Appendix BIO-3
QSA EIR/EIS Comparison Impact Table

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TABLE BIO-3
DRAFT SUMMARY OF POTENTIAL BIOLOGICAL IMPACTS WITH IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROPOSED ACTION COMPARED TO THE QSA ANALYSIS

QSA EIR Impacts	QSA EIR Mitigation	QSA EIR Significance after Mitigation	DRAFT Proposed Action - Impacts	Proposed Mitigation	TCRCP Significance After Mitigation
Lower Colorado River					
BR–1: Reduced flow levels in the LCR could reduce the acreage of cottonwood-willow communities	Under the Proposed Project, Reclamation would implement the following measures to address impacts to southwestern willow flycatchers: • Monitor 372 acres of occupied habitat that could be affected by the change in the point of diversion for 400 KAF of water • Restore and maintain 372 acres of new replacement willow flycatcher habitat along the LCR within 5 years of execution of the SIA that provides federal approval for the water transfer actions • Restore and maintain additional habitat (up to 744 acres) if monitored habitat is found to be affected	Less than significant impact with implementation of biological conservation measures	The temporary short-term (3 years) reduction of flows due to reduced orders by IID would mimic dry year conditions and would not permanently reduce acreage of cotton-wood communities. Any reduction of acreage of cotton-wood communities resulting from reduced flows would be reversed when flow volumes rebound in 2027.	N/A	Less than significant impact
BR–2: Reduced flow levels in the LCR could reduce the acreage of honey mesquite bosque communities	No Mitigation: Although groundwater is the primary source of water for the maintenance of mesquite bosques, additional water is derived from surface flow (e.g., flooding) and precipitation (Minckley and Brown 1982; Stromberg et al. 1992). Some honey mesquite could be lost because of reduced groundwater levels, but the relative magnitude of the impact would be less than for cottonwood-willow habitat because honey mesquite is less sensitive to groundwater changes. Honey mesquite bosque does not provide primary habitat for special-status species, potential changes in the acreage or structural characteristics of honey mesquite under the Proposed Project would be a less-than-significant impact.	Less than significant impact	The temporary short-term (3 years) reduction of flows due to reduced orders by IID would mimic dry year conditions and would not permanently reduce acreage of honey mesquite bosque communities. Any reduction of acreage of honey mesquite bosque communities resulting from reduced flows would be reversed when flow volumes rebound in 2027.	N/A	Less than significant impact
BR–3: Reduced flow levels in the LCR could reduce the acreage of screwbean mesquite bosque communities.	No Mitigation: Mesquite seedlings that germinate in areas with low soil moisture have low survivorship (Stromberg 1993), and mortality, stunting, or extremely slow growth occurs at soil moisture levels of less than 2 percent (Reclamation 1988). Thus, changes in surface water or groundwater elevations could reduce the suitability for mesquite in some areas. The amount or structural characteristics of screwbean mesquite could be altered by reduced surface water or groundwater levels. However, because screwbean mesquite bosque does not provide primary habitat for special-status species, these potential changes would be a less-than-significant impact.	Less than significant impact	The temporary short-term (3 years) reduction of flows due to reduced orders by IID would mimic dry year conditions and would not permanently reduce acreage of screwbean mesquite bosque communities. Any reduction of acreage of screwbean mesquite bosque communities resulting from reduced flows would be reversed when flow volumes rebound in 2027.	N/A	Less than significant impact
BR–4: Reduced flow levels in the LCR could reduce the acreage of backwater habitat	Under the Proposed Project, Reclamation would restore 44 acres of backwater habitat along the LCR between Parker and Imperial Dams. With this replacement of backwater habitat affected by reduced flows, impacts of the Proposed Project to backwater habitat along the LCR would be less than significant.	Less than significant with implementation of biological conservation measures	The temporary short-term (3 years) reduction of flows due to reduced orders by IID would mimic dry year conditions and would not permanently reduce backwater habitat or adversely affect razorback sucker or bonytail chub. Any reduction of acreage of backwater habitat or razorback sucker or bonytail chub resulting from reduced flows would be reversed when flow volumes rebound in 2027.	N/A	Less than significant impact
BR–5: Reduced acreage of cottonwood-willow vegetation could affect special-status species	As described in Impact BR-1 under the Proposed Project, Reclamation would replace cottonwood-willow habitat occupied by willow flycatchers that is affected by reduced flows, and depending on monitoring results, potentially increase the amount of cottonwood- willow habitat. As a result, impacts to other special-status species associated with cottonwood-willow habitat along the LCR would be less than significant.	Less than significant with implementation of biological conservation measures	The temporary short-term (3 years) reduction of flows due to reduced orders by IID would mimic natural dry year conditions and would not permanently reduce acreage of cotton-wood communities or the sensitive species that occupy the habitat. Any reduction of acreage of cotton-wood communities resulting from reduced flows would be reversed when flow volumes rebound in 2027.	N/A	Less than significant impact
BR – 6: Reduced acreage of open water in backwaters could affect special-status wildlife species	Between 14 and 21 acres of emergent vegetation habitat (Table 3.2-37) could be affected by the Proposed Project. As described in Impact BR-4 under the Proposed Project, Reclamation would restore 44 acres of backwaters. Thus, impacts to this habitat and associated special-status species would be less than significant.	Less than significant with implementation of biological conservation measures	The temporary short-term (3 years) reduction of flows due to reduced orders by IID would mimic natural dry year conditions and would not permanently reduce acreage of open water affecting sensitive species that occupy the habitat. Any reduction of acreage of open water resulting from reduced flows would be reversed when flow volumes rebound in 2027.	N/A	Less than significant impact
BR – 7: Reduced acreage of emergent vegetation in backwaters could affect special-status species	As described in Impact BR-4 under the Proposed Project, Reclamation would restore 44 acres of backwaters. Thus, impacts to this habitat and associated special-status species would be less than significant.	Less than significant with implementation of biological conservation measures	The temporary short-term (3 years) reduction of flows due to reduced orders by IID would mimic natural dry year conditions and would not permanently reduce acreage of emergent vegetation affecting sensitive species that occupy the habitat. Any reduction of acreage of emergent vegetation	N/A	Less than significant impact

QSA EIR Impacts	QSA EIR Mitigation	QSA EIR Significance after Mitigation	DRAFT Proposed Action - Impacts	Proposed Mitigation	TCRCP Significance After Mitigation
			resulting from reduced flows would be reversed when flow volumes rebound in 2027.		
