

Addendum No. 1 to the Final Environmental Impact Report Oasis Area Irrigation System Expansion Project Coachella Valley Water District

1.0 Introduction

This Addendum No. 1 to the Final Environmental Impact Report¹ (FEIR) for the *Oasis Area Irrigation System Expansion Project* (Project) has been prepared by the Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) to evaluate the Imperial Irrigation District (IID) electrical service upgrade requirements of the Project (proposed action), a new electrical circuit design and layout to provide required power for the Oasis irrigation system. Circuit locations were not finalized at the time the Final EIR was completed in December 2015. IID supplies electrical power in the Oasis area located in the lower Coachella Valley on the northwest side of the Salton Sea. The Oasis Irrigation Expansion Project requires electric power to serve four booster pump stations. The purpose of this Addendum No. 1 is to evaluate the final circuit routing and construction requirements to determine whether the potential impacts and required mitigation measures identified in the EIR adequately cover potential effects of the final electrical circuit design.

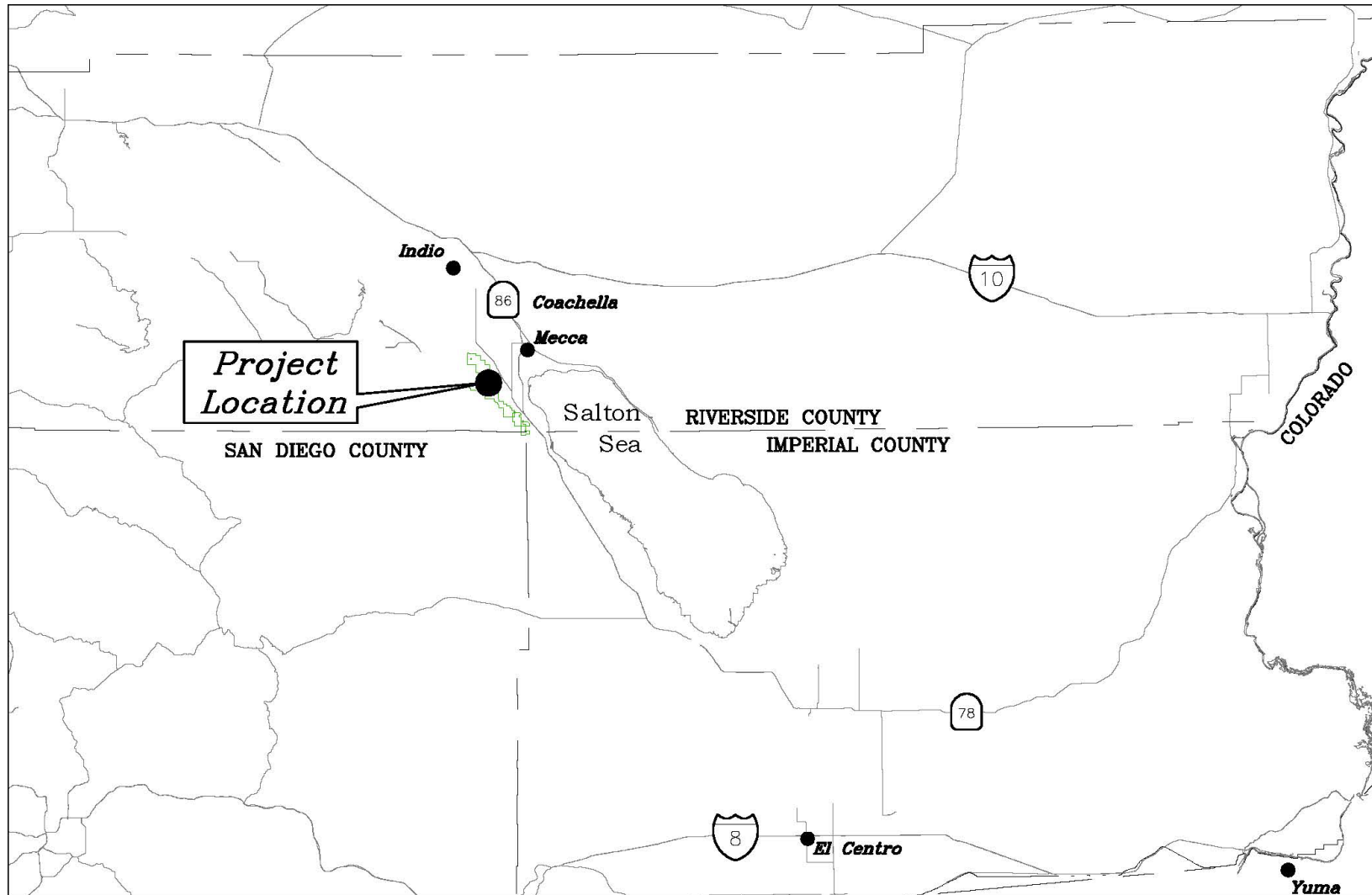
1.1 Background and Description of the Proposed Action

