

EXHIBIT 30

**ANTELOPE VALLEY-EAST KERN WATER AGENCY
INITIAL STUDY REVIEW
AND NEGATIVE DECLARATION**

PROPOSED PROJECT: Groundwater Purchase and Extraction Program

LOCATION: Groundwater Basin Areas within Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency (AVEK) where imported State Water Project agricultural water has been delivered (see attached map).

PROJECT DESCRIPTION:

Background

The DAWN PROJECT, a project of Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency for importation, treatment and delivery of water from California State Water Project, began operation in 1975. The DAWN PROJECT was fully described in an Engineering Feasibility Report prepared by Boyle Engineering Corporation in February, 1974; a \$71,000,000 general obligation bond issue was authorized by the electorate of AVEK in November, 1974; and the impacts of the projects were analyzed in an Environmental Impact Report certified by the AVEK Board of Directors in March, 1975.

The DAWN PROJECT included a program for delivery of imported water supplies to agricultural lands in exchange for cessation of groundwater pumping to provide in-lieu recharge of the local groundwater basin. While the program was characterized as conjunctive use of imported and groundwater supplies, specific circumstances and conditions for future extraction of the water stored by recharge of the local basins was not defined.

During calendar year 1991, the fifth consecutive year of the current drought in California, a program of groundwater purchase from the areas recharged was implemented by AVEK under a Declaration of Drought Emergency resulting in a filing of a Notice of Exemption under CEQA. Approximately 15,000 acre feet of water was purchased from 19 wells under 7 different ownerships in 3 separate locales.

From 1975 through 1991, AVEK has delivered approximately 450,000 acre feet of imported water to irrigated agriculture of which 325,000 acre feet was in-lieu of groundwater pumping. Annual observation of groundwater levels performed by the personnel of the United States Geological Survey has shown a rise in groundwater levels of as much as 100 feet during the fifteen year period of this program.

In addition, 230,000 acre feet of water has been delivered to municipal and industrial water users by the DAWN PROJECT facilities. This water would have been pumped from the groundwater to meet these needs in the absence of imported supplemental supplies.

PROJECT

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The Groundwater Purchase and Extraction Program will entail purchase and extraction of water from groundwater basins within the Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency boundaries that have been recharged by in-lieu water deliveries and by imported water application in excess of consumptive and evapotranspiration needs of agricultural crops. Water will be purchased and extracted from existing wells in areas where imported water has been delivered by the Agency. Extraction will be limited to times when supplies to the Agency are inadequate because of State Water Project water supply shortages or because of outages of the delivery system for imported water to Agency water service contractors.

Under the program, water would only be extracted when supplies to the Agency from the SWP are less than the Agency's municipal Water Service Contractors' (WSC's) critical water needs and critical needs of permanent agricultural crops plus 80 percent of the remaining WSC's current year requests (i.e., assumes a minimum of 10 percent conservation for entire supply of WSC assuming that 50 percent of total supplies are supplied by Agency).

Extraction would be restricted to 80 percent of the in-lieu water delivered to Agriculture plus 25 percent of non in-lieu agricultural water delivered to any area or groundwater basin of the Agency. If these supplies are ever exhausted, then extraction and purchases would cease until water is resupplied by in-lieu or other recharge methods.

SIGNIFICANT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS: None

MITIGATION MEASURES: Limitations set forth in project description.

CONTACT: Wallace G. Spinarski
General Manager
Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency
6500 West Avenue N
P. O. Box 3176
Quartz Hill, CA 93586

Date: February 25, 1992

Signed: Wallace G. Spinarski
General Manager

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST FORM

I. Background

1. Name of Proponent ANTELOPE VALLEY-EAST KERN WATER AGENCY
2. Address and Phone Number of Proponent (805) 943-3201
6500 W. Avenue N, P.O. Box 3176
Quartz Hill, CA 93534
3. Date of Checklist Submission _____
4. Agency Requiring Checklist ANTELOPE VALLEY-EAST KERN WATER AGENCY
5. Name of Proposal, if applicable _____
Groundwater Purchase and Extraction Program

II. Environmental Impacts

(Explanations of all "yes" and "maybe" answers are required on attached sheets.)

	YES	MAYBE	NO
1. <u>Earth.</u> Will the proposal result in:			
a. Unstable earth conditions or in changes in geologic substructures?	_____	<u>X</u>	_____
b. Disruptions, displacements, compaction or overcovering of the soil?	_____	<u>X</u>	_____
c. Change in topography or ground surface relief features?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
d. The destruction, covering or modification of any unique geologic or physical features?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
e. Any increase in wind or water erosion of soils, either on or off the site?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
f. Changes in deposition or erosion of beach sands, or changes in siltation, deposition or erosion which may modify the channel of a river or stream or the bed of the ocean or any bay, inlet or lake?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
g. Exposure of people or property to geological hazards such as earthquakes, landslides, mudslides, ground failure, or similar hazards?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>

	YES	MAYBE	NO
2. <u>Air</u> . Will the proposal result in:			
a. <u>Substantial</u> air emissions or deterioration of ambient air quality?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
b. The creation of objectionable odors?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
c. Alteration of air movement, moisture or temperature, or any change in climate, either locally or regionally?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
3. <u>Water</u> . Will the proposal result in:			
a. Changes in currents, or the course or direction of water movements, in either marine or fresh waters?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
b. Changes in absorption rates, drainage patterns, or the rate and amount of surface runoff?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
c. Alterations to the course of flow of flood waters?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
d. Change in the amount of surface water in any water body?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
e. Discharge into surface waters or in any alteration of surface water quality, including but not limited to temperature, dissolved oxygen or turbidity?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
f. Alteration of the direction or rate of flow of ground waters?	_____	<u>X</u>	_____
g. Change in the quantity of ground waters, either through direct additions, or withdrawals, or through interception of an aquifer by cuts or excavations?	_____	<u>X</u>	_____
h. Substantial reduction in the amount of water otherwise available for public water supplies?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
i. Exposure of people or property to water related hazards such as flooding or tidal waves?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
j. Significant changes in the temperature, flow, or chemical content of surface thermal springs?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
4. <u>Plant Life</u> . Will the proposal result in:			

	YES	MAYBE	NO
a. Change in the diversity of species, or number of any species of plants (including trees, shrubs, grass, crops, and aquatic plants)?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
b. Reduction of the numbers of any unique, rare or endangered species of plants?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
c. Introduction of new species of plants into an area, or in a barrier to the normal replenishment of existing species?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
d. Reduction in acreage of any agricultural crop?	_____	<u>X</u>	_____
5. <u>Animal Life.</u> Will the proposal result in:			
a. Change in the diversity of species, or numbers of any species of animals (birds, land animals including reptiles, fish and shellfish, benthic organisms, or insects)?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
b. Reduction of the numbers of any unique, rare or endangered species of animals?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
c. Introduction of new species of animals into an area, or result in a barrier to the migration or movement of animals?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
d. Deterioration to existing fish or wildlife habitat?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
6. <u>Noise.</u> Will the proposal result in:			
a. Increases in existing noise levels?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
b. Exposure of people to severe noise levels?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
7. <u>Light and Glare.</u> Will the proposal produce new light or glare?			
	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
8. <u>Land Use.</u> Will the proposal result in a substantial alteration of the present or planned land use of an area?			
	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
9. <u>Natural Resources.</u> Will the proposal result in:			
a. Increase in the rate of use of any natural resources?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
b. Substantial depletion of any non-renewal natural resource?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>

