



State of California – Natural Resources Agency  
DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND WILDLIFE  
Inland Deserts Region  
3602 Inland Empire Boulevard, Suite C-220  
Ontario, CA 91764  
[www.wildlife.ca.gov](http://www.wildlife.ca.gov)

GAVIN NEWSOM, Governor  
CHARLTON H. BONHAM, Director



May 16, 2022  
Sent via email

William Patterson  
Coachella Valley Water District  
75-519 Hovley Lane East  
Palm Desert, CA 92211



Subject: Draft Environmental Impact Report, Thousand Palms Flood Control Project, State Clearinghouse No. 2016111053

Dear Mr. Patterson:

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) received and reviewed the Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) from the Coachella Valley Water District for the Thousand Palms Flood Control Project (Project), State Clearinghouse No. 2016111053, pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) statute and guidelines<sup>1</sup>. Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments and recommendations regarding those activities involved in the Project that may affect California fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats. Likewise, CDFW appreciates the opportunity to provide comments regarding those aspects of the Project that CDFW, by law, may need to exercise its own regulatory authority under the Fish and Game Code (Fish & G. Code).

## CDFW ROLE

CDFW is California's Trustee Agency for fish and wildlife resources and holds those resources in trust by statute for all the people of the State. (Fish & G. Code, §§ 711.7, subd. (a) & 1802; Pub. Resources Code, § 21070; CEQA Guidelines § 15386, subd. (a)) CDFW, in its trustee capacity, has jurisdiction over the conservation, protection, and management of fish, wildlife, native plants, and habitat necessary for biologically sustainable populations of those species. (Fish & G. Code, § 1802.) Similarly, for purposes of CEQA, CDFW provides, as available, biological expertise during public agency environmental review efforts, focusing specifically on projects and related activities that have the potential to adversely affect fish and wildlife resources.

CDFW may also act as a Responsible Agency regarding any discretionary actions under CEQA. (Pub. Resources Code, § 21069; CEQA Guidelines, § 15381, such as the issuance of a Lake or Streambed Alteration Agreement (Fish & G. Code Sections 1600

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<sup>1</sup>CEQA is codified in the California Public Resources Code in section 21000 et seq. The "CEQA Guidelines" are found in Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, commencing with section 15000.

et seq.), a California Endangered Species Act (CESA) Permit for Incidental Take of Endangered, Threatened, and/or Candidate species (Fish & G. Code Sections 2080 and 2080.1) and/or for administering the Natural Community Conservation Planning Program (NCCP). CDFW also administers the Native Plant Protection Act, Natural Community Conservation Program, and other provisions of the Fish and Game Code that afford protection to California's fish and wildlife resources.

CDFW issued Natural Community Conservation Plan Approval and Take Authorization in 2008 for the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (CVMSHCP), as per Section 2800, et seq., of the California Fish and Game Code. The CVMSHCP established a multiple species conservation program to minimize and mitigate habitat loss and the incidental take of covered species in association with activities covered under the permit. CDFW is providing the following comments as they relate to the project's consistency with the CVMSHCP, the Lake and Streambed Alteration Program, and the CEQA.

## **PROJECT DESCRIPTION SUMMARY**

### *Project Location*

The proposed Project includes flood control improvements intended to reduce flooding hazards associated with coalescing alluvial fans in the area between the Indio Hills (to the north) and Interstate 10 (I-10) (to the south), in the southeastern portion of Riverside County, California. The Project is located in the unincorporated community of Thousand Palms, approximately ten miles east of the City of Palm Springs and immediately north of the City of Palm Desert, within the Coachella Valley. The Project is located within the Whitewater River Basin (Indio Subbasin). Flood control improvements comprise four separate reaches at the locations described below.

Reach 1 is the northern most element of the proposed Project, located closest to the Indo Hills and generally north of residential development. The Reach 1 levee extends 2.4-miles in an east southeasterly direction beginning near the intersection of 28th Avenue and Rio del Sol Road, and generally running parallel and north of an existing Southern California Edison (SCE) utility corridor.

