

SECTION 1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND AND PURPOSE OF THIS DOCUMENT

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California (Metropolitan) and the United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) are jointly evaluating the implementation of the Cadiz Groundwater Storage and Dry-Year Supply Program (Cadiz Project) as a means to enhance management of Metropolitan's water supplies through a cost-effective groundwater storage and transfer program. Metropolitan is partnering with Cadiz Inc. to propose the Cadiz Project. With this project, Metropolitan proposes to utilize the aquifer system underlying a portion of the Cadiz and Fenner valleys to store Colorado River water imported from the Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA) during periods of excess supply. When needed, as in dry years, the stored water and indigenous groundwater will be extracted with wells and returned to the CRA for use within Metropolitan's service area. All Cadiz Project operations, including extraction of groundwater, will be governed by and subject to the provisions of the Groundwater Monitoring and Management Plan (Management Plan) presented as a separate volume of this Final Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (Final EIR/EIS) (SCH #99021039). This Management Plan will govern all water storage and extraction. It was designed to ensure there will be no adverse impacts to critical resources resulting from project operations.

Facilities necessary for implementation of the Cadiz Project include a 35-mile-long conveyance facility extending from the CRA to the Fenner Gap, a pumping plant to pump water from the CRA through the conveyance facility to the project spreading basins, an above-ground electrical distribution system paralleling the conveyance facility to and within the proposed wellfield, 390 acres of spreading basins and approximately 30 wells in the vicinity of the Fenner Gap, and appurtenant facilities. Groundwater and air quality monitoring facilities are also proposed. A total of 24 different water and air monitoring features have been identified for assessing potential impacts to critical resources. Examples of these features include observation wells, land surface surveillance, air quality monitoring instrumentation, weather and meteorological stations.

Metropolitan and BLM are the State and federal lead agencies for preparation of the EIR and the EIS pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), respectively. The National Park Service (NPS) and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) became cooperating agencies pursuant to NEPA for the purposes of preparation of a Supplement to the Draft EIR/EIS and the Final EIR/EIS.

The project spreading basins and wellfield will be located on Cadiz Inc. landholdings. The project's Cadiz Pumping Plant will be located at Metropolitan's Iron Mountain Pumping Plant site.

Because the conveyance pipeline and electrical distribution system will cross federal lands administered by the BLM, the BLM must consider whether to: 1) amend the California Desert Conservation Area Plan for an exception to the utility corridor requirement; and 2) grant rights-of-way to Metropolitan for construction and operation of the project.

Metropolitan is a California public agency and must comply with CEQA in the review and decision-making process regarding approval of the Cadiz Project. Metropolitan, as the public agency that will carry out the Cadiz Project, is the lead agency for the project under CEQA (CEQA Guidelines section 15051(a)).

1.2 BACKGROUND OF THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT

Metropolitan was formed in 1928 under an enabling act of the California Legislature. Historically, Metropolitan has provided supplemental water to the coastal plain of Southern California. Metropolitan's deliveries augment local water supplies developed through surface catchment, groundwater production, and water recycling. This supplemental water is provided to Metropolitan's 26 member agencies through a regional network of canals, pipelines, reservoirs, treatment plants, and related facilities.

In recent years, Metropolitan has broadened its mission to include a number of regional water management activities. The focus of these water management activities has been to provide encouragement and financial incentives to local water managers for development of:

- Groundwater recharge and production facilities;
- Water recycling projects;
- Water conservation programs; and
- Groundwater recovery and reclamation projects.

Metropolitan has also encouraged local water managers to maintain groundwater reserves to meet needs during periods of drought (Metropolitan Water District of Southern California 1990b).

To respond to the needs of its member agencies, Metropolitan contracts with federal and state agencies for water supplies. The United States Department of Interior, Bureau of Reclamation supplies water from the Colorado River via the Colorado River Aqueduct. Water from State Water Project sources in northern California is delivered via the Governor Edmund G. Brown California Aqueduct (California Aqueduct) under contract with the California Department of Water Resources (DWR).

