

River, and establish day use limits slightly below the 1992 average. Alternative 2 would remove all facilities north of Brooks River and locate a new lodge, campground and support facilities above the Beaver Pond Terrace, about 3/4 mile from Brooks River. Brooks River would become a day-use area only, with day-use limits significantly below the July 1992 average. Alternative 3 would remove all facilities north of Brooks River and relocate Brooks Camp on a larger scale to the terrace above Iliuk Moraine, two miles south of Brooks River. Brooks River would become a day use area only. Alternative 4 would remove all facilities north of the river, and no overnight facilities would be available at Brooks River. Brooks River would become a day use area only.

The responsible official for a Record of Decision on the proposed action is the Alaska Field Director, National Park Service, 2525 Gambell Street, Room 401, Anchorage, Alaska 99503 (telephone 907-257-2690).

Robert D. Barbee,

Alaska Field Area Director.

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Bureau of Reclamation

[FES 96-48]

Southern Nevada Water Authority Treatment and Transmission Facility, Clark County, Nevada

AGENCY: Bureau of Reclamation, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability on the final environmental impact statement.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 (as amended), the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and the Southern Nevada Water Authority (SNWA) have prepared a final environmental impact statement (FEIS) on a new water treatment and transmission facility proposed by SNWA. The SNWA proposes to construct and operate a system of regional water supply facilities known as the Treatment and Transmission Facility (TTF). The new TTF would be used in conjunction with the existing Southern Nevada Water System to treat Colorado River water and transmit it to the Las Vegas Valley, Nevada.

ADDRESSES: Copies of the FEIS are available for public review at the following locations:

- Bureau of Reclamation, Lower Colorado Regional Liaison, 1849 C Street NW., Washington, DC 20240, telephone: (202) 208-6269.
- Bureau of Reclamation, Regional Director, Lower Colorado Regional Office, Attn: EIS Lead, LC-2206 Mead Building, P.O. Box 61470, Boulder City, NV 89006-1470, telephone: (702) 293-8519.
- Southern Nevada Water Authority, Attn: EIS Manager, 1850 East Flamingo Road, Suite 234, Las Vegas, NV 89119, telephone: (702) 862-3446.
- Bureau of Land Management, Las Vegas District, Attn: Environmental Coordinator, 4765 Vegas Drive, Las Vegas, NV 89108, telephone: (702) 647-5097.
- National Park Service, Lake Mead Recreation Area, Attn: EIS Coordinator, 601 Nevada Highway, Boulder City, NV 89005, telephone: (702) 239-8935.
- Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers, Attn: EIS Coordinator, 300 Booth St., Reno, NV 89509, telephone: (702) 784-5304.
- Libraries: Copies will also be available for review at public libraries located in Boulder City, Henderson, Las Vegas, and North Las Vegas, NV.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. James Green, LC-2206, Bureau of Reclamation, Lower Colorado Regional Office, Environmental Compliance Group, P.O. Box 61470, Boulder City, NV 89006-1470, telephone: (702) 293-8519.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The FEIS addresses the impacts of a new TTF to withdraw existing State of Nevada allocation of Colorado River water from Lake Mead, treat it, and convey it to the Las Vegas Valley, Nevada. Three critical issues are related to water-facility infrastructure in the Las Vegas Valley: (1) The Valley is dependent on a single water treatment and delivery facility, the existing Southern Nevada Water System (SNWS), for 85 percent of its water supply; (2) the capacity of the existing facilities which deliver Colorado River water, including those of the expanded SNWS, will be insufficient to meet projected peak daily water demands by the year 1999; and (3) the existing water facility infrastructure cannot provide full access to SNWA's Colorado River water entitlement and the entitlements of its purveyor members under the current typical pattern of seasonal water demand. With these considerations in mind, the SNWA conceived the TTF as a supplemental facility to treat and

transmit Colorado River water to the Valley.

The proposed TTF would be comprised of three main components: a new untreated water intake; new transmission facilities including belowground pipelines, tunnels, and aboveground booster pumping stations; and a water treatment facility. Six alternatives, including no action, are analyzed in the FEIS. Five action alternatives analyze varying combinations of these main components. The preferred alternative comprises an intake at Saddle Island, use of the existing River Mountains tunnel, and a treatment facility on the western slope of the River Mountains. Additional water transmission and storage facilities would be constructed in Las Vegas Valley. The TTF has been developed as a reliable and demand-responsive system that will supplement and function integrally with the existing SNWS. The TTF would be locally financed, and does not involve any Federal funding for construction, operation or maintenance. The TTF would follow a community endorsed phasing plan under which facilities are constructed only as needed.

Federal actions required for the proposed action would be the issuance of permits, rights-of-way, and modification of existing water delivery/service contracts. These actions would allow the SNWA to construct new facilities on Federal lands adjacent to Lake Mead, withdraw existing State of Nevada Allocation of Colorado River water from Lake Mead and convey it to the Las Vegas Valley.

The draft environmental impact statement (DEIS) was issued on November 8, 1995. Responses to comments received from interested organizations and individuals on the DEIS during the 90-day comment period are addressed in the FEIS. No decision will be made on the proposed action until 30 days after release of the FEIS. After the 30-day waiting period, Reclamation will complete a Record of Decision (ROD). The ROD will state the action that will be implemented and will discuss all factors leading to the decision.

Dated: September 20, 1996.

William E. Rinne,

Director, Resource Management and Technical Services.

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