A detailed Project Description is provided in Chapter 2 of the 2015 FEIR. With the exception of the final IID electrical circuit routing plan, that proposed Project Description is correct and is briefly summarized in this Addendum document. The = Project will supply up to 32,000 acre-feet of Colorado River water (canal water) per year that will be utilized for irrigation to replace the current groundwater pumping. The Project area lies near the northwest margin of the Salton Sea, south of 66th Avenue, west of Harrison Street, and north of 86th Avenue in Riverside County, California (see **Figure 1: Vicinity Map**). The Project includes formation of Assessment District 34 (AD 34) for cost recovery. AD 34 includes 7,101 acres of privately and publicly owned farmlands that are within the existing CVWD boundary, are outside of the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan/Natural Communities Conservation Plan (CVMSHCP) boundary, and that are subject to irrigation by their owners using underlying groundwater at present. Other than being within a new assessment district and receiving CVWD canal water in substitution for groundwater pumping, the status and use of these lands will not be affected by the Project.

The system improvements required to convey water to the Oasis area include the construction of 18 miles of underground pipelines, three reservoirs, four pump stations; the installation of water-meters within concrete vaults; and upgrade of an existing IID electrical circuit to provide power

¹ Coachella Valley Water District, *Final Environmental Impact Report for the Oasis Area Irrigation System Expansion Project*, SCH No. 2014061084, March 2015

Figure 1 Vicinity Map



to the pump stations. The CVWD pipeline will be connected to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's (Reclamation) existing water delivery system (Lateral 97.1) and require abandonment of two existing pump stations (Pump Stations O-1 and O-4) owned by Reclamation and operated by CVWD (see **Figures 2A and 2B: Oasis Area Pipeline Alignment, North and South Segments**). With expansion of the surface water system for irrigation in the Oasis Area, reliance on groundwater can be curtailed, allowing recovery of the underlying aquifer in fulfillment of the 2010 *Coachella Valley Water Management Plan* Update (CVWMP).

Ancillary facilities such as turnout/meter facilities vary in size and typically occupy a permanent footprint of a few hundred feet. In addition, the IID circuit upgrade to the existing Oasis substation involves rebuilding overhead lines (reconductoring) and new underbuilt circuits. At the time of completion of the Final EIR, final engineering design and layout of the electrical circuit had not been completed, and potential effects of the electrical circuit layout and construction were considered generically, with the understanding that final design would involve placement and construction of poles and lines parallel to existing roads and utility corridors within the Oasis agricultural lands, confined to areas that are developed as a means to minimize potential environmental effects.

The Oasis IID electrical service upgrades (circuit extension) will serve four CVWD booster stations at various locations as shown in **Figure 3**. As shown in the figure, IID will upgrade an overhead three-phase distribution line approximately two and half miles starting at the intersection of Harrison Street and Avenue 70 with the installation of 30 new power poles and replacing 23 existing poles. The second location begins at Pierce Street and Avenue 72 (Oasis Substation) going south approximately two miles to Avenue 76 and then continuing west on Avenue 76 approximately 0.5 miles to Harrison Street with the installation of 21 new power poles and replacing 27 existing poles. IID will install approximately 21,200 feet of All Aluminum Conductor (AAC) overhead cable.

This addendum to the FEIR addresses potential changes in impacts as reported in the FEIR, with a focus on impacts related to air quality, biological and cultural resources, hydrology and water quality, noise and traffic. The analysis also identifies mitigation requirements imposed as conditions of approval that would apply to the electrical circuit installation as well as other components of the project (pipelines, storage reservoirs, and pump stations).

