

IMPERIAL IRRIGATION DISTRICT RESOLUTION NO. 64-2022

WHEREAS, the Oasis Area Irrigation System Expansion Project, located near the northwest margin of the Salton Sea, south of 66th Avenue, west of Harrison Street, and north of 86th Avenue in Riverside County, California, developed by the Coachella Valley Water District, proposes to supply up to 32,000 acre-feet of Colorado River water per year that will be utilized for irrigation to replace the current groundwater pumping and allow recovery of the underlying aquifer by means of system improvements that include the construction of 18 miles of underground pipelines (to be connected to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's existing water delivery system), three reservoirs, four pump stations and the installation of water-meters within concrete vaults; and

WHEREAS, the implementation of the Oasis Area Irrigation System Expansion Project requires the upgrade of an existing Imperial Irrigation District electrical circuit to provide power to the pump stations as described in the CEQA Compliance Summary Staff Report Coachella Valley Water District Oasis Area Irrigation System Expansion Project/IID Electrical Upgrades, dated November 14, 2022 attached herewith; and

WHEREAS, the environmental effects of the Oasis Area Irrigation System Expansion Project were assessed in the Final Environmental Impact Report for the Oasis Area Irrigation System Expansion Project (State Clearinghouse No. 2014061084) dated February 2015, prepared by the Coachella Valley Water District, the lead agency pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act, and adopted and certified by the CVWD Board of Directors, including a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program, on March 10, 2015; and

WHEREAS, the upgrade locations for IID's new electrical circuit expansion to provide the required power for the Oasis irrigation system were not finalized at the time the Final EIR was completed. Consequently, pursuant to CEQA Guidelines §15164, and with reference to §15162, CVWD prepared an Addendum to evaluate the final circuit routing and construction requirements and determine whether the potential impacts and required mitigation measures identified in the Final EIR adequately cover potential effects of the final electrical circuit design; and

WHEREAS, based upon the Addendum's analysis, the proposed electrical circuit expansion routing and construction were determined to be consistent with the description of the

environmental setting, environmental impacts and mitigation measures as set forth in the originally certified Final EIR; and

WHEREAS none of the conditions described in CEQA Guidelines §15162 calling for the preparation of a subsequent EIR have occurred as a result of the final electrical circuit expansion design and all applicable and relevant mitigation measures to the irrigation project that were included in the Oasis Irrigation Expansion Project FEIR are incorporated by reference in the Addendum and are contained in the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program prepared as a part of the 2015 FEIR (Chapter 9.0 – Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program); and

WHEREAS, the Final EIR and the Addendum have evaluated and analyzed the environmental effects of the project involving and affecting IID as described herein and in consideration of IID's policy that calls for IID facilities or facility upgrades required for and by the project be included in the project's environmental effects analysis and any resulting impacts be mitigated by the project developer; and

WHEREAS, the Final EIR and Addendum did not identify any potentially significant environmental impacts to IID facilities or related to the project-driven IID improvements or propose mitigation measures that are the responsibility of the IID; and

WHEREAS, it was determined that impacts to IID facilities and project-driven IID improvements are subject to CEQA (Title 14 of the California Code of Regulations, sections 15000, et seq); and

WHEREAS, since a portion of the project involves IID facilities and requires a major work authorization approved by the IID Board of Directors, IID, as a responsible agency under CEQA (California Code of Public Resources sections 21000 et seq.), must comply with CEQA requirements (14 CCR § 15096) including making certain findings regarding that portion of the project involving and affecting the district and not the entirety of the project; and

WHEREAS, the Final EIR and Addendum have evaluated and analyzed the environmental effects of the project involving and affecting IID, per IID policy, as described in the IID staff report attached herewith; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED AND ORDERED AS FOLLOWS:

- 1. Recitals.** The Board of Directors hereby finds and determines the foregoing recitals, which are incorporated herein by reference, are true and correct.
- 2. CEQA Findings.** Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines sections 15096(f), the Board of Directors hereby certifies that it has reviewed and considered the information contained in the Final EIR and Addendum and has considered the environmental effects of the IID portion of the project as analyzed in the Final EIR and Addendum. Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15096(a), the Board of Directors has complied

with CEQA by considering the Final EIR and Addendum prepared by CVWD, the CEQA lead agency for the project, and has and will reach its own conclusions on whether and how to approve the IID portion of the project.


Based on its review and consideration of the Final EIR and Addendum and pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15091, the Board of Directors hereby finds the following:

- a. The Final EIR and Addendum provides adequate environmental analysis to support all necessary approvals by IID for the IID portion of the project.
 - b. IID is not identified in the Final EIR and Addendum as having responsibility over any of the mitigation measures regarding the IID portion of the project, therefore, no findings under CEQA Guidelines section 15091(a)(1) are made by IID. The mitigation measures will be implemented and monitored as provided in the Final EIR and Addendum and no additional mitigation measures are being proposed or adopted by IID. Therefore, IID shall not adopt a mitigation monitoring and reporting program for the IID portion of the project.
 - c. The significant impacts identified in the Final EIR and Addendum have been mitigated or avoided; that measures necessary for mitigation are within the responsibility and jurisdiction of another public agency and not the IID.
3. **Notice of Determination.** The Board of Directors hereby authorizes and directs that a Notice of Determination be filed with the clerk of the county of Imperial.
4. **Documents.** The documents and other materials which constitute the record of proceedings upon which this decision is based are in the custody of Raquel Najera, Secretary to the Board of Directors, Imperial Irrigation District, 333 East Barioni Boulevard, Imperial, California, 92251.

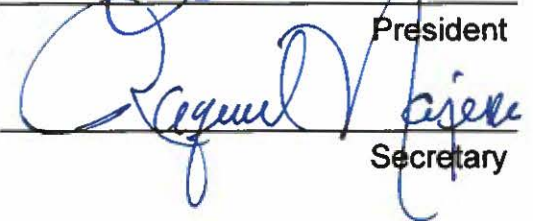
PASSED AND ADOPTED this 20th day of December, 2022.



IMPERIAL IRRIGATION DISTRICT



President



Secretary

**CEQA COMPLIANCE SUMMARY STAFF REPORT
COACHELLA VALLEY WATER DISTRICT OASIS AREA IRRIGATION SYSTEM
EXPANSION PROJECT/IID ELECTRICAL UPGRADES
November 14, 2022**

I. Background

The Oasis Area Irrigation System Expansion Project, developed by the Coachella Valley Water District, proposes to supply up to 32,000 acre-feet of Colorado River water per year that will be utilized for irrigation to replace the current groundwater pumping. The system improvements required to convey water to the Oasis area (see **Figure 1**) include the construction of 18 miles of underground pipelines, three reservoirs, four pump stations; the installation of water-meters within concrete vaults; and upgrade of an existing Imperial Irrigation District electrical circuit to provide power to the pump stations. The Coachella Valley Water District pipeline will be connected to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's existing water delivery system and require abandonment of two existing pump stations owned by BOR and operated by CVWD (see **Figures 2 and 3**). With the expansion of the surface water system for irrigation in the Oasis Area, reliance on groundwater can be curtailed, allowing recovery of the underlying aquifer in fulfillment of the 2010 Coachella Valley Water Management Plan Update.

The Oasis Area Irrigation System Expansion Project area lies near the northwest margin of the Salton Sea, south of 66th Avenue, west of Harrison Street, and north of 86th Avenue in Riverside County, California (see **Figure 1**).

IID Energy distribution infrastructure upgrade required by the project:

The upgrade of an existing IID electrical circuit (see **Figure 4**) will serve four CVWD booster stations at various locations. IID will upgrade an overhead three-phase distribution line approximately two and half miles starting at the intersection of Harrison Street and Avenue 70 with the installation of 30 new power poles and replacing 23 existing poles. The second location begins at Pierce Street and Avenue 72 (Oasis Substation) going south approximately two miles to Avenue 76 and then continuing west on Avenue 76 approximately 0.5 miles to Harrison Street with the installation of 21 new power poles and replacing 27 existing poles. IID will install approximately 21,200 feet of All Aluminum Conductor (AAC) overhead cable (see **Figure 5**).

