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**Appendix A**  
**Desert Southwest Transmission Project**  
**Notice of Preparation (NOP) and Notice of Intent (NOI)**

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# NOTICE OF PREPARATION

**To:** See Attached Distribution List

**From:** Imperial Irrigation District  
333 East Barioni Boulevard  
P.O. Box 937  
Imperial, CA 92251

**Project Title:** Desert Southwest Transmission Project

**Project Applicant:** Imperial Irrigation District

The Imperial Irrigation District (IID) and the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM), are preparing a Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) to assess the environmental effects of constructing, operating, and maintaining a new transmission line from a new substation/switching station on north side of Hobsonway, west of the Blythe Power Plant, approximately 10 miles north of Palm Springs, California, a distance of approximately 118 miles (see attached figure). The proposed Project will operate at either 230-kV or 500-kV and will provide increased transmission line capabilities from the proposed new substation/switching station on Hobsonway to the Devers Substation to meet transmission requests.

The IID is the lead agency for the preparation of this EIR/EIS in compliance with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). We need to know the views of your agency as to the scope and content of the environmental information which is germane to your agency's statutory responsibilities in connection with the proposed project. Your agency may need to use the EIR prepared by our agency when considering your permit or other approval for the project.

The project description, location, and the probable environmental effects are contained in the attached Notice of Preparation.

Due to the time limits mandated by State law, your response must be sent at the earliest possible date but not later than 30 days after receipt of this notice. We will need the name for a contact person in your agency. Please send your response to:

Michel D. Remington  
Imperial Irrigation District  
333 East Barioni Boulevard  
P.O. Box 937  
Imperial, CA 92251  
Phone: (760) 482-9831  
Fax: (760) 482-9896  
E-mail: [mdremington@iid.com](mailto:mdremington@iid.com)

**Public Scoping Meeting:** IID and the BLM will hold two public scoping meetings to present information about the proposed project and to listen to the views of the public on the range of issues relevant to the preparation of the Draft EIR/EIS. The meetings will be held on Wednesday, August 14<sup>th</sup> at the Blythe City Council Multipurpose Room, 235 N. Broadway in Blythe, California from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM and on Thursday, August 15<sup>th</sup> at IID's La Quinta Board Room, 81-600 Avenue 58 in La Quinta, California from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM.

**Scoping Comments:** All comments must be received by August 30, 2002. You may submit comments via (1) U.S. mail, (2) by electronic mail, (3) by fax, or (4) by attending the public scoping meeting and making a statement or handing in a written comment.