State Project water and Colorado River water reaches Metropolitan's service area through the two aqueducts shown on Figure 1-1 and described in the following:

The Colorado River Aqueduct begins on the Colorado River at Lake Havasu and terminates at Lake Mathews.

The California Aqueduct originates at the Harvey O. Banks Delta Pumping Plant and splits into the west and east branches of the California Aqueduct after passing through the Edmonston Pumping Plant. The west and east branches terminate at Castaic Lake and Lake Perris, respectively.

From Castaic Lake, Lake Perris, Lake Mathews and two other delivery points on the east branch, water is delivered to Metropolitan's member agencies via 775 miles of pipelines, five regional water treatment plants, and several smaller regulating reservoirs.

Water from these and other sources is delivered to about 240 cities and unincorporated municipalities in the 5,200 square-mile Metropolitan service area covering the six-county region of San Bernardino, Riverside, San Diego, Ventura, Los Angeles and Orange counties. Metropolitan currently provides approximately 60 percent of the total water used in its service area. Metropolitan also operates an extensive system of storage facilities, water conveyance facilities and water treatment plants in Southern California.

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1.3 CADIZ PROJECT OVERVIEW

1.3.1 METROPOLITAN'S ROLE

Metropolitan is the primary supplier of supplemental water to approximately 16 million people in a six-county Southern California area. Metropolitan imports water from the Colorado River (via its Colorado River Aqueduct) and northern California's Sacramento/San Joaquin Bay Delta (via the State Water Project's California Aqueduct). The Cadiz Project, evaluated in this Final EIR/EIS, will enhance the management of water from the Colorado River.

The Cadiz Project will involve use of the aquifer system underlying a portion of the Cadiz and Fenner valleys for storage of Metropolitan supplies from the Colorado River for later recovery and use during dry years. In addition, indigenous groundwater from the aquifer system will be transferred to help Metropolitan meet current and projected dry-year demands in its service area through 2020 and beyond.

Operation of the Cadiz Project will involve the storage of available Colorado River supplies not needed to meet demands in wet years. These supplies will be conveyed to the Cadiz Project spreading basins where this water will be percolated into the aquifer system.

The Cadiz Project will require that water in the Colorado River Aqueduct be pumped approximately 35 miles to the northwest of the existing Iron Mountain Pumping Plant. Construction of new pumping facilities, a conveyance facility (pipeline, or pipeline and canal and appurtenances), spreading basins and a wellfield will be necessary.

The Cadiz Project is needed to meet current and projected dry-year water demand through 2020 and beyond. By 2020, dry-year supplies from all existing sources for Metropolitan's service area will be approximately 1.5 million acre-feet (maf) below dry-year demand levels, even with full implementation of Metropolitan's aggressive program of water conservation measures. To meet this demand, Metropolitan has developed an integrated approach to obtain additional dry-year supplies that includes water recycling, groundwater banking, water transfers and other programs. The Cadiz Project is one element of Metropolitan's effort to meet dry-year demand.

1.3.2 BLM'S ROLE

The BLM administers vast areas of public lands in the vicinity of the Cadiz Project. Project water conveyance facilities and power distribution facilities will traverse these lands (as well as some non-federal lands) and will be in close proximity to designated wilderness areas. The California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) Plan governs the use of these lands and guides the BLM in its decision making when new land use proposals are considered. In the case of the Cadiz Project, the BLM must consider an amendment to the CDCA Plan, since the various water conveyance alignments evaluated for the Cadiz Project do not fall within existing designated utility corridors. The BLM will then be able to consider the grant of a right-of-way to Metropolitan to allow Metropolitan to build certain Cadiz Project facilities on public land. These two actions are being considered concurrently, with this Final EIR/EIS providing the required environmental review documentation to meet NEPA mandates and to allow for informed decision-making.

1.3.3 ROLE OF COOPERATING AGENCIES

The NPS and USGS became cooperating agencies pursuant to NEPA for purposes of preparation of a Supplement to the Draft EIR/EIS and the Final EIR/EIS. Upon request of the NEPA lead agency, any

federal agency which has jurisdiction by law or which has special expertise with respect to any environmental issue shall cooperate in the NEPA process. (40 CFR § 1501.6). At its request, the role of the USGS as a cooperating agency was limited to providing scientific and technical support and advice to the BLM and NPS on the design of the Management Plan. As the Department of the Interior lead agency, the BLM is responsible for all final decisions related to the enforcement of the terms and conditions of any right-of-way grant(s) it issues.

1.4 PURPOSE OF EIR/EIS

The purpose of this Final EIR/EIS is to provide decision makers, public agencies and the general public with an objective and informational description and analysis of the Cadiz Project, which fully discloses the potential environmental effects of the Cadiz Project. The EIR/EIS process is designed to facilitate the objective evaluation of potentially significant direct, indirect and cumulative impacts of the proposed Cadiz Project and alternatives; to provide analysis of the alternatives; to identify mitigation measures to lessen potential adverse impacts; and to identify implementation procedures, responsibilities and timing for each mitigation measure.

Discussion of an issue in this Final EIR/EIS does not imply that a significant adverse impact would occur if the Cadiz Project were implemented. In many cases, the potential impacts discussed in this Final EIR/EIS will not be significant. The analyses of potentially significant impacts presented in this document are intended to demonstrate, document, and explain the processes leading to the conclusions reached in this Final EIR/EIS.

CEQA and NEPA require that an EIR and an EIS identify potentially adverse impacts. In addition, CEQA requires that an EIR identify those potentially adverse impacts determined to be significant after mitigation. References in this Final EIR/EIS to the significance of adverse impacts by specific topical category such as geology or biology are made to fulfill the additional requirements of CEQA.

Metropolitan is the lead agency under CEQA for the EIR for the Cadiz Project. Metropolitan is responsible for the environmental and technical studies conducted for this project and will be responsible for the design, construction, operation and maintenance of the facilities constructed for the selected project alternative.

The BLM is the lead agency under NEPA for the EIS for this project. The BLM is also responsible for the environmental and technical studies conducted for the Cadiz Project, for granting an amendment to the CDCA Plan to allow construction of the Cadiz Project outside an existing designated utility corridor, and for issuance of needed grants of right-of-way for the construction, operation and maintenance of the conveyance facilities included in the selected project alternative. The CDCA Plan amendment is discussed in more detail in Section 5.2 (Land Use, Planning and Policies) of this Final EIR/EIS.

1.5 BACKGROUND TO THE EIR/EIS

1.5.1 SCOPING PROCESS

As required under CEQA and NEPA, a Notice of Preparation (NOP) and Notice of Intent (NOI) were prepared and circulated for the Cadiz Project. The NOP and NOI indicated that the Cadiz Project has the potential to have a significant adverse effect on the environment, and that an EIR/EIS should be prepared. The NOP and NOI are included in the Public Participation Report, incorporated by reference in this EIR/EIS.

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The 45-day review period for the NOP and NOI ended on March 31, 1999. During this public review period, comments and input were solicited from all local jurisdictions and districts, and state and local governmental agencies that may affect or be affected by the Cadiz Project. Additionally, on May 4, 1999, a notice of public meeting and extension of the public comment period was published, adding a public meeting in the City of Needles and extending the public review and comment period for the Cadiz Project through May 30, 1999. Examples of agencies that received the NOP and NOI for the Cadiz Project include, but are not limited to, United States Army Corps of Engineers, United States Fish and Wildlife Service, California Department of Fish and Game, California Water Quality Control Board Colorado River Basin Region and Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District.

In addition to the distribution of the NOP and NOI to these agencies, copies were also made available to the general public throughout the Cadiz Project area, to three area newspapers and to a number of service organizations and utilities. The distribution list for government agencies, the general public, newspapers and service organizations is provided in the Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement: Public Participation Report (Public Participation Report) referenced later in Section 1.6.4.

