



Project #: IID Request for Support for funding proposal to U.S. Bureau
of Reclamation

Item: 9

Meeting Date: Thursday, December 1, 2022

Meeting Time: 08:30 a.m.

Location: El Centro City Council Chambers
1275 W. Main Street
El Centro, CA 92243

EXECUTIVE OFFICER'S REPORT

To the

Imperial Local Agency Formation Commission


COMMISSIONERS


David H. West, Chair [Public]
Maria Nava-Froelich, Vice-Chair [City]
Ray Castillo [Supervisor]
Michael W. Kelley [Supervisor]
Javier Moreno [City]

ALTERNATES

Jesus E. Escobar [Supervisor]
Robert Amparano [City]
Jose Landeros [Public]

REPORT DATE: November 15, 2022

FROM: Jurg Heuberger, Executive Officer 

Paula Graf, Sr. Analyst 

PROJECT: Discussion/Action/Direction regarding a request for support from IID for a funding proposal to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation

HEARING DATE: December 1, 2022 **TIME:** 08:30 a.m.

AGENDA ITEM NO: 9

HEARING LOCATION: El Centro City Council Chambers, 1275 Main St., El Centro, CA 92243

RECOMMENDATION(S) BY THE EXECUTIVE OFFICER (In Summary & Order)

- OPTION #1:** Adopt the proposed resolution in support of IID's funding proposal to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation as recommended by the Executive Officer
- OPTION #2:** Adopt the proposed resolution in support of IID's funding proposal to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation as modified by the Commission
- OPTION #3:** Take no action

1. Summary

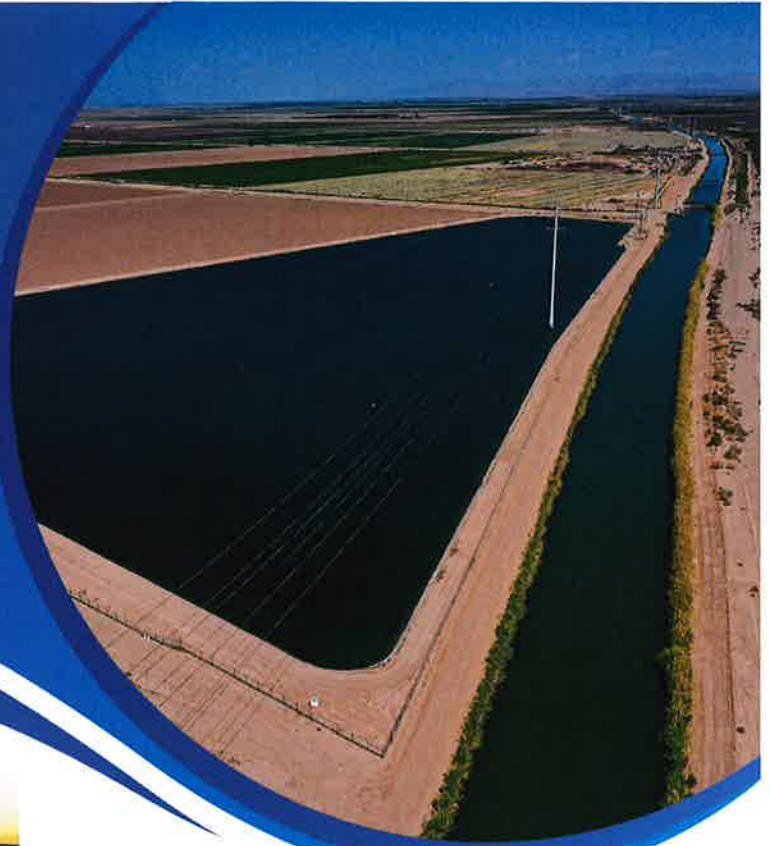
This item is a request for support from the Imperial Irrigation District for IID's funding proposal to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation. IID is pursuing the funding for the development and future operation and maintenance of an operational water reservoir and intake channel to be located upstream of the districts water distribution system in Imperial Valley. The attached "Upstream Operational Reservoir Project" attached provides more information. **EXHIBIT A**

