

Colorado River Aqueduct Master Reclamation Plan for San Bernardino and Riverside Counties

Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California
700 North Alameda Street
Los Angeles, CA 90012



Report No. 1639

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Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

The Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) for the proposed Colorado River Aqueduct Master Reclamation Plan for San Bernardino and Riverside Counties (proposed Project) has been prepared in accordance with Public Resources Code Section 21081.6 and *State CEQA Guidelines* Section 15074(d). Metropolitan will use this MMRP to track compliance with the required Project mitigation measures.

Metropolitan's Board of Directors will consider the MMRP during the adoption hearing for the Final Initial Study-Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS-MND). The final MMRP will incorporate all mitigation measures adopted for the proposed Project. Metropolitan makes the finding that the measures included in the MMRP constitute changes or alterations that avoid or substantially lessen the potentially significant environmental effects of the proposed Project on the environment.

This MMRP summarizes mitigation commitments identified in the Final IS-MND. Table 1 provides the MMRP, which includes all mitigation measures, monitoring process, and monitoring timing. Metropolitan is the agency responsible for ensuring implementation of all mitigation measures. Impacts and mitigation measures are presented in the same order as in the Final IS-MND. The columns in the table provide the following information:

- **Mitigation Measures:** This column indicates the action(s) that will be taken to reduce the impact to a less-than-significant level.
- **Responsible Party:** This column indicates the party who must ensure each mitigation measure is implemented and that monitoring, and reporting activities occur.
- **Timing of Implementation:** This column indicates the general schedule for conducting each monitoring task, either during the design phase, prior to construction, during construction, and/or after construction.
- **Implementation Party:** This column lists the party responsible for implementing the mitigation measure.

Table 1 Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

Mitigation Measure	Responsible Party	Timing of Implementation	Implementation Party	Comments	Initials/Date
Biological Resources					
BIO-1 Special Status Plant Species Surveys					
<p>If the site-specific Environmental Assessment determines special status plant species may occur on site at sites to be reclaimed between 2027 and 2122, surveys for special status plants shall be completed prior to any vegetation removal, grubbing, or other reclamation activity (including staging and mobilization). The surveys shall be seasonally timed to coincide with the target species identified in the Environmental Assessment. All plant surveys shall be conducted by a monitoring biologist no more than two years before initial ground disturbance associated with reclamation construction activities and shall cover the entire area proposed for disturbance (including areas for staging and mobilization). All special status plant species identified on site shall be mapped onto a site-specific aerial photograph and topographic map. Surveys shall be conducted in accordance with the most current protocols established by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) and United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). If federally listed, state listed, or California Rare Plant Rank 1B species are found, avoidance and minimization measures shall be implemented in accordance with Mitigation Measure BIO-2.</p>	Metropolitan	<p>Implement following site-specific Environmental Assessment between 2027-2122.</p> <p>Implement during appropriate blooming period for specific site and no more than two years prior to commencement of initial ground disturbance associated with site reclamation activities.</p>	Metropolitan Qualified biologist		
BIO-2 Special Status Plant Species Avoidance and Minimization					
<p>If federally listed, state listed, or California Rare Plant Rank 1B species are found during special status plant surveys conducted pursuant to Mitigation Measure BIO-1, then avoidance measures shall be implemented to avoid impacting these plant species, if feasible. Rare plant occurrences that are not within the immediate disturbance footprint but are located within 50 feet of disturbance limits shall be protected at least 30 feet beyond their extent, or other distance as approved by a monitoring biologist, to protect them from harm. If avoidance of state listed or federally</p>	Metropolitan	<p>Implement following completion of special status plant species surveys under Mitigation Measure BIO-1, if required.</p>	Metropolitan Qualified biologist		