Figure 2A: Oasis Area Pipeline Alignment, North Segments

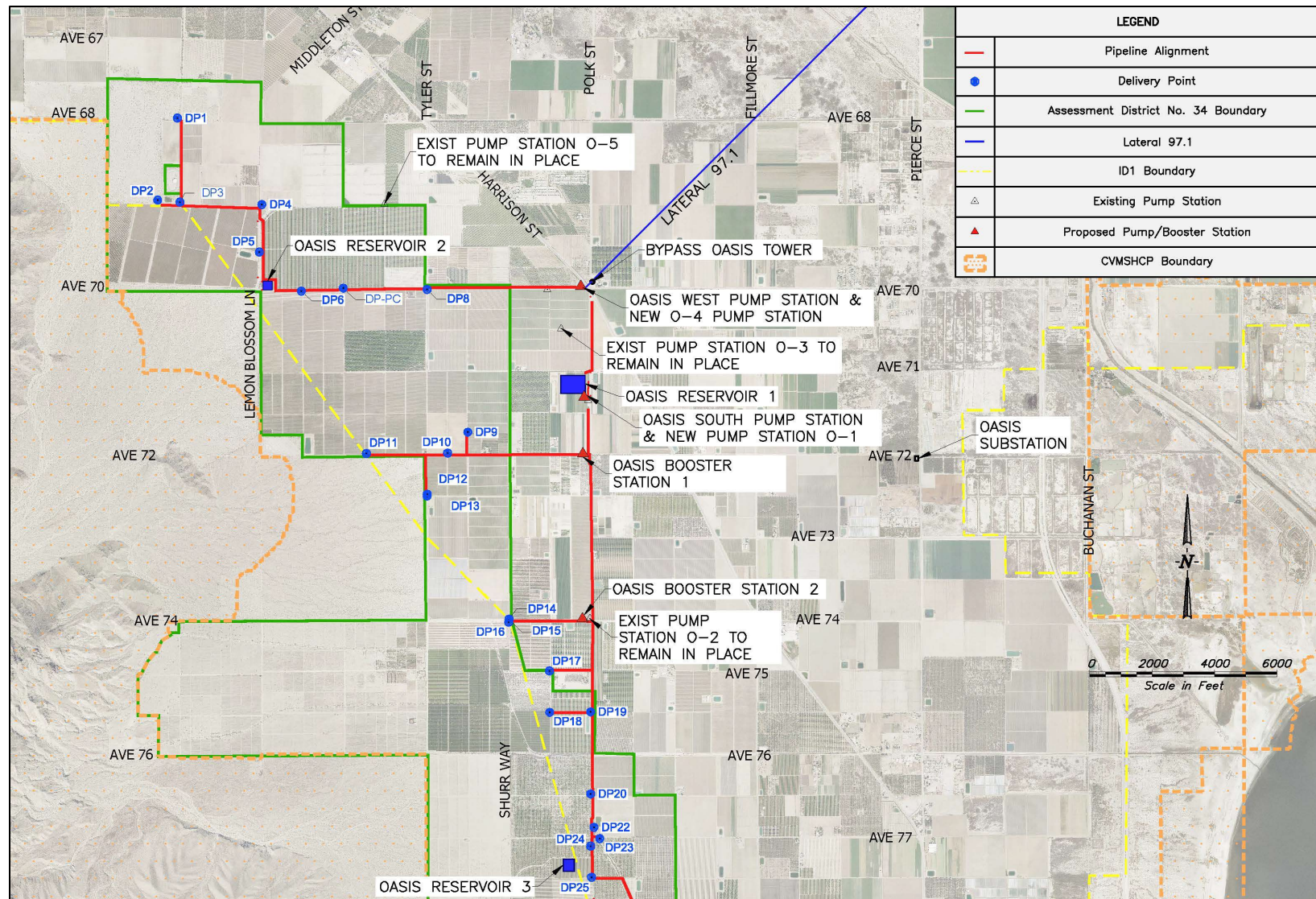


Figure 2B: Oasis Area Pipeline Alignment, South Segments

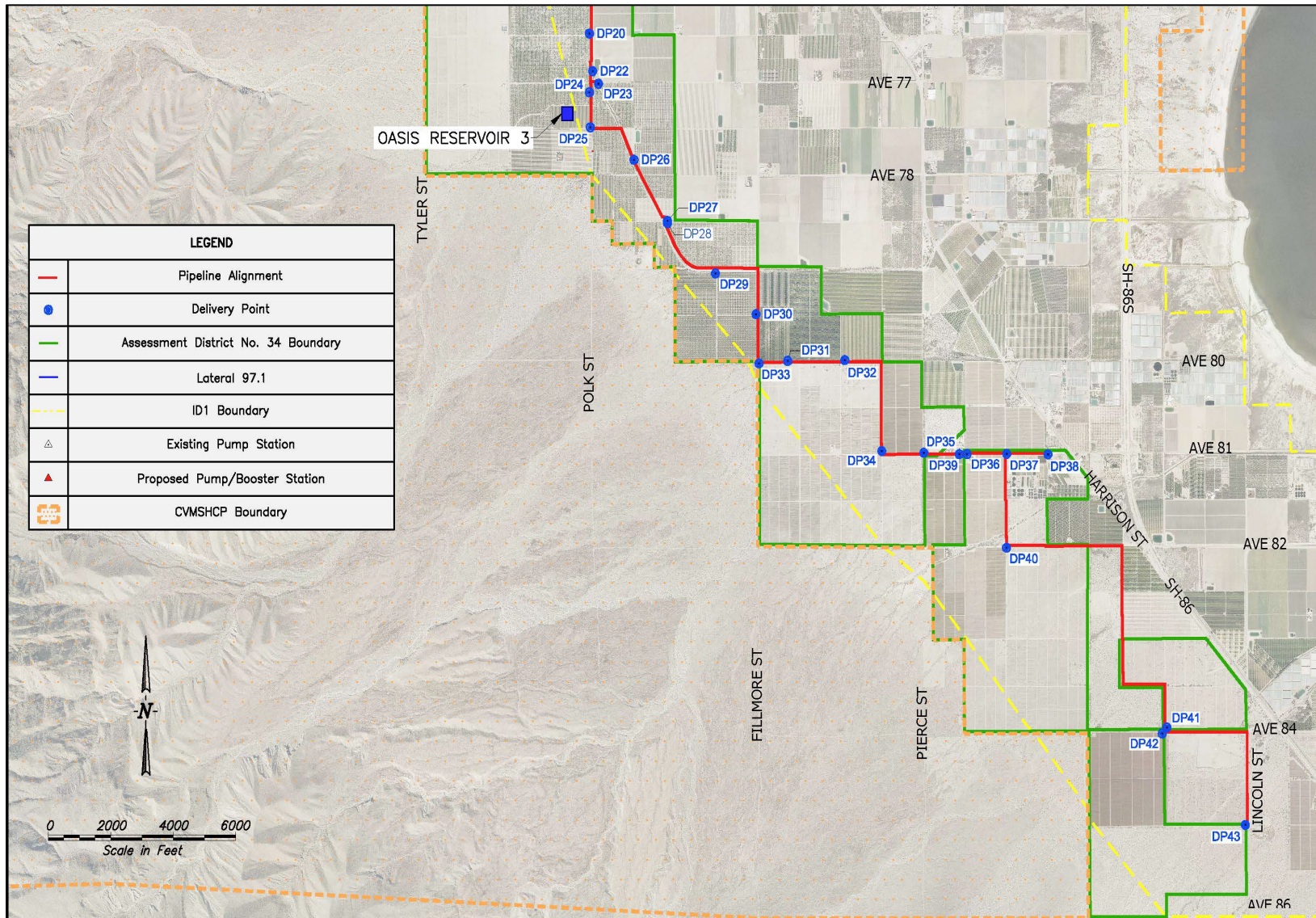
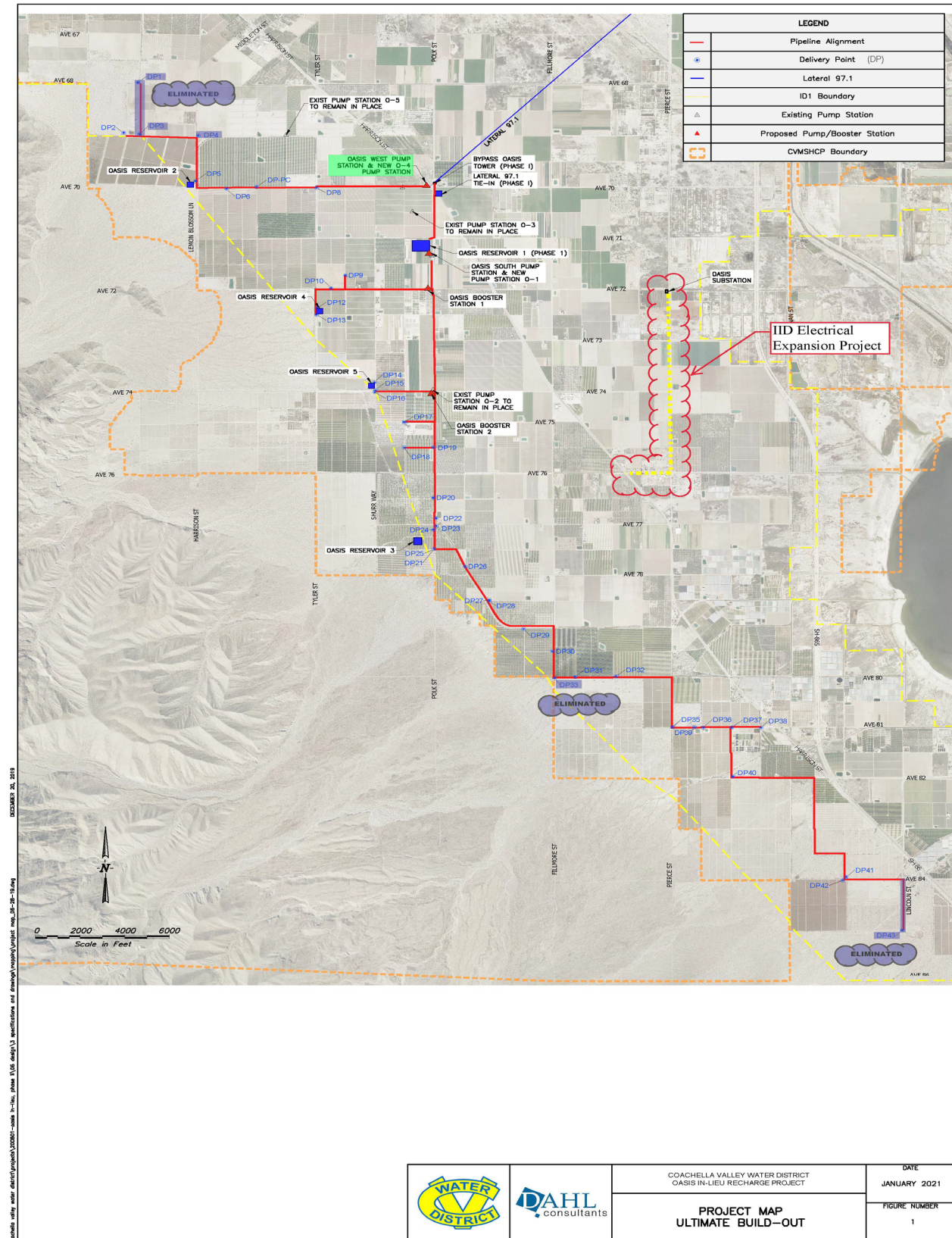