2. Recommendation by the Executive Officer

OPTION #1: Adopt the proposed resolution in support of IID's funding proposal to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation as recommended by the Executive Officer. **EXHIBIT B**

EXHIBIT A

UPSTREAM OPERATIONAL RESERVOIR PROJECT



The Imperial Irrigation District (IID), an irrigation district established under the California State Water Code, is responsible for managing and delivering up to 3.1 million acre-feet of Colorado River. Colorado River water is Imperial Valley's sole water supply which supports a booming farming industry that had a gross value of \$2.3 billion in 2021 with additional billions of dollars in economic benefits associated with agricultural jobs and support services. Imperial Valley is predominantly comprised of economically disadvantaged, minority communities that rely on this resource as their lifeline.

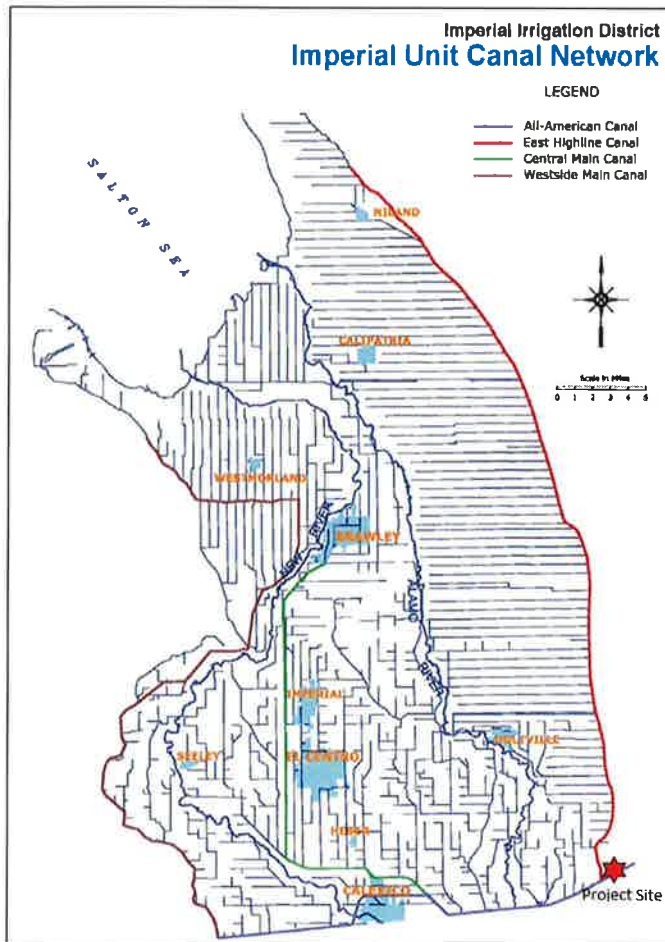
IID is pursuing the development and future operation and maintenance of an operational water reservoir and intake channel to be located upstream of the district's water distribution system in Imperial Valley.

The operational reservoir would be constructed for the operational management of up to 2,100 acre-feet of water. Water conveyed from the Colorado River, through the All-American Canal (a federally owned facility) would be channeled through an AAC Reach and into the proposed reservoir via a gravity flow, intake channel. The proposed intake channel would be approximately 1.3 miles long while the proposed basin area would cover approximately 396 acres. The reservoir is strictly for operational needs and is designed to deliver water in a controlled manner through an automated gate outlet and structure that will feed water back into the East Highline Canal, with the ultimate goal of accommodating short water orders downstream in the eastern Imperial Valley and conserving up to 15,000 acre-feet of water annually (collectively, the Project).