Approximately 150 copies of the NOP and NOI were distributed. Written comments received during the public scoping period for the NOP and NOI are contained in the Public Participation Report. Comments were received from a total of six agencies and 17 members of the general public. The written comments received in response to the NOP and NOI are summarized in the Public Participation Report.

Three public scoping meetings were held on February 23 and 25 and May 10, 1999, to solicit input from agencies and members of the general public for consideration in the Draft EIR/EIS. The presentations and public input at the scoping meetings are summarized in Section 12 (Public Involvement and Agencies and Persons Consulted), and are described in detail in the Public Participation Report. Metropolitan and the BLM prepared the Draft EIR/EIS based on the information in the NOP and NOI and on the issues raised during the public scoping process.

Many of the comments received at the scoping meetings and from written correspondence addressed similar issues of concern. A summary of the issues is provided here.

The inter-relationship of groundwater basins in the area. Will the Cadiz Project affect neighboring groundwater basins? Are the groundwater basins in the area hydrologically connected?

Water quality. What happens to water quality when you import Colorado River water into the groundwater basin?

Withdrawals of indigenous water during dry years. Will withdrawals of indigenous water impact the groundwater basin or the water supplies of neighboring communities?

Monitoring. Through what mechanism will the storage and withdrawal of water be monitored to ensure protection of the groundwater basin?

Evaporation. Will a large amount of water evaporate off the spreading basins during storage operations, and should injection wells be considered as an alternative?

Earthquakes. Could earthquakes create fractures within the neighboring groundwater basins, allowing stored Colorado River water to travel to those neighboring basins? Could the storage of water instigate future fault activity?

Endangered, threatened and sensitive species. What will be the Cadiz Project's potential impact on native plant and animal species? Will appropriate mitigation measures be implemented to offset adverse impacts?

Contingency Plans. Will there be a contingency plan to prevent flooding or erosion in the event of a failure of the water conveyance facilities?

Economic and population impacts. Are there any potential economic and population impacts in the Lower Colorado River Valley?

Use of Canals. Would the use of canals, as conveyance facilities, impact native animal species?

This document only addresses comments received on environmental issues. Some comments received raised issues which are not environmental issues under CEQA and NEPA, and therefore are not addressed in the Draft or Final EIR/EIS.

1.5.2 DRAFT EIR/EIS

The BLM and Metropolitan published the Draft EIR/EIS for the Cadiz Groundwater Storage and Dry-Year Supply Program on November 26, 1999, for a 90-day public review and comment period. Public review and comment was extended for an additional two-week period that ended on March 8, 2000. Public meetings were held in the communities of Cadiz, Twentynine Palms, and Needles on December 15 and 16, 1999, to present information on the Cadiz Project, respond to questions, and receive oral comments.

A number of the comments received on the Draft EIR/EIS raised concerns regarding the proposed Cadiz Project operations related to potential impacts to springs, the Bristol, Cadiz and Fenner groundwater basins, adjacent groundwater basins, and the potential for increased dust mobilization from Bristol and Cadiz dry lakebeds. Notable among these comments was a February 23, 2000 memorandum prepared by the USGS for the BLM and appended to the NPS letter of comment on the Draft EIR/EIS included in Volume II of this Final EIR/EIS. This memorandum raised a number of concerns, including the amount of natural recharge to the project area. Although Metropolitan believes that natural recharge is higher than stated in this memorandum, Metropolitan and BLM convened discussions among experts to determine if the technical disagreements could be resolved. Participating in these discussions were Metropolitan, BLM, NPS, USGS, Cadiz Inc. and the County of San Bernardino. While there remains disagreement among experts regarding the amount of natural recharge to the project area, the parties agreed that the overriding objective is to ensure the protection of critical resources, and that this objective would best be accomplished through the development and implementation of the Management Plan. Critical resources identified and protected by the provisions of the Management Plan are the springs in the Mojave National Preserve and BLM-managed lands, the aquifer system, the brine resources of Bristol and Cadiz dry lakes, and air quality (related to dust mobilization at Bristol and Cadiz dry lakes).

