



NOTICE OF PREPARATION OF A DRAFT PROGRAM ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT AND NOTICE OF PUBLIC SCOPING MEETINGS

Date: December 16, 2013
To: NOP Distribution list
Project Title: West Desert Hot Springs Master Drainage Plan
Lead Agency: City of Desert Hot Springs
65-950 Pierson Boulevard
Desert Hot Springs, California 92240

In accordance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the City of Desert Hot Springs is serving as the Lead Agency and will be preparing a Program Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed West Desert Hot Springs Master Drainage Plan ("WDHS MDP"), described below. In compliance with Section 15082 of the CEQA Guidelines, the City of Desert Hot Springs is sending this Notice of Preparation (NOP) to responsible and trustee agencies, and other interested parties to solicit guidance as to the scope and content of the environmental information to be included in the Program EIR.

Project Location: The WDHS MDP covers an approximately 47-square-mile alluvial plain that is bound by the San Bernardino and Little San Bernardino Mountains to the north and west, Interstate 10 (I-10) to the south, and the general alignment of Palm Drive to the east. State Route 62 (SR-62) runs north-south within the western portion of the Project area. The Project area includes the western section of the City of Desert Hot Springs, unincorporated County area, and a small area at the northern end of the City of Palm Springs.

Project Description: The WDHS MDP is a conceptual planning document that identifies the drainage needs of the Garnet Wash, Mission Creek and Morongo Wash watersheds and proposes regional and local drainage facilities that would relieve flooding problems within the Project area. The proposed Project consists of three components: (1) administration of the WDHS MDP; (2) future construction of the various flood control facilities proposed in the WDHS MDP; and (3) future operations and maintenance of the flood control facilities. Drainage infrastructure facilities identified in the WDHS MDP include:

Regional Flood Control Facilities

- Approximately 10.6 miles of concrete-slope-lined earthen levee systems along both Morongo Wash (8.5 miles) and Mission Creek (2.1 miles).
- Widening and slope lining channel improvements for 4.7 miles of Mission Creek.
- 3 regional groundwater recharge basins on approximately 218 acres for groundwater recharge.
- 4 water quality basins for existing urban drainage from the existing developed portions of the City to the regional drainage system.
- 2 new and 1 replacement all-weather bridges to allow for unobstructed access during heavy rains.
- Floodplain management control measures (e.g. land use restrictions) for the Garnet Wash flood hazard area (approximately 1,400 acres).

Local Drainage Facilities

- Approximately 49.9 miles (i.e. 37 major storm drains) of open drainage channels for the local watershed and the urban drainage/storm water management system.

- 9 storm water detention basins on approximately 126 acres (ranging in size from 7.4 acres to 51.5 acres) for the local watershed systems.
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Construction of these improvements would remove 2,820 acres of land from the 100-year floodplain, as currently mapped with flood hazards associated with flows in Mission Creek and Morongo Wash.

Environmental Factors Potentially Affected: Based on the findings of the Initial Study for the project, the following environmental issues have the potential to result in a significant impact and will be analyzed in the Program EIR:

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| • Aesthetics | • Hydrology and Water Quality |
| • Air Quality | • Land Use and Planning |
| • Biological Resources | • Noise |
| • Cultural Resources | • Population and Housing |
| • Greenhouse Gas Emissions | • Transportation and Traffic |
| • Hazards and Hazardous Materials | • Utilities and Service Systems |

A copy of the Initial Study for the project is attached.

Public Review Period: The NOP and Initial Study will be available for public review and comment from Wednesday, December 18, 2013 through Monday, January 20, 2014. Please send written comments to Mr. Martín Magaña at the City of Desert Hot Springs by 5 PM on Monday, January 20, 2014.

Mr. Martín Magaña
 City of Desert Hot Springs
 65-950 Pierson Boulevard
 Desert Hot Springs, California 92240
mmagana@cityofdhs.org

Document Availability: The NOP and Initial Study for the WDHS MDP are available for public review at the following locations and online:

City of Desert Hot Springs
 65-950 Pierson Boulevard
 Desert Hot Springs, California 92240

Desert Hot Springs Library
 11691 West Drive
 Desert Hot Springs, California 92240

Riverside County Flood Control and
 Water Conservation District
 1995 Market Street
 Riverside, California 92501

Palm Springs Library
 300 S. Sunrise Way
 Palm Springs, California 92262

- City of Desert Hot Springs <http://www.cityofdhs.org/>
- City of Palm Springs at <http://www.palmspringsca.gov/index.aspx?page=2>
- Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District at <http://www.rcflood.org>

Public Scoping Meeting: In compliance with Section 15206 of the State CEQA Guidelines, the City of Desert Hot Springs will be hosting two public scoping meetings at the following times:

Carl May Community Center 11711 West Drive Desert Hot Springs, California 92240	2:00 – 4:00 PM on Wed., January 8, 2014
	6:00 – 8:00 PM on Wed., January 8, 2014