

**NOTICE OF DETERMINATION**  
**COACHELLA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT**  
Post Office Box 1058  
Coachella, California 92236

To: County Clerk  
County of Imperial  
940 Main Street  
El Centro, California 92243

Office of Planning and Research  
State Clearinghouse  
Post Office Box 3044  
Sacramento, CA 95812

Subject: Filing of Notice of Determination in compliance with section 21108 or 21152 of the Public Resources Code

State Clearinghouse Number: 2022120628

Project Title: Coachella Canal Mid-Canal Storage Project

Lead Agency / Project Applicant: Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD)  
Carlos Huerta, Environmental Specialist  
(760) 398-2651  
75-515 Hovley Lane East  
Palm Desert, CA 92211

Project Location: The linear Coachella Canal segment proposed to be modified to create an inline reservoir, is located east of the community of Wister, in Imperial County, situated in Township 9 South, Range 14 East, east ½ of Section 36; southwest ¼ of southwest ¼ of Section 31; east ½ of Section 6; southwest 1/4 of Section 5; northeast ¼ of Section 8; south ½ of Section 9; northwest ¼ of Section 15, on the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) 7.5' Wister quadrangle. The approximately 120-acre project site is located within Assessor's Parcel Numbers (APNs) 003-050-018, 003-050-025, 003-120-014, 003-120-022, 003-130-006, 003-200-047, and 003-210-001, and is bordered by Gasline Road to the east and Coachella Canal Road to the west. The project public land survey and coordinates are:

- Township and Range:
  - Siphon 11: Section 16, T 10 S, R 14 E, SBBM
  - Siphon 14: Section 36, T 9 S, R 13 E, SBBM
- Latitude and Longitude:
  - Siphon 11: 33° 18' 05.75" N, 115° 30' 30.03" W
  - Siphon 14: 33° 21' 04.60" N, 115° 34' 03.81" W

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

Notice of Determination (continued)

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.

This Notice of Determination is to advise that the Coachella Valley Water District's Board of Directors approved the above-described project on February 14, 2023, and has made the following determinations regarding the project:

1. The Project will not have any significant effect on the environment as documented in the Final IS/MND.
2. An Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration was prepared and certified for this project pursuant to the provisions of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and reflects the independent judgement of the Lead Agency.
3. Mitigation measures were made a condition of the approval of the Project.
4. A Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program was adopted as part of the Project.
5. A Statement of Overriding Considerations was not adopted as part of the Project.
6. Findings of Fact were not made pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.

This is to certify that the Final Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration with comments and responses with record of project approval is available to the general public during normal business hours at CVWD's Steve Robbins Administration Building, located at: 75-515 Hovley Lane East, in Palm Desert, CA 92211.

Date:

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Sylvia Bermudez, Clerk of the Board  
Coachella Valley Water District

File: