



**Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program  
for the  
Coachella Canal  
Mid-Canal Storage Project**

**Mitigated Negative Declaration**

SCH#: 2022120628

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## **Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program**

The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires that when a lead agency adopts a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND), it shall prepare a monitoring or reporting program for all required mitigation measures (CEQA Guidelines Section 15097). This Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) describes the monitoring and reporting program for mitigation measures adopted by Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD) to avoid or substantially reduce impacts related to the Mid-Canal Storage Project (project) to less than significant levels. CVWD and its contractors are required to implement the adopted mitigation measures for the project in accordance with the MND. This MMRP contains a checklist and description of all adopted mitigation measures, including the responsible parties, timing, and completion criteria.

### **Program Administration**

The MMRP shall be administered by CVWD. Mitigation measures shall be incorporated into design and construction contracts, as appropriate, to ensure full implementation. The MMRP shall be maintained by the designated CVWD Project Manager and be available for inspection upon request at CVWD offices.

### **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.

### **Mitigation Monitoring Requirements**

A mitigation monitoring checklist has been developed for the proposed project and is intended for use by CVWD, as lead agency and designated monitoring entity for the proposed project. The checklist, presented as Table 1, summarizes the mitigation requirements for the proposed project, anticipates timing, and identifies responsible parties for ensuring implementation of each mitigation measure. These mitigation measures are presented using the naming conventions and categories in the MND.

<i>Mitigation Measure</i>	<i>Monitoring and Reporting Actions</i>	<i>Implementation Schedule</i>	<i>Monitoring Frequency</i>	<i>Responsible Party</i>	<i>Review and Approval by:</i>	<i>Verification: Status/ Date Completed/ Initials</i>
<b>Air Quality</b>						
<p><b>Mitigation Measure AQ-1: Dust Control</b></p> <p>The Construction Contractor will obtain a Construction Permit from the IVAPCD for a fugitive dust control program. This program shall include, but not limited to the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Water shall be applied at least two times daily, preferably in the mid-morning, afternoon, and after work is done for the day, to exposed surfaces including graded and disturbed areas in sufficient quantity to prevent generation of dust plumes.</li> <li>Traffic speeds on unpaved roads shall be limited to 25 miles per hour.</li> <li>Operations on unpaved surfaces shall be suspended when winds exceed 25 miles per hour.</li> <li>On-site stockpiles shall be covered or watered at least twice per day.</li> </ul>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Include measure in contract documents.</li> <li>2. Confirm that Construction Permit has been obtained from IVAPCD.</li> <li>3. Review construction site for compliance with dust control measures.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Contracting</li> <li>2. Construction</li> <li>3. Construction</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Once</li> <li>2. Throughout construction, if applicable.</li> <li>3. Throughout construction.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. CVWD</li> <li>2. CVWD, Construction Contractor</li> <li>3. CVWD, Construction Contractor</li> </ol>	CVWD	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. _____</li> <li>2. _____</li> <li>3. _____</li> </ol>
<p><b>Mitigation Measure AQ-2: Construction Equipment Maintenance</b></p> <p>The construction contractor shall ensure that heavy-duty diesel trucks and other construction equipment are properly tuned and maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications to ensure minimum emissions under normal operations.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Include measure in contract documents.</li> <li>2. Confirm Contractor implementation.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Contracting</li> <li>2. Construction</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Once</li> <li>2. Once</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. CVWD</li> <li>2. CVWD, Construction Contractor</li> </ol>	CVWD	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. _____</li> <li>2. _____</li> </ol>
<p><b>Mitigation Measure AQ-3: Vehicle Idling Time Limits</b></p> <p>All construction vehicles, both on- and off-site, and construction equipment idling times shall be minimized either by shutting equipment off when not in use or reducing the maximum idling time to five minutes (as required by the California airborne toxics control measure Title 13, Section 2485 of California Code of Regulations). The construction contractor shall provide awareness training to equipment operators regarding this idling limit.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Include measure in contract documents.</li> <li>2. Confirm Contractor training for all equipment operators.</li> <li>3. Review construction site for compliance with equipment idling limits.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Contracting</li> <li>2. Construction</li> <li>3. Construction</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Once</li> <li>2. Once</li> <li>3. Throughout construction.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. CVWD</li> <li>2. CVWD, Construction Contractor</li> <li>3. CVWD</li> </ol>	CVWD	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. _____</li> <li>2. _____</li> <li>3. _____</li> </ol>