**Lead Agency Contact:** Michel D. Remington, Supervisor, Environmental Compliance, Imperial Irrigation District

**Signature:**

*Michel D. Remington*

**Date:** July 31, 2002

DISTRIBUTION LIST

First Name	Last Name	Company Name	Address	City	State/Province	Postal Code
Ken	Trott	Department of Conservation	801 K Street, MS-24-02	Sacramento	CA	95814-
Hans	Kreutzberg	Office of Historic Preservation	P.O. Box 942896	Sacramento	CA	94296-0001
Beth	Walls	Department of Parks and Recreation	P.O. Box 942896	Sacramento	CA	94296-0001
Sandy	Peterson	Dept. of Fish and Game	4949 Viewridge Avenue	San Diego	CA	92123-
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Andrew	Barnedale	Public Utilities Commission	505 Van Ness Avenue	San Francisco	CA	94102-
Betty	Silva	State Lands Commission	100 Howe Avenue, Suite 100-S	Sacramento	CA	95825-
Mike	Sim	Caltrans, District 8	464 W. 4th Street, 7th Floor	San Bernardino	CA	92401-1400
Lon	Salazar	Caltrans, District 11	P.O. Box 85406, MS 6-5, 2829 Joan Street	San Diego	CA	92186-5406
Sandy	Hesnard	Caltrans - Division of Aeronautics	P.O. Box 942874 MS-40	Sacramento	CA	94274-0001
Lt. Dennis	Brunette	California Highway Patrol	2555 1st Avenue	Sacramento	CA	95818-
Ron	Helgeson	Caltrans - Planning	P.O. Box 942874	Sacramento	CA	94274-0001
Phil	Gruenberg	Colorado River Basin Region (7)	73720 Fred Waring Drive, #100	Palm Desert	CA	92260-2564
Patricia	Larson	Coachella Valley Association of Governments	73710 Fred Waring Drive, Suite 200	Palm Desert	CA	92260-
Richard	Inman	Imperial Valley Association of Governments	940 West Main Street, Suite 208	El Centro	CA	92243-
Aleta	Laurence	Riverside Co. Trans. & Land Mgmt Agency/Planning	P.O. Box 1409	Riverside	CA	92505-
Keith	Scott	Indio Community Development Department	P.O. Drawer 1788	Indio	CA	92202-
Robert	Casias	Blythe Planning Department	235 North Broadway	Blythe	CA	92225-
Susan	Williams	Coachella Department of Community Development	1515 Sixth Street	Coachella	CA	92236-
Army Corps of Engineers		Los Angeles District Office	P.O. Box 532711	Los Angeles	CA	90053-
		Department of Transportation, CA Division	980 Ninth Street, Suite 400	Sacramento	CA	95814-2724
		U.S. Department of Interior	2800 Cottage Way, Room W2605	Sacramento	CA	95821-6340
David	Coleman	WAPA, Sierra Nevada Region	114 Park Shore Drive	Folsom	CA	95630-
Bryant	Jeannette	Imperial County Air Pollution Control District	150 South Ninth Street	El Centro	CA	92243-2850
Caffey	Larry	Imperial County Fish and Game Commission	1661 S. 4th Street	El Centro	CA	92243-
Hueberger	Jurg	Imperial County Planning Department	939 Main Street, Suite B-1, Planning and Building	El Centro	CA	92243-
Levy	Thomas	Coachella Valley Water District	P.O. Box 1058	Coachella	CA	92236-
Lewis	Jessica	County of Riverside	2724 Gateway Drive P.O. Box 751	Riverside	CA	92502-0751
Miller	Glen	Bureau of Land Management, El Centro Field Office	1661 South 4th St.	El Centro	CA	92243-
Rempel	Ronald D.	Department of Fish and Game	1416 Ninth Street	Sacramento	CA	95814-
Reynolds	Hal H.	Palo Verde Irrigation District	180 West 14th Avenue	Blythe	CA	92225-
Schubel	Richard	U.S. ACOE, Construction-Operations Division	911 Wilshire Boulevard	Los Angeles	CA	90017-
Sorensen	Pete	U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service	2730 Loker Ave. West	Carlsbad	CA	92008-
		Riverside Central Library, Gvn't Documents Section	3581 Mission Inn Ave.	Riverside	CA	92501-
		Brawley Public Library	400 Main Street	Brawley	CA	92227-
Glenn	Black	CA Dept. of Fish & Game	4775 Bird Farm Road	Chino	CA	91709-
		State Clearing House	1400 Tenth Street, Room 121	Sacramento	CA	95628-

