

Date:

July 31, 2008

Applicant:

Coachella Valley Water District

Project Name:

Created Marsh Project at Dos Palmas Preserve

Receiving Water:

Salt Creek, tributary to the Salton Sea

Location:

The Created Marsh Project is located in the Dos Palmas Preserve, Riverside County, California. The project site is located in Section 4, Township 8 South, Range 11 East, San Bernardino Baseline and Meridian at 33° 30' 12.29" N Latitude by 115° 49' 44.23" W Longitude.

Project Description:

The Coachella Valley Water District proposes to create 17 acres of emergent marsh and aquatic plant communities within Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Dos Palmas Preserve to comply with the United States Bureau of Reclamation's (USBR) Environmental Commitment Plan (ECP) for the Coachella Canal Lining Project (CCLP). The ECP is a compilation of environmental commitments identified in the Final Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report for the CCLP. The Created Marsh Project will provide compensatory mitigation for losses of jurisdictional waters that resulted from the Coachella Canal Lining Project. The created marsh will include the construction of berms to establish cells that are designed to hold water providing habitat for wetland vegetation. Seeds will be harvested onsite prior to construction as will live plants for revegetation. Distribution of water throughout the Created Marsh is designed to employ an existing ditch that lies along the western edge of the Created Marsh. The ditch is fed by perennial springs located on the former Aquafarms property and Dos Palmas. A series of weirs in the ditch will impound water for distribution to each cell through pipes and manually operated slide gates. Outflow from the Created Marsh will flow back into the ditch along the western edge and into the Core Marsh, then into the North Branch Salt Creek, then into the main branch of Salt Creek, and ultimately to the Salton Sea. The Created Marsh will be maintained and monitored to assess compliance with established performance standards. Long-term maintenance will include salt cedar and, possibly, other non-native and/or invasive tree/shrub removal. The key design criterion for the Created Marsh is to provide habitat for the California black rail while providing an option to convert marsh to Yuma clapper rail habitat if needed. Construction of the berms will result in permanent impacts to 2.73 acres of wetland Waters of the United States and 1.01 acres of non-wetland Waters of the United States. The replacement and enhancement of vegetation will result in temporary impacts to 15.31 acres of wetland Waters of the United States and 5.98 acres of non-wetland Waters of the United States.

Action:

Pending

Water Board Contact:

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