Reach 2 levee is located south of the east end of Reach 1, east of residential development along Vista de Oro and north of SCE's Mirage Substation and extends 0.33 mile in a south southeasterly direction.

Reach 3 includes a 1.23-mile levee and a 1.01-mile trapezoidal channel, and begins south and east of Reach 2, east of residential development along Chiricahua Drive, and extends in a south southeasterly direction to the Classic Club Golf Course. The Reach 3 channel would divert flows into an existing storm water conveyance system located on the Classic Club Golf Course before connecting to Reach 4.

Reach 4 is comprised of a 2-mile trapezoidal channel extending from the southeastern end of the Classic Club Golf Course, paralleling and south of the existing Avenue 38 alignment, to Washington Street where it would tie into existing stormwater conveyance facilities located in the Del Webb/Sun City residential development. Sand excavated as part of the proposed Project that is suitable blowsand material would be placed at a blowsand augmentation area on the Coachella Valley National Wildlife Refuge. Other excavated materials (from the Reach 4 channel) would be placed south of Avenue 38, east of Varner Road and immediately west of the Del Webb/Sun City development, within existing windrows.

### *Project Description*

The proposed Project (Alternative 1) consists of a series of flood control improvements designed to meet the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) 100-year flood event thereby providing flood protection for developed and planned development areas in Thousand Palms and the vicinity. The proposed Project is also designed to support continued aeolian (wind-driven) transport of sand to the Coachella Valley Preserve (Preserve), where it forms habitat for the sensitive Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard and other sand-dependent species. 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. The levees and channels would be comprised of compacted native soil with a layer of soil cement to protect the structures from erosion.

The Project is located within the Thousand Palms Conservation Area (Conservation Area) within the CVMSHCP area. The Project's levees, once approved, will define the southern edge of the Conservation Area, though the levees will not be included in the Conservation Area. Compensatory mitigation for the Project under the CVMSHCP includes, but is not limited to, the acquisition of a 550-acre floodway within the Conservation Area. Operations and Maintenance (O&M) of the levees and management of the sediment that build up along the levees and within the basins, culverts, and channels will be in conformance with an O&M Manual to be developed in consultation with CDFW and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

## **COMMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

CDFW's comments and recommendations on the DEIR are explained below.

### **Mitigation Measures for Project Impacts to Biological Resources**

*Compensation for Impacts to Lands Managed by CDFW, the Bureau of Land Management, Center for Natural Lands Management, and the Coachella Mountains Conservancy*

As indicated in Table 3.6-1 in the DEIR, the proposed Project will impact lands managed by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Coachella Valley National Wildlife Refuge), CDFW (Coachella Valley Ecological Reserve), Bureau of Land Management (Coachella Valley Preserve), and other lands managed by the Center for Natural Lands Management and Coachella Mountains Conservancy. MM BIO-6 indicates that approximately 550 acres of floodway lands located in the Thousand Palms Conservation Area and 32 acres of aeolian sand habitat will be acquired as compensatory mitigation. The protection of a 550-acre floodway within the Conservation Area represents a Conservation Area-specific Required Measure (Required Measure 1) in Section 4.3.11 of the CVMSHCP to achieve the Conservation Objectives of the Thousand Palms Conservation Area. The DEIR indicates that the acquisition of 32 acres of aeolian sand habitat will compensate for impacts to lands managed by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. However, the DEIR does not include a discussion of compensatory mitigation for impacts to lands managed by CDFW, the Bureau of Land Management, Center for Natural Lands Management, or the Coachella Mountains Conservancy. CDFW request that the DEIR be revised to also include an analysis and discussion of proposed impacts, and associated compensatory mitigation for proposed impacts, to lands owned and/or managed by CDFW, the Bureau of Land Management, Center for Natural Lands Management, and the Coachella Mountains Conservancy. CDFW also requests that MM BIO-6 is revised to indicate that the Habitat Compensation Plan, to be submitted for USFWS and CDFW review, will at a minimum include proposed compensatory mitigation for impacts to lands owned and/or managed by CDFW.

