

February 11, 2014

Objective XV –Environmental Review Process

DWR and the Contractors agree that this Agreement in Principle (AIP) is intended to be used during the environmental review process for the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), to define the proposed project description for the purposes of CEQA, and to permit the next steps of the water supply contract extension process, including scoping and the preparation of the EIR.

The AIP principles are not final contract language and do not represent a contractual commitment by either DWR or the Contractors to approve any proposed project, to sign contract amendments, or to extend the contract. By concurring with the AIP, DWR and the Contractors express their intent to move forward with the CEQA process with DWR as lead agency and the Contractors as responsible agencies, and ultimately develop a proposed project consisting of contractual amendments consistent with the AIP principles and prepare the EIR for consideration by DWR and the Contractors.

At the end of the CEQA process and in compliance with CEQA, DWR and the Contractors will each individually evaluate the EIR and contract amendments, exercise their independent judgment, and determine whether or not to certify the EIR, approve the proposed project and sign the contract amendments or to approve an alternative project. Consequently, even though DWR and the Contractors have agreed to the AIP for the purposes described in the preceding paragraphs, DWR and each Contractor retain their full discretion under CEQA to consider and adopt mitigation measures and alternatives, including the alternative of not going forward with the proposed project.