety, Transportation, Water Resources, Tribal Cultural Resources, and Wildfire.

Less than Significant Impacts with No Mitigation occurred within the following Issue Areas, Aesthetics, Air Quality and Greenhouse Gasses, Topography/Geology/Soils, Sand Migration, Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Land Use, Noise, Socioeconomics, Public Safety, Transportation, Water resources, Energy, and Wildfire. No Impacts occurred within the Wildfire Issue Area because the project would not exacerbate fire risk from new infrastructure or increase post fire risk of flooding. Beneficial Impacts occurred within the following Issue Areas, Water Resources because the project would remove downstream areas from the FEMA flood hazard zone.

**CONTACT PERSON:** William Patterson, Environmental Supervisor, CVWD, 75515 Hovley Lane East, Palm Desert, CA 92211. Phone: (760) 398-265. Email: [wpatterson@cvwd.org](mailto:wpatterson@cvwd.org)

This EIR/EIS and any comments received during the public review period will be considered by CVWD's Board of Directors at a publicly advertised, future CVWD Board of Directors meeting. CVWD holds these meetings on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesdays of the month.

Date published: April 1, 2022



2 0 2 Miles

Proposed Project Area

Figure 1-1

Proposed Project Vicinity