

deliver Priority 3a Colorado River contract water to CVWD in quantified amounts not to exceed 330,000 AF per year exclusive of amounts associated with water conserved by IID and made available to CVWD and amounts exchanged by MWD with CVWD, less the amount of water conserved by the Coachella Canal Lining Project. This quantification would result from execution of the IA, in conjunction with the QSA.

The EIS will also address potential effects of implementing an inadvertent overrun accounting and payback policy (IOP) regarding use of Colorado River by the Lower Colorado River Division States. In addition, the EIS will programmatically address the implementation of biological conservation measures related to the IA that have been identified in the FWS' Biological Opinion dated January 12, 2001.

The project area of the EIS will generally include the lower Colorado River and its 100-year floodplain between Lake Mead and the southerly international boundary. The EIS will address effects in river flow between these two points along the lower Colorado River that would occur from the suite of Federal approvals/actions included in the Proposed Action. Changes in river flow could, in turn, potentially affect resources along the river (e.g., biological, cultural and recreational), Colorado River water quality, and power generation at Parker and Headgate Rock power plants. The EIS will also incorporate, by reference, analyses identified in various other NEPA and California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documents related to local and regional effects resulting from implementation of the QSA.

As indicated above, Reclamation received the Biological Opinion from the FWS and has completed Endangered Species Act (ESA) consultation requirements for the transfer of water and change in its point of delivery from Imperial Dam to Lake Havasu, and for the previously referenced conservation measures associated with the water transfers. Reclamation will work with the FWS, as appropriate, to determine if additional ESA compliance is necessary.

Having reached agreement through the QSA, the California Parties are requesting Secretarial execution of the IA, which constitutes the proposed action that will be described in the EIS. A No Action Alternative will be included, against which potential environmental consequences resulting from implementing the proposed Federal actions will be compared.

Reclamation is circulating this notice to provide the public with an opportunity to identify issues and concerns regarding this proposed action, to ensure that all relevant issues are evaluated in the EIS. All comments received in response to Reclamation's request for comments on the IOP, found in the **Federal Register**, Vol. 66, No. 12, pages 4856-4858, will also be taken into consideration as part of the scoping process for this EIS. Reclamation will consult other Federal, State, Tribal and local agencies having specific expertise regarding environmental impacts related to the proposed actions.

Dated: March 2, 2001.

Lorri J. Gray,

Assistant Regional Director.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Reclamation

Definition and Payback of Inadvertent Overruns for Delivery of Lower Colorado River Water; Notice of Extension of Public Comment Period

AGENCY: Bureau of Reclamation, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of public comment period extension.

SUMMARY: Reclamation published a Notice of public comment period in the **Federal Register**, (66 FR 4856), on January, 18, 2001, requesting comments on a proposed policy that will identify inadvertent overruns, establish procedures that account for inadvertent overruns, and define subsequent payback requirements to the Colorado River mainstream. This notice extends the original comment period, as identified below in the **DATES** section.

DATES: The comment period for receiving comments on the proposed policy regarding definition and payback of inadvertent overruns for delivery of Lower Colorado River water, has been extended from March 24, 2001, to April 10, 2001.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: If you wish to comment, you may mail comments to Deputy Area Manager, Boulder Canyon Operations Office, Lower Colorado Region, Bureau of Reclamation, BCOO-1010, PO Box 61470, Boulder City, Nevada 89006. You may also comment via the Internet at InadvertentOverrun@lc.usbr.gov. If you comment via the Internet, please submit comments as an ASCII file avoiding the use of special characters and any form of encryption. If you do not receive a

confirmation via e-mail that we have received your Internet message, please contact us directly at (702) 293-8592.

Our practice is to make comments, including names and home addresses of respondents, available for public review. Individual respondents may request that we withhold their home address from public disclosure, which we will honor to the extent allowable by law. There also may be circumstances in which we would withhold a respondent's identity from public disclosure, as allowable by law. If you wish us to withhold your name and/or address, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment. We will make all submissions from organizations or businesses, and from individuals identifying themselves as representatives or officials of organizations or businesses, available for public disclosure in their entirety.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. John Redlinger, (702) 293-8592.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The period for receiving public comments on the proposed inadvertent overrun policy, described in detail in the **Federal Register** dated January 18, 2001, (66 FR 4856), has been extended until April 10, 2001. The comment period has been extended in response to several requests, and because Reclamation intends to prepare an environmental impact statement that will evaluate the potential environmental effects of implementing the inadvertent overrun policy (see the Notice of intent to prepare an environmental impact statement (EIS) and initiation of scoping process for the "Implementation Agreement for Secretarial Actions Associated with California Parties' Proposed Quantification Settlement Agreement and other Related Federal Actions, including Implementation of an Inadvertent Overrun Policy, Lower Colorado River, Arizona, California, and Nevada," elsewhere in this **Federal Register**. The public scoping comment period for this EIS ends on April 10, 2001. Comments received on the inadvertent overrun policy will also be taken into consideration during the scoping process for the EIS.

Dated: March 2, 2001.

Lorri J. Gray,

Assistant Regional Director.

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