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Charles	Fryxell	Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District	14306 Park Avenue	Victorville	CA	92392-2310
Stephen	Birdsall	Imperial County Air Pollution Control District	150 South 9th Street	El Centro	CA	92243-2801
Robert	Riley	Chocolate Mountain Range	Box 99134, Building 1758	Yuma	AZ	85369-
Thomas A.	Manfredi	Palo Verde Valley Library District	125 W. Chanslorway	Blythe	CA	92225-1293
Nicole	Criste	Community Planning and Liaison Office	Box 99106	Yuma	AZ	85369-9106
Philip	Drell	Desert Hot Springs Community Development Dept.	65950 Pierson Blvd.	Desert Hot Springs	CA	92240-
Douglas R.	Evans	Palm Desert Community Development Dept.	73-510 Fred Waring Drive	Palm Desert	CA	92240-
Jim	Komatinsky	Palm Springs Dept. of Planning and Building	P.O. Box 2743	Palm Springs	CA	92263-2743
Gavin	Wright	El Centro Field Office	1661 South 4th Street	El Centro	CA	92243-
Lynda	Kastoll	El Centro Field Office	1661 South 4th Street	El Centro	CA	92243-
Joel	Shultz	El Centro Field Office	1661 South 4th Street	El Centro	CA	92243-
John	Kalish	Palm Springs-South Coast Field Office	690 West Garnet Ave	North Palm Springs	CA	92258-1260
Diane	Gomez	Palm Springs-South Coast Field Office	690 West Garnet Ave	North Palm Springs	CA	92258-1260
John	Northington	Palm Springs-South Coast Field Office	690 West Garnet Ave	North Palm Springs	CA	92258-1260
Chris	Otahal	National Environmental Strategies	2600 Virginia Avenue, Suite 600	Washington	DC	20037-
John	Holt	U.S. Fish and Wildlife	2730 Locker Avenue West	Carlsbad	CA	92008-
John	Bridges	Western Area Power Administration	615 S. 43rd Ave	Phoenix	AZ	85009-
Steve	Smith, Ph.D.	Western Area Power Administration	P.O. Box 3402, A3500	Golden	CO	80401-
Kim	Jarrell Johnson	South Coast Air Quality Management District	21865 E. Copley Drive	Diamond Bar	CA	91765-4182
Cameron	Barrows	Riverside County Regional Park and Open-Space Dist	4600 Crestmore Road	Riverside	CA	92509-6858
Bob	Ellis	Desert Survivors	P.O. Box 188	Thousand Palms	CA	92276-
Dr. Howard	Wilshire	Public Employees for Environmental Responsibility	P.O. Box 20991	Oakland	CA	94620-0991
Michael J.	Connor, Ph.D.	Desert Tortoise Preserve Committee, Inc.	3727 Burnside Rd.	Sebastopol	CA	95472-
Lee	Snowberg	Desert Protective Council Inc.	4067 Mission Inn Avenue	Riverside	CA	92501-
Terry	Weiner	Center for Biological Diversity	174 Brentwood Ave	San Francisco	CA	94127-
Daniel	Patterson	Adams, Broadwell, Joseph, and Cardozo	P.O. Box 3635	San Diego	CA	92163-1635
Sky	Stanfield	CBD	P.O. Box 710	Tucson	AZ	85702-0710
Keith	Downs	Airport Land Use Commission	651 Gateway Blvd., Suite 900	South San Francisco	CA	94080-
Dan	Swenson	Army Corps of Engineers	P.O. Box 40090	Berkeley	CA	94704-
Carrie	Downey	State Clearinghouse (15 Copies)	3525 14th Street	Riverside	CA	92501-
Bob	Mooney	Horton, Knox, Carter & Foote	P.O. Box 532711	Los Angeles	CA	90017-3401
Doug	Proctor	IGI Resources, Inc.	1400 10th Street, Room 121	Sacramento	CA	95814-
		Proctor Engineering, Inc.	319 D Avenue	Coronado	CA	92118-
			701 Morrison-Knudsen Drive, Suite 300	Boise	ID	83712-
			8861 Alford Way	Fair Oaks	CA	95628-

# REVISED NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT/ ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT FOR THE IMPERIAL IRRIGATION DISTRICT'S DESERT SOUTHWEST TRANSMISSION PROJECT

## 1.0 INTRODUCTION

The Imperial Irrigation District (IID) and the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Land Management (BLM) are preparing a Draft Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) to assess the environmental effects of constructing, operating, and maintaining a new, approximately 118 mile long, transmission line from a new substation/switching station located on the north side of Hobsonway, west of the Blythe Power Plant, approximately 4.5 miles west of Blythe, California, to Southern California Edison's Devers Substation, approximately 10 miles north of Palm Springs, California (see attached figure). The proposed Project will operate at either 230-kV or 500-kV and will provide increased transmission line capabilities from the proposed new substation/switching station on Hobsonway to the Devers Substation to meet transmission requests.

A Notice of Preparation (NOP) was sent to the State Clearinghouse (SCH #2001041105) and noticed for public and agency review on Tuesday, April 24, 2001, for IID's Proposed 230-kV "BN-BS" Transmission Line Project. Since the publication of the NOP, the name of the proposal has been changed to the Desert Southwest Transmission Project. Publication of the Draft and Final Environmental Impact Report will be under that name. In addition, the proposed Project has been revised to address comments and concerns raised during the scoping process.

The IID is the lead agency for the preparation of this EIR/EIS in compliance with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Public Resources Code Section 21000 et. seq.), and implementing guidelines (California Code of Regulations [CCR] Title 14, Section 15000 et. seq.), and IID's Rules and Regulations to Implement CEQA.

The BLM is the lead Federal agency for the preparation of this EIR/EIS in compliance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulation for implementing NEPA (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 1500 – 1508), and the Department of the Interior's guidance manual on NEPA.

