

NOTICE OF PREPARATION

To: State Clearinghouse Governor's Office of Land Use & Climate Innovation Sacramento, CA Via CEQASubmit.lci.ca.gov	From: JR Echard, General Manager Palo Verde Irrigation District 180 W. 14 th Street Blythe, CA 92225 jr@pvid.org
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Subject: Notice of Preparation of a Draft Program Environmental Impact Report

The Palo Verde Irrigation District will be the lead agency and will prepare a Program Environmental Impact Report for the project identified below. We need to know the views of your agency as to the scope and content of the environmental information which is germane to your agency's statutory responsibilities in connection with the proposed project. Your agency will need to use the Program EIR prepared by our agency when considering your permit or other approval for the project.

The project description, location and the potential environmental effects are contained in the attached materials. A copy of the Initial Study **is not** attached.

Due to the time limits mandated by State law, your response must be sent at the earliest possible date but not later than 30 days after receipt of this notice.

Please send your response to JR Echard at the address or email address shown above. We will need the name of a contact person in your agency.

Project Title: PVID Conserved Water Supply Program

Project Applicant, if any: Palo Verde Irrigation District

Date: March 18, 2026

Signature: e-signed: JR Echard

Title: General Manager

Telephone: (760) 922-3144

[Please contact Mr. Echard directly by phone: (760) 922-3144 or via email: JR@PVID.org if e-sign confirmation is required.]

Reference: California Code of Regulations, Title 14, (CEQA Guidelines) Section 15082(a), 15103, 15375



Notice of Preparation
Draft Program Environmental Impact Report
PVID Conserved Water Supply Program

March 18, 2026

From: JR Echard
General Manager
Palo Verde Irrigation District
180 W. 14th Avenue
Blythe CA 92225

The Palo Verde Irrigation District (PVID) is the Lead Agency and will prepare a Program Environmental Impact Report pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for the proposed *Conserved Water Supply Program* project (Project). The Colorado River is the sole source of water for irrigation and for potable water in the district, which occupies about 189 square miles of territory in Riverside and Imperial counties, California. The Colorado River, which is the boundary between California and Arizona forms the eastern and southern boundaries of PVID; (see Figure 1).

In response to potentially chronic Colorado River water supply shortages in current and future years, PVID proposes to develop and implement a *Conserved Water Supply Program* including a range of infrastructure improvements, voluntary fallowing, and farm management measures to conserve water for potential water transfers to assist other Lower Colorado River water users. The district's primary goals for the Program include:

- Farm management and infrastructure improvements to create conserved water for compensated and voluntary transfer to other Lower Colorado River Basin users.
- Contribute to improved water supply and shortage management in the Lower Colorado River Basin.

Land management and infrastructure improvements to be considered as elements of the Program will be determined in the initial stage of plan development and may include:

- On-farm Conservation (seasonal fallowing, deficit irrigation, early crop termination, crop rotation and crop switching)
- Fallowing Lands seasonally or annually
- Canal Lining to Reduce Evaporation Losses
- Regulating Reservoir Storage
- Drain Maintenance / Evapotranspiration (ET) Salvage

The Conserved Water Supply Program may include irrigated farmland throughout the district, and interested growers will participate on a voluntary basis. All farmlands that may voluntarily participate in the water conservation program have been in agricultural use for decades.

Based on the location and characteristics of the proposed Project, the Program EIR will focus on potentially significant effects on the environment related to agriculture; biological resources; cultural resources; water quality; and Tribal cultural resources. The District is requesting input from your agency as to the scope and content of the environmental information relevant to your agency's responsibilities. Comments are also invited from all other interested parties. Due to the time limits mandated by State law, your response must be sent no later than 30 days after receipt of this notice.

Please send comments to JR Echard at the address shown above or the email address in the line below. Please include the name, address, and other contact information for an agency representative who should receive future notices and correspondence related to this Project.

Thank you for participating in the District's environmental review of this proposed project.

JR Echard
General Manager
(760) 922-3144
jr@pvid.org

Figure 1: Palo Verde Irrigation District, Valley and Mesa Areas



PVID: Palo Verde Valley and Mesa, Southeast California, City of Blythe, Colorado River (State boundary with Arizona)