BR – 8: Reduced acreage of aquatic habitat could affect special-status fish species	Under the Proposed Project, Reclamation will restore or create 44 acres of backwaters. Reclamation also will re-introduce and monitor 20,000 sub-adult razorback suckers below Parker Dam and continue the ongoing study of Lake Mead for an additional 4 years to determine reasons for persistence of adult razorback suckers in the reservoir. Reclamation will fund the capture of wild-born or F1 generation bonytail chubs from Lake Mohave to be incorporated into broodstock for this species (USFWS 2001). With implementation of these measures, impacts to razorback suckers and bonytail chub under the Proposed Project would be less than significant.	Less than significant with implementation of biological conservation measures	The temporary short-term (3 years) reduction of flows due to reduced orders by IID would mimic dry year conditions and would not permanently reduce aquatic habitat that could adversely affect special status fish species. Any reduction of acreage of aquatic habitat resulting from reduced flows would be reversed when flow volumes rebound in 2027.	N/A	Less than significant impact
BR – 9: Reduced diversions from the LCR could affect special-status fish species	No Mitigation. Razorback suckers could be entrained in canals by water diversion from the LCR. Assuming the potential for entrainment is proportional to the amount of water diverted, the Proposed Project would reduce this potential. Under the Proposed Project, IID would reduce its diversion at Imperial Dam by 200 to 300 KAFY. Water transferred to SDCWA service area or MWD service area would serve as replacement water for these agencies, and the overall amount of water diverted at Parker Dam would not change.	Beneficial impact	The temporary short-term (3 years) reduction of flows due to reduced orders by IID would reduce potential impacts from diversions.	N/A	N/A
IID Water Service Area and All-American Canal					
BR – 10: Reduced Flows in the Drains Could Alter Drain Vegetation and Affect Wildlife	No Mitigation. Much of the vegetation in the drainage system is tamarisk and *Phragmites*. These exotic and highly invasive species are tolerant of a wide range of conditions. As such, they would adjust to flow changes in the drains, and their occurrence and distribution of species would not change substantially. Cattails and other wetland plants are limited. Cattails are concentrated in the bottom of the drain. Because of the steep sides of the drains, little difference in water depths would occur with lower flow volumes. If drains were drier for longer periods of time, minor, temporary changes in the extent of cattails would potentially occur. However, because drain maintenance activities probably have a greater influence on the extent of vegetation in the drains and the projected decrease in drain flows would be within the range of historic levels, changes in drain flows would not substantially change the amount or composition of drain habitat. Because drain vegetation would not change substantially, the species and numbers of wildlife using the drains would not be substantially affected. Therefore, changes in drain habitat and effects to associated wildlife resulting from changes in drain flows under the Proposed Project would be less than significant.	Less than significant.	Similar to the conclusions in the EIR/EIS, the temporary short-term (3 years) reduction of flows in drains would not reduce vegetation in drainages because water would remain available under current conditions. By-pass flows may be reduced, but vegetation in drains would not be adversely affected compared with existing flow variability. Any reduction in drainage flows would be reversed when flow volumes rebound in 2027.	N/A	Less than significant
BR – 11: Increased Salinity in the Drains Could Alter Drain Vegetation and Affect Wildlife	By increasing the ratio of tilewater to tailwater in the drains, the Proposed Project would increase the salinity in the drains. The total amount of cattail vegetation would decline as would the amount with good growing conditions (Table 3.2-39). With conservation of 300 KAFY under the Proposed Project through on-farm and system-based measures, the acreage of cattails supported in the drains would potentially be reduced by 4 acres. Most (46 acres) of the remaining cattail vegetation would be subjected to salinity levels that could stunt growth and reduce vigor of the plant. If all Fallowing is used to conserve water, there would be no change in salinity in the drains and therefore no impacts to cattail vegetation. Use of Fallowing to meet a portion of the conserved water would result in intermediate effects. However, implementation of the HCP component of the Proposed Project would reduce this potential impact to a less than significant level.	Less than significant with implementation of the HCP	The temporary short-term (3 years) reduction of flows in drains would not increase salinity in the drains that could alter habitat quality because the reduced flows would be temporary and reversed when flow volumes rebound in 2027. By-pass flows may be reduced, but aquatic species in drains would not be adversely affected compared with existing flow variability. Mitigation implemented by IID for QSA. No additional mitigation required.	N/A	Less than significant
BR – 12: Changes in Water Quality in Drains Could Affect Wildlife	Results of the analysis indicate that under the Baseline, the equivalent of approximately 48 miles of drain would be fully affected by waterborne selenium through hatchability effects (Table 3.2-40). Under the Proposed Project, up to an equivalent of about 94 miles would be affected depending on the total amount of conservation and methods of conservation (Table 3.2-40). The potential for reduced reproductive success of birds using the drains constitutes a potentially significant impact of the water conservation and transfer component of the Proposed Project. Implementation of the HCP component of the Proposed Project would reduce this impact to less than significant.	Less than significant with implementation of the HCP	The temporary short-term (3 years) reduction of flows in drainages would not alter water quality because the reduced flows would be temporary would be reversed when flow volumes rebound in 2027. By-pass flows may be reduced, but aquatic species in drainages would not be adversely affected compared with existing flow variability. Mitigation implemented by IID for QSA. No additional mitigation required.	N/A	Less than significant
BR – 13: Reduced flows in the rivers could alter vegetation and affect wildlife	Vegetation along the New and Alamo Rivers consists predominantly of tamarisk, often in dense stands. Tamarisk is a fairly drought-tolerant and invasive exotic species that has a high tolerance for environmental change (Kerpez and Smith 1987; Brotherson and Field 1987; Deloach et al. 1996). As the flow levels in the New and Alamo Rivers decrease under the Proposed Project, tamarisk would colonize newly exposed ground. Because tamarisk can survive on soil water alone, reductions in the groundwater level potentially resulting from reduced flows in the New and Alamo Rivers are unlikely to change the amount of tamarisk along these two rivers. Because the extent of tamarisk along the rivers would not change substantially, wildlife that use this habitat would not be substantially affected.	Less than significant	The temporary short-term (3 years) reduction of flows due to reduced orders by IID would mimic dry year conditions and would not permanently reduce acreages of habitat within the rivers. Any reduction in acreages of habitat would be reversed when flow volumes rebound in 2027.	N/A	Less than significant

