

FDP



# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION  
Lower Colorado Regional Office  
P.O. Box 61470  
Boulder City, NV 89006-1470

IN REPLY REFER TO:

LC-1000  
ENV-1.10

MAR 08 2002

To: All Interested Persons, Organizations, and Agencies

Subject: Notice of Public Hearings on the Imperial Irrigation District (IID) Water Conservation and Transfer Project, Draft Habitat Conservation Plan (HCP) - Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR)/Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), California

This is to inform you that public hearings have been scheduled regarding the above project. The hearings will be held at the following times and locations:

- April 2, 2002\*, 5 p.m., IID Board Room, 81-600 Avenue, 58, La Quinta, California 92253
- April 3, 2002\*, 5 p.m., IID Auditorium, 1284 Broadway, El Centro, California 92243
- April 4, 2002, 5 p.m., San Diego County Water Authority Board Room, 4677 Overland Avenue, San Diego, California 92123

(\* ) A Spanish interpreter will be present.

The purpose of these hearings is to receive public comments, views, and suggestions about the draft EIR/EIS - particularly the adequacy with which the document identifies and describes the potential impacts associated with implementing the proposed water conservation and transfer project and/or the HCP, and/or Reclamation's proposed approval of the change in point of delivery of Colorado River water and Fish and Wildlife Service's (FWS) proposed approval of the draft HCP and issuance of a Section 10 permit. The hearings are designed to allow the public the opportunity to provide views and information to Reclamation, FWS, and IID. There will be no question/answer session at these hearings; however, project staff from Reclamation, FWS, IID, and IID's consultant will be available after the hearing is adjourned to answer questions as time allows.

Oral comments at the hearings will be limited to 3 - 5 minutes, depending upon the number of people wishing to provide comments. If time permits, the hearing officer will allow any speaker to provide additional oral comments after all persons wishing to comment have been heard. A court reporter will prepare a written record of all comments made; however, commentors are encouraged to provide a written copy of their statement. If you would like to sign up in advance to provide oral comments, please contact Ms. Janice Kjesbo at 602-216-3864, faxogram 602-216-4006, by March 29, 2002. Hearing impaired, visually impaired, and/or mobility impaired persons planning to attend the meeting(s) may arrange for necessary accommodations by contacting Ms. Kjesbo at the above telephone/faxogram numbers, or through the Federal Relay Service at 800-877-8339, no later than March 15, 2002.

Written comments will continue to be accepted until April 26, 2002, the end of the public review and comment period. Comments may be mailed, faxed, or hand delivered to either of the following:

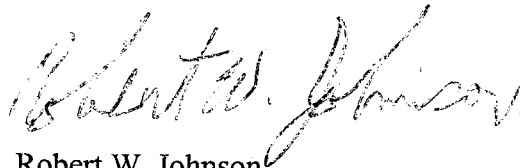
Mr. Bruce D. Ellis  
Bureau of Reclamation  
Phoenix Area Office  
PO Box 81169, Phoenix AZ 85069-1169  
2222 West Dunlap Avenue, Suite 100  
Phoenix AZ 85021-2801  
Facsimile: 602-216-4006

Mr. Elston Grubaugh, Manager  
Imperial Irrigation District  
Resource Planning & Management Dept.  
PO Box 937, Imperial CA 92251  
333 East Barioni Boulevard  
Imperial CA 92251  
Facsimile: 760-339-9009

Our practice is to make comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, available in the final EIR/EIS, or if requested by the public. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their home address from the record, which we will honor to the extent allowable by law. There also may be circumstances in which we would withhold from the record a respondent's identity, as allowable by law. If you wish us to withhold your name and/or address, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. However, we will not consider anonymous comments. We will make all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available to the public in their entirety.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Ellis at the Phoenix Area Office address above, telephone 602-216-3854. Thank you for your interest.

Sincerely,



Robert W. Johnson  
Regional Director