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<b>Biological Resources</b>						
<p><b>Mitigation Measure BIO-1: Preconstruction Surveys for Nesting Birds</b></p> <p>Nesting bird surveys shall be performed by a qualified avian biologist no more than 3 days prior to vegetation removal or ground-disturbing activities. Pre-construction surveys shall focus on both direct and indirect evidence of nesting, including nest locations and nesting behavior. The qualified avian biologist will make every effort to avoid potential nest predation as a result of survey and monitoring efforts. If active nests are found during the pre-construction nesting bird surveys, a qualified biologist shall establish an appropriate nest buffer to be marked on the ground. Nest buffers are species specific and shall be at least 300 feet for passerines and 500 feet for raptors. A smaller or larger buffer may be determined by the qualified biologist familiar with the nesting phenology of the nesting species and based on nest and buffer monitoring results. Established buffers shall remain on-site until a qualified biologist determines the young have fledged or the nest is no longer active. Active nests and adequacy of the established buffer distance shall be monitored daily by the qualified biologist until the qualified biologist has determined the young have fledged or the Project has been completed. The qualified biologist has the authority to stop work if nesting pairs exhibit signs of disturbance.</p> <p>No less than 60 days prior to the start of Project-related activities, a burrowing owl habitat assessment shall be conducted by a qualified biologist according to the specifications of the <i>Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation</i> (California Department of Fish and Game, March 2012 or most recent version).</p> <p>If the habitat assessment demonstrates suitable burrowing owl habitat, then a focused burrowing owl surveys shall be conducted by a qualified biologist according to the Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation. If burrowing owls are detected during the focused surveys, the qualified biologist shall provide appropriate distances for construction activity to stay away from occupied burrows, through the use of a no work zone or avoidance buffer. Biologist shall ensure If impacts to occupied burrows cannot be avoided, information shall be provided regarding adjacent or nearby suitable habitat available to owls along with proposed relocation actions. Proposed implementation of Burrowing Owl relocation should only be considered as a last resort, after all other options have been evaluated as relocation is not in itself an avoidance, minimization, or mitigation method and has the possibility to result in take. Prior to considering burrowing owl relocation the qualified biologist and project applicant shall consult with CDFW to confirm the location and determine if the Burrowing Owls are appropriate candidates for the relocation process. If no suitable habitat is available nearby, details regarding the creation of artificial burrows (numbers, location, and type of burrows) and management activities for relocated owls is to be reported to CDFW. Preconstruction burrowing owl surveys shall be conducted no less than 14 days prior to the start of Project-related activities and within 24 hours prior to ground disturbance, in accordance with the Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation (2012 or most recent version). Preconstruction surveys should be performed by a qualified biologist following the recommendations and guidelines provided in the Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation. If the preconstruction surveys confirm occupied burrowing owl habitat, the qualified biologist shall develop a mandatory avoidance buffer and no work zones around the burrow location. If work must occur within the avoidance buffer, the qualified biologist will monitor the activity to ensure it does not affect the Burrowing Owl behavior. The qualified biologist will also consider the placement of visual and sound barriers if the avoidance buffer perimeter is reduced until adequate measures to prevent impacts to owls are put in place.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Include measure in contract documents.</li> <li>2. Pre-Construction</li> <li>3 Conduct nesting bird survey and implement avoidance buffers for any active nests. Review construction site for compliance with avoidance buffers if applicable.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Contracting</li> <li>2. CVWD, Construction Contractor</li> <li>3. Construction, if needed.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Once</li> <li>2. Throughout nesting seasons, if applicable.</li> <li>3. Throughout nesting seasons, if applicable.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. CVWD</li> <li>2. CVWD, Construction Contractor</li> <li>3. CVWD</li> </ol>	CVWD	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. _____</li> <li>2. _____</li> <li>3. _____</li> </ol>