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BR – 14: Installation of seepage recovery systems could remove tamarisk scrub and affect associated wildlife	No Mitigation. The plant species composition of the seepage communities adjacent to the East Highline Canal is diverse and varies substantially among the seepage areas. Arrowweed, common reed, and tamarisk are the most common species in the seepage communities, with mesquite, cattails, and cottonwoods in some areas. The reduction in acreage of seepage communities has the potential to affect migratory songbirds that use these habitats. However, most of the vegetation consists of tamarisk, which is of limited value to migratory songbirds, and is present in dense stands along rivers and in other locations throughout the region (Guers and Flannery 2000). Furthermore, the potential loss of seepage community vegetation constitutes only 10 percent of the available seepage community vegetation. As only a small amount of the seepage community vegetation would be lost, and the habitat is dominated by non-native plant species, the loss of seepage community vegetation is a less-than-significant impact to wildlife and wildlife habitat.	Less than significant. no impact if only on-farm or fallowing methods are used.	The Proposed Action does not include the installation of seepage recovery systems and therefore will not affect Tamarisk scrub habitat.	N/A	N/A
BR – 15: Reservoir construction could remove Tamarisk Scrub and affect associated wildlife	The small loss of tamarisk potentially resulting from this Project would not adversely affect wildlife or wildlife habitat.	Less than significant	The Proposed Action does not include any proposed ground disturbing construction activities; therefore, BR-15 will not apply.	N/A	N/A
BR – 16: Installation of on-farm irrigation system measures could affect wildlife using agricultural fields	No Mitigation. As described previously, installing on-farm irrigation system improvements could remove a small amount of agricultural field habitat, depending on the improvements implemented, and presents a minor potential for disturbance of wildlife. However, because agricultural field habitat is abundant in the Imperial Valley, the potential loss of some agricultural land is considered a less-than-significant impact to wildlife and wildlife habitat.	Less than significant	The Proposed Action does not include any proposed ground disturbing construction activities; therefore, BR-16 will not apply.	N/A	N/A
BR – 17: Operation of on-farm water conservation measures could affect wildlife using agricultural fields	No Mitigation. Farmers' water conservation practices would not change irrigation practices in a manner that would reduce habitat suitability for wildlife. A given crop consumes a certain amount of water. This consumptive use would not change with water conservation, and a given crop would need to be irrigated at the same frequency as under existing irrigation practices. The water conservation techniques would reduce the amount of tailwater (i.e., surface water that runs off the field), not the amount of water consumed by the crops. Also, except for drip irrigation systems, the water conservation techniques improve the efficiency of surface irrigation, rather than change how the crop is irrigated. For example, tailwater return systems collect and store water from a flood-irrigated field for use in subsequent flood irrigations. The improved efficiencies would reduce the amount of water leaving the field as tailwater. Thus, on-farm irrigation system improvements would not change the suitability of agricultural fields as foraging habitat.	No impact	The temporary short-term (3 years) reduction of active agriculture would temporarily reduce on-farm habitats used by wildlife. Wildlife would access actively farmed lands in close proximity.	N/A	No impact
BR – 18: Installation of system-based water conservation could reduce the acreage of agricultural fields and affect associated wildlife	No Mitigation. These activities could remove about 8,630 acres of agricultural field habitat. Relative to the entire irrigated area of Imperial Valley that covers about 500,000 acres, this potential loss constitutes about 1.7 percent of the agricultural land. Construction would not occur in agricultural fields under active production so the potential for disturbance of species using this habitat would be minor. Because agricultural field habitat is abundant in the Imperial Valley, the potential loss of some agricultural land is considered a less-than-significant impact to wildlife and wildlife habitat.	Less than significant	The Proposed Action does not include any proposed ground disturbing construction activities; therefore, BR-18 will not apply.	N/A	N/A
BR – 19: Fallowing could reduce the acreage of agricultural fields and affect associated wildlife	No Mitigation. Fallowing could reduce the acreage of irrigated agriculture available in the IID water service area at any one time. If only Fallowing is used to conserve water, about 50,000 acres of land would be needed. This acreage represents about 10 percent of the irrigated area in the IID water service area. Even with this reduction, agricultural field habitat would remain abundant in the IID water service area, consisting of about 450,000 acres. Because agricultural field habitat is abundant in the Imperial Valley, the potential loss of some agricultural land is considered a less-than- significant impact to wildlife and wildlife habitat. This potential effect would not occur if only on-farm irrigation system and water delivery system improvements are used to conserve water.	Less than significant.	The temporary short-term (3 years) reduction of active agriculture would temporarily reduce on-farm habitats used by wildlife. Wildlife would access actively farmed lands in close proximity.	N/A	Less than significant
BR – 20: Fallowing would not change the amount of desert habitat	No Mitigation. The likelihood of desert plants becoming reestablished would be influenced by the proximity of the retired land to desert habitat, soil conditions, and rainfall among others. Land retired for short periods of time probably would not be colonized by desert plants. Some fields in the Imperial Valley that have been out of agricultural production for many years do not support vegetation. The limited amount of vegetation that has developed consists of ruderal species rather than native desert plant species. Thus, Fallowing would not change the amount of desert habitat or otherwise affect wildlife associated with desert habitats.	No impact.	The temporary short-term (3 years) reduction of active agriculture would temporarily reduce on-farm habitats used by wildlife. Wildlife would access actively farmed lands in close proximity.	N/A	No Impact
BR – 21: Reduced flows in the drain could affect fish and aquatic habitat	Reductions in flows (and resulting decreases in water depths) could make fish residing in the drains more vulnerable to predation by fish-eating birds. The overall impact of this potential increase in predation, however, is moderated by the generally high turbidity of drainwater and thus the low visibility of fish in the drains. Reductions in the amount or	Less than significant	Similar to the conclusions in the EIR/EIS, the temporary short-term (3 years) reduction of flows in drains would not affect aquatic habitat or species in drains because water would remain available under	N/A	Less than significant

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	quality of aquatic habitat as a result of flow reductions in the drains not emptying to the Salton Sea would affect only aquatic invertebrates and non- native fish (e.g., tilapia, mosquitofish, and carp) that periodically inhabit these drains. No special-status species inhabit the drains emptying to the New and Alamo Rivers. Desert pupfish (a state- and federal-listed species) inhabit drains emptying directly to the Salton Sea and are not found in the New or Alamo Rivers or their drains. Impacts to desert pupfish, resulting from the Proposed Project, are discussed under Impact BR-24.		current conditions. By-pass flows may be reduced, but aquatic species in drains would not be adversely affected compared with existing flow variability. Any reduction in aquatic habitat would be reversed when flow volumes rebound in 2027.		