	YES	MAYBE	NO
10. <u>Risk of Upset.</u> Will the proposal involve:			
a. A risk of an explosion or the release of hazardous substances (including, but not limited to, oil, pesticides, chemicals or radiation) in the event of an accident or upset conditions?	_____	_____	<u> X </u>
b. Possible interference with an emergency response plan or an emergency evacuation plan?	_____	_____	<u> X </u>
11. <u>Population.</u> Will the proposal alter the location, distribution, density, or growth rate to the human population of an area?	_____	_____	<u> X </u>
12. <u>Housing.</u> Will the proposal affect existing housing, or create a demand for additional housing?	_____	_____	<u> X </u>
13. <u>Transportation/Circulation.</u> With the proposal result in:-			
a. Generation of substantial additional vehicular movement?	_____	_____	<u> X </u>
b. Effects on existing parking facilities, or demand for new parking?	_____	_____	<u> X </u>
c. Substantial impact upon existing transportation systems?	_____	_____	<u> X </u>
d. Alterations to present patterns of circulation or movement of people and/or goods?	_____	_____	<u> X </u>
e. Alterations to waterborne, rail or air traffic?	_____	_____	<u> X </u>
f. Increase in traffic hazardous to motors vehicles, bicyclists or pedestrians?	_____	_____	<u> X </u>
14. <u>Public Services.</u> Will the proposal have an effect upon, or result in a need for new or altered governmental services to any of the following areas:			
a. Fire protection?	_____	_____	<u> X </u>
b. Police protection?	_____	_____	<u> X </u>
c. Schools?	_____	_____	<u> X </u>
d. Parks or other recreational facilities?	_____	_____	<u> X </u>

	YES	MAYBE	NO
e. Maintenance of public facilities, including <u>roads</u> ?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
f. Other governmental services?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
15. <u>Energy</u> . Will the proposal result in:			
a. Use of substantial amounts of fuel or energy?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
b. Substantial increase in demand upon existing sources of energy, or require the development of new sources of energy?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
16. <u>Utilities</u> . Will the proposal result in a need for new systems, or substantial alterations to the following utilities:			
a. Power or natural gas?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
b. Communications systems?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
c. Water?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
d. Sewer or septic tanks?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
e. Storm water drainage?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
f. Solid waste and disposal?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
17. <u>Human Health</u> . Will the proposal result in:			
a. Creation of any health hazard or potential health hazard (excluding mental health)?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
b. Exposure of people to potential health hazards?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
18. <u>Aesthetics</u> . Will the proposal result in the obstruction of any scenic vista or view open to the public, or will the proposal result in the creation of an aesthetically offensive site open to public view?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
19. <u>Recreation</u> . Will the proposal result in an impact upon the quality or quantity of existing recreational opportunities?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
20. <u>Cultural Resources</u> .			
a. Will the proposal result in the alteration of or the destruction of a pre-historic or historic archaeological site?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>

	YES	MAYBE	NO
b. Will the proposal result in adverse physical or aesthetic effects to a prehistoric or historic building, structure, or object?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
c. Does the proposal have the potential to cause physical change which would affect unique ethnic cultural values?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
d. Will the proposal restrict existing religious or sacred uses within the potential impact area?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
21. <u>Mandatory Findings of Significance.</u>			
a. Does the project have the potential to degrade the quality of the environment, substantially reduce the habitat of a fish or wildlife species, cause a fish or wildlife population to drop below self-sustaining levels, threaten to eliminate a plant or animal community, reduce the number or restrict the range of a rare or endangered plant or animal or eliminate important examples of the major periods of California history or prehistory?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
b. Does the project have the potential to achieve short-term, to the disadvantage of long-term impact on the environmental goals? (A short-term impact on the environment is one which occurs in a relatively brief definitive period of time while long-term will endure well into the future.)	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
c. Does the project have impacts which are individually limited, but comulatively considerable? (A project may impact on two or more separate resources where the impact on each resource is relatively small, but where the effect of the total of those impacts on the environment is significant.)	_____	_____	<u>X</u>
d. Does the project have environmental effects which will cause substantial adverse effects on human beings, either directly or indirectly?	_____	_____	<u>X</u>

III. Discussion of Environmental Evaluation

IV. Determination (To be completed by the Lead Agency)

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

- ☒ I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- ☐ I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because the mitigation measures described on an attached sheet have been added to the project. A NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.
- ☐ I find the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.