Other comments received on the Draft EIR/EIS generally focussed on the following issues:

Alternatives – The range and feasibility of alternatives evaluated, including suggestions to consider an alternative pipeline alignment that would utilize a portion of an existing utility corridor.

Land Use Planning – The need for an amendment to the California Desert Conservation Area Plan for an exception to the utility corridor requirement.

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Groundwater Monitoring and Management Plan - Requests to circulate for public review and comment the Groundwater Monitoring and Management Plan (identified as mitigation measure WR-1 in the Draft EIR/EIS).

Air Quality – The potential for increased dust mobilization at Bristol and Cadiz dry lakes.

Biological Resources – The potential for impacting springs in the Mojave National Preserve and elsewhere and potential impacts to desert tortoise and to wildlife corridors.

Growth Inducement Impacts – Comments regarding the growth inducing impacts of “increasing the water supply.”

Cumulative Impacts – The potential cumulative environmental impacts to water resources resulting from the Cadiz Project when combined with other water uses in the vicinity of the Cadiz Project area especially the existing and possible future expansion of agriculture (Cadiz Valley Agricultural Development).

1.5.3 SUPPLEMENT TO THE DRAFT EIR/EIS

A Supplement to the Draft EIR/EIS was prepared to address comments received on the Draft EIR/EIS that raised concerns regarding the proposed Cadiz Project operations related to potential impacts to springs, the Cadiz and Fenner groundwater basins, adjacent groundwater basins, and the potential for increased dust mobilization from Bristol and Cadiz dry lakebeds. The Supplement included a Groundwater Monitoring and Management Plan which was prepared by the BLM, NPS, USGS, Metropolitan, the County of San Bernardino, and Cadiz Inc. The Supplement was published on October 20, 2000 for a 45-day public review and comment period. Public review and comment was extended for an additional 35-day period that ended on January 8, 2001. Additional public meetings were held in Barstow, Twentynine Palms, and Los Angeles on October 21, 2000, November 29, 2000, and December 18, 2000, to present information on the Cadiz Project, respond to questions, and receive oral comments.

Many of the comments received in the public hearings and from written correspondence addressed similar issues of concern, as the following summarizes:

Alternatives – The range and feasibility of alternatives evaluated.

Land Use Planning – Need for an amendment to the California Desert Conservation Area Plan for an exception to the utility corridor requirement, and the compatibility of proposed uses with Class L land use designation.

Groundwater Monitoring and Management Plan – The provisions of the Groundwater Monitoring and Management Plan (Management Plan) and Management Plan governance.

Air Quality – The potential for increased dust mobilization at Bristol and Cadiz dry lakes.

Biological Resources – Most comments related to the potential for impacts to biological resources from the potential drying-up of springs and changes to the aquifer system in general.

Growth Inducement Impacts – Comments regarding potential growth inducing impacts due to “increasing the water supply.”

1.5.4 CHANGES TO THE PROJECT AND FINAL EIR/EIS IN RESPONSE TO PUBLIC COMMENTS

Numerous changes to the project have been made in response to comments on the Draft EIR/EIS and on the Supplement to the Draft EIR/EIS. The more significant of these include:

- Addition of Management Plan: Although identified as a mitigation measure in the Draft EIR/EIS, the Management Plan has since been fully incorporated as an element of the Cadiz Project to ensure that project operations will not result in any adverse impacts to critical resources, including groundwater resources and regional air quality.
- Finalize Structure of Management Plan Governance: For project operations, the roles and responsibilities of the project proponents and of agencies with jurisdiction over the project have been more clearly established. The BLM will have ultimate decision-making authority to enforce provisions of the Management Plan.
- Continued Public Participation: Provisions have been added to provide for the continued participation of the public during project operations.
- Addition of Post-Operational Monitoring: Groundwater levels and groundwater quality will continue to be monitored for at least 10 years after project operations have ceased along with the obligation to mitigate any adverse impacts to critical resources.
- Clarification of Section 3 of the Draft EIR/EIS: The formulation and screening of potential projects, leading to the development of the four alternatives evaluated in detail in this Final EIR/EIS, is presented in a revised discussion in Section 3. In addition, a conveyance facility alternative which stays substantially in a designated utility corridor was considered. Selection of the preferred alternative has been moved to Section 11 in this Final EIR/EIS.