Specifically, the proposed Project site would be located in the southeastern region of Imperial Valley, Imperial County, California, east of Calexico and southeast of Holtville. The proposed Project site is located adjacent to the AAC, approximately 1.1 miles north of State Highway 98 and approximately two miles south of U.S. Interstate Highway 8 (I-8). The Project site would encompass land purchased by IID for the 396-acre basin and would also consist of both federally owned and private owned parcels for the intake channel.

A draft Environmental Assessment (EA) for NEPA compliance and a draft Environmental Impact Report for CEQA compliance will be prepared for the proposed Project. The Project design is expected to be completed in 2023. It is anticipated that the Project will cost approximately \$74 million to construct. When operational, it is estimated that the Project will conserve 15,000 acre-feet annually (an estimated 4.9 million gallons of water annually) from improved water delivery efficiency.

Conserved water will enable IID to live within its consumptive use and support new non-agricultural development demands within the Imperial Valley while continuing to fulfill its contractual water transfer obligations.



PROJECT OBJECTIVES

IID has an entitlement to Colorado River water that is now having to accommodate future water demands under the terms of the 2003 Quantification Settlement Agreement (QSA) and related water transfer agreements, which will require up to 500,000 acre-feet of conserved water per year. Water conservation by IID is to be ramped up through 2026. Mid lateral and off-line reservoirs are an integral part of the IID System Conservation Program. The proposed Project will increase delivery flexibility and provide conservation opportunities within the district to accommodate water transfers and future water demand. These efforts are consistent with the objectives set forth in IID's 2021 Water Conservation Plan.

The Proposed Action will help support IID 12-Hour Delivery Program via maximized operational storage capacity and flexibility. The 12-Hour Delivery Program is based on 12-hour water orders that enable farmers to match crop requirements and conserve water.

The reservoir will increase program capacity and help balance supply-demand mismatches due in part to conveyance travel time, peak demands, unavailable storage, and rain events.

The proposed Project will provide consistency with the 2018 California Water Plan goals: Goal 2-Strengthen Resiliency and Operational Flexibility of Existing and Future Infrastructure; Goal 4-Empower California's Under-Represented and Vulnerable Communities (all Imperial Valley communities are disadvantaged communities with the exception of the City of Imperial); and, Goal 6-Support Real-time Decision-making, Adaptive Management and Long-term Planning.

The Proposed project is in support of the Reclamation Reform Act of 1982 to "... encourage ... consideration and incorporation of prudent and responsible water conservation measures ... by ... recipients of irrigation, municipal and industrial water ..."

EXHIBIT B

DRAFT SUPPORT RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, the _____ (Commission) recognizes the importance of conserving Colorado River water supplies for local beneficial use, via use of best management practices and operational efficiency;

WHEREAS, the Commission acknowledges that Imperial Irrigation Commission (IID) has long been committed to supporting efficiency in water conservation and water accounting efforts; and

WHEREAS, it has come to the Commission's attention that IID is pursuing through the U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, a funding opportunity under the recently announced Small Surface and Groundwater Storage Program (Program); and

WHEREAS, IID is preparing a funding proposal under the Program for a new operational reservoir that would be located upstream of IID's water distribution system in the southeastern Imperial Valley (Project); and

WHEREAS, the Project would be constructed for the operational management of up to 1,000 acre-feet per day of water (reservoir capacity of 2,100 acre-feet) with anticipated annual conservation yields of up to 15,000 acre-feet or approximately 4.9 million gallons of water; and

WHEREAS, Commission members were presented, at their _____, 2022 regularly scheduled public meeting, with an opportunity to support the Project, as stakeholders and users of IID's sole Colorado River water supply; and

WHEREAS, the Commission wholeheartedly supports IID's efforts to augment local water supplies by maximizing water management efficiency via the proposed Project; and

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE _____ COMMISSION that it supports IID's funding proposal to the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation for an operational storage reservoir under the Small Storage Program.

PASSED AND ADOPTED by the _____ Commission on this _____ day of _____, 2022 by the following vote.

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT: