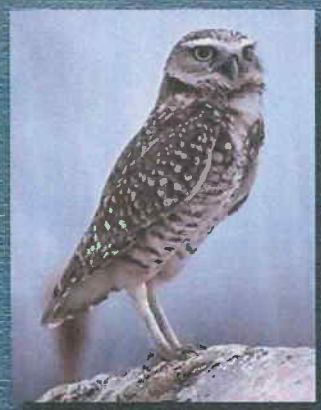
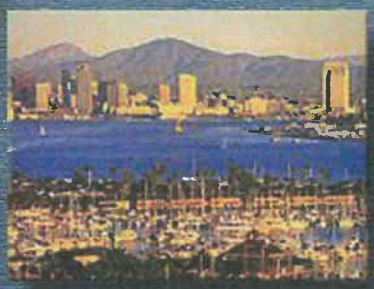
Imperial Irrigation District Water Conservation and Transfer Project

Habitat Conservation Plan

Final Environmental Impact Report/ Environmental Impact Statement





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conservative conclusion that these impacts are potentially significant and cannot be mitigated has been retained in this Final EIR/EIS.

With the implementation of Salton Sea Habitat Conservation Strategy, shoreline exposure caused by the Project would not begin until some time after the year 2035. Up to an estimated 16,000 acres of shoreline would potentially be exposed between 2035 and end of the Project term as a result of full implementation of the Proposed Project. The mitigation plan described above works in concert with the Salton Sea Habitat Conservation Strategy and is expected to reduce air quality impacts and PM10-related health effects. However, problem assessment and mitigation implementation would occur subsequent to the development of potential dust emissions. Therefore, interim impacts could be significant.

It is uncertain what the conditions in the Salton Sea Air Basin will be as of 2035 when Project impacts may begin to occur. The Imperial Valley portion of the Salton Sea Air Basin is currently a moderate nonattainment area and the Riverside County/Coachella Valley portion is currently a serious nonattainment area for the National Ambient Air Quality Standard for PM10. The attainment status of the Basin in 2035 cannot be ascertained; however, the Clean Air Act requires a plan for attainment well in advance of that date.

Cost and water availability may affect the feasibility of certain dust mitigation measures and the proposed delivery of water to the Sea to re-wet emissive areas, as proposed under the mitigation plan described above. If mitigation water is generated by non-rotational fallowing within the IID water service area, this may result in significant impacts to agriculture, as described in Section 3.5 of the Draft EIR/EIS. Fallowing may also adversely affect the Imperial Valley economy, as described in Section 3.14 of the Draft EIR/EIS. Before approving the Project, the Lead Agencies must balance the benefits and impacts of the Project as well as the effects and feasibility of proposed mitigation measures.

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