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<p><b>Mitigation Measure BIO-2: Worker Education Awareness Program</b></p> <p>A Worker Environmental Awareness Program (WEAP) shall be implemented to ensure that Project construction occurs within a framework of safeguarding environmentally sensitive resources. The WEAP shall include information on biological resources that may occur on the site, with emphasis on listed and special-status species. Education shall include, but not be limited to, ecology, natural history, endangerment factors, legal protection, site mitigation measures, and hierarchy of command. Site rules of conduct shall be identified, including but not limited to: speed limits, work areas that must be accompanied by a biological monitor, parking areas, looking under parked vehicles prior to moving them, trash deposition, off-site conduct in the area of the Project, and other employee response protocols. Teamwork will be emphasized, but it will be clear that willful non-compliance may result in sufficiently severe penalties to the contractor that the contractor may dismiss the offending employee.</p> <p>The educational format will be a video, shown initially by the Project Biologist, and subsequently if needed for new employees, by trained and approved personnel. The Project Biologist also may be videotaped giving the first program, for assistance to subsequent instructors. All workers completing the education program shall be given a wallet card with site “rules” and contact cell phone numbers, and a sticker to affix to their hard hat. Each shall sign a sheet attesting to completing the training program.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Include measure in contract documents.</li> <li>2. Implement WEAP including initial training for all workers and updated training for any new workers throughout the construction period.</li> <li>3. Confirm training program documentation including wallet card, hard hat stickers and sign-in sheet.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Contracting</li> <li>2. Pre-construction and construction</li> <li>3. Pre-construction and throughout construction</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Once</li> <li>2. Throughout construction, if applicable.</li> <li>3. Throughout construction</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. CVWD</li> <li>2. CVWD, Construction Contractor</li> <li>3. CVWD, Construction Contractor</li> </ol>	CVWD	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. _____</li> <li>2. _____</li> <li>3. _____</li> </ol>
<b>Cultural Resources and Tribal Cultural Resources</b>						
<p><b>Mitigation Measure CUL-1: Cultural Resources Worker Environmental Awareness Program Training</b></p> <p>A Worker Environmental Awareness Program (WEAP) shall be implemented to ensure that Project construction occurs within a framework of safeguarding environmentally sensitive resources. The WEAP shall include information on cultural resources that may occur on the site, including the types and forms of artifacts that occur in the region. Education shall include, but not be limited to, legal protection, site mitigation measures, the actions that must be taken should cultural finds be made, and the hierarchy of command.</p> <p>The educational format will be a video, shown initially by the Principal Investigator or their assignee, and subsequently if needed for new employees, by trained and approved personnel. The Principal Investigator or their assignee also may be videotaped giving the first program, which can then be presented to new arrivals to the project. All workers completing the education program shall be given a wallet card with site “rules” and contact cell phone numbers, and a sticker to affix to their hard hat. Each shall sign a sheet attesting to completing the training program. All site workers will be required to complete the training prior to accessing the project.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Include measure in contract documents.</li> <li>2. Implement WEAP including initial training for all workers and updated training for any new workers throughout the construction period.</li> <li>3. Confirm training program documentation including wallet card, hard hat stickers and sign-in sheet.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Contracting</li> <li>2. Pre-construction and construction</li> <li>3. Pre-construction and throughout construction</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Once</li> <li>2. Throughout construction, if applicable.</li> <li>3. Throughout construction.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. CVWD</li> <li>2. CVWD, Construction Contractor</li> <li>3. CVWD, Construction Contractor</li> </ol>	CVWD	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. _____</li> <li>2. _____</li> <li>3. _____</li> </ol>

