

## Background Information

### 1. What is an environmental impact statement and what is its purpose?

**Definition:** EIS is a document that describes the effects of the proposed project on the environment. It is a process that is required by law for all major federal actions that significantly affect the environment. The purpose of an EIS is to provide decision-makers with the information they need to understand the potential impacts of the proposed project and to make informed decisions about whether to approve the project and what conditions should be attached to any approval.

The purpose of the EIS is to provide decision-makers with the information they need to understand the potential impacts of the proposed project and to make informed decisions about whether to approve the project and what conditions should be attached to any approval.

The EIS also helps to identify and avoid, minimize, and compensate for adverse effects. It also helps to identify and avoid, minimize, and compensate for adverse effects. It also helps to identify and avoid, minimize, and compensate for adverse effects.

The purpose of the EIS is to provide decision-makers with the information they need to understand the potential impacts of the proposed project and to make informed decisions about whether to approve the project and what conditions should be attached to any approval.



FIGURE 1. A large dam in a flat landscape.