

5.0 PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT AND SCOPING

Public participation in this DEIS/SEIR is a dynamic process that continues throughout the DEIS/SEIR process. In addition to formal public participation, informal contact has occurred with public land users and interested parties.

The planning process was initiated on March 3, 2015, with the publication of a NOI by the BLM and USFWS in the *Federal Register* (Volume 69, Number 80, Document Number E9-17574). Additionally, a NOP was sent to the State Clearinghouse (SCH Number 2015031022) and to local agencies and interested parties by the Conservation District on March 5, 2015 and March 6, 2015, respectively. On March 18, 2015, the BLM, USFWS, and the Conservation District hosted two public scoping meetings to provide information and a forum for public input into the process at the Conservation District's offices in Redlands, California (Table 5.0-1, *Scoping Meetings*). Additionally, the NOI provided supplementary project information, BLM and the USFWS contact information for comments, and a list of the predominant issues.

Table 5.0-1 Scoping Meetings

Location of Scoping Meeting	Date
San Bernardino Valley Water Conservation District 1630 W. Redlands Blvd. Suite A	March 18, 2015 @ 2PM March 18, 2015 @ 6PM

The scoping and comment period lasted 60 days, ending on May 4, 2015. A total of nine written communications regarding the NOI and NOP were received during the scoping and comment period. Public comments and concerns are summarized in Table 5.0-2, *Index of Comments*. Additionally, the comments are on file at the Conservation District's office and are included in Appendix A of this document and as part of the Administrative Record. As shown in Table 5.0-2, *Index of Comments*, the predominant issues identified during public scoping included: threatened, endangered, and other special status species; mineral resources; water resources; recreation; noise; visual resources; cultural resources; land management; and traffic management. In response to feedback received during the scoping meeting an additional meeting, open to the public, and focused on habitat and biological issues was held at the Conservation District on April 7, 2015. Public involvement in planning for the Final EIS/SEIR is ongoing and various opportunities for public involvement will continue to be available.

Table 5.0-2 Index of Comments

Comments Received During Public Scoping Period				
Date of Correspondence	Name/Title of Correspondent	Organization Represented	Primary Issue(s) of Concern	Sections Addressed
Unknown	James Malcolm	N/A	Biological Resources – Recommend that the HCP include more than just currently listed species, but other species that are declining. Management is required to maintain biodiversity. Land Exchange – the land around the mining pits should be federally owned.	Chapters 1.0 <i>Introduction</i> and 2.0 <i>Proposed Action and Alternatives</i> Chapters 3.4 and 4.4, <i>Biological Resources</i>
March 4, 2015	Ileene Anderson, Senior Scientist	Center for Biological Diversity	Biological Resources – complete surveys for rare, sensitive, threatened, and endangered species should be used for basis of impact analysis. Evaluate all direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts to sensitive habitats and wildlife movement. DEIS/SEIR should include specific, measurable, feasible and enforceable mitigation measures for impacts. Air Quality/GHG – DEIS/SEIR must consider the project’s potential to impair attainment goals for the Air Basin and contribution to greenhouse gas emissions. Water Quality/ Water Supply – DEIS/SEIR must include the project’s water quality impacts and the project’s water supply. DEIS/EIR should consider a range of alternatives that reduce or avoid the project’s impacts and the environmental analysis should not simply be set on the existing environmental conditions. Request to be added to the distribution list to receive future notices related to the DEIS/SEIR.	Chapters 1.0 <i>Introduction</i> and 2.0 <i>Proposed Action and Alternatives</i> Chapters 3.4 and 4.4, <i>Biological Resources</i> Chapters 3.3 and 4.3, <i>Hydrology and Water Quality</i> Chapter 13, <i>Cumulative Effects</i>
March 23, 2015	Katy Sanchez Associate Government Program Analyst	Native American Heritage Commission	Cultural Resources – Consultation with Native American Tribes.	Chapters 3.9 and 4.9, <i>Cultural Resources</i>

April 1, 2015	David Samson, Chief State Water Projects Operations Support Office	CA Department of Water Resources	DWR's ability to perform existing and future operation and maintenance of the Mentone Pipeline. Provide DWR with a copy of the subsequent environmental documentation and keep DWR informed of any future actions.	N/A
April 2, 2015	Leslie MacNair, Acting Regional Manager	CA Department of Fish and Wildlife	CDFW is a Trustee Agency and Responsible Agency under CEQA. The EIR should include a detailed project description and an alternatives analysis. Direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts to sensitive biological resources, avoidance minimization and mitigation for impacts, California Endangered Species Act Individual Take Permit for impacts to state-listed species, analyze potential impacts to Fully Protected Species, avoidance and minimization of nesting birds and compliance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, analyze impacts to wildlife movement, compliance with the Lake and Streambed Alteration Program.	Chapters 1.0 <i>Introduction</i> and 2.0 <i>Proposed Action and Alternatives</i> Chapters 3.4 and 4.4, <i>Biological Resources</i> Chapter 13, <i>Cumulative Effects</i>
April 28, 2015	Nidham Aram Alrayes, Public Works Engineer	County of San Bernardino	No comments.	N/A
April 29, 2015	Debbie Drenzer, Principal	Metropolitan Water District of Southern California	Impacts to Metropolitan's facilities or restrictions to access and right-of-ways.	Chapters 1.0 <i>Introduction</i> and 2.0 <i>Proposed Action and Alternatives</i>

Table 5.0-3 List of Preparers

Organization	Title	Name
Conservation District	General Manager	Daniel Cozad
Conservation District	Assistant General Manager/Land Resources Manager	Betsy Miller
Conservation District	Program Manager	Jeff Beehler
Conservation District	Assistant Engineer	Katelyn Scholte
Conservation District	GIS Analyst	Erin Berger
Conservation District	GIS Analyst	Jennifer Zhou
USFWS	Fish and Wildlife Biologist	Geary Hund
USFWS	Fish and Wildlife Biologist	Chris Gregory
USFWS	Division Chief	Karin Cleary-Rose
USFWS	Fish and Wildlife Biologist	John Robles
BLM	Realty Specialist BLM	Brandon Anderson
BLM	Biologist BLM	Joyce Schlachter
BLM	Realty Specialist BLM	Victoria Hernandez
BLM	Planning and Environmental Coordinator BLM	John Dalton
RVA Corp	RVA Corp	Ruth Villalobos
RVA Corp	RVA Corp	Seve Villalobos
RVA Corp	RVA Corp	Sonya Hooker
Baker International	Baker International	Christine Jacobs-Donoghue



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