BR – 22: Water quality changes in the drains and rivers could affect fish and aquatic habitat	No Mitigation. The increase in selenium concentrations could reduce reproductive success of fish in the drains and rivers. The Proposed Project also would increase the miles of drains, with average salinity levels exceeding 4,000 mg/L. Except for desert pupfish, which inhabit drains that discharge directly to the Sea, all the fish in the drains and rivers are introduced species. A potential for reduced reproductive success of fish in the rivers and drains is not considered a significant impact to fish resources, because all the species are introduced species. Impacts to desert pupfish are addressed separately under Impact BR-24.	Less than significant	Similar to the conclusions in the EIR/EIS, the temporary short-term (3 years) reduction of flows in drains would not affect water quality in drains because water would remain available under current conditions.	N/A	Less than significant
BR – 23: Reduced flows in the rivers could affect fish and aquatic habitat	Fish populations in the New and Alamo Rivers are probably limited by food availability and water quality rather than by flow. The anticipated reductions in flows at the upper level of conservation would not significantly reduce the amount of fish habitat or limit fish productivity in the rivers. Reductions in the amount or quality of aquatic habitat as a result of flow reductions in the New and Alamo Rivers would affect only aquatic invertebrates and non-native fish. Therefore, impacts from flow reductions would be less than significant.	Less than significant	The temporary short-term (3 years) reduction of flows due to reduced orders by IID would mimic dry year conditions and would not permanently reduce acreages of habitat within rivers. Any reduction in aquatic habitat would be reversed when flow volumes rebound in 2027.	N/A	Less than significant
BR – 24: Reduced flows in the drains could affect desert pupfish	The changes in flow and water quality in the drains discharging directly to the Sea and supporting pupfish constitute a potentially significant impact of the water conservation and transfer component of the Proposed Project. However, implementation of the HCP component of the Proposed Project would reduce this potential impact to less than significant (see Impact BR – 38).	Less than significant with implementation of the HCP	The temporary short-term (3 years) reduction of flows in drains would not alter water quality or habitat availability due to the temporary reductions. The reductions would mimic natural dry year conditions due to climate variability. By-pass flows may be reduced, but aquatic species in drains would not be adversely affected compared with existing flow variability. Any reduction in drain habitat would be reversed when flow volumes rebound in 2027. Mitigation implemented by IID for QSA. No additional mitigation required.	N/A	Less than significant
BR – 25: Construction of system-based measures could affect Razorback suckers	Under the Proposed Project, the amount of water in the conveyance system would be reduced by 300 KAFY. Although the volume of water would be reduced, this reduction would not affect the amount of aquatic habitat in the canal system because the water surface elevation in the conveyance system is tightly controlled to maximize hydroelectric power generation and efficient delivery of irrigation water. Installation of some water delivery system improvements (e.g., canal lining) would require dewatering the canal. In accord with the HCP, a qualified biologist will be on-site when canals are dewatered. If razorback suckers are found in the canal when it is dewatered, they will be captured and returned to LCR. Thus, adverse impacts to razorback suckers would be avoided.	Less than significant with implementation of the HCP	The Proposed Action does not include any proposed ground disturbing construction activities; therefore, BR-25 will not apply. Mitigation implemented by IID for QSA. No additional mitigation required.	N/A	Less than significant
BR – 26: Water quality changes in the drains could affect special-status species	Assuming water conservation using on-farm irrigation-system and water delivery system improvements, the Proposed Project would decrease the concentration of pesticides in drainwater (as associated with TSS and sediment-associated contaminants), benefiting the special-status species associated with drain habitat, but the concentration of selenium, salinity, and dissolved constituents in the drains would increase relative to the Baseline. If no change in water quality conditions, as explained for Alternative 4. Thus, the magnitude of water quality changes under the Proposed Project would depend on the amount of water conserved through Fallowing. Nevertheless, the increase in selenium concentration that would occur with conservation using on-farm irrigation system and/or water delivery system improvements is a potentially significant impact of the water conservation and transfer component of the Proposed Project on special-status species. However, implementation of the HCP component of the Proposed Project would reduce this potential impact to less than significant. The HCP (Appendix C) contains a more detailed evaluation of the effects of implementing the HCP on special-status species.	Less than significant with implementation of the HCP	The temporary short-term (3 years) reduction of flows in drains would not alter water quality due to the temporary reductions. By-pass flows may be reduced, but aquatic species in drainages would not be adversely affected compared with existing flow variability. Any reduction in drain habitat would be reversed when flow volumes rebound in 2027. Mitigation implemented by IID for QSA. No additional mitigation required.	N/A	Less than significant
BR – 27: Changes in drain habitat could affect special-status species	The predicted reduction in cattails could adversely affect Yuma clapper rails and other special-status species using the drains. This effect constitutes a potentially significant impact of the water conservation and transfer component of the Proposed Project. In addition to changes in physical habitat, increased selenium concentration in the drains under the Proposed Project could adversely affect Yuma clapper rails and other special-status species using the drains. These potential effects are addressed under Impact BR –	Less than significant with implementation of the HCP	The temporary short-term (3 years) reduction of flows due to reduced orders by IID would mimic dry year conditions and would not permanently reduce acreages of habitat within drains that are occupied by special status species. Any reduction in drain habitat would be reversed when flow volumes	N/A	Less than significant

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	26. These water quality changes also are a potentially significant impact of the water conservation and transfer component of the Proposed Project. However, implementation of the HCP component of the Proposed Project would reduce these potential impacts to less than significant (see Impact BR – 32). The HCP (Appendix C) contains a more detailed evaluation of the effects of implementing the HCP on special-status species associated with drain habitat.		rebound in 2027. Mitigation implemented by IID for QSA. No additional mitigation required.		