## 1.1 PROJECT BACKGROUND

The IID is a community-owned utility providing power to more than 90,000 customers in Imperial County and parts of Riverside and San Diego counties. The *California Energy Outlook: Electricity and Natural Gas Trends Report (CEC, 2001)* describes the energy supply and demand trends of the past decade to provide perspective on current events. The Report provides an overview of expected developments in the near future and addresses the long-term demand outlooks through 2010. The energy trend considers both electricity and natural gas developments. The report also examines electricity demand, load management, and natural gas infrastructure developments. The report estimates that demand for electrical power in the IID service area will increase at a rate of 20 to 30 megawatts (MW) annually. The report also states that California's peak electricity demand will continue to grow at about two percent per year on average.

New generation facilities have been completed in the region to the north and east of IID's service area that may provide a portion of IID's current and future requirements. These include the Griffith Energy Project in Kingman, Arizona and the South Point Energy Project north of Parker, Arizona. The Blythe Energy Project west of Blythe, California is under construction and will begin operation by the end of

2002. In addition, IID has received requests for transmission and interconnection service that may utilize the proposed transmission project.

Transmission access is the main constraint to utilizing these new generation sources to meet the increased demand for electrical power in IID's service area. IID's primary transmission system includes 92-kV, 161-kV, and 230-kV transmission lines with direct interconnections at Mirage, Imperial, Coachella Valley, Devers, and Blythe Substations. Presently, IID's access to the Western Area Power Administration (Western) transmission grid to the northeast is an existing 161-kV transmission line from the existing Blythe Substation to Niland. This existing transmission line is expected to be operating at or near its maximum capacity by the end of 2002.

IID determined that constructing and operating a new transmission line from a new substation/switching station on Hobsonway to the existing Devers Substation would provide an acceptable transmission path to meet the increased demands for electrical power in IID's service area and to respond to transmission service and interconnect requests. Operating voltages may be either 230-kV or 500-kV. The optimum operating voltage will be based on the results of system studies that are currently underway.

### 1.3 Probable Environmental Effects of the Proposed Project

The EIR/EIS for the Project will address the full range of potential environmental impacts that could result from the construction and operation of the proposed Project. The analysis will cover such areas as:

- Biological Resources
- Cultural and Paleontological Resources
- Air Quality
- Water Resources
- Geology and Soils
- Visual Resources
- Land Use
- Wilderness/Recreation
- Socioeconomics and Environmental Justice
- Noise
- Traffic and Transportation
- Public Health and Safety
- Paleontological Resources

The EIR/EIS will also identify mitigation measures that will either avoid or substantially lessen the effects of any potentially significant impacts of the proposed Project.

The following environmental issues will be analyzed in the EIR/EIS with regard to the construction and operation of the proposed Project. Additional issues identified for analysis in response to this NOP, through public meetings and/or field review, will be analyzed in the EIR/EIS process.

- **Water Resources** - Water resources issues to be addressed will include potential impacts to water supply, water discharge/reuse, water quality degradation, and flooding/drainage hazards.
- **Geology and Soils** - Geology and soils issues to be addressed will include identification of site geologic/seismic hazards and significant geologic effects on the environment that may be induced by the construction and operation of the proposed Project, including, but not limited to, a site specific fault hazard investigation to evaluate the location of the San Andres Fault and an evaluation of seismically induced liquefaction in relationship to the project. Any conflicts with existing surface or other mining operations, or loss in availability of known mineral resources, will be addressed within the EIR/EIS.
- **Traffic and Transportation** - Because the construction and operation of a transmission line can result in a temporary increase in vehicle and equipment movement on the existing transportation network, the EIR/EIS will address impacts from the proposed Project to the local street system and major transportation routes, plus cumulative impacts from other development projects.

- **Noise** – Noise issues to be addressed will include potential impacts to sensitive receptors from construction and operation of the proposed Project, as well as cumulative impacts from other development project and activities conducted on properties adjacent to the project site. The project shall address Riverside County Office of Industrial Hygiene noise standards.
- **Air Quality** – Air quality issues to be addressed will include temporary impacts from construction activities and the cumulative impacts of the project together with other planned air emission sources. A technical air quality study for operation impacts will be conducted in accordance with appropriate regulatory permitting requirements.
- **Biological Resources** – Biological resource issues to be addressed will include potentially significant impacts on sensitive plant and animal species and their habits along the proposed Project and alternative corridors. Biological surveys will be conducted by qualified biological consultants.
- **Visual Resources/Aesthetics** – Visual and aesthetic resource issues to be addressed will center around the extent to which the proposed Project's presence would change the perceived visual character and quality of the environment near the proposed Project. Lighting of the project facilities (i.e., new substation/switching station on Hobsonway and the expanded Midway Substation) will also be addressed. A visual analysis will be prepared, including the use of visual simulations to evaluate visual impacts.
- **Land Use** – Land use and planning issues to be discussed include the consistency of the proposed Project with tribal, federal, state, regional, and local land use plans and regulations, and the compatibility of the proposed Project with existing and planned land uses. Agricultural issues to be discussed include the potential conversion of productive farmland, and conflicts with existing zoning or state Williamson Act contracts.
- **Socioeconomics** – Socioeconomics issues to be discussed include an analysis of labor pool location and size, regional employment levels, likely employment sector growth, workforce availability, housing availability, and the impact of the construction and operation of the proposed Project on these topics. Environmental justice issues will also be evaluated.
- **Public Health and Safety** – Public health issues to be discussed include potential impacts resulting from public exposure to pollutants associated with construction of the proposed Project. Hazardous materials and waste issues to be discussed include the identification of hazardous materials to be used, how these materials will be stored and handled, and the potential for and impact of accidental release of hazardous materials.
- **Cultural Resources** – Cultural resources issues to be discussed include potential impacts of the proposed Project on historic, archaeological and/or traditional cultural resources along the alternative corridors. Cultural surveys will be conducted by qualified archaeologists.
- **Paleontological Resources** – Paleontological issues to be addressed include whether paleontological resources are present along the proposed Project and alternative corridors and determining their significance.
- **Indian Trust Assets** – Indian trust assets issues to be discussed will include an evaluation of the proposed Project and associated land lease for consistency with tribal goals and policies.

#### 1.4 Alternatives

The EIR/EIS will evaluate feasible project alternatives, including alternative routes, transmission alternatives, generation alternatives, and alternative transmission technologies. The No Action/No Project Alternative will also be evaluated.

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## Proposed Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) for the Imperial Irrigation District's Proposed New California Desert Southwest Transmission Line Project, California

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[Federal Register: August 13, 2002 (Volume 67, Number 156)]  
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DEPARTMENT OF INTERIOR  
Bureau of Land Management  
[CA-660-1430-ER-CACA-44491]

Proposed Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) for the Imperial Irrigation District's Proposed New California Desert Southwest Transmission Line Project, California

AGENCY: Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the Imperial Irrigation District (IID).

ACTION: Notice of intent to prepare a joint EIS/EIR addressing a proposed 230 or 500kV transmission line project and possible California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) Plan Amendment.

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SUMMARY: In compliance with regulations at 40 CFR 1501.7 and 43 CFR 1610.2, notice is hereby given that the BLM, together with the IID propose to prepare a joint EIS/EIR for the IID's proposed 230 or 500 kilovolt (kV) "California Desert Southwest" Transmission Line Project. The BLM is the lead Federal agency for the preparation of EIS/EIR in compliance with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations for implementing NEPA (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR]

1500-1508), and the Department of the Interior's manual guidance on NEPA; and the IID is the lead State of California agency for the preparation of this EIS/EIR in compliance with the requirements of California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Public Resources Code Section 21000 et seq), and implementing guidelines (California Code of Regulations, Title 15, Section 01000 et seq).

Regulations [CCR]

Title 14, Section 15000 et seq), and IID's rules and regulations to implement CEQA. This notice initiates the public participation process for planning, initiates public scoping for the EIS and also serves as an invitation for other cooperating agencies. Potential cooperating agencies include the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Western Area Power Administration, the Department of Defense, the State Historic Preservation Officer, and the California Department of Fish and Game.

**DATES:** For scoping meetings and comments: Two public scoping meetings will be held during 2002 on the following dates:

1. August 14, from 7-9 p.m., at the Blythe City Council Multipurpose Room, Blythe, CA.
  2. August 15, from 7-9 p.m., at the IID Board Room, La Quinta, CA.
- Written comments must be postmarked no later than 30 days from date of this notice in order to be included in the draft EIS/EIR. Please submit any comments to the address listed below.

**ADDRESSES:** Written comments should be addressed to Mr. James G. Keiser, Field Manager, Bureau of Land Management, Palm Springs-South Coast Field Office, 690 West Garnet Ave, PO Box 581260, North Palm Springs, California 92258-1260.

The meeting locations are:

1. Blythe City Council Multipurpose Room, 235 N. Broadway, Blythe, CA.
2. Imperial Irrigation District, 81-600 Ave. 58, La Quinta, CA

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** John Kalish, Bureau of Land Management, Palm Springs-South Coast Field Office, 690 West Garnet Ave, PO Box 581260, North Palm Springs, California 92258-1260, (760) 258-4849.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Imperial Irrigation District (IID) is a community owned utility providing power to more than 90,000 customers in Imperial County and parts of Riverside and San Diego Counties, in California. The IID is experiencing an increase in electrical demand at an estimated rate of 20 to 30 megawatts annually. In an effort to meet electrical power demand, the IID is proposing to construct a 500 kilovolt (kV) electrical transmission line located parallel to Interstate Highway 10 between North Palm Springs and Blythe, California, a distance of approximately 118 miles. The proposed Project will operate at either 230-kV or 500-kV and will provide increased transmission line capabilities from the existing Devers substation at North Palm Springs, to the proposed Hobsonway substation located west of Blythe.

The proposed transmission line is located within the designated Utility Corridor "H" under the California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) Plan of 1980, as amended. This utility Corridor directly parallels Interstate Highway 10. An amendment to the CDCA Plan would be required if an alternative to this proposed project, analyzed in the EIS/EIR, is ultimately chosen that is not within one of the 16 utility corridors designated in the CDCA Plan. The CDCA Plan states that if utility needs which do not conform to the adopted corridor system be processed by means of a Plan Amendment in conjunction with necessary permit hearings required by other agencies. Under the CDCA Plan, the BLM may either authorize installation of a 161kV or larger transmission line within existing utility corridors, deny the proposed project if it amends the CDCA Plan to accommodate an alternative alignment that is outside of existing designated utility corridors. Any proposed

amendments to the CDCA Plan would be analyzed in this EIS/EIR.

BLM has identified a preliminary list of issues which will need to be addressed in this analysis. Members of the public are invited to identify additional issues and concerns to be addressed. The preliminary list of issues includes potential impacts to the habitat of species listed under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) of 1973, as amended, including the desert tortoise, Coachella Valley fringed lizard, Coachella Valley milkvetch, as well as to several BLM administered areas including the Coachella Valley Preserve, Allig Rock Area of Critical Environmental Concern (ACEC), Chuckwalla Valley Dune Thicket ACEC and Camp Young of the WWII Desert Training Center California-Arizona Maneuver Area.

Planning criteria (43 CFR 1610.4-2) are parameters, generally based on applicable law, which guide development of a plan amendment to ensure the planning process is tailored to the issues and unnecessary data collection is avoided. The BLM has put together the following preliminary list of planning criteria and also invites the public to provide written comments on these criteria.

1. The Proposed Northern and Eastern Colorado Desert (NECO) Plan Final EIS and the draft California Desert Conservation Area (CDCA) Amendment for the Coachella Valley/EIS shall be considered to ensure that there are no inconsistencies between either of these plans and the IID proposal. This is critical as these plans

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are being prepared to address the recovery of Federally listed species under the ESA.

2. The IID proposal itself will be subject to Section 7 consultation in accordance with the ESA to address potential impacts on listed species, including cumulative impacts.

The planning process and environmental review analysis for a CDCA Plan Amendment shall be conducted from an interdisciplinary perspective to ensure all issues are adequately addressed. At a minimum, input shall be sought from the following disciplines: biological resources, cultural resources, visual resource management, recreation, wild and scenic lands and realty.

Interested members of the public are now invited to participate in a NEPA scoping process, and are requested to help identify new issues or concerns and alternatives to be considered related to this project. Written comments must be submitted no later than 30 days from the date of this notice to ensure that your comments are included in the draft EIS/EIR. When available, the public will be provided a 60-day public review period on the draft EIS/EIR and a 30-day protest period on the final EIS/EIR. These documents will be made available on the Internet at BLM's Web site: [www.ca.blm.gov](http://www.ca.blm.gov) [EXIT disclaimer >](#) and at local libraries in the cities of Blythe, Niland, La Quinta and Palm Springs, California. Contact the BLM if you would like to be included in the mailing list to receive copies of all public notices relevant to this project.

James G. Kenna,  
Field Manager.

[FR Doc. 02-20418 Filed 8-12-02; 8:45 am]  
BILLING CODE 4310-40-P

Last updated on Tuesday, August 13th, 2002  
URL: <http://www.epa.gov/EPA-IMPACT/2002/August/Day-13/i20418.htm>