CDFW requests the following revisions to MM BIO-6. Requested additions are identified in **bold** and requested removals are identified in ~~strikethrough~~.

#### MM BIO-6 Compensate for Habitat Loss

The CVWD will acquire and protect approximately 550 acres of floodway lands as habitat for special-status plants and wildlife, located within the Thousand Palms Conservation Area. The floodway lands will be transferred to the CVCC for conservation and management under the CVMSHCP in support of the goals and objectives of the CVMSHCP. CVWD will ensure acquisition and protection of approximately 32 acres of aeolian sand habitat that contribute to the recovery of Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard and suitable for other aeolian sand dependent species. **Additionally, CVWD will ensure any impacts to CDFW-owned or -managed lands will be mitigated through the acquisition and protection of additional lands in coordination with CDFW and following the Compensation Land Selection Criteria outlined below.** Habitat compensation will be accomplished by acquisition of mitigation land or conservation easements or by providing funding for specific land acquisition, endowment, restoration, and management actions.

[...]

CVMSCHP/NCCP: The Project is a **Ceovered Activity** under the CVMSHCP/NCCP. ~~This measure is only relevant to the portion of the project on federal lands.~~

#### *Notification of Lake and Streambed Alteration*

Relating to the Lake and Streambed Alteration Program process, BIO-19 indicates that this measure to minimize and mitigation impacts to jurisdictional water only is required on private and federal lands. Fish and wildlife resources subject to Fish and Game Code section 1600 et seq., include the bed, channel, and bank of any river, stream, or lake. CDFW requests that MM BIO-19 is revised to indicate that the Project will submit a notification of streambed alteration regarding impacts to fish and wildlife resources subject to Fish and Game Code section 1600 et seq.

CDFW requests the following revisions to MM BIO-19. Requested additions are identified in **bold** and requested removals are identified in ~~strike through~~.

#### MM BIO-19 Minimize and Mitigate Impacts to Jurisdictional Water

[...]

**The Project will submit a notification of streambed alteration regarding impacts to fish and wildlife resources subject to Fish and Game Code section 1600 et seq.** ~~CVMSHCP/NCCP: This measure is required on private and federal lands~~

#### *Protecting nesting birds*

CVWD has the responsibility of complying with all applicable laws related to nesting birds and birds of prey. Fish and Game Code sections 3503 and 3503.5 afford protective measures as follows: Fish and Game Code section 3503 makes it unlawful to take, possess, or needlessly destroy the nest or eggs of any bird, except as otherwise provided by Fish and Game Code or any regulation made pursuant thereto. Fish and Game Code section 3503.5 makes it unlawful to take, possess, or destroy any birds in the orders Falconiformes or Strigiformes (birds-of-prey) to take, possess, or destroy the nest or eggs of any such bird except as otherwise provided by Fish and Game Code or any regulation adopted pursuant thereto. The MM BIO-14 and MM BIO-15 in the DEIR indicate that surveys and monitoring for nesting birds, and surveys and avoidance for burrowing owls, will be implemented only on private and federal lands. To support the Project applicant in avoiding take of nests or eggs, CDFW requests that MM BIO-14 and MM BIO-15 are revised so the measures apply to all Project areas.

CDFW requests the following revisions to MM BIO-14 and MM BIO-15. Requested additions are identified in **bold** and requested removals are identified in ~~striketthrough~~.

#### MM BIO-14 Conduct Pre-Construction Surveys and Monitoring for Breeding Birds

[...]

CVMSHCP/NCCP: The Project is a **Covered Activity** under the CVMSHCP/NCCP. ~~However, t~~To ensure the protection of nests **or eggging birds**, this measure is required for ~~private and federal lands~~ **over the entire Project area.**

#### MM BIO-15 Conduct Surveys and Avoidance for Burrowing Owl

[...]