BR – 28: Changes in the Tamarisk Scrub habitat could affect special-status species	The Proposed Project would not significantly reduce the availability of tamarisk scrub supported by the agricultural drains or along the New and Alamo Rivers as a result of changes in flow or water quality. Installation of seepage recovery systems and lateral interceptors could eliminate about 58 acres of tamarisk scrub habitat. This small reduction in tamarisk scrub would not significantly adversely affect special-status species because (1) tamarisk is common and abundant throughout the project area, (2) tamarisk is of limited habitat quality, and (3) none of the special-status species depend on this habitat.	No Impact	The Proposed Action does not include any proposed ground disturbing construction activities, or installation of seepage recovery systems; therefore, BR-28 will not apply.	N/A	No Impact
BR – 29: Water conservation practices could affect special-status species associated with agricultural fields	No Mitigation. As explained under Impacts BR-16, BR-18, and BR -19, installation of on-farm irrigation system and water delivery system improvements or fallowing would not substantially reduce the availability of agricultural lands in the IID water service area. Thus, the Proposed Project would not significantly affect special-status species associated with agricultural fields. Section 3.8 of the HCP (Appendix C) provides a species-by-species evaluation of the impacts of the Proposed Project on special-status species associated with agricultural fields in the IID water service area.	Less than significant	The temporary short-term (3 years) reduction of active agriculture would temporarily reduce on-farm habitats used by wildlife. Wildlife would access actively farmed lands in close proximity.	N/A	Less than significant
BR – 30: Water conservation practices could affect special-status species associated with desert habitat	The only features of the Proposed Project that could affect desert habitat would be water delivery system improvements involving construction (e.g., canal lining, reservoirs) along the canals adjacent to desert habitat. No regulating reservoirs, mid-lateral reservoirs, or canal lining are proposed along these canals. Seepage recovery systems could be installed along the East Highline Canal, but these systems would be constructed on the agricultural field side of the canal. Thus, no construction activities required for the water delivery system improvements would occur in desert habitat, and no significant impacts to special-status species would occur as a result of the water conservation and transfer component of the Proposed Project.	No Impact	The Proposed Action does not include any proposed ground disturbing construction activities, or installation of seepage recovery systems; therefore, BR-30 will not apply.	N/A	No Impact
BR – 31: Water conservation practices could affect burrowing owls.	No Mitigation. Fallowing could be used to generate a portion of the water conserved under the Proposed Project. As explained in more detail for Alternative 4 under Impact A4-BR-13, Fallowing has the potential to reduce the availability of insects on which burrowing owls prey. If fallowed fields are concentrated in a few areas, potentially, owls would abandon territories adjacent to fallowed fields. Because Fallowing would be only one of many methods used to conserve water under the Proposed Project and because owls are not limited by prey availability in the Imperial Valley, the amount of land fallowed would not reduce prey populations to a level that would be expected to cause owls to abandon territories. The HCP (Appendix C) contains a more detailed evaluation of the effects of implementing various water conservation activities and the HCP on burrowing owls.	Less than significant	The temporary short-term (3 years) reduction of active agriculture would temporarily reduce on-farm habitats used by wildlife. Wildlife would access actively farmed lands in close proximity.	N/A	Less than significant
HCP-BR – 32: Creation of managed marsh habitat would benefit wildlife associated with drain habitat	With implementation of the HCP component, the Proposed Project would have beneficial effects on special-status species associated with drain habitat. Section 3.5 Drain Habitat Conservation Strategy of the HCP (Appendix C) provides additional information on the effects of implementing the Drain Habitat Conservation Strategy on habitat conditions for species associated with drain habitat and the responses of special-status species.	Beneficial impact	This impact does not apply to the Proposed Action.	N/A	N/A
HCP-BR – 33: Creation of managed marsh could decrease agricultural field habitat	This potential reduction in agricultural field habitat would not significantly affect species using this habitat for two reasons. First, 652 acres constitutes a small amount (about 0.1 percent) of the total agricultural area in the IID water service area. Even with consideration of the potential loss of agricultural field habitat from other aspects of the Proposed Project (e.g., installation of tailwater return systems), agricultural land would remain abundant. Secondly, some of the species using agricultural fields also would use managed marsh habitat (e.g., white-faced ibis), resulting in no net loss of habitat value.	No impact	This impact does not apply to the Proposed Action.	N/A	N/A
HCP-BR – 34: Creation of native tree habitat could benefit wildlife associated with Tamarisk Scrub	By compensating for tamarisk scrub permanently lost with native tree habitat, species associated with tamarisk scrub would benefit from higher habitat quality. Section 3.4, Tamarisk Scrub Habitat Conservation Strategy of the HCP, provides additional information on the effects of implementing the Tamarisk Scrub Habitat Conservation Strategy on habitat conditions for species associated with tamarisk and the responses of special-status species.	Beneficial impact	This impact does not apply to the Proposed Action..	N/A	N/A
HCP-BR – 35: The desert habitat conservation strategy would avoid impacts to	Species not associated with desert habitat would not be affected by measures implemented under the Desert Habitat Conservation Strategy.	No impact	This impact does not apply to the Proposed Action..	N/A	N/A

QSA EIR Impacts	QSA EIR Mitigation	QSA EIR Significance after Mitigation	DRAFT Proposed Action - Impacts	Proposed Mitigation	TCRCP Significance After Mitigation
wildlife associated with desert habitat	Section 3.6, Desert Habitat Conservation Strategy of the HCP, provides additional information on the effects of implementing this strategy on desert habitat and the responses of special-status species.				
HCP-BR – 36: Avoidance measures would benefit burrowing owls	Implementation of the HCP would minimize adverse impacts associated with these activities while perpetuating aspects of the IID water service area's activities that benefit owls. The Burrowing Owl Conservation Strategy would contribute to the persistence of burrowing owls in the Imperial Valley and thereby further benefit the species. Section 3.7.1, Burrowing Owls of the HCP, discusses the effects of implementing this strategy on burrowing owls.	Beneficial impact	This impact does not apply to the Proposed Action.	N/A	N/A
HCP-BR – 37: Avoidance measures of burrowing owl conservation strategy would benefit other special-status species	The Burrowing Owl Conservation Strategy includes requirements to avoid construction activities and certain earth-disturbing O&M activities along the drains and canals during the owl's breeding period, if occupied burrows would be affected. If other species breed nearby, they would similarly benefit from the avoidance measure for burrowing owls.	Beneficial impact	This impact does not apply to the Proposed Action..	N/A	N/A
HCP-BR – 38: Desert pupfish conservation strategy would increase habitat for pupfish	With implementation of the HCP component, the Proposed Project would benefit desert pupfish. Section 3.7.2, Desert Pupfish of the HCP, discusses the response of desert pupfish to the HCP measures.	Beneficial impact	This impact does not apply to the Proposed Action..	N/A	N/A
