66575 Second Street, Desert Hot Springs, CA 92240 • www.mswd.org • p 760.329.5169 • f 760.329.2482

Agency Notice of Preparation of a Draft Program Environmental Impact Report: Mission Springs Water District West Valley Water Reclamation Program

TO: Responsible Agencies, Organizations and Interested Parties

Mission Springs Water District (MSWD or District), as the Lead Agency pursuant to CEQA, is proposing to implement a West Valley Water Reclamation Program (WVWRP or Program) that includes constructing municipal wastewater collection and treatment systems that will promote the elimination of individual septic systems that overlie the Mission Creek, Desert Hot Springs, and Garnet Hill aquifers. The Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) analysis focuses on both the plan level and project level implementation, including site-specific construction and operation details of individual program elements, where individual elements are known. Therefore, MSWD will prepare a Program EIR for the project to satisfy the requirements of the CEQA (Public Resources Code [PRC] Section 21000 et seq.). The enclosed Exhibits show the location of the overall program and demonstrates various elements of the preferred alternative for the proposed program.

PROJECT TITLE: Mission Springs Water District West Valley Water Reclamation Program

PROJECT LOCATION: The MSWD service area is located in southern California within the northwestern portion of the Coachella Valley. The service area encompasses approximately 135 square miles with focus on the City of Desert Hot Springs and surrounding unincorporated areas of Riverside County. The service area also encompasses the villages of Palm Springs Crest and West Palm Springs located in the southwest corner of the District. Exhibit 1 shows the District's current service area boundaries. The service area is bordered to the north and northeast by the Little San Bernardino Mountains; on the east/southeast by the Seven Palms Valley and Edom Hills; on the south generally by Interstate 10, except in the southwest; and on the west by the San Bernardino Mountain foothills, west of State Route 62. All future proposed facilities will be located inside the MSWD service area boundary. Therefore, for purposes of this PEIR, the "project area" includes the MSWD service area as depicted in Exhibit 1.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION: MSWD envisions the facilities described in this Section as a key element in the long-term management of the region's groundwater resources, the primary water supply to District customers. The WVWRP is anticipated to be implemented over an extended period of between 3 to 10 years. The WVWRP has three components: construction of a West Valley Water Reclamation Facility (WVWRF), construction of a conveyance system connecting existing sewered areas to the WVWRF and constructing a collection system for the Groundwater Quality Protection Program (GQPP) Area M2 (to be served by the WVWRF).

As funding becomes available, the District's WVWRF will be installed and begin operation of Phase 1 with design flow of 1.5 MGD. Initial flows are projected to be 0.20 MGD. By the end of Year 1, flows are projected to be 0.29 MGD. Flows are projected to gradually increase to 1.0

MGD by Year 7 and 1.2 MGD by Year 9. The WVWRF will be constructed in phases with ultimate "build-out" capacity of up to 20 MGD. The WVWRF is being planned, designed, and implemented to permit MSWD to allow future expansion with minimal demolition and removal of any Phase 1 facilities. Expansion beyond the proposed 1.5 MGD wastewater treatment plant identified as Phase 1 is beyond the intent of this document. Exhibit 2 shows the location of the various facilities envisioned under the proposed project.

MSWD is committed to water recycling as a future wastewater management option. MSWD is proposing the new WVWRF as a first step. Initially, the level of treatment will be secondary with denitrification discharging to onsite infiltration basins. Provisions will be made to accommodate upgrades to advanced secondary and tertiary treatment as future steps toward producing recycle water depending on growth, demand, and available funding.

The conveyance system that will connect to existing sewered areas to the WVWRF would install about 7,531 lineal feet (LF) of 10" PVC force main pipeline and 8,923 LF of 24" to 36" VCP sewer main pipeline; while the collection system to be installed within GQPP Area M2 envisions the installation of approximately 25,260 linear feet of 4-inch gravity sewer, 20,122 lineal feet of 8-inch gravity sewer (VCP), with short runs of 12-inch to 15-inch gravity sewer pipeline. The entirety of the pipeline alignment will be installed within existing road rights-of-way.

Construction of the proposed WVWRP elements are anticipated to occur beginning in the Fourth Quarter of 2019. Construction of the WVWRF is expected to require about 18 months, while construction of the pipeline alignment is anticipated to require about 105 days assuming that two teams will be installing pipelines concurrently.

LEAD AGENCY:
Mission Springs Water District
66575 2nd St,
Desert Hot Springs, CA 92240
Attn: Danny Friend, Director of Engineering and Operations, MSWD

PURPOSE OF THIS NOTICE OF PREPARATION: In accordance with the California Code of Regulations (CCR) Section 15082, MSWD has prepared this notice of preparation (NOP) to inform agencies and interested parties that a Program EIR will be prepared for the above-referenced project. The project location and description are summarized above. Potentially significant environmental effects are summarized below. The purpose of this notice is to solicit guidance as to the scope and content of the environmental information to be included in the Program EIR, including mitigation measures that should be considered and alternatives that should be addressed (CCR Section 15082[b]).

POTENTIAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS: The following environmental issues will be analyzed in the EIR: aesthetics, agricultural and timberland resources, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, energy, geology and soils, greenhouse gases/climate change, hazards and hazardous materials, hydrology and water quality, land use and planning, mineral resources, noise, popula¬tion and housing, public services, recreation, transportation and traffic, tribal cultural systems, and utilities and service systems, and wildfire.

These issue areas will be discussed further in the Program EIR, and where possible, feasible mitigation measures will be recommended to reduce any identified potentially significant and significant impacts.