CVMSHCP/NCCP: Burrowing owl is ~~considered a e~~**Covered s**Species under the CVMSHCP/NCCP. ~~However, t~~To ensure the protection of nests and eggging ~~birds~~, this measure is required for ~~private and federal lands~~ **over the entire Project area.**

#### *Protecting Covered Species Across All Project Areas*

Table 7-6 in Section 7.3.1 of the CVMSHCP indicates that Avoidance/Minimization Measures Required for the Thousand Palms Flood Control Project are limited to those subject to the terms and condition of a Section 7 consultation. Although the final alignment of the southern boundary will be situated to exclude the levees from of the Thousand Palms Conservation Area, the Project will impact areas within the current boundaries of the Conservation Area that likely support CVMSHCP Covered Species. Many of the mitigation measures in the Biological Resources section of the DEIR indicate that they only apply to federal and/or private lands. To avoid and minimize impacts to CVMSHCP Covered Species associated with the construction and operations of the levees, CDFW recommends that the following mitigation measures are revised to indicate that they apply to all Project areas. Recommended additions are identified in **bold** and recommended removals are identified in ~~striketthrough~~.

#### MM BIO-1: Conduct Pre-Construction Biological Resources Surveys

This mitigation measures shall apply to the pre-construction and construction phases of the Project ~~on private and federal lands~~ **over the entire Project area.**

[...]

CVMSHCP/NCCP: This measure is required for **all lands within or adjacent to the private and federal lands** **Project area.**

#### MM BIO-2 Conduct Biological Monitoring and Reporting

This measure supersedes EC B-2 (Biological Monitoring and Relocation of Sensitive Species) as described in the EIR/EIS for the proposed Project. This measure applies to the construction phase of the Project ~~on private and federal lands~~ **on all lands within or adjacent to the Project area.**

[...]

CVMSHCP/NCCP: The Project is a ~~ε~~**Covered Activity** under the CVMSHCP/NCCP. ~~However, t~~**To ensure the protection of Covered Species and non-covered sensitive species, this measure is required for private and federal lands on all lands within or adjacent to the Project area.**

#### MM BIO-3 Prepare and Implement a Worker Environmental Awareness Program

This mitigation measure shall apply to the construction and O&M phases of the Project ~~on private and federal lands~~ **over the entire Project area.**

[...]

CVMSHCP/NCCP: The Project is a ~~ε~~**Covered Activity** under the CVMSHCP/NCCP. ~~However, t~~**To ensure the protection of Covered Species and non-covered sensitive species, this measure is required for private and federal lands over the entire Project area.**

#### MM BIO-4 Minimize Native Vegetation and Habitat Loss

This mitigation measure shall apply to the construction phase of the Project ~~on private and federal lands~~ **over the entire Project area.**

[...]

CVMSHCP/NCCP: The Project is a ~~ε~~**Covered Activity** under the CVMSHCP/NCCP. ~~However, t~~**To ensure the protection of Covered Species and non-covered sensitive species, this measure is required for private and federal lands over the entire Project area.**

#### MM BIO-5 Utilize Native Species for Revegetation for Temporary Disturbance Areas

This mitigation measure shall apply to the construction phases of the Project ~~on private and federal lands~~ **over the entire Project area.**

[...]

CVMSHCP/NCCP: The Project is a ~~ε~~**Covered Activity** under the CVMSHCP/NCCP. ~~However, t~~To ensure the protection of **Covered Species and** non-covered sensitive species, this measure is ~~only required for federal lands~~ **over the entire Project area.**

#### MM BIO-7 Prepare and Implement an Operations and Maintenance Plan

This mitigation measure shall apply to the O&M phase of the Project for ~~private and federal lands~~ **the entire Project area.**

[...]

