

Notice of Preparation and Public Scoping Meeting

To: All Interested Persons and Agencies/ Riverside County Clerk / Imperial County Clerk

Subject: Notice of Preparation of a Draft Program Environmental Impact Report for the Coachella Valley Water District Sanitation Master Plan Update 2020

Lead Agency

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Consulting Firm

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Governor's Office of Planning & Research

SEP 13 2019

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

The Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD or District) is the Lead Agency and will prepare a Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) for the CVWD Sanitation Master Plan Update 2020 (Proposed Project) in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). CVWD is requesting your comment and information, or your agency's view, as to the scope and content of the environmental information to be included in the PEIR. CVWD will accept written comments regarding the public scoping of the PEIR during the mandated 30-day review period from September 13 to October 12, 2019. Written comments can be mailed, emailed, or hand-delivered to CVWD's contact person identified above.

An open-house style **public scoping meeting** is scheduled on September 24, 2019 from 5:30 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. The meeting will be held in CVWD's Steve Robbins Administrative Building located at 75-515 Hovley Lane East in Palm Desert.

The PEIR will analyze environmental resource topics such as: aesthetics, energy, wildfire, agriculture, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, tribal cultural resources, geology and soils, greenhouse gas emissions, hydrology and water quality, land use and planning, noise, population and housing, transportation/traffic, utilities and service systems, project alternatives, and other mandated topics. Responses received to this NOP may modify or add to the preliminary assessment of potential issues addressed in the PEIR.

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. The response deadline is **October 12, 2019**. Please send your written comment to William Patterson at the address shown above. We will need the name for a contact person in your agency.

Project Title: Coachella Valley Water District Sanitation Master Plan Update 2020

Project Location: Within the CVWD service area, including cities and unincorporated areas of Riverside County and Imperial County

Background: The CVWD provides services for water, wastewater, recycled water, irrigation/drainage, regional stormwater protection and groundwater management to the Coachella Valley. The Sanitation Division specifically provides wastewater collection and treatment services. To provide these services, the District owns and operates a large collection system and five water reclamation plants (WRPs): 1, 2, 4, 7, and 10. The CVWD sanitary collection sewer system includes more than 1,130 miles of sanitary sewer pipeline, which are comprised of approximately 1,060 miles of gravity pipelines and 70 miles of force mains.

Located in the Coachella Valley in Southern California, the District's service area is approximately 130 miles east of Los Angeles and 140 miles northeast of San Diego. The District is responsible for wastewater service to a service area encompassing approximately 885 square miles of land, primarily designated as residential, commercial, and industrial land uses. The topography of the service area is valley-centered, with a mild slope generally following the Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel (also known as the Whitewater River) which bisects the Coachella Valley as it flows from the west to the east/southeast, discharging to the Salton Sea. The Salton Sea generally forms the southern boundary of CVWD, with the Chocolate Mountains on the east, and the Santa Rosa Mountains on the west. The southern tip of the San Bernardino Mountains forms the northern extent of the service area (Figure 1).

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In 2009 the CVWD prepared its first sewer collection system master planning study (the 2009 Sanitation System Master Plan), developed in the context of the strong economic cycle and exceptional development boom of the preceding period. The population was projected to increase by nearly 250 percent from 211,400 in 2005 to 523,800 by 2030. The 2009 Sanitation System Master Plan (2009 Sanitation Master Plan) studied the following: wastewater flow projections, wastewater load projections, reliability/redundancy criteria, biosolids management, water reclamation plant evaluations, collection system, and the capital improvement program. The plan was based on a robust housing development outlook in 2007. The resulting approach of the master plan was therefore focused on growth and capacity expansion of the sanitation system. The subsequent housing market collapse, economic recession, and prolonged drought dampened growth in the region and the growth predicted in the 2009 Sanitation Master Plan did not materialize. The service area population is up only modestly from the prior study period, estimated to be approximately 212,000. As prefaced in the 2009 Sanitation Master Plan, should the realization of growth deviate from the assumptions, CVWD would update or revise the plan accordingly.

Project Description: This Proposed Project provides a comprehensive capital improvement program (CIP) consisting of recommendations to refurbish existing assets, optimize operations, and satisfy projected capacity needs of all sanitation facilities (collection system including gravity pipelines, force mains, lift stations, and the five water reclamation plants [WRPs]) in a phased program to be implemented in five-year implementation phases between 2020 to 2045.

