

CALIFORNIA STATE LANDS COMMISSION
 100 Howe Avenue, Suite 100-South
 Sacramento, CA 95825-8202



Established in 1938

JENNIFER LUCCHESI, Executive Officer
 (916) 574-1800 Fax (916) 574-1810
 California Relay Service TDD Phone 1-800-735-2929
 from Voice Phone 1-800-735-2922

Contact Phone: (916) 574-1890
 Contact FAX: (916) 574-1885

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October 27, 2015

SCH # _____
 CSLC File Ref: MND # 786
 PRC 9239.9; W 30207

NOTICE OF PUBLIC REVIEW AND INTENT TO ADOPT A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION

A joint Environmental Assessment/Mitigated Negative Declaration (EA/MND) has been prepared by the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) as the Federal lead agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (42 U.S.C. § 4321 et seq.), and the California State Lands Commission (CSLC), as the State Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (Pub. Resources Code, § 21000 et seq.), in response to an application submitted by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife for the Mohave Valley Conservation Area Backwater Project (Project). The EA/MND is in compliance with the requirements of CEQA, the State CEQA Guidelines (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, § 15000 et seq.), CSLC Regulations (Cal. Code Regs., tit. 2, § 2901 et seq.), NEPA, the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] Parts 1500-1508), and Department of the Interior NEPA Regulations (43 CFR Part 46). This Notice fulfills a State regulatory process noticing and review requirement for the CSLC.

Project Title: Mohave Valley Conservation Area Backwater Project

Project Location: The Project would be located the on a historic floodplain of the Colorado River within the Moabi Regional Park, about 13 miles south of Needles, California, in San Bernardino County.

Project Description: Reclamation proposes to excavate soil to create about 50 acres of backwater channel and associated backwater habitat on a 149-acre portion of a vacant parcel. The backwater channel would be connected to the Colorado River by the construction of inlet and outlet water control structures. The area is currently used as an Off-Highway Vehicle recreation area. The proposed project would be carried out in the following four phases: Vegetation Clearing; Excavation and Construction; Establishment/Re-Vegetation; and Habitat Management, Operations, and Maintenance.

The Project EA/MND can be downloaded in PDF format from the following link: www.slc.ca.gov/Info/CEQA.html. Hard copies and/or CDs of the EA/MND are also available for review at the locations below:

Needles Branch Library 1111 Bailey Ave. Needles, CA 92363	California Fish and Wildlife Office 17041 S. Lovekin Blvd. Blythe, CA 92225
California State Lands Commission 200 Oceangate 12 th Floor Long Beach, CA 90802	California State Lands Commission 100 Howe Ave., Suite 100-South Sacramento, CA 95825

The EA/MND is available for at least a 30-day review period. All comments must be received by **November 30, 2015**, and can be sent to:

California State Lands Commission Attention: Afifa Awan 100 Howe Ave., Suite 100-South Sacramento, CA 95825	Email: CEQAcomments@slc.ca.gov Fax: (916) 574-1885
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Important Notes to Commenters

1. You are encouraged to submit electronic copies of your written comments. If written comments are sent by e-mail, please send the comments to CEQAcomments@slc.ca.gov and write the following in the subject line of your email: **Mohave Valley Conservation Area Backwater Project Comments**. If written comments are faxed, please also mail a copy to ensure that a clean copy is received by this office.
2. If you represent a public agency, please provide the name, email address, and telephone number for the contact person in your agency for the Project.
3. Before including your mailing or e-mail address, telephone number, or other personal identifying information in your comment, please be aware that the entire comment—including personal identifying information—may become publicly available, including in the MND and posted on the Internet). The CSLC will make available for inspection, in their entirety, all comments submitted by organizations or businesses or by individuals identifying themselves as representatives of organizations or businesses.

The MND will be considered for adoption at the December 18, 2015, scheduled meeting of the CSLC, unless otherwise stated on the CSLC's website. The specific time and location will be posted on the CSLC's website at www.slc.ca.gov when specific meeting information becomes known.

Should you have any questions or need additional information from a State or CEQA perspective, please contact Afifa Awan at (916) 574-1891, or via e-mail at Afifa.Awan@slc.ca.gov.

Jennifer Lucchesi
Executive Officer