CVMSHCP/NCCP: The Project is a ~~ε~~**Covered Activity** under the CVMSHCP/NCCP. ~~However, t~~To ensure the protection of **Covered Species and** non-covered sensitive species, this measure is required for ~~private and federal lands~~ **over the entire Project area.** In addition, any O&M activities that occur ~~within the indirect permanently impacted Coachella Valley Wildlife Refuge lands (see Sections 1 and 1.4) will be covered under the CVMSHCP/NCCP.~~

#### MM BIO-8 Prepare and Implement an Integrated Weed Management Plan

This mitigation measure shall apply to the construction and O&M phase of the Project ~~on federal lands~~ **over the entire Project area** and will augment EC B-1 (Weed Abatement Program).

[...]

CVMSHCP/NCCP: The Project is a ~~C~~**covered Activity** under the CVMSHCP/NCCP. This measure is required for ~~federal lands~~ **the entire Project area.**

#### MM BIO-10 Ensure Wildlife Impact Avoidance and Minimization and Prepare a Wildlife Protection and Relocation Plan

CVWD shall undertake the following measures during the construction and O&M phases of the Project ~~on private and federal lands~~ **over the entire Project area** to avoid or minimize impacts to wildlife resources.

[...]

CVMSHCP/NCCP: The Project is a ~~ε~~**Covered Activity** under the CVMSHCP/NCCP. ~~However, t~~To ensure the protection of **Covered Species and** non-covered sensitive species, this measure is required for ~~private and federal lands~~ **over the entire Project area.**

#### MM BIO-11 Conduct Coachella Valley Fringe-toed Lizard and Flat-tailed Horned Lizard Surveys, Monitoring, and Avoidance

This mitigation measure enhances the surveying and monitoring requirements as described in MM BIO-2 and MM BIO-7, and will be applied to the pre-construction, construction, and O&M phases of the proposed Project as needed.

Surveys for Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard and flat-tailed horned lizard shall be conducted during the appropriate seasons (May 1 through the end of summer) and conditions for species identification on ~~federal lands~~ **over the entire Project area**. The duration of the surveys shall coincide with the duration of construction activities in potential habitat for these species during the summer season. Surveys shall be conducted in appropriate habitat in all Project disturbance areas and within 500 feet of these areas ~~on federal lands~~, and as required by Mitigation Measure BIO-1. Results of the surveys shall be submitted to USFWS and **CDFW** within 30 days of completion.

[...]

CVMSHCP/NCCP: The Project is a ~~C~~**covered Activity** under the CVMSHCP/NCCP. This measure is required ~~for federal lands~~ **over the entire Project area**.

#### MM BIO-13 Prepare and Implement Raven Monitoring, Management and Reporting Plan

[...]

CVMSHCP/NCCP: The Project is a ~~C~~**covered Activity** under the CVMSHCP/NCCP. This measure is required ~~for federal lands~~ **over the entire Project area**.

#### MM BIO-17 Conduct Surveys and Avoidance for Special-status Small Mammals

[...]

CVMSHCP/NCCP: ~~Only the~~ Palm Springs pocket mouse and Palm Springs (Coachella Valley) round-tailed ground squirrel are ~~C~~**covered Species** under the CVMSHCP/NCCP. ~~However, o~~Other small mammals from the region are not covered. To ensure the protection of small mammals, this measure is required ~~for private and federal lands~~ **over the entire Project area**.

### CDFW CONCLUSIONS AND FURTHER COORDINATION

William Patterson, Environmental Supervisor  
Coachella Valley Water District  
May 16, 2022  
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CDFW appreciates the opportunity to comment on the Thousand Palms Flood Control Project to assist in identifying and mitigating Project impacts on biological resources. CDFW personnel are available for consultation regarding biological resources and strategies to minimize impacts. CDFW requests that the Coachella Valley Water District address the CDFW's comments and concerns prior to adoption of the EIR.

Questions regarding this letter or further coordination should be directed to Jacob Skaggs at [jacob.skaggs@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:jacob.skaggs@wildlife.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

DocuSigned by:  
  
8091B1A9242F49C...