The purpose of the Proposed Project is to plan the expansion and upgrades of the CVWD sanitation system within the boundaries of CVWD for a planning period of 25 years in order to provide sustainable, cost-effective service to CVWD's current and future customers. The Sanitation Master Plan Update:

- Adjusts the actual-population-to-date accounting for the slowdown in growth that occurred post 2007
- Updates the flow and loading projections to the WRPs and evaluates capacity
- Collects operational and water quality data and Biowin models each WRP to identify loading capacity and opportunities for process improvements
- Updates the system and pump station hydraulic modeling and evaluates capacity
- Addresses current regulatory requirements and addresses potential future regulatory orders for nutrient and salinity controls of discharges to receiving waters and infiltration basins
- Provides marketing options and a strategy for implementing a recycled water program at WRP 4
- Provides condition-based horizontal and vertical asset replacement projects for the collection system and WRPs
- Updates the biosolids management plan and describes potential legislative changes and implications for CVWD
- Baselines performance of the WRPs and proposes improvements to optimize process operations and reduce energy and operational & maintenance cost
- Presents a plan for CVWD to be able to convert septic-to-sewer areas to CVWD's centralized system as grant funding opportunities materialize

The proposed **Collection System** improvements include adding approximately 174 miles of gravity and force main pipelines to increase system capacity, upsizing of gravity pipelines, cleaning and inspecting pipelines, trenchless rehabilitation of pipelines and manholes, replacement of electrical equipment and wiring at lift stations, replacement of lift stations, and a new non-potable distribution system in the service area.

The proposed improvements at the **Water Reclamation Plants** include plant and process equipment capacity upgrades/expansion, replacement of assets, addition of process monitoring and controls, improvements to reduce energy consumptions, safety and security upgrades, addition of solar power, backup power generation, floating covers, addition of tanks and reservoirs, primary treatment and tertiary treatment, replacement of liners, and pilot projects. The Proposed Project also includes biosolids management plans for a regional facility, and standardization of Operations and Maintenance improvements across all WRPs.

The Proposed Project drivers include:

- **Asset management** – sustainable reinvestment in public infrastructure
- **Capacity and regulatory** – build or adapt infrastructure to meet predicted growth and anticipated permit requirement
- **Level of service** – deliver customer-focused, cost effective service through improved operational strategies, automation, and expansion of economical, beneficial reuse (recycled water and biosolids)

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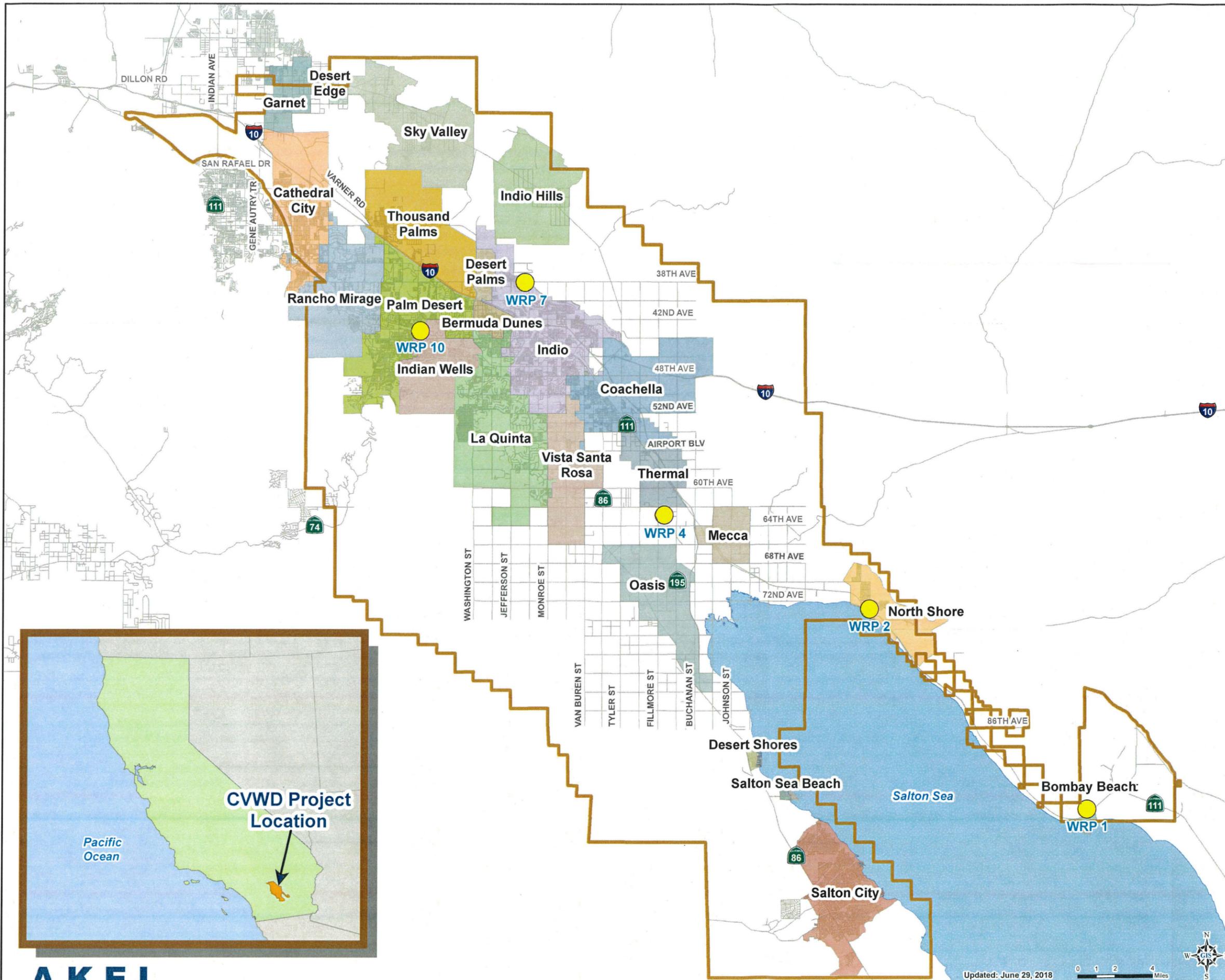
The levels of service goals are intended to achieve improvements that will result in cost-effective service and customer-focused service. The Proposed Project goals include:

