

DEVELOPMENT OF THE NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE

Table 1 lists the projects considered in the development of the No Action Alternative for the Salton Sea Ecosystem Management Plan. The list of potential projects considered was developed from comments received during scoping, previous environmental documents, and interviews with federal, regional, state and local agencies involved in planning and developing projects within the project study area. Each project was compared to the following list of criteria developed to assess the appropriateness of their inclusion in the No Action Alternative.

- Project Status as of February 27, 2004.
- Will the Project impact the Salton Sea Ecosystem Management Plan?
- Does the Project have initial authorization or funding for design (if applicable)?
- Does the Project have initial funding for construction?
- Have final environmental documents been filed?
- Have all environmental permits been issued?

The list of criteria was based on the CEQA Guidelines which directs that the No Project Alternative discuss the conditions that are “reasonably expected to occur in the foreseeable future if the project were not approved, based on current plans and consistent with available infrastructure and community services” (CEQA Guidelines section 15126.6(e)).

The reasons that each project was or was not included in the No Action Alternative is summarized on Table 1. As shown in this table, many of the projects that were not included in the No Action Alternative will be evaluated in the cumulative impact analysis of the Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (PEIR).

This report contains preliminary descriptions of the No Action Alternative conditions. Additional information will be added to the description of the No Action Alternative as the Draft PEIR is prepared. For example, the No Action Alternative described in this report does not include projects on Tribal Trust Lands. This preliminary description of the No Action Alternative also does not include future land use designations for land currently located underwater in the Salton Sea that will be exposed at the end of the No Action Alternative study period.

TABLE 1
POTENTIAL PROJECTS AND POLICIES TO BE CONSIDERED IN THE NO ACTION ALTERNATIVE

Potential Projects	Status as of 2/27/04 (date of Notice of Preparation)	Initial Funding for Design?	Initial Funding for Construction?	Final Environmental Documents?	Final Permits?	Include in No Action Alternative or Cumulative Impact Analysis?
Quantification Settlement Agreement Projects						
Imperial Irrigation District Water Conservation and Transfer Project	Implementation Started in 2003	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Yes	Yes	No Action Alternative
State Water Resources Control Board Order 2002 –13 (includes the following:) Salton Sea Habitat Conservation Strategy Air Quality Mitigation and Monitoring Plan Razorback Sucker Habitat Conservation Strategy Tamarisk Scrub Habitat Conservation Strategy Drain Habitat Conservation Strategy Desert Pupfish Habitat Conservation Strategy	Implementation Started in 2003	Not Applicable	Not Applicable	Yes	Yes	No Action Alternative
Coachella Canal Lining Project	Design Started	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
All American Canal Lining Project	Permitting Started	Yes	Yes	Yes	Ongoing	No Action Alternative - assume mitigation measures in EIS/EIR

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Regional Projects						
Mexicali Wastewater Improvements	Environmental Documentation Complete	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No Action Alternative
New River Wetlands Pilot Study	Pilot Project constructed	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No Action Alternative
New River Wetlands Expanded project	Conceptual plan being developed	No	No	No	No	Cumulative Impact Analysis
Salton Sea Geothermal Project (Units 6)	Approved by California Energy Commission	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes	No Action Alternative
Salton Sea Geothermal Project (Units 7 and 8)	Planning being developed	No	No	No	No	Cumulative Impact Analysis
Colorado River Basin Salinity Control Projects	Individual projects are ongoing	Yes for individual projects	Yes for individual projects	Yes for individual projects	Yes for individual projects	No Action Alternative and Cumulative Impact Analysis
Total Maximum Daily Limit Implementation (various)	Three TMDLs adopted 20 TMDLs Considered	Yes for three TMDL projects	Yes for three TMDL projects	Yes for three TMDL projects	Yes for three TMDL projects	No Action Alternative for three TMDL projects Cumulative Impact Analysis

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Mexicali Power Production	In operations	Yes	Yes	Environmental Assessment completed, but successfully challenged Final EIS being prepared	Initial permits issued Permit modifications following adoption of Final EIS	No Action Alternative - assume mitigation measures in EIS
US Bureau of Reclamation Lower Colorado River Water Storage Project (at Brawley)	Conceptual plan being developed	Yes	No	No	No	Cumulative Impact Analysis
Colorado River Aqueduct Desalination and Salton Sea Water Supply Project	Application submitted to Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in 2000	No	No	No	No	Cumulative Impact Analysis
Brine Shrimp Production	No specific plans	No	No	No	No	Cumulative Impact Analysis
New River and Alamo River water rights	Water rights applications filed - no specific plans	Not applicable	Not applicable	No	No	Cumulative Impact Analysis
Plans						
Riverside County General Plan and Community/Specific Plans	Adopted	Not applicable	Not applicable	Yes where applicable	Not applicable	No Action Alternative
Imperial County General Plan and Community/Specific Plans	Adopted	Not applicable	Not applicable	Yes where applicable	Not applicable	No Action Alternative
Coachella Valley Water Management Plan	Adopted	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	No Action Alternative

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Coachella Valley Water District Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan	Draft of plan prepared	Not applicable	No	Draft EIS/EIR being reviewed	No	Cumulative Impact Analysis
Imperial Irrigation District and Imperial County Groundwater Management Plan	Information not available at this time	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Items with certainty will be included in No Action Alternative
Imperial Irrigation District Natural Community Conservation Plan and Habitat Conservation Plan	Conceptual plan being developed	Yes	Being developed	No	No	Cumulative Impact Analysis
US Bureau of Reclamation Lower Colorado River Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan	Draft of plan prepared	Not applicable	No	Draft EIS/EIR being reviewed	No	Cumulative Impact Analysis
Torres Martinez Land Use Management Plan	Information not available at this time	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Items with certainty will be included in No Action Alternative
Other Tribal Trust land use plans	Information not available at this time	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Items with certainty will be included in No Action Alternative
State Implementation Plan (SIP) for air quality	One SIP being developed	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	No	Cumulative Impact Assessment
West Mojave Coordinated Management Plan	Information not available at this time	Information not available at this time	Information not available at this time	Information not available at this time	Information not available at this time	Items with certainty will be included in No Action Alternative

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Eagle Mountain Mine and Mesquite Regional Landfill Plan	Environmental documents prepared	Information not available at this time	Information not available at this time	Information not available at this time	Information not available at this time	Items with certainty will be included in No Action Alternative
Newmont Gold Company Expansion of Mesquite Gold Mine	Information not available at this time	Information not available at this time	Information not available at this time	Information not available at this time	Information not available at this time	Items with certainty will be included in No Action Alternative
Mexicali land use plans and Gateway of the Americas Plan	Information not available at this time	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Not applicable	Items with certainty will be included in No Action Alternative
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