

PREFACE TO THE FINAL EIR

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC or Commission), as the CEQA Lead Agency, has prepared this Final Environmental Impact Report (Final EIR or FEIR) for the Coastal Water Project (CWP) in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the CEQA Guidelines. The EIR is a public document for use by the CPUC, other governmental agencies, and the public in identifying and evaluating the potential environmental consequences of the CWP, identifying mitigation measures to lessen or eliminate adverse impacts, and examining feasible alternatives to the CWP. The CEQA Guidelines (Section 15132) specify the following:

A Final EIR shall consist of:

- (a) The Draft Environmental Impact Report (Draft EIR or DEIR) or a revision of the draft;
- (b) Comments and recommendations received on the Draft EIR, either verbatim or in summary;
- (c) A list of persons, organizations, and public agencies commenting on the Draft EIR;
- (d) The responses of the Lead Agency to significant environmental points raised in the review and consultation process; and
- (e) Any other information added by the Lead Agency.

The Draft EIR, published on January 30, 2009, assessed the potential impacts of the CWP and alternatives. This document, the Final EIR, consists of the revised EIR (Volumes 1 through 3: Executive Summary, Chapters 1 through 10, and appendices), as well as a response-to-comments document (Volumes 4 and 5: Chapters 11 through 14).

Volumes 1 through 3 consist of the revised EIR, including the full text of the Draft EIR as modified in response to comments received. To assist the reader in identifying the revisions incorporated into the EIR, text changes use the following conventions:

- Text deleted from the EIR is shown in ~~strike through text~~.
- Text added to the EIR is shown in underline text.

Numerous revisions to the Draft EIR were made in response to the comments contained in Chapter 12 of this Final EIR and are explained and set forth in the responses to those comments in Chapters 13 and 14 of this Final EIR, as well as being reflected in the revised EIR (Volumes 1

through 3). Revisions have also been made to the EIR (primarily affecting Chapters 5 and 6 of the EIR) to reflect changes in the Regional Project alternative based upon a collaborative effort of CalAm, the Marina Coast Water District, and the Monterey County Water Resources Agency to further refine and develop this option. (Master Response 13.4, contained in Chapter 13 of this Final EIR, contains details on the changes to the Regional Project.) Additional revisions correct typographical errors discovered in the text of the EIR since publication or refine discussions and resolve internal inconsistencies. None of these additional, staff-initiated text changes alter or affect the conclusions reached by the Draft EIR as to the significance of environmental impacts. Furthermore, none of the revisions to the Draft EIR indicate that there are new or more severe environmental impacts than were evaluated and discussed in the Draft EIR, nor do they raise considerably different feasible mitigation measures or alternatives that are not expected to be embraced by the project proponent. The Draft EIR was a thorough and adequate document in the first instance; the revisions merely clarify or amplify the contents of the Draft EIR and make the document more readily applicable to the Regional Project as currently contemplated to be considered.

At this stage, as noted above, Volumes 1 through 3 are published with strike-through and underlined text so that readers can view the changes that have been made to the Draft EIR. However, given that the Final EIR is expected to be consulted and applied by numerous agencies in the future, once the Final EIR is certified Volumes 1 through 3 may be published without strike-through and underlined text so as to include only the final, adopted text of the document. Thereafter, the complete Final EIR (Volumes 1 through 5) would be simpler to consult and apply in a user-friendly manner.

Readers should be aware that the revised EIR does not retain the same pagination as was used in the Draft EIR. Efforts have been made, however, to retain the same section and subsection numbering whenever possible.

Volumes 4 and 5 consist of the response-to-comments document. They contain the comments received on the Draft EIR and the responses to those comments by CPUC staff and consultants. Volumes 4 and 5 are structured to be a continuation of the revised Draft EIR set forth in volumes 1 through 3, such that Volumes 1 through 5 comprise the Final EIR in its entirety. Volumes 4 and 5 contain the new Chapters 11 through 14, which include the following:

Chapter 11, Introduction to Response-to-Comments Document, describes the purpose and organization of the response-to-comments document.

Chapter 12, Comments, includes all comments submitted during the public review period. Comments are organized into the following categories:

- Federal government agency (F)
- State government agency (S)
- Local agency (L)
- Tribe (T)
- Affiliated group (G)

- Non-affiliated individual (NA)
- Form letter (Fo)
- Public meeting (PubMtg)

Each comment is assigned an alpha-numeric code (explained in detail in Chapter 12), which is shown in the margin next to the comment. Please see the table of contents for Chapter 12 for a list of the persons and organizations who submitted comments on the Draft EIR.

Chapter 13, Master Responses, includes sixteen long-format responses on important topics brought up during the public review period. These Master Responses are referred to as appropriate within the responses to individual comments set forth in Chapter 14.

Chapter 14, Individual Responses, includes the detailed responses to the comments set forth in Chapter 12. Individual responses are organized into the same categories as in Chapter 12. Each individual response is headed with the alpha-numeric code number of the comment to which it responds. Please see the table of contents for Chapter 14 for a list of the persons whose comments were responded to in this Final EIR.

The information contained in this FEIR will be reviewed, certified, and considered by the CPUC Commissioners prior to the ultimate decision to approve, deny, or modify the proposed project. It will also be used by other agencies as appropriate in considering aspects of the project within their jurisdictions.