- **Improve Water Quality Performance** – Reduce/eliminate the potential for sanitary sewer overflows (SSOs) and upsets within the plant process.
- **Improve Treatment Plant Process and Efficiency** – Achieve optimal operation of the treatment processes where equipment is operating near best efficiency, and process performance is as expected.
- **Maximize Beneficial Reuse** – Increase water recycling and biosolids reuse through expanding the water recycling market, and alternative option for biosolids reuse rather than disposal.
- **Minimize the Impacts to Operations and Maintenance** – Reduce maintenance and operational needs that over-stretch the staff by looking at replacing problematic equipment, remote monitoring and controls to check and clear alarms, improvements to the process that will address the causes of alarm conditions, frequent checks and fixes.

The Draft CVWD Sanitation Master Plan Update 2020 is organized into the following four volumes:

- **Volume 1 – General:** includes general information about the CVWD sanitation facilities, including background information, existing service area descriptions, historical flow and loading evaluation and projected flow and loading by service area, level of service, energy audits, and regulatory setting.
- **Volume 2 – Collection System:** includes collection system Geographic Information System (GIS) updates, hydraulic modeling, focused risk assessment of sanitation infrastructure in the vicinity of the Coachella Valley Storm Channel and Coachella Canal, and hydraulic capacity assessments to identify projects and recommend capital improvements for the collection system
- **Volume 3 – Water Reclamation Plants:** includes plant benchmarking, process evaluations, and application of projected flow and loading criteria and anticipated regulatory framework to identify projects and recommend capital improvements for the five WRPs.
- **Volume 4 – Capital Improvement Program:** compiled and prioritized capital improvement projects in a phased program for all sanitation facilities outlining an implementation schedule over the planning period of 2020 to 2045.

Date of notice: September 13, 2019



Legend

- WRPs
- District Boundary/ Study Area

Places (Census 2013)

- Bermuda Dunes
- Bombay Beach
- Cathedral City
- Coachella City
- Desert Edge
- Desert Palms
- Desert Shores
- Garnet
- Indian Wells City
- Indio Hills
- Indio City
- La Quinta City
- Mecca
- North Shore
- Oasis
- Palm Desert City
- Rancho Mirage City
- Salton City
- Salton Sea Beach
- Sky Valley
- Thermal
- Thousand Palms
- Vista Santa Rosa
- Street Centerlines
- Salton Sea

Figure 1
CVWD Sanitation System Service Area
 Sanitation System Master Plan
 Coachella Valley Water District