II. CEQA Compliance for the Project

The environmental effects of the Oasis Area Irrigation System Expansion Project were assessed in the *Final Environmental Impact Report Oasis Area Irrigation System Expansion Project* (State Clearinghouse No. 2014061084), dated February 2015, prepared by the Coachella Valley Water District, the lead agency pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act, and adopted and certified by the CVWD Board of Directors, including a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program, on March 10, 2015.

However, the upgrade locations for IID's new electrical circuit expansion to provide the required power for the Oasis irrigation system were not finalized at the time the Final EIR was completed. Consequently, CVWD prepared an Addendum (Addendum No. 1 to the FEIR) to evaluate the final circuit routing and construction requirements and determine whether the potential impacts and required mitigation measures identified in the Final EIR adequately cover potential effects of the final electrical circuit design.

Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines §15164, and with reference to §15162, an addendum to a previously certified EIR is required when changes or additions are necessary, but where none of the conditions call for the preparation of a subsequent EIR.

The electrical circuit expansion, as set forth and described in the Addendum to the Final EIR, and described herein, would not result in any substantial change or circumstance leading to a major revision of the irrigation project and fulfills the CEQA review requirements necessary for an addendum to an EIR. Based upon the Addendum's analysis, the proposed electrical circuit expansion routing and construction were determined to be consistent with the description of the environmental setting, environmental impacts and mitigation measures as set forth in the originally certified Final EIR.

None of the conditions described in CEQA Guidelines §15162 calling for the preparation of a subsequent EIR have occurred as a result of the final electrical circuit expansion design. All applicable and relevant mitigation measures to the irrigation project that were included in the Oasis Irrigation Expansion Project FEIR are incorporated by reference in the Addendum and are contained in the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program prepared as a part of the 2015 FEIR (Chapter 9.0 – Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program).

The Addendum was approved by the CVWD Board of Directors on November 8, 2022.

The Final EIR, Addendum, supporting documents and record of project approvals are available at CVWD Steve Robbins Administration Building located at 75-515 Hovley Lane East in Palm Desert, CA 92260 or online at the following websites:

Final EIR and Addendum:

<https://coachellavalleywaterdistrict.sharefile.com/d-s31a42ca3ec694d8c9638beafc80ce244>