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<p><b>Mitigation Measure CUL-2: Unanticipated Discovery of Cultural Resources</b></p> <p>In the event that cultural resources are unearthed during project construction, CVWD's construction inspector and/or a project archaeologist shall temporarily suspend all earth disturbing work within a 100-foot radius of the discovery. A qualified professional archaeologist, meeting the Secretary of the Interior's Professional Qualification Standards for prehistoric and historic archaeologist, 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 judgment. The following notifications shall apply, depending on the nature of the find:</p> <p>If the professional archaeologist determines that the find does not represent a cultural resource, work may resume immediately, and no agency notifications are required.</p> <p>If the professional archaeologist determines that the find does represent a cultural resource from any time period or cultural affiliation, they shall immediately notify CVWD's Construction Inspector and Environmental Services Department. CVWD shall consult on a finding of eligibility and implement appropriate treatment measures, and monitoring as needed if the find is determined to be eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places or California Register of Historical Resources. Work may not resume within the no-work radius until CVWD, through consultation as appropriate, determines that the site either: 1) is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places or California Register of Historical Resources; or 2) that the treatment measures have been completed to its satisfaction.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Include measure in contract documents.</li> <li>2. If resources are unearthed during construction, confirm work halted, qualified archaeologist was consulted on eligibility, and appropriate treatment measures and no-work buffers were implemented.</li> <li>3. Consult on finding and implement treatment measures, if applicable.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Contracting</li> <li>2. Construction</li> <li>3. Construction</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Once</li> <li>2. Throughout construction, if applicable.</li> <li>3. Once</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. CVWD</li> <li>2. CVWD, Construction Contractor</li> <li>3. CVWD</li> </ol>	CVWD	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. _____</li> <li>2. _____</li> <li>3. _____</li> </ol>
<p><b>Mitigation Measure CUL-3 Unanticipated Discovery of Human Remains</b></p> <p>Although there is no evidence to suggest the presence of human remains in the project area, their discovery is a possibility during project construction. If such an event did occur, the specific procedures outlined by the NAHC, in accordance with Section 7050.5 of the California Health and Safety Code and Section 5097.98 of the Public Resources Code, must be followed:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. All excavation activities within 100 feet of the remains will immediately stop, and the area will be protected with flagging or by posting a monitor or construction worker, to ensure that no additional disturbance occurs.</li> <li>2. The project owner or their authorized representative will contact the County Coroner.</li> <li>3. The coroner will have two working days to examine the remains after being notified in accordance with HSC 7050.5. If the coroner determines that the remains are Native American and are not subject to the coroner's authority, the coroner will notify NAHC of the discovery within 24 hours.</li> </ol> <p>The NAHC will immediately notify the Most Likely Descendant (MLD), who will have 48 hours after being granted access to the location of the remains to inspect them and make recommendations for their treatment. Work will be suspended in the area of the find until CVWD and the MLD approves the proposed treatment of human remains.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Include measure in contract documents.</li> <li>2. If human remains are unearthed during construction, confirm work halted, County Coroner was notified and consulted. If applicable, notify the NAHC for recommended treatment of human remains.</li> <li>3. Consult on finding and implement treatment measures, if applicable.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Contracting</li> <li>2. Construction</li> <li>3. Construction</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Once</li> <li>2. Throughout construction, if applicable.</li> <li>3. Once</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. CVWD</li> <li>2. CVWD, Construction Contractor</li> <li>3. CVWD</li> </ol>	CVWD	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. _____</li> <li>2. _____</li> <li>3. _____</li> </ol>

<i>Mitigation Measure</i>	<i>Monitoring and Reporting Actions</i>	<i>Implementation Schedule</i>	<i>Monitoring Frequency</i>	<i>Responsible Party</i>	<i>Review and Approval by:</i>	<i>Verification: Status/ Date Completed/ Initials</i>
<b>Hazardous Materials and Hydrology and Water Quality</b>						
<p><b>Mitigation Measure HAZ-1: Construction General Permit and Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan</b>  The project contractor is required to comply with the most current Construction General Permit (CGP) (Order No. 2009-0009-DWQ as amended by 2010-0014-DWQ and 2012-0006-DWQ). Compliance with the CGP involves the development and implementation of a project-specific Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP). The required plan will identify the locations and types of construction activities requiring BMPs and other necessary compliance measures to prevent soil erosion and stormwater runoff pollution. A Notice of Intent (NOI) to implement a SWPPP must be submitted through the Stormwater Multiple Application and Report Tracking System (SMARTS), in which a Waste Discharge Identification (WDID) number will be issued. The SWPPP and WDID must be kept on-site and used during the life of the project.</p>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Include measure in contract documents.</li> <li>2. Confirm construction contractor has prepared a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan and obtained a Waste Discharge Identification number.</li> <li>3. Confirm construction contractor follows procedures in the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan.</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Contracting</li> <li>2. Pre-Construction</li> <li>3. Construction</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Once</li> <li>2. Once.</li> <li>3. Periodically throughout construction</li> </ol>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. CVWD</li> <li>2. Construction Contractor</li> <li>3. Construction Contractor and CVWD</li> </ol>	CVWD	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. _____</li> <li>2. _____</li> <li>3. _____</li> </ol>