1.6 FINAL EIR/EIS FORMAT

The Final EIR/EIS for the Cadiz Project consists of four separate volumes: Volume I, which is this main volume; Volume II, Public Participation and Response to Comments on the Draft EIR/EIS; Volume III, Public Participation and Response to Comments on the Supplement to the Draft EIR/EIS; and Volume IV, Groundwater Monitoring and Management Plan. The contents and organization of each of these are briefly described below.

1.6.1 VOLUME I

Volume I of the Final EIR/EIS documents the process used to formulate alternatives and evaluates the potential environmental impacts of those project alternatives and the No Project Alternative. It is organized to facilitate a basic understanding of the Cadiz Project alternatives and the potential environmental implications of their construction and operation. The following is a brief description of the sections contained in Volume I of the Final EIR/EIS.

Section 1 describes the environmental analysis and compliance processes leading to the preparation of this Final EIR/EIS.

Section 2 describes the purpose and need for the Cadiz Project, including objectives and specific issues and concerns related to the Cadiz Project identified during this environmental evaluation.

Section 3 describes the formulation and screening of potential projects in increasingly detailed studies, beginning with the initial evaluation of an array of 13 potential project sites and narrowing to a more detailed evaluation of potential alternative facility configurations.

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Section 4 describes the resulting four Cadiz Project alternatives in detail along with the No Project Alternative. The project alternatives carried forward for detailed analysis included four distinct alternative alignments for water conveyance facilities shown on Figure 1-2. Sections 2 through 4, therefore, constitute a feasibility study that explains and documents the alternatives evaluation process and the results of that process.

Section 5 describes the environmental setting in the Cadiz Project area and the potential environmental impacts of the Cadiz Project alternatives. The environmental conditions and impacts evaluated include agriculture; land use, planning and policies; socioeconomics; topography, geology, seismicity and soils; water resources; air quality; transportation; biological resources; energy and mineral resources; hazards and hazardous materials; noise; public services; utilities and service systems; aesthetics; cultural resources; paleontological resources; wilderness/recreation; environmental justice; and Indian Trust Assets. The development of measures to mitigate adverse impacts is also identified in Section 5.

Section 6 addresses the potential growth-inducing impacts of the Cadiz Project.

Section 7 identifies the potential cumulative effects of the Cadiz Project and other development projects and water uses in the area.

Section 8 lists the significant unavoidable adverse impacts that will result from implementation of the Cadiz Project.

Section 9 discusses the relationship between short-term uses of the environment and the long-term maintenance and enhancement of productivity associated with the Cadiz Project.

Section 10 summarizes the irreversible and irretrievable commitment of resources that could occur if the Cadiz Project were implemented.

Section 11 describes the process used to compare the project alternatives and to identify the environmentally preferred project alternative. In this process, the alternatives were evaluated in a decision model that enabled a quantitative technical comparison of the project alternatives on the basis of 27 independent criteria. These independent criteria included major categories of engineering, geotechnical, operations, cost and environmental factors such as air quality, noise, traffic, biological resources, socioeconomics and cultural resources.

Section 12 provides a detailed description of the public agency and public involvement process for the Cadiz Project; a listing of all the agencies, groups, and individuals consulted; and a description of the NOP/NOI and scoping processes. The comments received during this public input process are summarized in this section.

Section 13 provides a listing of the permits and agency approvals that will be necessary for implementation of the Cadiz Project.

Section 14 lists the professional and technical staff who contributed to this Final EIR/EIS.

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Section 15 lists the references used in the development of the technical information for the Final EIR/EIS.

Section 16 provides a glossary of the terms, acronyms and units of measurement used in the Final EIR/EIS.

