

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY FOR PUBLIC REVIEW
NOTICE OF PREPARATION
AND INITIAL STUDY

Pursuant to §15082 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) guidelines, this is to notify all interested parties that the Coachella Valley Conservation Commission (CVCC) has submitted a Notice of Preparation/Initial Study Checklist to the State Clearinghouse of their intent to prepare an Environmental Impact Report for the following project. **The public review period to comment on the NOP/IS is from March 31, 2011 through April 29, 2011.**

1. PROJECT NAME AND DESCRIPTION: Major Amendment to the Coachella Valley Multiple Species Habitat Conservation Plan (CVMSHCP)

The proposed project is a Major Amendment to the CVMSHCP approved by all affected agencies in October 2007. The City of Desert Hot Springs was the only City in the Coachella Valley which opted out of becoming a Permittee of the Plan at that time. In a reversal of that decision, the City of Desert Hot Springs would now like to become a Permittee of the Plan. In order to do so, current Plan boundaries would be amended to include all of the private lands within the city limits of the City of Desert Hot Springs as well as the extension of Conservation Areas into the City. The Mission Springs Water District (MSWD), not previously a participating agency, has also opted to become a Permittee to the Plan. Major Amendments require the same process to be followed as the original MSHCP approval including CEQA/NEPA compliance. As such, although no significant impacts related to this Plan Amendment are anticipated, a joint Supplemental Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) will be prepared to address changes to the approved September 2007 Recirculated EIR/EIS which did not include Desert Hot Springs or MSWD. The U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service is a responsible agency which will issue a revised Permit for the Take of Covered Species to include Desert Hot Springs and MSWD. Covered Species include both Listed and Non-listed Species that are adequately conserved by the Plan. The Permit provides for the Take of these species or loss of their Habitat, so long as compliance with the Plan requirements is achieved. The Supplemental EIR/EIS will focus only on changes to the Final Recirculated CVMSHCP and those environmental topics most likely to be affected by the Plan revisions. Through the Initial Study analysis, these topics have been determined to include biological resources, land use, traffic and circulation, and socioeconomic impacts.

2. PROJECT LOCATION:

The affected area includes the incorporated limits of the City of Desert Hot Springs (the City) and the entire boundary of the Mission Springs Water District (MSWD) which includes all of Desert Hot Springs and a portion of unincorporated Riverside County lands. These agency boundaries are located in the northwest portion of the Coachella Valley in the north central portion of Riverside County, California.



3. AVAILABILITY OF ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTS:

A copy of the Notice of Preparation/Initial Study is available for review at the Coachella Valley Conservation Commission (CVCC) office, 73-710 Fred Waring Drive Suite 200, Palm Desert CA 92260, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Please call (760) 346-1127 for further information.

Note: Comments should be limited those issues which may be affected by the Plan Amendment not the CVMSHCP in its entirety.

4. SCOPING MEETING

The CVCC along with MSWD and the City of Desert Hot Springs will conduct a scoping meeting to provide the opportunity for the public to learn about the project and to share any concerns or comments they may have. The public may also submit comments during the 30-day NOP review period at the address shown above. The meeting will be held at the following location:

Monday, April 4, 2011
6 p.m.
Carl May Community Center
City of Desert Hot Springs, CA