EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Coachella Valley Stormwater Channel (CVSWC) is currently unprotected from erosion from avenue 52 to the Salton Sea. From the Thermal Drop to the Salton Sea, the Standard Project Flood (SPF) water surface elevation is significantly higher than adjacent grade, creating levee conditions on both sides of the channel. Levee failure could result in catastrophic flooding and therefore no new development is allowed within 300 feet of the channel unless the flood risk is mitigated with structural improvements.

The Coachella Valley Water District is currently investigating the feasibility of deepening the CVSWC and widening the right-of-way from Thermal Drop to the Salton Sea. Deepening the channel would lower the SPF water surface elevation below adjacent grade, which would eliminate levee conditions and prevent the risk of levee failure. Widening the right-of-way would result in creating an erosion buffer for future adjacent development. Thus, flood control measures would be non-structural.

Development within the Coachella Valley is moving in a southeast direction toward the project area. The goals of the project would be to increase flood control protection, and protection the extensive quantities of agricultural production. Also, widening the right-of-way would result in permanently increasing open space for riparian habitat tributary to the Salton Sea, a main North American stop on the Pacific flyway.

Currently, this District is performing a feasibility study for this project.