Section 17 provides an index for the Final EIR/EIS.

A separate Executive Summary is provided for those readers interested in an overview of the Cadiz Project, the alternatives analysis and the environmental evaluation. The Executive Summary is organized in parallel form to the Final EIR/EIS Volume I.

1.6.2 VOLUMES II AND III – RESPONSE TO COMMENTS

The Final EIR/EIS includes two separately bound “Response to Comments” volumes. Volume II contains public comments received on the Draft EIR/EIS and detailed responses to those comments.

Volume III contains public comments received on the Supplement to the Draft EIR/EIS and the corresponding responses.

1.6.3 VOLUME IV – GROUNDWATER MONITORING AND MANAGEMENT PLAN

The Final EIR/EIS also consists of a separately bound Groundwater Monitoring and Management Plan (Management Plan) that is fully incorporated as part of the Cadiz Project. The Management Plan will govern all water storage and extraction and is designed to ensure there will be no adverse impacts to critical resources resulting from Cadiz Project operations. It will establish monitoring facilities and processes that will provide an “early warning” of potential impacts and will require timely implementation of corrective measures to prevent such impacts from occurring.

1.6.4 DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

The following technical reports and other documents are hereby incorporated by reference in this Final EIR/EIS for the Cadiz Project:

- Cadiz Groundwater Storage and Dry-Year Supply Program, Draft Environmental Impact Report/Draft Environmental Impact Statement: Public Participation (Metropolitan Report No. 1161, 1999);
- Cadiz Groundwater Storage and Dry-Year Supply Program, Environmental Planning Technical Report: Project Feasibility and Facilities (Metropolitan Report No. 1162, 1999);
- Cadiz Groundwater Storage and Dry-Year Supply Program, Environmental Planning Technical Report: Groundwater Resources (Metropolitan Report No. 1163, 1999);
- Cadiz Groundwater Storage and Dry-Year Supply Program, Environmental Planning Technical Report: Biological Resources (Metropolitan Report No. 1164, 1999);
- Cadiz Groundwater Storage and Dry-Year Supply Program, Environmental Planning Technical Report: Cultural Resources (Metropolitan Report No. 1165, 1999); and
- Phase I Technical Feasibility Report for Offstream Storage on the Colorado River Aqueduct (Black & Veatch and Woodward-Clyde, 1998).

These reports are available for review at Metropolitan's office, 700 North Alameda, Los Angeles, California and at the BLM offices in Needles (101 West Spike's Road, Needles, CA) and Riverside (6221 Box Springs Boulevard, Riverside, CA).

1.7 MITIGATION MONITORING PLAN

Pursuant to the California Public Resources Code (Section 21081.6) and State Assembly Bill AB 3180, a Mitigation Monitoring Plan has been developed to ensure the implementation of the mitigation measures for all resource categories identified in this Final EIR/EIS. The Metropolitan Board of Directors will adopt the Mitigation Monitoring Plan in conjunction with the findings required under CEQA, at the time the Board considers certification of the Final EIR. The Mitigation Monitoring Plan includes the following elements for the selected Cadiz Project alternative:

- All the mitigation measures identified in Section 5 of this Final EIR/EIS as well as any design features or elements of the proposed project that have been included specifically to avoid potential impacts;
- Any revisions to the mitigation measures developed during the preparation of the responses to comments on the Draft EIR/EIS and the Supplement to the Draft EIR/EIS;
- The party or parties responsible for the implementation of each measure;
- The timing of implementation of each measure;
- The standards or criteria necessary to determine the satisfactory implementation of each measure; and
- The documentation and reporting procedures for the Mitigation Monitoring Plan.

The Mitigation Monitoring Plan has been completed in conjunction with this Final EIR/EIS.

1.8 PROJECT APPROVALS AND PERMITS

To construct the Cadiz Project, Metropolitan will be required to obtain permits and/or approvals from other agencies depending on the alternative selected. These agencies and possible permits or approvals may include, but are not limited to, those listed in Table 1-1.

1.9 NEXT STEPS UNDER CEQA – FINAL EIR CERTIFICATION

Metropolitan is the CEQA lead agency for the EIR and has the responsibility for certifying the EIR, as adequate pursuant to CEQA, and implementing the Cadiz Project. In arriving at its decision whether to proceed with the Cadiz Project, the Metropolitan Board of Directors will consider the information in the EIR and will determine the adequacy of the environmental documentation under CEQA. In conjunction with EIR certification, the Board will consider the adoption of the Mitigation Monitoring Plan, to reduce or eliminate project-related impacts, and whether or not it must adopt a Statement of Overriding Considerations recognizing any significant adverse effects that can not be mitigated to below a level of significance.

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**TABLE 1-1
PERMITS AND OTHER APPROVALS REQUIRED TO IMPLEMENT THE PROJECT**

Federal Agencies	
United States Bureau of Land Management	Conformity Determination pursuant to the Federal Clean Air Act Permits for use of land for geotechnical exploration Permits for construction areas and associated activity, including paleontological field studies Amendment for an exception to the utility corridor requirements of the California Desert Conservation Area Plan Right-of-way grants for conveyance facilities, power distribution line, and monitoring facilities
United States Fish and Wildlife Service	Section 7 consultation pursuant to the Endangered Species Act
United States National Park Service	Special use permits for monitoring facilities
State Agencies	
California Department of Fish and Game	Section 1601 permit pursuant to the Fish and Game Code (Streambed Alteration Agreement) Section 2081 permit or Section 2080.1 consistency determination pursuant to the California Endangered Species Act
Regional Water Quality Control Board	Permit for construction water discharge certification for placement of fill
State Lands Commission	Construction easement (Western and Combination Alternatives)

1.10 NEXT STEPS UNDER NEPA – EIS RECORDS OF DECISION

The BLM is the NEPA lead agency for the EIS for consideration of the proposed amendment to the CDCA Plan for an exception to the utility corridor requirements and for issuance of a right-of-way grant for the construction and operation of the water conveyance facilities.

Upon its release, the Final EIS will be mailed and placed in selected libraries. It will also be available at the offices of BLM and Metropolitan. The EPA and BLM will publish a Notice of Availability of the Final EIS in the Federal Register. Publication of this notice begins a 30-day public review period for the Final EIS.

In accordance with the BLM planning regulations (43 CFR 1610 et seq.), the proposed CDCA Plan amendment will be submitted to the governor of California with the Final EIS, for a review of the consistency of the proposed plan amendment with State and local plans.

The public has the opportunity to protest the BLM's proposed amendment to the CDCA Plan for an exception to the utility corridor element during the 30-day period following publication of the Notice of Availability of the Final EIS (43 CFR 1610.5-2). Letters of protest must include:

- a) The name, mailing address, phone number and description of the person's interest that may be adversely affected;
- b) A statement of the part(s) of the proposed amendment and the issues being protested;

- c) A statement of the part or parts of the proposed plan amendment being protested. To the extent possible, this should be done by reference to specific pages, paragraphs, sections, tables, maps, etc., included in the document;
- d) A copy of all documents relating to the issue(s) that were submitted by the person during the planning process or a statement of the date the issues were discussed for the record; and
- e) A concise statement why the person believes the proposed decision is wrong.

Protest letters must be filed with the BLM Director, 1849 C Street NW, Washington, DC 20240.

Upon resolution of any protests and completion of the governor's consistency review, the BLM State Director will issue a decision on the proposed CDCA Plan amendment. This decision will be documented in a Record of Decision (ROD), which is a separate public record document that shows how environmental impacts and other factors were considered in BLM's decision on the CDCA Plan amendment.

Following approval of the CDCA Plan amendment, the ROD for the right-of-way grant will be issued. The ROD describes the decision, mitigation measures that may be required as part of the decision, all of the alternatives considered, the alternative(s) considered to be environmentally preferable, whether or not all practicable measures to reduce environmental harm were adopted and if not, why not.