Figure 3: IID Circuit Extension for the Oasis Irrigation System Expansion Project



1.2 CEQA Guidance and Basis for an Addendum to the FEIR

As the Lead Agency under CEQA, CVWD certified the FEIR evaluating and disclosing the potential environmental impacts associated with implementation of the Oasis irrigation expansion project. When an EIR has been certified and the project is modified or otherwise changed after certification, additional CEQA review may be necessary. The key considerations in determining the need for and appropriate type of additional CEQA review are outlined in §21166 of the Public Resources Code (CEQA), which specifically provides that a Subsequent or Supplemental EIR is not required unless one or more of the following occurs:

- (a) Substantial changes are proposed in the project which will require major revisions in the environmental impact report.
- (b) Substantial changes occur with respect to the circumstances under which the project is undertaken which would require major revisions in the environmental impact report.
- (c) New information, which was not known and could not have been known at the time the environmental impact report was certified as complete, becomes available.

Pursuant to the 2022 State CEQA Guidelines §15164, and with reference to §15162, an addendum to a previously certified Environmental Impact Report (EIR) is required when changes or additions are necessary, but where none of the conditions call for the preparation of a subsequent EIR. This addendum has been prepared to assess the proposed IID electrical circuit route. The addendum is required to include an explanation of the decision not to prepare a Supplemental EIR, supported by substantial evidence pursuant to the State CEQA Guidelines §15164(e).

The proposed action, as set forth and described in this Addendum No.1 to the FEIR, would not result in any change to the balance of the Oasis irrigation expansion project, No change from the permitted water volume or distribution system, or irrigated agricultural land uses would occur from the proposed electrical circuit layout. Therefore, no substantial change or circumstance leading to a major revision of the irrigation project would occur as a result of the proposed action.

Review of the impact analysis for each resource topic area covered in the 2015 FEIR is summarized below in **Table 1 – Review of Impact Analyses**. Chapters from the Oasis Irrigation Expansion Project FEIR are referenced in the table.

Based upon this assessment, CVWD concludes that the proposed action is within the scope of the Oasis Irrigation Expansion Project FEIR and this Addendum No. 1 fulfills the CEQA review

necessary for an addendum to an EIR. The proposed action would not result in any new significant impacts beyond those identified in the FEIR. Applicable mitigation requirements for air quality, biological and cultural resources, hydrology and water quality, noise and traffic are identified, but none of the conditions described in State CEQA Guidelines §15162 calling for the preparation of a subsequent EIR have occurred.

2.0 Review of the FEIR Impact Analyses Relative to the IID Electrical Circuit Expansion Project

This addendum has been prepared to address the IID electrical service upgrades required for the Project.t. As explained in the summary assessments that follow, the construction and long-term operation of the irrigation project and subsequent agricultural land uses are not modified in any way. Analysis of the IID electrical circuit upgrades required to power booster pumps for the Oasis irrigation expansion project is presented in Table 1 for each resource area evaluated in the Oasis Irrigation Expansion Project FEIR.

Table 1 Review of FEIR Impact Analyses	
FEIR CHAPTER	IMPACT ANALYSIS
3.1 Effects Not Found To Be Significant	Effects found not to require further study for the Oasis Irrigation Expansion Project include population and housing, land use and planning, public services and utilities, and recreation. Details of the electrical power circuit routing alignment considered in this addendum do not raise any issues that would require additional analysis or a need for new mitigation measures, and this chapter of the FEIR (pages 3.1-1 through 3.1-2) remains accurate and is unchanged by this <i>Addendum No. 1 to the FEIR</i> .
3.2 Aesthetics	No impacts related to aesthetics were identified in the FEIR. The new electrical circuit will not create any significant visual change in the Oasis area which has been developed in large scale irrigated agricultural land uses for decades, including power lines, roads, irrigated fields, vineyards and orchards, wells, residences, and related features. Details of

Table 1
Review of FEIR Impact Analyses

FEIR CHAPTER	IMPACT ANALYSIS
	the electrical power circuit routing alignment considered in this addendum do not raise any issues that would require additional analysis or a need for new mitigation measures. This chapter of the FEIR (pages 3.2-1 through 3.2-10) remains accurate and is unchanged by the <i>Addendum No. 1 to the FEIR</i> .
3.3 Agricultural and Forestry Resources	No impacts related to agricultural and forestry resources were identified in the FEIR, which concluded that the project has net benefits to sustained agricultural uses in the Oasis area by providing surface water to help prevent groundwater overdraft. Details of the electrical power circuit routing alignment considered in this Addendum do not raise any issues that would require additional analysis or a need for new mitigation measures. This chapter of the FEIR (pages 3.3-1 through 3.3-6) remains accurate and is unchanged by this <i>Addendum No. 1 to the FEIR</i> .
3.4 Air Quality and Greenhouse Gases Emissions	Potential impacts to air quality and GHG emissions are limited to the gasoline and diesel-powered trucks and construction equipment during construction of the project, with no impacts related to long-term operations. Mitigation measures AQ-1 through AQ-6 regarding construction equipment requirements do apply to the construction of the electrical circuit. Details of the electrical power circuit routing alignment considered in this Addendum do not raise any issues that would require additional analysis or a need for new mitigation measures. This chapter of the Oasis Irrigation Expansion Project FEIR (pages 3.4-1 through 3.4-25) remains accurate and is unchanged by this <i>Addendum No. 1 to the FEIR</i> .