February 25, 1992
Date

Wallace B. Spinardi
Signature General Manager

Antelope Valley-East Kern Water Agency
For

**Responses to Environmental Checklist
AVEK Groundwater Purchase and Extraction Program**

II. Environmental Impacts Explanation of Maybe Responses to Environmental Checklist Items

II-1(A) Unstable Earth Conditions or Changes in Geologic Substructures?

A maybe answer to this checklist item is made because it is not certain that there will be any impacts on geologic conditions. There is not anticipated to be any impacts in the areas where the extractions of water will be taking place. The reason for this is that these are the areas where water levels have been maintained or increased above that which would have occurred had there not been an importation of water for in lieu deliveries or direct deliveries to agriculture by the Agency.

The proposed project will, if anything, result in a reduction in the potential for ground subsidence which has been experienced in areas adjacent to the historic Rosamond lakebed where groundwater pumping has occurred. If the project does not proceed ahead, then water necessary for municipal uses after reduction in those uses by conservation, will result in additional extractions in areas where the subsidence has been historically measured by USGS and the L. A. County Department of Public Works. The program will mitigate any compounding of the subsidence problem by virtue of water being extracted from areas where water has been recharged by in lieu or quasi-direct recharge methods, eliminating the Water Service Contractor's need to pump an equal quantity of water from areas currently experiencing subsidence problems.

II-1(B) Disruptions, Displacements, Compaction, and Overcovering of the Soil?

A maybe answer to this checklist question has been made because it is not certain where the program's extractions will occur. However, these impacts will be minimal in nature, since existing wells and lands previously or currently farmed and served by existing or reconstructed wells and pipelines will be the source of the water for this program. The only overcovering, compaction, and displacement would be the minor amount of construction work necessary to connect wells and pipelines to the Agency's facilities. These are not expected to be in any one instance longer than three miles in length. Grading and regrading of sites where water wells are to be operated or reconstructed may be necessary. Prior to the construction of any facilities, a review of the specific project site and pipeline alignment will be made to see if there are any impacts to the area that would result from the construction resulting from the proposed program. Any impacts that are identified will be mitigated or the specific project will not be constructed.

Responses

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II-3(F) Alteration of Direction or Rate of Flow of Groundwater?

The proposed program will result in altering the direction and rate of flow of groundwater in the area where pumping has occurred. This is mitigated by the fact that these same areas are the areas where water has been recharged by in lieu surface deliveries and by quasi-direct methods via direct delivery of irrigation water to lands that have historically not qualified for Agency water deliveries in lieu of groundwater pumping. (i.e. These wells or lands did not have a recent history of groundwater pumping, even though they historically may have had groundwater as a source of supply for agricultural use.)

If this program and its related projects do not go ahead, then the negative impacts will be as great, if not greater, on localized areas because of localized well water pumping. It is surely the case that needed water supply will be taken from groundwater pumping by the water service contractor who would have received water deliveries by the project. This will result in additional localized groundwater drafting in areas where pumping depressions already exist. Also, these are also areas where the potential for groundwater quality degradation by poor quality waters lying beneath the dry lake beds could impact area wells. The proposed program will mitigate this by distributing the pumping of water over a larger area of the Agency and from areas of the Agency where groundwaters have been replenished by in lieu and quasi-direct recharge methods.

II-3(G) Change in the Quantity of Groundwater, Either Through Direct Additions, or Withdrawals, or Through Interception of an Aquifer by Cuts or Excavation?