Scott Wilson  
Environmental Program Manager

ec:

Heather Pert, [heather.pert@wildlife.ca.gov](mailto:heather.pert@wildlife.ca.gov)

Office of Planning and Research, State Clearinghouse, Sacramento

Rollie White, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

**ATTACHMENT 1**

**Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program for the Coachella Valley Water District, Thousand Palms Flood Control Project**

<b>Mitigation Measures</b>	<b>Timing and Methods</b>	<b>Responsible Parties</b>
<p><b>MM BIO-1: Conduct Pre-Construction Biological Resources Surveys</b></p> <p>This mitigation measures shall apply to the pre-construction and construction phases of the Project over the entire Project area.</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>CVMSHCP/NCCP: This measure is required for all lands within or adjacent to the Project area.</p>	<p><b>Timing:</b> During pre-construction and construction phases of the Project</p> <p><b>Methods:</b> As described in MM BIO-1</p>	<p><b>Implementation:</b> CVWD</p> <p><b>Monitoring and Reporting:</b> CVWD</p>
<p><b>MM BIO-2 Conduct Biological Monitoring and Reporting</b></p> <p>This measure supersedes EC B-2 (Biological Monitoring and Relocation of Sensitive Species) as described in the EIR/EIS for the proposed Project. This measure applies to the construction phase of the Project on all lands within or adjacent to the Project area.</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>CVMSHCP/NCCP: The Project is a Covered Activity under the CVMSHCP/NCCP. To ensure the protection of Covered Species and non-covered sensitive species, this measure is required on all lands within or adjacent to the Project area.</p>	<p><b>Timing:</b> During construction phase of the Project</p> <p><b>Methods:</b> As described in MM BIO-2</p>	<p><b>Implementation:</b> CVWD</p> <p><b>Monitoring and Reporting:</b> CVWD</p>

Mitigation Measures	Timing and Methods	Responsible Parties
<p><b>MM BIO-3 Prepare and Implement a Worker Environmental Awareness Program</b></p> <p>This mitigation measure shall apply to the construction and O&amp;M phases of the Project over the entire Project area.</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>CVMSHCP/NCCP: The Project is a Covered Activity under the CVMSHCP/NCCP. To ensure the protection of Covered Species and non-covered sensitive species, this measure is required over the entire Project area.</p>	<p><b>Timing:</b> During construction and O&amp;M phases of the Project</p> <p><b>Methods:</b> As described in MM BIO-3</p>	<p><b>Implementation:</b> CVWD</p> <p><b>Monitoring and Reporting:</b> CVWD</p>
<p><b>MM BIO-4 Minimize Native Vegetation and Habitat Loss</b></p> <p>This mitigation measure shall apply to the construction phase of the Project over the entire Project area.</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>CVMSHCP/NCCP: The Project is a Covered Activity under the CVMSHCP/NCCP. To ensure the protection of Covered Species and non-covered sensitive species, this measure is required over the entire Project area.</p>	<p><b>Timing:</b> During construction phase of the Project</p> <p><b>Methods:</b> As described in MM BIO-4</p>	<p><b>Implementation:</b> CVWD</p> <p><b>Monitoring and Reporting:</b> CVWD</p>

Mitigation Measures	Timing and Methods	Responsible Parties
<p><b>MM BIO-5 Utilize Native Species for Revegetation for Temporary Disturbance Areas</b></p> <p>This mitigation measure shall apply to the construction phases of the Project over the entire Project area.</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>CVMSHCP/NCCP: The Project is a Covered Activity under the CVMSHCP/NCCP. To ensure the protection of Covered Species and non-covered sensitive species, this measure is required over the entire Project area.</p>	<p><b>Timing:</b> During construction phase of the Project</p> <p><b>Methods:</b> As described in MM BIO-5</p>	<p><b>Implementation:</b> CVWD</p> <p><b>Monitoring and Reporting:</b> CVWD</p>