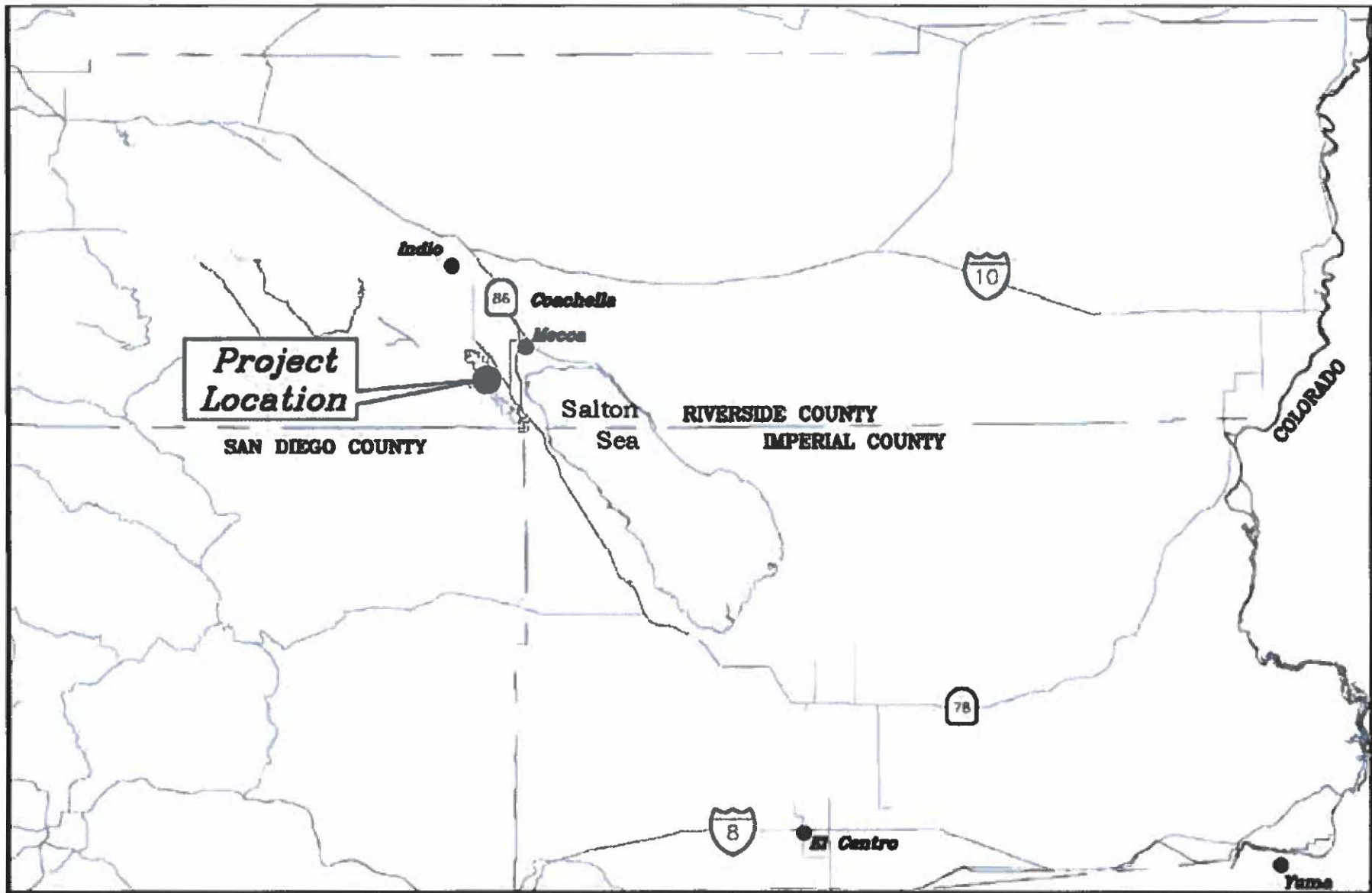
Related Documents

<https://ceqanet.opr.ca.gov/2014061084/3>

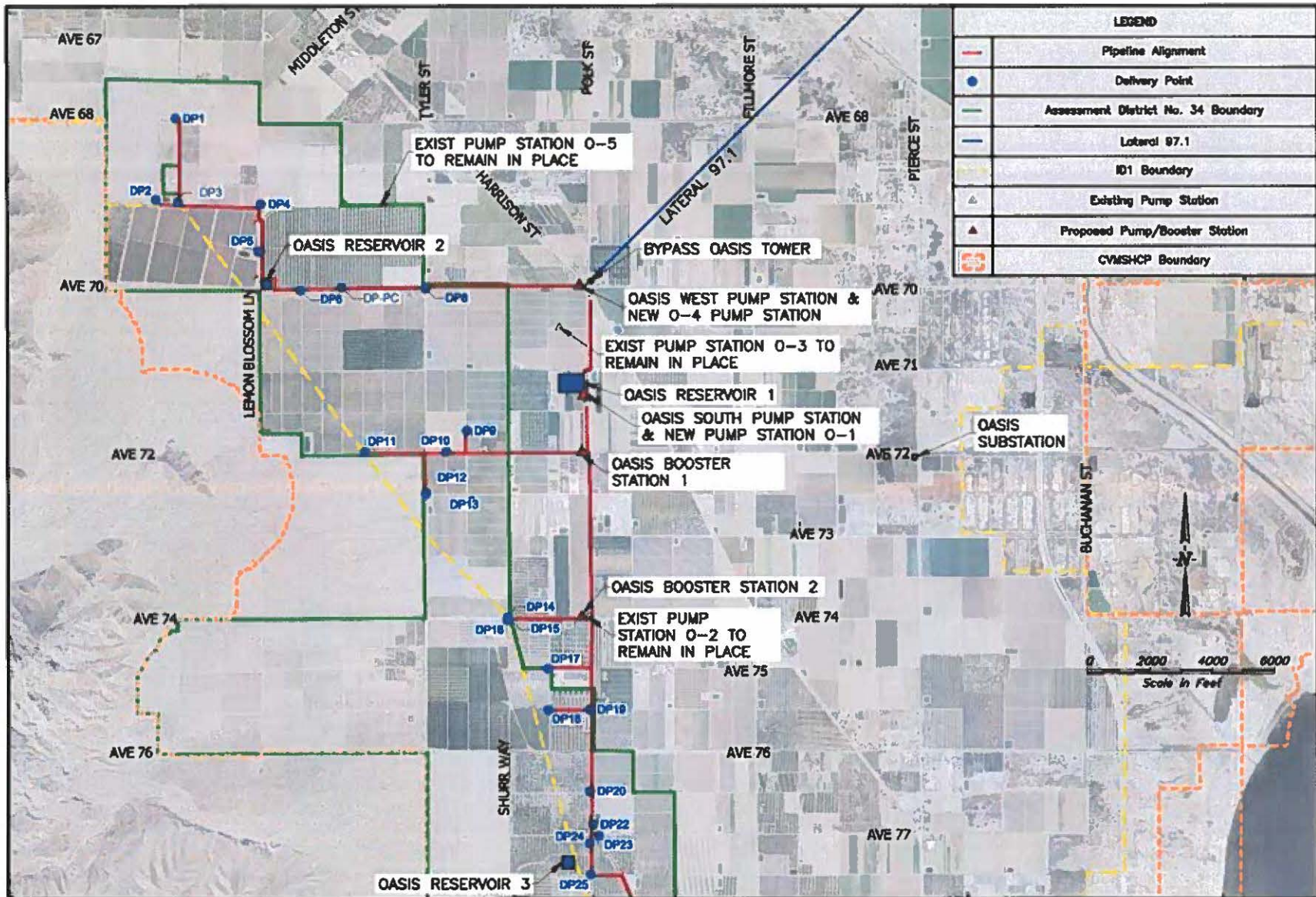
III. The IID Role as a CEQA Responsible Agency

Because a portion of the the Oasis Area Irrigation System Expansion Project involves IID facilities and requires a major work authorization approved by the IID Board of Directors, IID, as a responsible agency under CEQA (California Code of Public Resources sections 21000 et seq.), must comply with CEQA requirements (14 CCR § 15096) including making certain findings regarding that portion of the project involving and affecting the district and not the entirety of the project. Thus, the IID Board of Directors is required to make such findings as are referenced in the resolution adopting these findings. Environmental Compliance Unit staff determined that the Final EIR and Addendum evaluated and analyzed the environmental effects of the impacts to and upgrades of IID electrical infrastructure, as described herein, to accommodate the electrical requirements of the Oasis Area Irrigation System Expansion Project in an appropriate manner, that the significant impacts identified in the Final EIR and Addendum have been mitigated or avoided; that measures necessary for mitigation are within the responsibility and jurisdiction of another public agency and not the IID and no further environmental analysis is required under CEQA.