The proposed program will not result in any changes in the direction groundwater flows due to any construction activities. The program will not result in any reduction in the quantity of non-imported water within the basins of the Agency. These same basins will be called upon by the water purveyors in those areas for water for use during times when inadequate supplies of imported water are available. The program will result in leaving water in the underground by virtue of in lieu deliveries and quasi-direct recharge methods. This is because not all of the in lieu recharged water, nor all of the quasi-direct recharged water, is proposed to be extracted under the program. The program could, if operated as the system has been in the past, add additional water to the groundwater basin by virtue of water being made available for in lieu deliveries to agriculture and for deliveries to agricultural users in areas of groundwater basins and the necessary excess irrigation water will recharge those basins. It is anticipated that this will be part of the overall Agency's program of water deliveries in the future. This was part of the conjunctive use of the imported water and groundwater storage description of the Agency's DAWN project, for which an environmental impact report was certified. If, however, the Agency does not recharge additional waters in the future by way of in

Responses

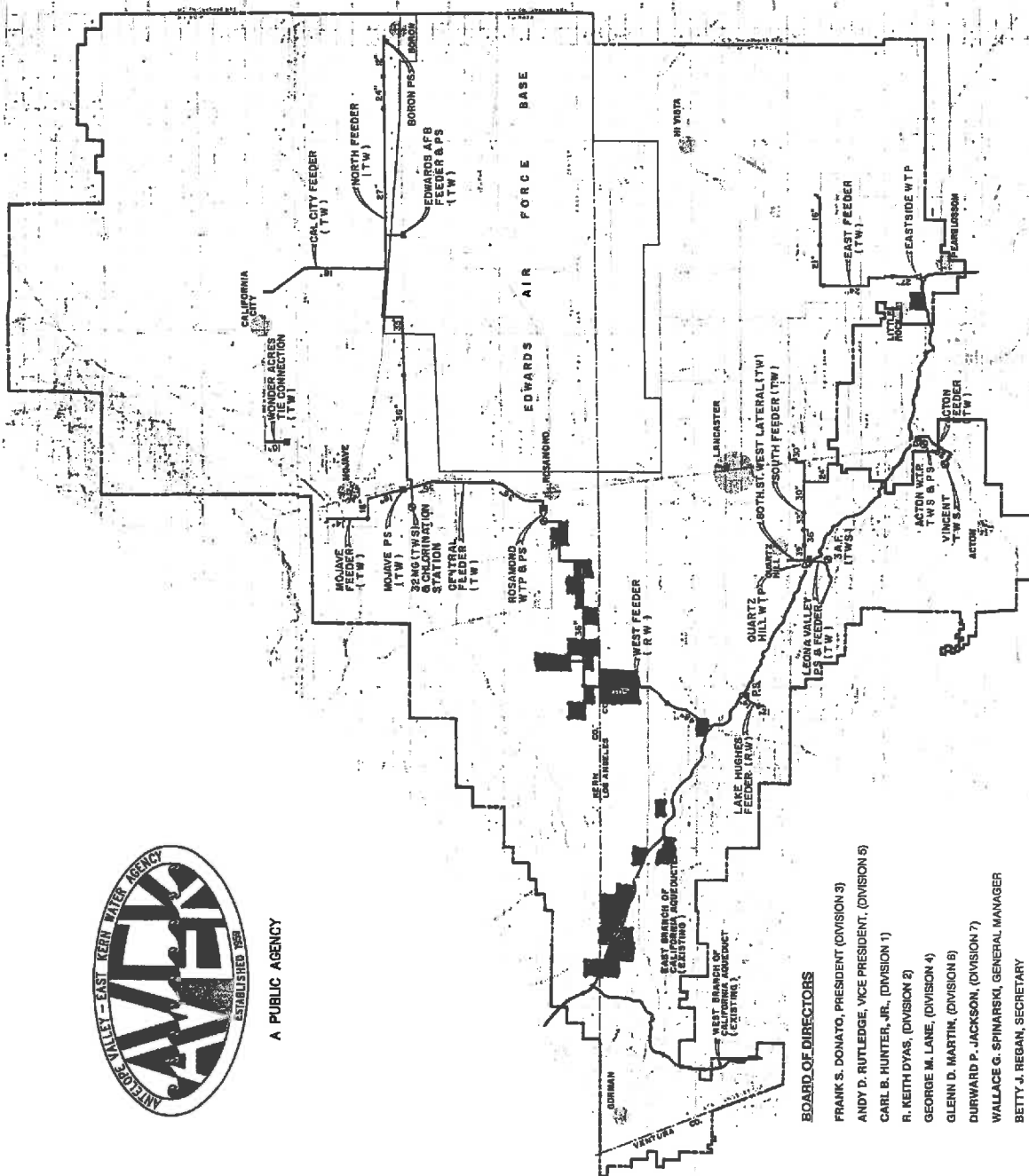
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lieu deliveries and/or quasi-direct recharge resulting from direct irrigation, then the program would cease when the limits in the project description are reached. The program would always result in water in excess of the natural recharge being left in the groundwater basins.

