

1.0 Purpose

The purpose of the Project Viability Assessment (PVA) is to evaluate the technical, environmental, and financial feasibility of the LCRA-SAWS Water Project based on the information learned to date during the study period. Key activities and study findings are summarized, and interrelationships and dependencies between studies are highlighted. The PVA also summarizes potential risks and benefits associated with development and/or operation of the project.

The assessments in the 2007 PVA focus on a planning horizon that spans the duration of the LCRA-SAWS agreement, through 2090-2095. New scenarios of water delivery to SAWS of 95,000 and 120,000 acre-feet per year are analyzed in this PVA to provide a broad range of scenarios to evaluate. Building on information in the 2006 regional water plans, the project studies provide additional site-specific information. Looking forward, the majority of the studies will be completed in 2008 to facilitate preparation of permit applications in 2009.

Studies began in July 2004 to address key issues associated with the project, such as water quality, potential environmental effects, cost, and implementation of conservation and water supply development methods. The 2004 through 2006 PVAs provided updates of the project information originally developed in the state's regional water planning process. They also evaluated those factors most likely to affect the feasibility of the project based on the results from the first several years of the study period.

The 2007 PVA addresses the following, including additional information developed in the 2007 study effort:

- Project Overview – Section 2
- Summary of the Studies – Section 3
- Water Developed or Conserved (Yield) – Section 4
- Facility Siting (Engineering) – Section 5
- Environmental and Permitting Issues – Sections 6 and 7
- Study and Implementation Period Costs and Socioeconomic Evaluations – Sections 8, 9, and 10
- New studies exploring the potential implications of climate change on the project, uncertainty analysis, and water availability for the South Texas Plant – Section 11