Table 1
Review of FEIR Impact Analyses

FEIR CHAPTER	IMPACT ANALYSIS
3.5 Biological Resources	<p>Potential impacts to biological resources are limited to construction activities, with no impacts related to long-term operations. Mitigation measures BIO-1 through BIO-4 regarding pre-construction surveys and actions to be taken if protected species are encountered do apply to the construction of the electrical circuit. Details of the electrical power circuit routing alignment considered in this addendum do not raise any issues that would require additional analysis or a need for new mitigation measures. This chapter of the Oasis Irrigation Expansion Project FEIR (pages 3.5-1 through 3.5-22) remains accurate and is unchanged by this <i>Addendum No. 1 to the Oasis Irrigation Expansion Project FEIR</i>.</p>
3.6 Cultural Resources	<p>Potential impacts to cultural resources are limited to construction activities, with no impacts related to long-term operations. Mitigation measure CR-1 pertains to the protection of the Oasis Water Tower as an historical feature and local landmark and does not apply to the electrical circuit. Mitigation measures CR-2 through CR-4 related to archaeological and paleontological resources, and actions to be taken if human remains are discovered during excavations do apply to the construction of the electrical circuit. Details of the electrical power circuit routing alignment considered in this addendum do not raise any issues that would require additional analysis or a need for new mitigation measures. This chapter of the FEIR (pages 3.6-1 through 3.6-15) remains accurate and</p>

Table 1
Review of FEIR Impact Analyses

FEIR CHAPTER	IMPACT ANALYSIS
	is unchanged by the <i>Addendum No. 1 to the FEIR</i> .
3.7 Geology, Soils, and Mineral Resources	No impacts related to geology, soils or mineral resources were identified in the FEIR. Details of the electrical power circuit routing alignment considered in this addendum do not raise any issues that would require additional analysis or a need for new mitigation measures. This chapter of the FEIR (pages 3.7-1 through 3.7-12) remains accurate and is unchanged by this <i>Addendum No. 1 to the FEIR</i> .
3.8 Hazards and Hazardous Materials	No impacts related to hazards or hazardous materials were identified in the FEIR. Details of the electrical power circuit routing alignment considered in this addendum do not raise any issues that would require additional analysis or a need for new mitigation measures. This chapter of the FEIR (pages 3.8-1 through 3.8-6) remains accurate and is unchanged by this <i>Addendum No. 1 to the FEIR</i> .
3.9 Hydrology and Water Quality	Potential impacts to hydrology and water quality are limited to construction activities, with no impacts related to long-term operations. Mitigation measure WQ-1 is primarily applicable to the extensive excavation activities associated with the regulating reservoirs and distribution pipelines with desert dry wash crossings, but also applies to the drilling and excavations required for installation of new poles for the electrical circuit. Details of the electrical power circuit routing alignment considered in this addendum do not raise any issues that would require additional analysis or a need for new mitigation measures. This chapter of the FEIR (pages 3.9-1 through 3.9-20) remains accurate and

Table 1
Review of FEIR Impact Analyses

FEIR CHAPTER	IMPACT ANALYSIS
	is unchanged by this <i>Addendum No. 1 to the FEIR</i> .
3.10 Noise	The only potential impact related to noise identified in the FEIR is from operation of booster pump number 1 which is located close to a single-family residence. No noise impacts were identified for construction activities or other long-term operations. The construction activities related to IID electrical service upgrades are consistent with construction activities identified and analyzed in the FEIR. Mitigation measure N-1 does not apply to the construction of the electrical circuit. Details of the electrical power circuit routing alignment considered in this addendum do not raise any issues that would require additional analysis or a need for new mitigation measures. This chapter of the FEIR (pages 3.10-1 through 3.10-15) remains essentially accurate and is unchanged in this <i>Addendum No. 1 to the FEIR</i> .
3.11 Traffic Generation and Circulation	Potential impacts related to traffic identified in the FEIR are limited to construction activities that could restrict roadway lanes or block driveways and pertain more to the pipeline trenching than to construction activities associated with the electrical circuit installation. The Traffic Management Plan required in mitigation measure T-1 should apply to the electrical circuit construction, including provisions for ridesharing and provision of on-site food service to reduce construction worker vehicle trips where feasible. Details of the electrical power circuit routing alignment considered in this addendum do not raise any issues that would require additional analysis or a need for new