II-4(D) Reduction in Acreage of Any Agricultural Crop?

The answer maybe to this question is made because there may be instances where water that is being extracted under the program would come from wells that would otherwise be making direct deliveries to an agricultural crop. Where possible, agricultural pumping during years of imported water shortage would be curtailed to the extent appropriate, thereby further alleviating any duplication of draft on the groundwater basin during the period of extraction under the program. The reduction in acreage of the agricultural crop will be insignificant as compared to the entire production of crops of the type grown in the Antelope Valley, specifically alfalfa.

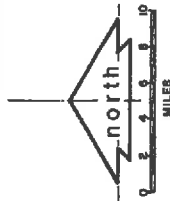
A PUBLIC AGENCY



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REV. 3/91



LEGEND

- TURNOUT FROM CALIFORNIA AQUEDUCT
 - ▲ WATER TREATMENT PLANT (WTP)
 - PUMP STATION (PS)
 - ② RAW WATER STORAGE (RWS)
TREATED WATER STORAGE (TWS)
 - W INDICATES RAW WATER FACILITY
 - W INDICATES TREATED WATER FACILITY
- LADDS RECEIVING
AGRICULTURAL WATER SERVICE*

FACILITY

QUANTITY-SIZE-CAPACITY	
65 MGD	116,800 LF (60' TO 33')
5.2 MGD (14 MG ULTIMATE)	14 MGD (26 MGD ULTIMATE)
3,000 LF (14' TO 25')	6.5 MGD
8,300 LF (36')	1,400 HP
5,500 LF, 25,500 LF (18" TO 12") 1 MG	84,300 LF (36')
	152,000 LF (36" TO 12")
	9,200 LF (20')
	40 HP
	32 MG
	420 HP, 34,000 LF (18" TO 14")
	10 MGD
	7,600 (27' TO 16')
	2 MGD (2 MGD ULTIMATE)
	1.8 MG (2.2 MG ULTIMATE)
	2 MGD (2.2 MG ULTIMATE)
	2 MG (4 MG ULTIMATE)
	300 HP, 9,000 LF (14" TO 12")
	15 HP, 7,700 LF (10')
	MICROWAVE & BURIED CABLE
	TELEMETRY

KEY FACTS

AREA:	LOS ANGELES COUNTY	894 SQ. MILES
	KERN COUNTY	1377 SQ. MILES
	VENTURA COUNTY	12 SQ. MILES
	TOTAL	2883 SQ. MILES

LOWEST POINT 1,940 FEET AT KOEHN DRY LAKE
HIGHEST POINT 5,217 FEET IN THE SAN GABRIEL MOUNTAINS
HOME OF EDWARDS AIR FORCE BASE
WEATHER:

AVERAGE ANNUAL PRECIPITATION IS APPROXIMATELY 8 INCHES LESS THAN 1.5 INCHES OF THE TOTAL OCCURS BETWEEN APRIL AND OCTOBER. 690 SQ. MILES OF THE AGENCY RECEIVES LESS THAN 5 INCHES OF RAIN ANNUALLY.

BOYLE ENGINEERING CORPORATION