HCP-BR – 39: Increased habitat from the desert pupfish conservation strategy would benefit other special-status species	The Desert Pupfish Conservation Strategy includes maintaining the existing amount of desert pupfish habitat and increasing the amount of pupfish habitat as the elevation of the Salton Sea recedes. So, this Strategy would contribute to maintaining and increasing the amount of drain habitat, benefiting species associated with drain habitat, both those with and without special state or federal status.	Beneficial impact	This impact does not apply to the Proposed Action..	N/A	N/A
HCP-BR – 40: HCP measures would avoid impacts to Razorback Suckers	Under the HCP, IID would salvage razorback suckers found when canals are dewatered and transport the fish to the LCR for release. As a result of this action, significant impacts to razorback suckers would be avoided.	No Impact	This impact does not apply to the Proposed Action..	N/A	No Impact
Salton Sea					
BR – 41: Reduced drain flows could affect adjacent wetlands dominated by cattail/bulrush vegetation	No Mitigation. The Salton Sea database identifies 217 acres of adjacent wetlands dominated by cattails and bulrushes. In the IID water service area, the Salton Sea database identifies three parcels dominated by cattails: one on the southwestern edge (35 acres) and two on the southern edge (32 acres). A fourth parcel on the eastern edge of the Sea is dominated by bulrushes (17 acres). The remaining 133 acres identified as adjacent wetland dominated by cattail or bulrush are adjacent to the northwestern area of the Salton Sea in CVWD's service area. Because cattails and bulrush cannot tolerate saline water, these areas must be supported by a freshwater source (i.e., drainwater from CVWD or IID). The Proposed Project would increase freshwater flows in drains in the CVWD service area and would potentially increase freshwater flows to the 133-acre adjacent wetland in the CVWD service area. The remaining three areas identified as adjacent wetlands are misclassified in the Salton Sea database. The first parcel of 35 acres is a managed duck club and does not meet the definition of an adjacent wetland (i.e., unmanaged areas). Of the two parcels totaling 32 acres, one is an IID drain, and the other is a marsh managed by USFWS. The drain parcel is managed by IID as part of its drainage system; impacts to drain vegetation are addressed under Impact BR- 10. The other parcel managed by USFWS does not meet the definition of an adjacent wetland (i.e., unmanaged areas). Habitat values of the parcel managed by USFWS and the duck club would not change with implementation of the Proposed Project; therefore, the two parcels would not be affected. The last parcel encompassing 17 acres is sustained by runoff from CDFG's managed marsh area in the Wister Unit. Because CDFG would not change management of marsh areas in the Wister Unit under the Proposed Project, the amount of water leaving the Wister Unit and supporting the 17-acre parcel would not change. Therefore, this parcel would not be affected under the Proposed Project.	No impact	The temporary short-term (3 years) reduction of flows due to reduced orders by IID would mimic dry year conditions and would not permanently reduce acreages of habitat adjacent to the Salton Sea including the emerging wetlands on the newly exposed playa. By-pass flows may be reduced, but flows would still reach the Salton Sea after flowing through adjacent wetland habitats. Any reduction of emerging wetland areas resulting from reduced flows would be reversed when flow volumes rebound in 2027.	N/A	No impact
BR – 42: Reduced sea elevation could affect the acreage of adjacent wetlands dominated by tamarisk and shoreline strand	No Mitigation. The extent to which the water surface elevation of the Sea contributes to supporting this community is uncertain. Depending on the relationship between the water surface elevation of the Sea and maintenance of the shoreline strand and adjacent wetlands, water conservation under the Proposed Project could change the amount of tamarisk scrub habitat in shoreline strand and adjacent wetland areas. There is, however, uncertainty about the extent and likelihood of these possible changes. As the Sea recedes, tamarisk could establish at lower elevations, replacing habitat lost at high elevations. Alternatively, it has been suggested that tamarisk will not establish in areas exposed by a receding sea level because of excessive soil salinity (Reclamation and SSA 2000). In areas where drainwater or shallow groundwater is the predominant water source, no change in tamarisk-dominated adjacent wetlands is expected. It is not possible to predict the	Less than significant	The temporary short-term (3 years) reduction of flows due to reduced orders by IID would mimic dry year conditions and would not permanently reduce acreages of habitat adjacent to the Salton Sea including the emerging wetlands on the newly exposed playa. By-pass flows may be reduced, but flows would still reach the Salton Sea after flowing through adjacent wetland habitats. Any reduction of emerging wetland areas resulting from reduced	N/A	Less than significant

QSA EIR Impacts	QSA EIR Mitigation	QSA EIR Significance after Mitigation	DRAFT Proposed Action - Impacts	Proposed Mitigation	TCRCP Significance After Mitigation
	magnitude of changes in tamarisk in shoreline strand and adjacent wetland areas. Although it is not possible to predict the magnitude of change in the tamarisk adjacent to the Salton Sea, a reduction in the amount would not be anticipated to cause a significant impact because (1) tamarisk is an invasive, non-native species of poor habitat quality for wildlife and (2) no special-status species depend on tamarisk. Implementation of the Salton Sea Conservation Strategy under the HCP component of the Proposed Project would further ensure that no significant impacts occur.		flows would be reversed when flow volumes rebound in 2027.		
BR – 43: Increased salinity would change invertebrate resources in the Salton sea	In accord with the significance criteria, because no invertebrates are candidate, sensitive, or special-status species, the acceleration in the changes in the invertebrate community of the Salton Sea is not a significant impact (less than significant). Regardless of the Proposed Project, the Salton Sea is naturally transitioning to a more saline system, as has occurred at Mono Lake and the Great Salt Lake. The change in the composition of the invertebrate community in and of itself is not a significant impact but could significantly affect bird or fish resources through reduced food availability. These potential impacts are addressed separately under Impact BR-44.	Less than significant	The temporary short-term (3 years) reduction of flows in drains would not degrade water quality compared to the long-term (up to 75 years) reductions posed by the QSA. Increased salinity may accelerate during the short-term (3 years) period of reduced flows, but would not result in increased salinity compared to long term impacts identified in the EIR/EIS.	N/A	Less than significant
