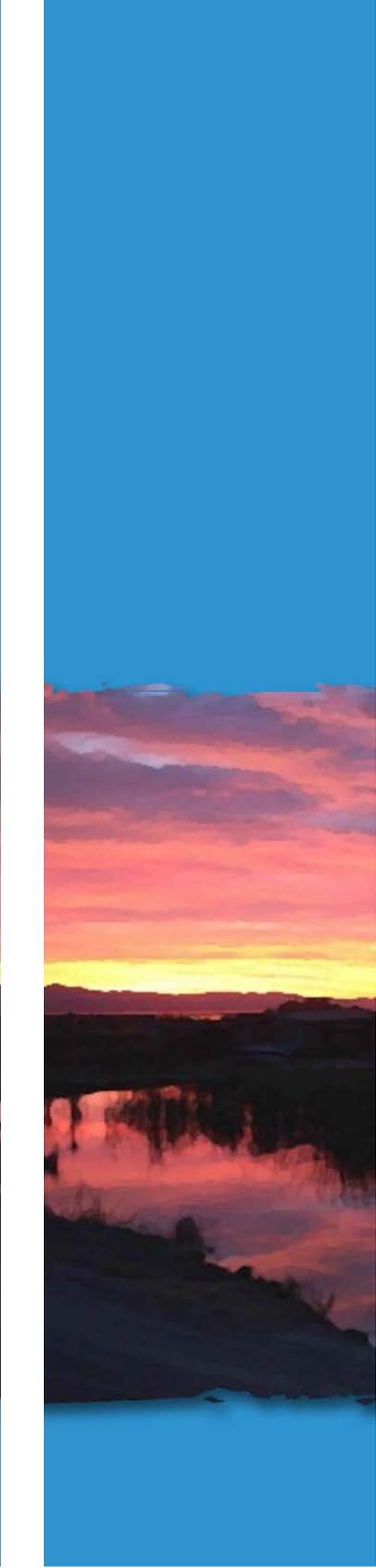


Section B

Introduction





B. Introduction

The California Environmental Quality Act (Public Resources Code section 2100, et seq.) (CEQA), and the CEQA Guidelines (California Code of Regulations, title 14, section 15000, et seq.), state that if a lead agency determines that a project may, or will, have significant impacts on the environment, the lead agency shall prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

The California Department of Boating and Waterways (DBW) (lead agency) prepared a Programmatic Environmental Impact Report (PEIR) for the Water Hyacinth Control Program (WHCP). These “Findings of Fact” are required because the certified Final PEIR for the WHCP identified one, or more, significant environmental impacts. These “Statement of Overriding Considerations” are necessary because the DBW has determined that though the project has potential significant, and unavoidable adverse impacts, the project benefits outweigh the potential adverse environmental impacts. For each of these required documents, the DBW is the lead agency making the findings and decision.

Section C of this volume provides a brief project description. Chapters 1 and 2 of the Final PEIR include a more detailed project history and description, respectively. Section D of this volume describes the process DBW followed in preparing the Final PEIR. Sections E through G of this volume describe the specific findings related to the WHCP. The specific impacts and program alternatives described in these three sections are described more fully in the Final PEIR. Section H of this volume provides the Statement of Overriding Considerations. Finally, Section I of this volume describes the DBW’s approach to mitigation monitoring and reporting.

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