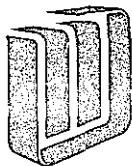


FILED by order
of the Board of Directors of
The Metropolitan Water District
of Southern California
at its meeting held JUN - 9 1992

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METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Doreen E. [Signature]
Active Secretary

May 28, 1992

To: Board of Directors (Engineering and Operations Committee-Information)
From: General Manager
Subject: Inland Feeder Study--Status of Environmental Impact
Report/Environmental Assessment, Mitigation Planning

Report

An Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Assessment (EIR/EA) for the Inland Feeder Project is being jointly prepared by Metropolitan and the U.S. Forest Service in accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). A Draft EIR/EA is scheduled for public review in July, 1992.

The proposed Inland Feeder Project is a 42- to 45-mile long, 12-foot-diameter tunnel/pipeline raw water conveyance facility capable of carrying approximately 1000 cfs from the East Branch of the California Aqueduct to the Colorado River Aqueduct near San Jacinto. There are five alternative alignments being evaluated as part of the Inland Feeder Study Environmental Impact Report process (figure 1).

Three alignments (Far East High, Far East Low, and Far East Combination) would proceed due east from the Devil Canyon power structure through tunnels under the San Bernardino National Forest. All three alignments would exit the tunnel north of the City of Redlands, proceed across the Santa Ana Wash in pipeline, tunnel under the San Timoteo Badlands, to the San Jacinto Valley, and proceed to the Colorado River Aqueduct in pipeline.

The other two alignments (Central and West) would head southward from the Devil Canyon power structure, following the San Bernardino County Flood Control easement toward Cajon Boulevard. At this point, the Central alignment turns southeasterly and proceeds through the cities of San Bernardino, Colton, Grand Terrace, Riverside, Moreno Valley and Perris in open cut pipeline construction. The West alignment continues along the San Bernardino County Flood Control easement, similar to the Central alignment, until reaching Cactus Avenue, where it turns southward and proceeds through the cities of San Bernardino, Rialto, Colton, Riverside, Moreno Valley and Perris in open cut/cover pipeline construction.

In compliance with CEQA/NEPA, thorough scientific studies have been conducted to determine potentially significant environmental impacts. Mitigation measures are being developed to eliminate or reduce these impacts to nonsignificance. Four preliminary guidelines have been established to guide in mitigation planning:

1. Impacts to sensitive habitats would be mitigated either by securing banked mitigation credits available in Metropolitan's existing Shipley and Santa Rosa Plateau Reserves or by using potential mitigation credits (at the Strawberry Creek Property) being acquired and exchanged with the U.S. Forest Service;
2. Impacts to sensitive species would be mitigated by preservation and enhancement of existing known populations in the San Jacinto Valley;
3. Potentially significant impacts to known listed endangered species would be avoided, where possible. If avoidance is not possible, impacts will be mitigated by restoration and preservation/enhancement of existing known populations; and
4. On-site revegetation would be accomplished to minimize long-term project affects.

The following Biological Needs and Opportunities Table, provides a breakdown of the minimum biological mitigation needs and preliminary mitigation sources (shown on Figure 1) for the Far East Combination Alternative. The preliminary biological mitigation costs in 1992 dollars, is \$9.2 million, approximately 1.2 percent of total project costs.

Board Committee Assignment

This letter was referred for information to:

The Engineering and Operations Committee because it has responsibility for providing storage and distribution facilities for the delivery of water pursuant to Administrative Code Section 2431 (d).

Recommendations

For Information only.


for Carl Boronkay

DWR:dgs/SBD15

Attachment

INLAND FEEDER PROJECT
BIOLOGICAL NEEDS AND OPPORTUNITIES

	TOTAL MINIMUM MITIGATION NEEDS*	MITIGATION OPPORTUNITIES		
		Santa Rosa Plateau and Shipley Reserves	Strawberry Creek	San Jacinto Valley
Sensitive Habitat (acres)	313	232	81	-
Endangered Species (acres)	20	-	-	20
Sensitive Species (individuals)	4590	-	-	4590

* Based on Far East Combination Alternative.

INLAND FEEDER PROJECT FEASIBILITY ALTERNATIVES