BR – 44: Changes in the invertebrate community could affect shorebirds and other waterbirds:	Mono Lake is designated as part of the Western Hemisphere Shorebird Network and is 1 of only 17 sites in the Western Hemisphere with this designation. The lake supports large numbers of migrating shorebirds. Wilson's and red-necked phalaropes are abundant with maximum counts of about 45,000 and 70,000, respectively (Jones & Stokes Associates 1993). Annual counts of eared grebes typically range from 600,000 to 900,000 (Jones & Stokes Associates 1993). Other abundant shorebird species identified by Point Reyes Bird Observatory during surveys conducted in late August 1989, 1990, and 1991 were American avocet (8,467), western sandpiper (4,043), and least sandpiper (1,408). Ruddy ducks also are common with Christmas bird counts typically in the range of 500 to 900. Other shorebird species in smaller numbers at Mono Lake include black-bellied plover, greater and lesser yellowlegs, long-billed curlews, black-necked stilts, semipalmated plover, and willets. The species of shorebirds that use Mono Lake also occur at the Salton Sea as migratory birds or winter residents (see Tables 3.2-19 and 3.2-20). Similarly, eared grebes and ruddy ducks are abundant at both Mono Lake and the Salton Sea. Given that the shorebird and waterbird (grebes and ruddy ducks) species that use the Sea also use Mono Lake, in which the brine flies and brine shrimp are the primary prey species, it is reasonable to expect that these species would similarly exploit brine flies and brine shrimp as they become the dominant invertebrate at the Salton Sea. Therefore, changes in the invertebrate community would have less-than-significant impacts on shorebirds and other waterbirds using this resource.	Less than significant	The temporary short-term (3 years) reduction of flows due to reduced orders by IID would mimic dry year conditions and would not permanently reduce acreages of habitat at the Salton Sea including the emerging wetlands on the newly exposed playa. Habitat may recede during the period of reduced flows but would rebound following resumption of flows in 2027 and would not result in reduced habitat acreage compared to long term impacts identified in the EIR/EIS.	N/A	Less than significant
BR – 45: Increased salinity would reduce fish resources in the Salton Sea	Under both the Baseline and the Proposed Project, the salinity of the Salton Sea would rise and exceed levels at which fish species inhabiting the Salton Sea could reproduce. For gulf croaker and tilapia, the thresholds could be exceeded up to 5 and 11 years earlier under the Proposed Project, resulting in earlier declines in these two species. This acceleration is considered a less-than-significant impact to fish resources for two reasons. First, the differences between when species-specific salinity thresholds would be exceeded are small (5 to 11 years). Second, based on the significance criteria, only effects to candidate, sensitive or special-status species or certain effects to native fish (e.g., nursery habitat, migratory routes) constitute significant biological impacts. Because all fish species are introduced, non- native species, the impacts are less than significant.	Less than significant	The temporary short-term (3 years) reduction of flows in drains would not degrade water quality compared to the long-term (up to 75 years) reductions posed by the QSA. Increased salinity may accelerate during the short-term (3 years) period of reduced flows but would not result in increased salinity compared to long term impacts identified in the EIR/EIS.	N/A	Less than significant
BR – 46: Reduced fish abundance would affect piscivorous birds	The projected changes in fish abundance would occur under both the Proposed Project and the Baseline. The Proposed Project would accelerate the changes in fish abundance and the subsequent response of piscivorous birds by about 11 years. The earlier occurrence of adverse effects to piscivorous birds is considered a significant, but avoidable, impact of the water conservation and transfer component of the Proposed Project. Implementation of the HCP component of the Proposed Project would reduce this impact to less than significant.	Less than significant with implementation of the HCP	The temporary short-term (3 years) reduction of flows in drains would not reduce habitat compared to the long-term (45-75 years) reductions posed by the QSA. Reduced fish abundance would be similar to long term impacts identified in the EIR/EIS.	N/A	Less than significant
BR – 47: Changes in selenium in the Salton Sea would not affect fish and birds	No Mitigation. The Proposed Project would decrease annual loading of selenium to the Salton Sea relative to the Baseline. However, selenium exhibits unusual behavior in the Salton Sea, concentrating in the sediment rather than the water column. Most selenium in the Sea is in sediments, and the sediments are the dominant source for exposure to aquatic organisms. It is not possible to predict the selenium concentrations in biota or specific environmental media that would occur with implementation of the Proposed Project. However, it is likely that the Sea will continue to maintain waterborne concentrations near the current level of 2 □g/L and would not change exposure of fish and birds to waterborne selenium. The Proposed Project would decrease the amount of selenium entering the Salton Sea relative to the Baseline and in that way reduce the annual accumulation of selenium in sediments. However, because of the large amount of selenium stored in Sea sediments, the slight reduction in selenium loading relative to the Baseline would not	No impact	As concluded in the EIR/EIS, reduced flows would reduce loading of selenium into the Salton Sea. The temporary short-term (3 years) reduction of flows in drains would not degrade water quality compared to the long-term (up to 75 years) reductions posed by the QSA.	N/A	No impact

QSA EIR Impacts	QSA EIR Mitigation	QSA EIR Significance after Mitigation	DRAFT Proposed Action - Impacts	Proposed Mitigation	TCRCP Significance After Mitigation
	substantially change the exposure of fish and birds to selenium in the sea, in general. Therefore, the Proposed Project would have no effect on exposure of fish and birds to selenium in the Salton Sea.				
BR – 48: Reduced sea elevation could affect colonial nest/roost sites	Herons and egrets, along with other species, nest in communal rookeries in trees, large shrubs, and snags around the Salton Sea. In general, these rookeries are found over water or in trees in marshes or on islands. However, they also occur over land. Like the nesting/roosting islands and islets described, snags probably are in only a few feet of water. As with the nesting/roosting islands, these snags would connect to the mainland under both the Proposed Project and the Baseline, occurring up to 7 years earlier under the Proposed Project. Because of the small temporal difference in the snags connecting to the mainland, and considering that herons and egrets nest and roost in snags that are not surrounded by water, the Proposed Project would not significantly affect communal rookeries in snags or trees at the Salton Sea.	Less than significant	The temporary short-term (3 years) reduction of flows in drains may accelerate the reduction in sea elevation, but would not alter the long term predictions of the Salton Sea elevation resulting from the long-term (up to 75 years) reductions posed by the QSA.	N/A	Less than significant
BR – 49: Reduced sea elevation could affect the availability of mudflat and shallow water habitat	No Mitigation. Under both the Proposed Project and Baseline, shallow water/mudflat habitat could be lost or reduced as the Sea recedes, but under both alternatives, new areas of shallow water/mudflat habitat also would be created as the Sea recedes. Because the magnitude and likelihood of changes in the amount and characteristics of shallow water/mudflat habitat, either positively or negatively, would not differ substantially between the Proposed Project and the Baseline, the Proposed Project would not significantly affect the availability of shallow water/mudflat habitat.	Less than significant	The temporary short-term (3 years) reduction of flows in drains may accelerate the reduction in sea elevation, but would not alter the long term predictions of the Salton Sea elevation resulting from the long-term (up to 75 years) reductions posed by the QSA.	N/A	Less than significant
BR – 50: Water quality changes could increase the incidence of avian disease outbreaks	No Mitigation. The links between lake enrichment, productivity, and bird disease are weak and ill-defined. Nevertheless, conditions contributing to avian disease outbreaks would persist under both the Baseline and Proposed Project. Relative to the Baseline, the Proposed Project would likely reduce phosphorus and sediment-associated loading, but nitrate loading would increase along with dissolved constituents in general. It is unknown what such a change in the mix of nutrient loads would have on lake productivity. Regardless, the lake is already highly eutrophic, and trophic states are not quantitatively linked to avian disease. As a result, a change in the mix of nutrient loading under the Proposed Project is not expected to increase the incidence of avian disease.	No impact	The temporary short-term (3 years) reduction of flows in drains would not alter the long term predictions of the Salton Sea water quality resulting from the long-term (up to 75 years) reductions posed by the QSA.	N/A	No impact