PROVIDING COMMENTS: Agencies and interested parties may provide Mission Springs Water District with written comments on topics to be addressed in the EIR for the project. Pursuant to State CEQA Guidelines (Cal Code Regs., Title 14 para. 15000 et seq.) Section 15082(a), any response and comments must be submitted to this office as soon as possible but **not later than thirty (30) days** after the date upon this notice. Because of time limits mandated by State law, comments should be provided no later than 5:00 p.m. on March 18, 2019. The Notice of Preparation comment period begins on February 15, 2019 and ends on March 18, 2019. Please send all comments to:

Mission Springs Water District
66575 2nd St,
Desert Hot Springs, CA 92240
Attn: Danny Friend, Director of Engineering and Operations, MSWD
Phone: (760) 329-6448
Email: dfriend@mswd.org

All comments on environmental issues received during the public comment period will be considered and addressed in the Draft EIR.

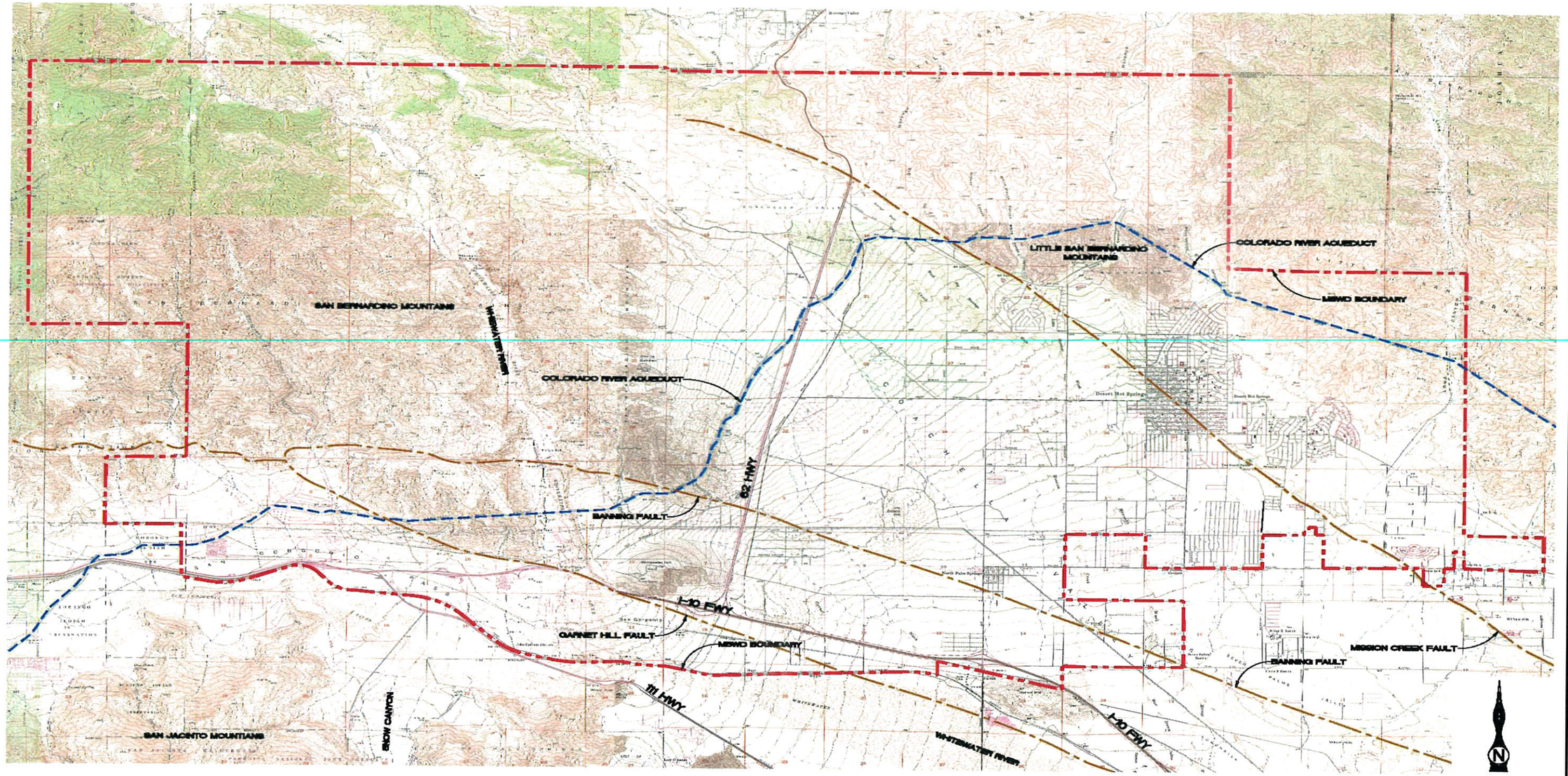
SCOPING MEETING: MSWD will hold a Scoping Meeting to inform interested parties about the proposed project and to provide agencies and the public with an opportunity to provide comments on the scope and content of the EIR. The meeting time and location are as follows: March 6, 2019 beginning at 5:30 p.m. at the Mission Springs Water District Board Room, located at 66575 2nd St, Desert Hot Springs, CA 92240. The meeting will conclude at 6:30 p.m.

If you have any questions please contact Danny Friend, Director of Engineering and Operations, at (760) 329-6448 or dfriend@mswd.org.

Sincerely,

Mr. Danny Friend
Director of Engineering and Operations
Mission Springs Water District

EXHIBIT 1
Service Area Boundaries



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MISSION SPRINGS WATER DISTRICT

HYDROLOGIC, GEOLOGIC AND TOPOGRAPHIC FEATURES