Table 1
Review of FEIR Impact Analyses

FEIR CHAPTER	IMPACT ANALYSIS
	mitigation measures. This chapter of the FEIR (pages 3.11-1 through 3.11-8) remains accurate and is unchanged in this <i>Addendum No. 1 to the FEIR</i> .
4.0 Mandatory CEQA Considerations	The FEIR did not identify any potentially significant impacts related to growth inducement, irreversible environmental changes, unavoidable adverse effects, or energy conservation. Details of the electrical power circuit routing alignment considered in this addendum do not raise any issues that would require additional analysis of these topics or a need for new mitigation measures. This chapter of the FEIR (pages 4.0-1 through 4.0-3) remains accurate and is unchanged by this <i>Addendum No. 1 to the FEIR</i> .
5.0 Alternatives to the Proposed Project	Alternatives considered and eliminated from analysis in the FEIR included installation of a surface canal water distribution system rather than a buried pipeline system, and pipeline routing alternatives to reduce the total length. Alternatives considered in more detail included groundwater recharge instead of the irrigation water delivery system, and an extended construction period using less gasoline and diesel-powered equipment to reduce the Project's NOx emissions, which were found to be potentially significant. Details of the electrical power circuit routing alignment considered in this addendum do not raise any issues that would require additional analysis of alternatives, other alternatives, or a need for new mitigation measures. This chapter of the FEIR (pages 5.0-1 through 5.0-14) remains accurate and is unchanged by this <i>Addendum No. 1 to the FEIR</i> .

3.0 Conclusions

Details of the electrical power circuit routing alignment considered in this addendum are within the scope of the Oasis Irrigation Expansion Project FEIR and this Addendum No. 1 fulfills the CEQA review necessary for an addendum to an EIR. Based upon the foregoing analysis, the proposed electrical circuit routing and construction are determined to be consistent with the description of the environmental setting, environmental impacts and mitigation measures as set forth in the originally certified FEIR.

None of the conditions described in State CEQA Guidelines §15162 calling for the preparation of a subsequent EIR have occurred as a result of the final electrical circuit design. All applicable and relevant mitigation measures to the irrigation project that were included in the Oasis Irrigation Expansion Project FEIR are incorporated by reference herein and are contained in the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program prepared as a part of the 2015 FEIR (Chapter 9.0 – Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program). No further environmental review is required.

Because there are no new or substantially more severe impacts, the addendum need not be circulated for public review. However, CVWD shall make the Addendum No. 1 document available to the public and consider it in conjunction with all of the associated documents in the record as a part of making its decision to approve the proposed IID electrical circuit. No formal noticing or recirculation of the Oasis Irrigation Expansion Project FEIR is required since conditions permitting adoption of an addendum are satisfied. Upon adoption by CVWD, this Addendum No. 1 will be inserted as a part of the Oasis Irrigation Expansion Project FEIR (State CEQA Guidelines §15162(c)).

This Addendum No. 1 and the complete 2015 FEIR for the Oasis Irrigation Expansion Project are available for review during normal business hours at the District's headquarters located at: 75-515 Hovley Lane East, Palm Desert, California 92211.

4.0 References

On-File with the CVWD:

Coachella Valley Water District, *Final Environmental Impact Report for the Oasis Area Irrigation System Expansion Project*, SCH No. 2014061084, February 2015

Coachella Valley Water District. *Coachella Valley Water Management Plan Final 2010 Update*. January 2012.

California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) of 1970 (as amended) [Public Resources Code §§21000-21178] and the 2022 State CEQA Guidelines [California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3, §§15000-15387]