<p><b>MM BIO-6 Compensate for Habitat Loss</b></p> <p>The CVWD will acquire and protect approximately 550 acres of floodway lands as habitat for special-status plants and wildlife, located within the Thousand Palms Conservation Area. The floodway lands will be transferred to the CVCC for conservation and management under the CVMSHCP in support of the goals and objectives of the CVMSHCP. CVWD will ensure acquisition and protection of approximately 32 acres of aeolian sand habitat that contribute to the recovery of Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard and suitable for other aeolian sand dependent species. Additionally, CVWD will ensure any impacts to CDFW owned or managed lands will be mitigated through the acquisition and protection of additional lands in coordination with CDFW and following the Compensation land Selection Criteria outlined below. Habitat compensation will be accomplished by acquisition of mitigation land or conservation easements or by providing funding for specific land acquisition, endowment, restoration, and management actions.</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>CVMSCHP/NCCP: The Project is a Covered Activity under the CVMSHCP/NCCP.</p>	<p><b>Timing:</b> As described in MM BIO-6</p> <p><b>Methods:</b> As described in MM BIO-6</p>	<p><b>Implementation:</b> CVWD</p> <p><b>Monitoring and Reporting:</b> CVWD</p>
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<p><b>MM BIO-7 Prepare and Implement an Operations and Maintenance Plan</b></p> <p>This mitigation measure shall apply to the O&amp;M phase of the Project for the entire Project area.</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>CVMSHCP/NCCP: The Project is a Covered Activity under the CVMSHCP/NCCP. To ensure the protection of Covered Species and non-covered sensitive species, this measure is required over the entire Project area.</p>	<p><b>Timing:</b> During O&amp;M phase of the Project</p> <p><b>Methods:</b> As described in MM BIO-7</p>	<p><b>Implementation:</b> CVWD</p> <p><b>Monitoring and Reporting:</b> CVWD</p>
<p><b>MM BIO-8 Prepare and Implement an Integrated Weed Management Plan</b></p> <p>This mitigation measure shall apply to the construction and O&amp;M phase of the Project over the entire Project area and will augment EC B-1 (Weed Abatement Program).</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>CVMSHCP/NCCP: The Project is a Covered Activity under the CVMSHCP/NCCP. This measure is required for the entire Project area.</p>	<p><b>Timing:</b> During construction and O&amp;M phases of the Project</p> <p><b>Methods:</b> As described in MM BIO-8</p>	<p><b>Implementation:</b> CVWD</p> <p><b>Monitoring and Reporting:</b> CVWD</p>

Mitigation Measures	Timing and Methods	Responsible Parties
<p><b>MM BIO-10 Ensure Wildlife Impact Avoidance and Minimization and Prepare a Wildlife Protection and Relocation Plan</b></p> <p>CVWD shall undertake the following measures during the construction and O&amp;M phases of the Project over the entire Project area to avoid or minimize impacts to wildlife resources.</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>CVMSHCP/NCCP: The Project is a Covered Activity under the CVMSHCP/NCCP. To ensure the protection of Covered Species and non-covered sensitive species, this measure is required over the entire Project area.</p>	<p><b>Timing:</b> During construction and O&amp;M phases of the Project</p> <p><b>Methods:</b> As described in MM BIO-10</p>	<p><b>Implementation:</b> CVWD</p> <p><b>Monitoring and Reporting:</b> CVWD</p>

