

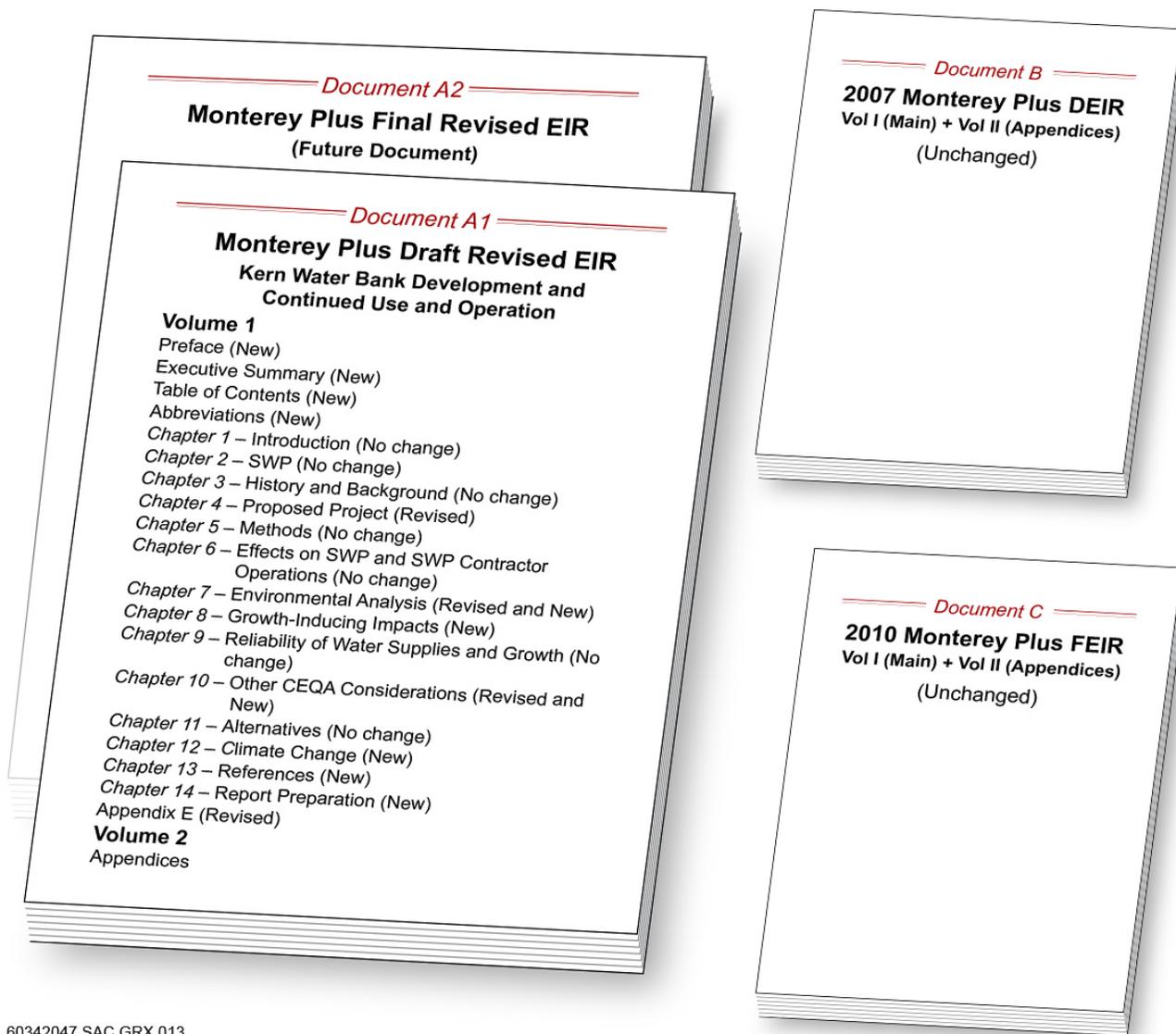
PREFACE

The California Department of Water Resources (Department), as the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), prepared the environmental impact report (EIR) for the *Monterey Amendment to the State Water Project Contracts (Including Kern Water Bank Transfer) and Associated Actions as Part of a Settlement Agreement (Monterey Plus)* (Monterey Plus EIR). The Department certified the Monterey Plus EIR on February 1, 2010. On May 5, the Department filed a Notice of Determination (NOD), explaining that it had determined, after review of the Monterey Plus EIR, to continue operating under the existing Monterey Amendment and the Settlement Agreement. The EIR evaluated the 1995 Monterey Amendment and 2003 Settlement Agreement, which address aspects of State Water Project long-term water supply contracts, including transferring ownership of approximately 20,000 acres of land known as the Kern Fan Element (KFE) from the Department to the Kern County Water Agency (KCWA). (KCWA, in turn, transferred the property to the Kern Water Bank Authority, who started operating the Kern Water Bank [KWB] on the property in 1997.)

Several parties challenged the adequacy of the Monterey Plus EIR under CEQA. In 2014, the Monterey Plus EIR was found by the Sacramento County Superior Court (Court) to comply with CEQA in all aspects except with respect to the development, use, and operation of the KWB. The Court specified that the Department is to correct the deficiencies and recertify the EIR without reopening the non-defective portions of the EIR. Upon recertification, only those portions of the revised EIR (REIR) that are new or changed shall be subject to challenge under CEQA by petitioners or other interested parties.

For these reasons, the Department has developed this three-volume Monterey Plus Draft REIR. Document A1 presents all the changes to the Monterey Plus EIR made as a result of the Department's reanalysis of the KFE property transfer and new analysis of the KWB development and continued use and operation. Since DWR decertified the Monterey Plus EIR, pursuant to the Court's order, the REIR also includes, without modification, the 2007 Draft EIR (Document B, including Volumes I and II) and the 2010 Final EIR (Document C, including Volumes I and II). Together, the three documents constitute the Monterey Plus Draft REIR (Figure P-1).

The focus of public review and comment should be on Document A1 since public comments will only be considered on the revised and new text, contained entirely within Document A1. Document A2, the Monterey Plus Final REIR, will be prepared in the future after receiving public comment on Document A1.



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Figure P-1. Monterey Plus Revised EIR Document Layout