Imperial Irrigation District Water Conservation and Transfer Project and
Draft Habitat Conservation Plan

ABSTRACT

IID is proposing to implement a water conservation and transfer project that would serve and transfer the right to use up to 300,000 acre-feet per year of Colorado River water which IID is otherwise entitled to divert for use within IID’s water service area in Imperial County, California. The conserved water would be transferred by IID to San Diego County Water Authority (SDCWA), Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD), and/or Metropolitan Water District (MWD). The terms of the water conservation and transfer transactions are set forth in the Agreement for Transfer of conserved water (IID/SDCWA Transfer Agreement) executed by IID and SDCWA in 1998, as amended, and a proposed Quantification Settlement Agreement (QSA) to be executed by IID, CVWD, and MWD. These transfers, which are to remain in effect for up to 75 years, will facilitate efforts to reduce California’s diversions of Colorado River water in normal years to its annual 4.4 million acre-feet apportionment. The Secretary of the Interior must approve the change in the point of delivery for the transferred water.

The Proposed Project includes implementation of a Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) to address impacts to covered species and habitats within the IID water service area, the right-of-way of the All American Canal (AAC), and the Salton Sea. Pursuant to Section 10(a)(1)(B) of the Endangered Species Act, USFWS must approve the HCP and issue a Section 10 permit to authorize the incidental take of covered species associated with IID’s proposed water conservation and transfer project, as well as IID’s ongoing operation and maintenance activities.

This Draft EIR/EIS has been prepared pursuant to the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, and the California Quality Act of 1970.

Comments on this document must be submitted to one or both of the following by April 25, 2002:

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