Mitigation Measure	Responsible Party	Timing of Implementation	Implementation Party	Comments	Initials/Date
listed plant species is not feasible, impacts shall be fully offset through implementation of a restoration plan that results in no net loss in accordance with Mitigation Measure BIO-3.		Implement prior to and during commencement of site reclamation activities.			
BIO-3 Special Status Plant Species Revegetation					
If avoidance of state listed, federally listed, and/or non-listed California Rare Plant Rank 1B species is not feasible, the individuals shall be transplanted, and surrounding topsoil shall be salvaged to be incorporated into the revegetation process for the site. A special status plant restoration plan shall be prepared and implemented that includes the following criteria at minimum: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ The number of specimens affected for each species ■ Identification of on-site or off-site preservation location(s) ■ Methods for restoration, enhancement, and/or transplanting, including topsoil salvage and planting seeds of the affected species ■ A performance standard replacement ratio of 1:1 per impacted specimen to be achieved within three to five years ■ Monitoring of on-site and off-site preservation location(s) to verify performance shall occur in conjunction with special status plant growing seasons, and no less than annually until performance standards are achieved 	Metropolitan	Prepare special status plant restoration plan prior to commencement of site reclamation activities. Implement transplant and topsoil salvage during site reclamation activities. Implement special status plant restoration plan following completion of site reclamation activities.	Metropolitan Qualified biologist		
BIO-4 Special Status Wildlife Species Surveys					
For all Project sites, if the site-specific Environmental Assessment determines suitable habitat may be present within the Project site footprint for a candidate, sensitive, or special-status species identified in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations, Metropolitan shall implement pre-activity wildlife surveys. Pre-activity surveys for special-status species with moderate to high potential to occur shall be conducted where suitable habitat is present not more than 72 hours prior to the	Metropolitan	Implement following site-specific Environmental Assessment between 2027-2122.	Metropolitan Qualified biologist		

Mitigation Measure	Responsible Party	Timing of Implementation	Implementation Party	Comments	Initials/Date
<p>start of Project activities. The survey area shall include the proposed Project site and all ingress/egress routes, plus a 100-foot buffer. If Project site habitat is determined to be suitable for desert tortoise, protocol surveys shall be conducted by a monitoring biologist within two years before reclamation at that site. Surveys shall be conducted according to the most recent General Ecology and Survey Protocol for Determining Presence/Absence and Abundance for the Desert Tortoise – Mojave Population (USFWS 2009). If the results of the site-specific Environmental Assessment and pre-activity surveys determine suitable habitat for a candidate, sensitive, or special-status species identified in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations is present within a 100-foot buffer of the Project sites, implementation of appropriate avoidance measures shall be required in accordance with Mitigation Measure BIO-5.</p>		<p>Implement pre-activity surveys not more than 72 hours prior to start of site reclamation activities for sites with moderate to high potential for candidate, sensitive, or special-status species occurrence.</p> <p>If necessary, implement desert tortoise protocol surveys no more than two years prior to commencement of site reclamation activities.</p>			
BIO-5 Special Status Wildlife Species Avoidance and Minimization					
<p>If the results of the site-specific Environmental Assessment and pre-activity surveys conducted pursuant to Mitigation Measure BIO-4 determine suitable habitat for a candidate, sensitive, or special-status species identified in local or regional plans, policies, or regulations is present within a 100-foot buffer of the Project sites, Metropolitan shall develop and implement appropriate avoidance measures. Avoidance measures may include but are not limited to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Installation of Environmentally Sensitive Area/avoidance fencing ■ Flagging or fencing of any special-status species burrows by a monitoring biologist to ensure avoidance during reclamation activities ■ Monitoring by a monitoring biologist during all initial ground disturbing activities. Once initial ground disturbing activities have been completed, the biologist shall 	Metropolitan	<p>Implement following site-specific Environmental Assessment and completion of pre-activity surveys, if required, between 2027-2122.</p> <p>Implement prior to and during site reclamation activities.</p>	Metropolitan, Qualified biologist		

Mitigation Measure	Responsible Party	Timing of Implementation	Implementation Party	Comments	Initials/Date
conduct daily pre-activity clearance surveys, as necessary ■ If at any time during Project activities, a special-status species enters the Project sites or otherwise may be impacted by the Project, all activities at the site where the find occurred shall cease. At that point, a monitoring biologist shall recommend an appropriate course of action					
BIO-6 Jurisdictional Waters Delineation and Avoidance					
Prior to reclamation activities at SB-1, SB-2, SB-3, SB-6, SB-7, SB-I-2, SB-I-3, RV-1, RV-3, RV-4, RV-5, RV-6, RV-I-2, and RV-I-3 (as well as any additional sites identified to have potentially jurisdictional waters during the site-specific Environmental Assessment), a formal jurisdictional delineation shall be conducted by a monitoring biologist to determine the extent of the jurisdiction for CDFW, Regional Water Quality Control Board, and United States Army Corps of Engineers on or within 100 feet of each Project site and shall be conducted in accordance with the current requirements set forth by each agency. The delineation shall serve as the basis for identifying jurisdictional areas to be avoided during reclamation activities. Jurisdictional areas that are identified shall be flagged or fenced for avoidance to ensure that reclamation activities do not inadvertently impact jurisdictional areas.	Metropolitan	Implement following site-specific Environmental Assessment between 2027-2122. Implement formal jurisdictional delineation prior to commencement of site reclamation activities. Implement avoidance measures prior to and during site reclamation activities.	Metropolitan Qualified biologist		

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