

# Cover Sheet

## El Paso–Las Cruces Regional Sustainable Water Project

Draft       Final

### Joint Lead Agencies

United States Section, International  
Boundary and Water Commission,  
United States and Mexico (USIBWC)  
El Paso Water Utilities/Public Service  
Board (EPWU/PSB)

### Cooperating Agencies

U.S. Bureau of Land Management  
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation  
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

### Abstract

This Draft Environmental Impact Statement (Draft EIS) covers the proposed El Paso–Las Cruces Regional Sustainable Water Project in Doña Ana County, New Mexico, and El Paso County, Texas. There is a need to avoid potentially permanent impacts on the Mesilla and Hueco Bolsons and critical drinking water shortages in the El Paso–Las Cruces region. The Preferred Alternative (River with Local Plants) and the other four action alternatives (River with Year-Round Lower Plants, River with Combined Plant, Aqueduct with Local Plants, and Aqueduct with Combined Plant) would meet these needs by providing water treatment plants and associated facilities; aqueducts and diversion structures; aquifer storage and recovery; water acquisition; and fish and wildlife enhancements and mitigation. The No Action Alternative would not meet any

of these needs. Major environmental issues involve the following resource topics: water resources, land use, aquatic resources, vegetation resources, wildlife resources, transportation, environmental justice, and socioeconomics.

### Other Requirements Served

This Draft EIS is intended to serve other environmental review and consultation requirements pursuant to 40 CFR 1502.25(a).

### Draft EIS Contact

Comments on this Draft EIS should be directed to:

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### Date Draft EIS Made Available to EPA and the Public:

April 7, 2000

### Date by Which Comments on the Draft EIS Must be Received to be Considered in the Preparation of the Final EIS:

June 7, 2000

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