BR – 51: Increased salinity could isolate drains supporting desert pupfish	Desert pupfish have a high salinity tolerance. Using 90 g/L as the threshold for when pupfish could no longer move among drains via the Salton Sea (Salton Sea Science Subcommittee 1999), the salinity projections for the Baseline show that salinity of the Sea would not exceed 90 g/L in 75 years. Under the Proposed Project, with conservation of 300 KAFY the salinity of the Sea would exceed 90 g/L in 2022. At this salinity, the Sea could become intolerable to pupfish and prevent them from moving among drains. If the Sea becomes a barrier to pupfish, pupfish could be isolated in individual drains. Small, isolated populations are at risk of extinction because of environmental and genetic stochasticity. Ultimately, this condition also would occur under the Baseline, but at a later time. However, because of the large difference in when pupfish populations could be isolated between the Baseline and Proposed Project, this is a potentially significant impact of the water conservation and transfer component of the Proposed Project. However, implementation of the HCP component of the Proposed Project would reduce this impact to less than significant. Habitat Conservation Plan (Salton Sea Portion) • The Salton Sea Conservation Strategy of the HCP has several components to address potential impacts to biological resources at the Salton Sea. The strategy generally consists of measures to address the following: • Effects to piscivorous birds from an accelerated decline in fish abundance • Effects to nesting/roosting sites from an accelerated decline in water surface elevation • Effects to species associated with tamarisk scrub from greater magnitude and rate of decline in water surface elevation • Effects to pupfish from accelerated increase in salinity levels **Approach 2 from QSA was implemented:** <u>HCP (Salton Sea Portion) Approach 2: Use of Conserved Water as Mitigation</u> Under Approach 2, IID would conserve additional water (beyond that required for transfer) and use it as mitigation water to offset the inflow reduction to the Salton Sea. In this way, IID would avoid any changes in inflow to the Sea from conservation and transfer of water. Thus, changes in the salinity, surface elevation, and surface area of the Sea under Approach 2	Less than significant with implementation of the HCP Note: IID implemented Approach 2 instead of Approach 1, as detailed in the QSA. HCP1-BR-52 through 55 were not implemented following completion of the QSA EIR/EIS.	The temporary short-term (3 years) reduction of flows in drains would not degrade water quality compared to the long-term (up to 75 years) reductions posed by the QSA. Increased salinity may accelerate during the short-term (3 years) period of reduced flows but would not result in increased salinity compared to long term impacts identified in the EIR/EIS. This impact does not apply to the Proposed Action	N/A	Less than significant

QSA EIR Impacts	QSA EIR Mitigation	QSA EIR Significance after Mitigation	DRAFT Proposed Action - Impacts	Proposed Mitigation	TCRCP Significance After Mitigation
	would be the same as the No Project alternative. The response of biological resources to change in salinity and surface elevation would be the same as described for the No Project alternative. By avoiding changes in inflow to the Sea from water conservation, this approach would avoid impacts to biological resources of the Sea.				
HCP1-BR – 52: Maintenance of fish resources would benefit piscivorous birds	Under the Baseline, the abundance of tilapia is expected to decline in about 2023, when the salinity of the Sea is projected to exceed 60 g/L. At this point, as described previously under Impact BR – 46, use of the Salton Sea by piscivorous birds would be expected to decline. As noted, tilapia have been collected at a salinity as high as 120 g/L. Assuming that fish could be successfully stocked until the salinity of the Sea surpasses 120 g/L. Approach 1 could maintain tilapia (and therefore use by piscivorous birds) at the Salton Sea until about 2032, about 10 years longer than under the Baseline. Following the stocking program, IID would construct ponds to continue to provide fish. The ponds would be maintained through the end of the permit term unless a long-term restoration project was implemented. In combination with the fish hatchery, Approach 1 would provide certainty that foraging opportunities would be available at the Sea for 75 years. In contrast, under the Baseline, by the end of the 75-year period, the salinity is projected to be about 86 g/L, and with few fish expected to persist, use of the Salton Sea by piscivorous birds likely would be minimal. Implementation of Approach 1 would ensure that foraging habitat was available throughout the 75-year permit term and benefit piscivorous birds (beneficial impact). The HCP contains a species-by-species evaluation of the effects of Approach 1 on species proposed for coverage under the HCP.	Note: IID implemented Approach 2 instead of Approach 1, as detailed in the QSA. HCP1-BR-52 through 55 were not implemented following completion of the QSA EIR/EIS	This impact does not apply to the Proposed Action	N/A	N/A
HCP1-BR – 53: Creation of nesting/roosting islands would benefit Gull-billed Terns and Black skimmers	Under the Baseline, islands currently used by black skimmers, gull-billed terns, and other colonial birds are projected to become connected to the mainland by 2015. The islands created under Approach 1 would be located so they would not become connected to the mainland. Therefore, they would be available to black skimmers, gull-billed terns, and other birds for a longer period of time than under the Baseline, benefiting these species.	Note: IID implemented Approach 2 instead of Approach 1, as detailed in the QSA. HCP1-BR-52 through 55 were not implemented following completion of the QSA EIR/EIS	This impact does not apply to the Proposed Action	N/A	N/A
HCP1-BR – 54: Creation of native tree habitat could benefit wildlife associated with Tamarisk Scrub	Tamarisk scrub is poor quality habitat, and most of the species associated with tamarisk scrub in the Proposed Project area find optimal habitat in native riparian communities or mesquite bosque. By compensating for net loss in tamarisk scrub with native tree habitat, species associated with tamarisk scrub would benefit from the higher habitat quality of the replacement habitat.	Note: IID implemented Approach 2 instead of Approach 1, as detailed in the QSA. HCP1-BR-52 through 55 were not implemented following completion of the QSA EIR/EIS	This impact does not apply to the Proposed Action	N/A	N/A
HCP1-BR – 55: Maintenance of population connectivity would benefit desert pupfish	To avoid the potential for isolating pupfish populations in the drains, under the HCP, IID would ensure continued genetic exchange among populations. When the salinity of the Salton Sea reaches 90 g/L (or lower as determined by the HCP Implementation Team), IID would implement actions agreed to by USFWS and CDFG to ensure genetic interchange among the pupfish populations in the drains. In addition to ensuring connectivity among pupfish populations, IID would contribute to the recovery of desert pupfish by constructing and managing a Tier 3 refugium pond to support a population of pupfish consistent with the goals of the Desert Pupfish Recovery Plan (Marsh and Sada 1993). This pond would increase the overall desert pupfish population and decrease the risk of loss of genetic diversity and extinction.	Note: IID implemented Approach 2 instead of Approach 1, as detailed in the QSA. HCP1-BR-52 through 55 were not implemented following completion of the QSA EIR/EIS	This impact does not apply to the Proposed Action	N/A	N/A