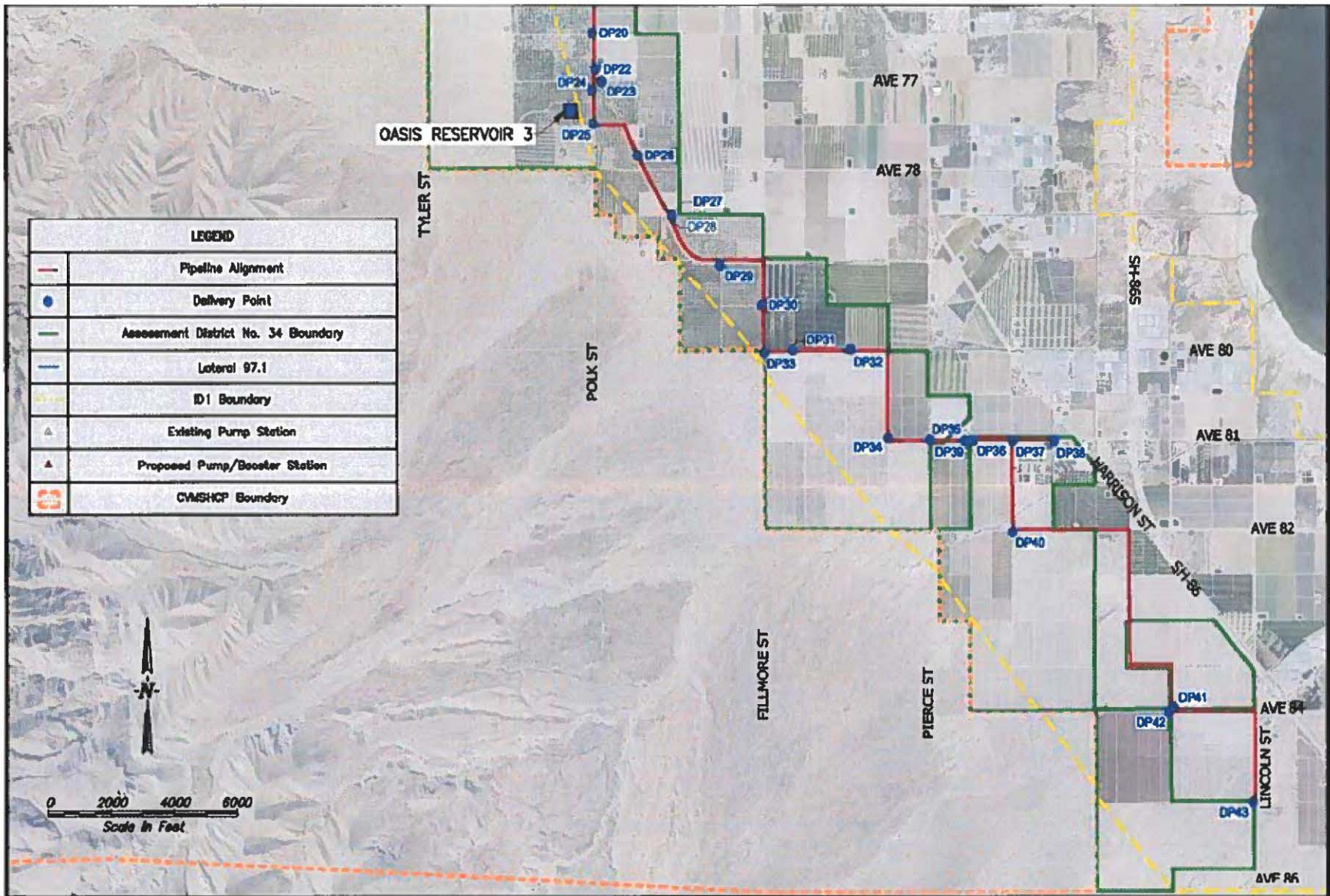
Copies of the Final EIR, Addendum and related documentation are available at the Regulatory & Environmental Compliance Section offices located at 321 South Waterman Avenue, Ste. 200, El Centro, California, 92243.