Mitigation Measures	Timing and Methods	Responsible Parties
<p><b>MM BIO-11 Conduct Coachella Valley Fringe-toed Lizard and Flat-tailed Horned Lizard Surveys, Monitoring, and Avoidance</b></p> <p>This mitigation measure enhances the surveying and monitoring requirements as described in MM BIO-2 and MM BIO-7, and will be applied to the pre-construction, construction, and O&amp;M phases of the proposed Project as needed.</p> <p>Surveys for Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard and flat-tailed horned lizard shall be conducted during the appropriate seasons (May 1 through the end of summer) and conditions for species identification on over the entire Project area. The duration of the surveys shall coincide with the duration of construction activities in potential habitat for these species during the summer season. Surveys shall be conducted in appropriate habitat in all Project disturbance areas and within 500 feet of these areas, and as required by Mitigation Measure BIO-1. Results of the surveys shall be submitted to USFWS and CDFW within 30 days of completion.</p> <p>[...]</p> <p>CVMSHCP/NCCP: The Project is a Covered Activity under the CVMSHCP/NCCP. This measure is required over the entire Project area.</p>	<p><b>Timing:</b> During pre-construction, construction, and O&amp;M phases of the Project</p> <p><b>Methods:</b> As described in MM BIO-11</p>	<p><b>Implementation:</b> CVWD</p> <p><b>Monitoring and Reporting:</b> CVWD</p>

Mitigation Measures	Timing and Methods	Responsible Parties
<p><b>MM BIO-13 Prepare and Implement Raven Monitoring, Management and Reporting Plan</b></p> <p>[...]</p> <p>CVMSHCP/NCCP: The Project is a Covered Activity under the CVMSHCP/NCCP. This measure is required over the entire Project area.</p>	<p><b>Timing:</b> During construction phase of the Project</p> <p><b>Methods:</b> As described in MM BIO-13</p>	<p><b>Implementation:</b> CVWD</p> <p><b>Monitoring and Reporting:</b> CVWD</p>
<p><b>MM BIO-14 Conduct Pre-Construction Surveys and Monitoring for Breeding Birds</b></p> <p>[...]</p> <p>CVMSHCP/NCCP: The Project is a Covered Activity under the CVMSHCP/NCCP. To ensure the protection of nests or eggs, this measure is required over the entire Project area.</p>	<p><b>Timing:</b> During pre-construction, construction and O&amp;M phases of the Project</p> <p><b>Methods:</b> As described in MM BIO-14</p>	<p><b>Implementation:</b> CVWD</p> <p><b>Monitoring and Reporting:</b> CVWD</p>
<p><b>MM BIO-15 Conduct Surveys and Avoidance for Burrowing Owl</b></p> <p>[...]</p> <p>CVMSHCP/NCCP: Burrowing owl is a Covered Species under the CVMSHCP/NCCP. To ensure the protection of nests and eggs, this measure is required over the entire Project area.</p>	<p><b>Timing:</b> During pre-construction, construction, and O&amp;M phases of the Project</p> <p><b>Methods:</b> As described in MM BIO-15</p>	<p><b>Implementation:</b> CVWD</p> <p><b>Monitoring and Reporting:</b> CVWD</p>

Mitigation Measures	Timing and Methods	Responsible Parties
<p><b>MM BIO-17 Conduct Surveys and Avoidance for Special-status Small Mammals</b></p> <p>[...]</p> <p>CVMSHCP/NCCP: Palm Springs pocket mouse and Palm Springs (Coachella Valley) round-tailed ground squirrel are Covered Species under the CVMSHCP/NCCP. Other small mammals from the region are not covered. To ensure the protection of small mammals, this measure is required over the entire Project area.</p>	<p><b>Timing:</b> During pre-construction, construction, and O&amp;M phases of the Project</p> <p><b>Methods:</b> As described in MM BIO-17</p>	<p><b>Implementation:</b> CVWD</p> <p><b>Monitoring and Reporting:</b> CVWD</p>
<p><b>MM BIO-19 Minimize and Mitigate Impacts to Jurisdictional Water</b></p> <p>[...]</p> <p>The Project will submit a notification of streambed alteration regarding impacts to fish and wildlife resources subject to Fish and Game Code section 1600 et seq.</p>	<p><b>Timing:</b> Prior to initiation of Project activities</p> <p><b>Methods:</b> As described in a notification of streambed alteration</p>	<p><b>Implementation:</b> CVWD</p> <p><b>Monitoring and Reporting:</b> CVWD</p>