All-American Canal Lining Project

Environmental Mitigation

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Environmental Compliance History of the All-American Canal Lining Project

- Congressional authorization of the Project in 1988
- Approved EIR/EIS and ROD signed March 1994
- US FWS BO/CO issued February 8, 1996
- ACOE 404 Exemption Letter dated June 2, 2006
- EIR/EIR Addendum and Amendment to ECP completed July 2006
- CDFG 2081 Incidental Take Permit issued August 14, 2006
- Construction started June 2006 then stopped by court ordered injunction based on environmental compliance litigation
AACLP – A core component of the California 4.4 million acre-feet Quantification Settlement Agreement
AACLP – Most Important Water Project on the Colorado River Today

The All-American Canal

Length: 82 miles
Width: 200 to 150 feet
Depth: 20 to 7 feet
Total Drop: 175 feet
Cost: $25,020,000
All American Cannel Lining Project Alignment
Eastern Portion of Lining Project
Central Portion of Lining Project
Western Portion of Lining Project
The Project

- Construct a 23-mile long concrete canal parallel to the existing All-American Canal (AAC)
- Conserve up to 67,700 acre/feet of Colorado River Water (enough water for 500,000 people)
- Mitigate for all environmental impacts of the Project
Canal Photos - 1930
Pre Construction
Environmental Issues

Yuma Clapper Rail

Colorado Fringed Toed Lizard

Peirson’s Milk-Vech
Environmental Impact – Wetland Habitat

- Loss of 99 acres of Scattered riparian vegetation
- Loss of 1 acre of marsh vegetation
- Loss of 24 acres of canal bank vegetation
Environmental Mitigation – Wetland Habitat

- **Wetland Habitat**
- Creation of 44 acre wetland restoration site between Drop 3 and Drop 4
- Off site of AACLP
- In memory of my Supervisor’s, Michel Remington, 14-year-old daughter who passed away in 2000 and who loved wildlife

Chanan Remington Memorial Wetland Enhancement Area
Environmental Impact – Dune Habitat

- **Plants**
- Peirson’s Milk-vetch
- Algodones Dune Sunflower
- Giant Spanish Needle
- Wiggin’s Croton
- Sand Food
Environmental Mitigation – Dune Habitat

- Dune Habitat Restoration Area within 45 – acres of old portion of abandoned All-American Canal

- Seed collection and storage for future distribution within spoil area and Dune Habitat Restoration Area
Environmental Impact and Mitigation – Flat tailed horned Lizard

- Purchase 1,114 acres of habitat in the Borrego Badlands Management Area as off-site compensation
- Anza-Borrego State Park will be the owner and manager of the properties acquired at fair market value
Environmental Impact and Mitigation – Fisheries Habitat

- Estimated loss of 96,000 fish due to loss of approximately 356 acres of fish habitat
- Negotiating a monetary endowment ($300,000) for CDFG purchase of irrigation water for a new fish pond being constructed as mitigation for the Coachella Canal Lining Project at the CDFG Wister Unit
Fish Recovery in Reach 2
June 2008

California Fish & Game Code 5510:
CDFG can not condone wasting of fish
Reach 2 (5 miles) drained and cleared of fish

Reach 2 Fish Recovery
Two tons of:
Large mouth bass
Small mouth bass
Striped bass
Striped bass
Channel catfish
Flathead catfish
Blue gill
IID’s Triploid grass carp
... and a bunch of common carp

One last rescued triploid grass carp
Reach 3 Fish Recovery using Reclamation’s e-shocking boats November 2008
The Money Shots
Reaches 1A and 1B Fish Recovery using Reclamation’s e-shocking boats
March 2009

- Took the sport fish to Sunbeam Lake
Environmental Impact and Mitigation – Razorback Sucker

- Entrained individuals found during fish recovery operations would have been pit tagged and transported back to the Colorado River under the direction of a qualified fishery biologist.
Environmental Impacts and Mitigation – Large Mammals

Negotiating with CDFG to construct DWU Wildlife Guzzlers and possibly installing Deer Fencing to protect large mammals
The successful rescue of a stranded kit fox
Environmental Impact & Mitigation – Cultural Resources

• Conducted Class III Cultural Resource surveys of full right-of-way and submitted results to the State Historic Preservation Office
• Reclamation consulted with local Native American tribes
• Developed and implemented Recovery and Discovery Plans
• Had a Cultural Resource and Tribal monitor on site during implementation of the Plan
Environmental Impact & Mitigation – Recreation, Transportation and Public Safety

- Developed Recreation and Transportation Plan to ensure public and construction crew safety during construction within the project site.

[Image of recreation and transportation plan]

Final Draft
Recreation and Transportation Management Plan for the
All American Canal Lining Project

Prepared by
The All American Canal Lining Project Work Group
Project Planning Committee

January 16, 2006
Environmental Impact and Mitigation - Grubbing and Vegetation Removal
Migratory Bird Treaty Act
Construction Photos
Looking Upstream of Reach 1A Vista Point
Thank You!

Questions?