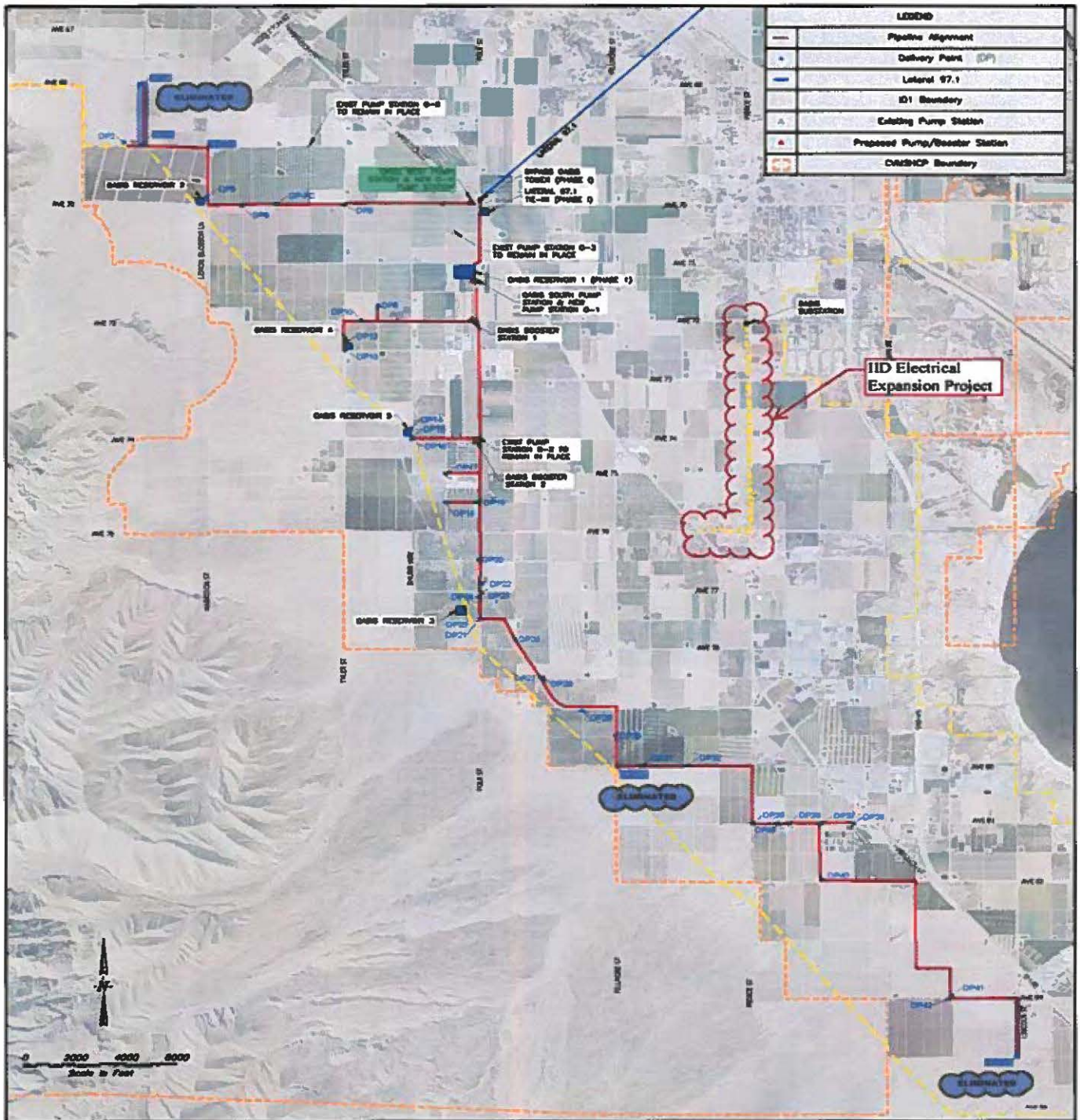
Oasis Area Irrigation System Expansion Project Vicinity Map (Figure 1)



Oasis Area Pipeline Alignment, North Segment Location Map (Figure 2)



Oasis Area Pipeline Alignment, South Segment Location Map (Figure 3)



Oasis Area Irrigation System Expansion Project, IID Circuit Extension Location Map (Figure 4)



Oasis Area Irrigation System Expansion Project, IID Circuit Extension Upgrades (Figure 5)