

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: CS Line Upgrade Project

Lead Agency: Imperial Irrigation District

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Project Location: La Quinta and Indio
City

Riverside
County

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

The proposed CS Line Upgrade Project (Project) involves the comprehensive structural and electrical upgrade of approximately 6.5 miles of an existing overhead 92-kilovolt (kV) transmission line corridor extending between the Avenue 58 Substation in the City of La Quinta and the Avenue 48 Substation in the City of Indio, traversing portions of the City of La Quinta, the City of Indio, and unincorporated Riverside County. The Project will increase the normal/emergency thermal rating of the transmission line from 132/145 MVA to 250/300 MVA to improve system capacity, reliability, and grid resilience.

The Project includes the replacement or reconstruction of approximately 164 existing wood support structures with new, sturdier wood poles (ranging from 70 to 85 feet in height) and ten engineered steel pole structures (nine new and one relocated, ranging from 65 to 70 feet in height); removal of existing conductor and installation of single 900 kcmil "Canary" ACSS/TW/HS285 transmission conductor; installation of a new 48-count Optical Ground Wire (OPGW) for utility SCADA communication; transfer of existing underbuilt distribution lines; and internal electrical protective relay upgrades within the existing physical footprints of the Avenue 58 and Avenue 48 substations.

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 was determined to have potentially significant environmental effects on Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Geology and Soils (Paleontological Resources), Hazards and Hazardous Materials, and Tribal Cultural Resources. With the implementation of the proposed mitigation measures summarized below, all potentially significant impacts will be reduced to a less than significant level: Biological Resources: Temporary construction disturbance along the 6.5-mile corridor could adversely affect special-status wildlife species (e.g., burrowing owl, Coachella Valley fringe-toed lizard), special-status sand-associated plants in unpaved Myoma fine sands, active migratory bird and raptor nests, and sensitive desert vegetation communities. Mitigation Measures BIO-1 through BIO-6: Require preconstruction biological clearance surveys within three days prior to ground disturbance (MM BIO-1); preconstruction nesting bird surveys and establishment of standard avoidance buffers (500 feet for raptors, 250 feet for migratory birds) during the breeding season (MM BIO-2); protocol burrowing owl surveys and focused clearance for sand-dependent species in suitable unpaved habitats (MM BIO-3); avoidance and minimum 25-foot setbacks from mapped Prosopis mesquite communities, riparian areas, and aquatic features (MM BIO-4); strict demarcation of disturbance limits and mandatory Worker Environmental Awareness Program (WEAP) training (MM BIO-5); and implementation of all applicable Coachella Valley MSHCP consistency and covered activity requirements (MM BIO-6). Geology and Soils (Paleontological Resources): Excavation and augering for wood and engineered steel pole foundations extending up to 30 feet below ground surface could unearth or damage previously unknown paleontological resources in areas identified with high paleontological sensitivity. Mitigation Measure GEO-1: Mandates that if unanticipated fossil remains or unique geologic features are encountered, work shall cease within 50 feet and a qualified paleontologist shall be retained to assess the discovery, prepare a Paleontological Treatment and Monitoring Plan, monitor deeper excavations, and curate recovered specimens in an accredited repository. Hazards and Hazardous Materials: The southern portion of the alignment

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

No major areas of controversy or public opposition have been identified by or communicated to the Lead Agency for the CS Line Upgrade Project.

Key technical issues and coordination items raised by trustee, responsible, and consulting agencies include:

Tribal Cultural Resources: Pursuant to AB 52 consultation, both the Morongo Band of Mission Indians and the Agua Caliente Band of Cahuilla Indians identified the utility corridor as falling within their Traditional Use Areas, requesting consultation, project mapping, cultural reports, and on-site tribal monitoring provisions during ground disturbance (addressed via Mitigation Measures TRC-1 through TRC-8).

Aviation Safety: Proximity of the southern corridor to the Jacqueline Cochran Regional Airport prompted coordination regarding structure heights and airspace compatibility under the Riverside County Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan and FAA Part 77 regulations (addressed via Mitigation Measure HAZ-1).

Municipal Street Improvements: Coordination with the City of Indio regarding its Avenue 50 widening project (City Project ST 2004) necessitated realigning approximately 720 feet of the transmission line from the north side to the south side of Avenue 50 to accommodate the expanded 100-foot right-of-way.

Traffic Control and Emergency Access: Intermittent, temporary lane closures and wire-stringing blocks across regional arterials require coordinated traffic management to maintain local circulation and emergency response times (addressed via Mitigation Measure HAZ-2).

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

Responsible Agencies

City of Indio: Responsible Agency for approval and issuance of municipal encroachment permits, street work permits, and traffic control approvals for project activities within City public rights-of-way (including coordination with City Project ST 2004 along Avenue 50).

City of La Quinta: Responsible Agency for approval and issuance of municipal encroachment permits and traffic control approvals for project activities within City public rights-of-way.

County of Riverside (Transportation Department): Responsible Agency for encroachment and oversize/overweight load permits for utility construction and transport within unincorporated County roadway rights-of-way.

Riverside County Airport Land Use Commission (ALUC): Responsible Agency for formal consistency determination and aeronautical review regarding height and safety criteria established in the Jacqueline Cochran Regional Airport Land Use Compatibility Plan (ALUCP).

Coachella Valley Conservation Commission (CVCC): Regional administrative agency for verifying consistency with the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (CVMSHCP), joint project review, and covered-activity provisions.

Trustee Agencies

California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), Inland Deserts Region (Region 6): Trustee Agency with jurisdiction over fish and wildlife conservation, native plants, and habitat protections under the California Fish and Game Code (Sections 1600 et seq., 3503, 3503.5) and the California Endangered Species Act (CESA).