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# Summary Form for Electronic Document Submittal

**Form F**

Lead agencies may include 15 hardcopies of this document when submitting electronic copies of Environmental Impact Reports, Negative Declarations, Mitigated Negative Declarations, or Notices of Preparation to the State Clearinghouse (SCH). The SCH also accepts other summaries, such as EIR Executive Summaries prepared pursuant to CEQA Guidelines Section 15123. Please include one copy of the Notice of Completion Form (NOC) with your submission and attach the summary to each electronic copy of the document.

SCH #: _____

Project Title: Mission Creeks Groundwater Replenishment Facility

Lead Agency: Desert Water Agency

Contact Name: David Tate

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Project Location: Desert Hot Springs *City* Riverside County *County*

Project Description (Proposed actions, location, and/or consequences).

The proposed Project consists of DWA's approval of an amended exchange agreement to facilitate the continued operation and maintenance of the Mission Creek Groundwater Replenishment Facility (MCGRF), including a potential increase in quantities of water delivered to the MCGRF for replenishment of groundwater in the Mission Creek Subbasin (MCSB). The amended exchange agreement would increase the annual State Water Project (SWP) Table A allocation, shared between DWA and Coachella Valley Water District (CVWD), from a total of 194,100 AF to a proposed 244,100 AF per year. The SWP Table A water is exchanged for a like amount of water from the Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA). The increased allocation will potentially result in an increase in CRA water deliveries to the MCGRF of up to a theoretical maximum of 5,000 AF per year over a long-term average. The actual quantity of water delivered to the MCGRF in any given year will continue to vary depending on available SWP water and CRA water supplies and the applicable terms of the amended exchange agreement and be proportional to groundwater pumping in the MCSB per the DWA and CVWD water management agreement. The proposed Project will provide for ongoing management of the MCSB as a sustainable source of water supply for the Coachella Valley region. All Project activities would occur within the existing operational framework and physical footprint of the MCGRF and its existing facilities. A more detailed description of the Project is included in the Project Initial Study.

Identify the project's significant or potentially significant effects and briefly describe any proposed mitigation measures that would reduce or avoid that effect.

The Project would not result in any significant impacts. There are three impacts that have been identified as less than significant with mitigation incorporated, as follows: (1) water quality impacts due to the increased salinity of the imported water, (2) potential impacts to previously-undiscovered historical, archaeological, or tribal cultural resources that may be uncovered during ground disturbance associated with maintenance activities, and (3) the cumulative effect on the groundwater basin of the imported water's salinity. Mitigation Measure WQ-1 is incorporated to address the associated effects of the increased salinity associated with the imported groundwater and includes implementation of the Coachella Valley Groundwater Basin Salt and Nutrient Management Plan, in which DWA is a participating agency, to manage salinity in the basin. Mitigation Measure WQ-1 also addresses the cumulative effects of increasing salinity. Mitigation Measures CUL-1 and CUL-2 address the potential impacts to previously-undiscovered historical, archaeological, or tribal cultural resources that may be uncovered during ground disturbance associated with maintenance activities, and allow the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians Tribal Historic Preservation Office the opportunity to observe ground disturbance during certain maintenance activities. The complete mitigation measures are set forth in the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program attached to the Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration in Appendix A of the Initial Study.

If applicable, describe any of the project's areas of controversy known to the Lead Agency, including issues raised by agencies and the public.

The Mission Creek Groundwater Replenishment Facility (MCGRF) has been in operation since 2002, with Colorado River Aqueduct (CRA) as its only viable source of water for replenishment. The CRA water generally has a higher salinity (also referred to as total dissolved solids, or TDS) than the native groundwater of the Mission Creek Subbasin (MCSB) Since commencing operation of the MCGRF, the imported CRA water has contributed to gradual increases in salinity within the MCSB. The MCSB receives water from other sources such as irrigation, septic system return flows, percolation of treated wastewater, and stream bed recharge, which all contribute to increased salinity within the MCSB. Due to the the increasing salinity of the MCSB, Desert Water Agency and other agencies located in the Coachella Valley region are participants in a Salt and Nutrient Management Plan that is intended to monitor and manage the water quality of the MCSB.

Provide a list of the responsible or trustee agencies for the project.

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California is a responsible agency for the Project.