

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

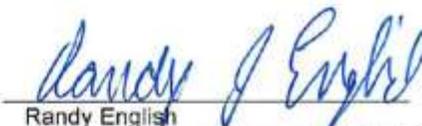
Antioch Community Park Soccer Field Improvements

EA 12-031

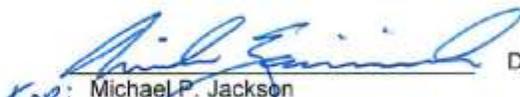
Recommended by:

 Date: 9/25/12
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 Date: 9/25/12
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Approved by:

 Date: 9/25/12
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Introduction

In accordance with section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, the South-Central California Area Office of the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), has determined that an environmental impact statement is not required for the Antioch Community Park Soccer Field Improvements project. This Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) is supported by Reclamation's Environmental Assessment (EA) Number 12-031, Antioch Community Park Soccer Field Improvements, and is hereby incorporated by reference.

No formal public review of an EA/FONSI is required—only public notice. Reclamation determined that a public review period and solicitation for comments was unnecessary for this project based on the lack of potentially adverse impacts to the environment and the project's overall benefit to the community.

Background

The East Bay Regional Park District (EBRPD) provides and manages the regional parks in Contra Costa and Alameda counties and is the primary provider of regional park facilities and activities in both counties. EBRPD's regional park system consists of over 112,000 acres including 65 parks and over 1,200 miles of trails for hiking, biking, horseback riding and nature study (<http://www.ebparks.org/>). EBRPD has a Management Agreement with the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) for the operation and maintenance of the Contra Loma Regional Park at Contra Loma Reservoir (a Reclamation facility).

The City of Antioch owns and administers 28 parks, which vary in size and amenities. The EBRPD and the City of Antioch have entered into an agreement where the City of Antioch has a license to utilize 47.9 acres of the Contra Loma Regional Park as a community park and sports complex known as the Antioch Community Park. The City of Antioch desires to improve the soccer field portion of the Antioch Community Park.

Proposed Action

Reclamation's action is to provide approval to EBRPD for improvements to the Antioch Community Park soccer fields, pursuant to the terms and conditions of the Management Agreement.

The improvements include the following:

- Grading of the site would take place to convert the existing soccer fields from a non-traditional cross pitch to a traditional crowned design;
- A new rock drainage system would be installed below the soccer fields to increase percolation and improve drainage of storm water;
- Swales and catch basins would be installed within the limits of the existing soccer fields to collect storm water runoff from the adjacent hillsides;
- New synthetic turf would replace the natural turf soccer field surfaces. The approximate area that these fields cover is 164,500 square feet;

- Approximately 10 existing trees in the existing landscaped area north of fields would be removed and replaced at a 3:1 ratio;
- Three black ornamental fences would be installed: 1) 1,840 linear feet of Type One 8 foot fence 2), 180 linear feet of Type Two 6 foot fence and 3) 240 linear feet of 8 foot fence with 16 foot soccer netting;
- Accessible access paths would be added to the site to allow access to the fields from the parking lot and the existing park walkway system;
- A new electrical/storage building with a footprint of approximately 9 feet by 12 feet would be constructed adjacent to the fields and along one of the new access paths;
- There would be 8 poles with a height of 70 feet having footings 12 feet deep installed for new field lights and security cameras within the existing field boundaries. Electrical connection would involve underground boring done from the western parking lot where the lines would enter a small electrical/storage building where they would be trenched to the light poles.

All construction-related disturbance would occur within the footprint of the existing turf fields without encroachment into the adjacent natural grassland areas to the south and west. The equipment and materials would be staged/stored in the existing eastern parking lot adjacent to the two existing soccer fields. All construction would conform to the existing soccer field footprint. Construction is scheduled to begin in the Fall of 2012 and would take place over an approximate 40 working day period. Construction equipment would utilize graders, backhoes, paving equipment, dump trucks, and specialized construction equipment for lighting and fencing. Materials removed during construction would be taken to an appropriate landfill by the contractor.

Environmental Commitments

The City of Antioch shall implement the following environmental protection commitments to reduce environmental consequences associated with the Action (Table 1). Environmental consequences for resource areas assume the commitments specified would be fully implemented.

Table 1 Environmental Commitments

Resource	Summary of Environmental Commitments	Timeframe for Implementation
<p>Air Quality</p>	<p>1. All exposed surfaces (e.g., parking areas, staging areas, soil piles, graded areas, and unpaved roads) shall be watered two times per day. 2. All haul trucks transporting soil, sand, or other loose material off-site shall be covered. 3. All visible mud or dirt track-out onto adjacent public roads shall be removed using wet power vacuum street sweepers at least once per day. The use of dry power sweeping is prohibited. 4. All vehicle speeds on unpaved roads shall be limited to 15 mph. 5. All roadways, driveways, and sidewalks to be paved shall be completed as soon as possible. Building pads shall be laid as soon as possible after grading unless seeding or soil binders are used. 6. Idling times shall be minimized either by shutting equipment off when not in use or reducing the maximum idling time to 5 minutes (as required by the California airborne toxics control measure Title 13, Section 2485 of California Code of Regulations. Clear signage shall be provided for construction workers at all access points. 7. All construction equipment shall be maintained and properly tuned in accordance with manufacturer's specifications. All equipment shall be checked by a certified visible emissions evaluator. 8. Post a publicly visible sign with the telephone number and person to contact at the lead agency regarding dust complaints. This person shall respond and take corrective action within 48 hours. The Air District's phone number shall also be visible to ensure compliance with applicable regulations.</p> <p>(Source: Bay Area Air Quality Management District Air Quality Guidelines)</p>	<p>Construction Phase</p>
<p>Noise</p>	<p>Compliance to the City of Anitoch's Construction Activity Noise Ordinance 5-17.05 is required including:</p> <p>(A) It shall be unlawful for any person to be involved in construction activity during the hours specified below:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (1) On weekdays prior to 7:00 a.m. and after 6:00 p.m. (2) On weekdays within 300 feet of occupied dwellings, prior to 8:00 a.m. and after 5:00 p.m. (3) On weekends and holidays, prior to 9:00 a.m. and after 5:00 p.m., irrespective of the distance from the occupied dwellings. <p>(B) In addition to the penalties provided by this code, authorized employees may issue "Stop Work Orders" when a violation of this section or § 5-17.04 has occurred. If such a Stop Work Order is issued, it shall not be released until the holder of the building permit provides assurance that future violations will not occur.</p>	<p>Construction Phase</p>
<p>Biological Resources</p>	<p>A qualified biologist shall conduct pre-construction nesting bird surveys at each tree that will be removed. If nesting birds are found in the trees, removal shall be postponed until the young have fledged or until the nest is no longer in use.</p>	<p>Construction Phase</p>

Resource	Summary of Environmental Commitments	Timeframe for Implementation
Biological Resources	Before any ground disturbing activities for the proposed project are begun, a preconstruction survey for the California tiger salamander shall be conducted by a qualified biologist. Documentation of the survey shall be transmitted to Reclamation's environmental staff and no work shall commence until that information is reviewed and notification of permission to proceed is provided by a Reclamation biologist.	Construction Phase
Biological Resources	Before any ground-disturbing construction activities for the proposed project begin on the project site, a qualified biologist shall conduct focused surveys for burrowing owls in areas of suitable habitat on and within 250 feet of the project construction footprint. Surveys shall be repeated if a two-day or longer lapse in project construction activities occurs. Surveys shall be conducted as detailed in the DFG staff report and Burrowing Owl Consortium Guidelines to avoid direct take.	Construction Phase
Biological Resources	If no occupied burrows are found in the survey area, a letter report documenting survey methods and findings will be submitted to Reclamation at least 5 days before construction.	Construction Phase
Biological Resources	If occupied burrowing owl burrows are found prior to initiating construction, impacts will be minimized by establishing a buffer around the burrow of 160 feet during the non-breeding season (September 1 through January 31). During the breeding season (February 1 through August 31), impacts will be minimized by establishing a buffer around the burrow of 250 feet for all project-related construction activities until a qualified biologist confirms that the nest is no longer active. Active nests will be monitored by a qualified biologist to determine when the young have fledged and are feeding on their own. Reclamation will be consulted for clearance before construction activities resume with a non-disturbance buffer.	Construction Phase
Biological Resources	If a burrowing owl is observed at the construction site at any time during construction, then exclusion fencing will be used to establish a safe buffer area until the animal moves out of the construction.	Construction Phase
Biological Resources	To prevent inadvertent entrapment of wildlife during construction, all excavated, steep-walled holes or trenches more than one foot deep will be covered at the close of each working day by plywood or similar materials, or provided with one or more escape ramps constructed of earth fill or wooden planks with a slope of 2:1. Before such holes or trenches are filled, they will be thoroughly inspected for trapped animals. If at any time wildlife is found trapped or injured, Reclamation must be contacted immediately.	Construction Phase
Biological Resources	All construction pipes, culverts, or similar structures with a diameter of 4-inches or greater that are stored at the construction site for one or more overnight periods should be thoroughly inspected for animals before the pipe is subsequently buried, capped, or otherwise used or moved in any way. If a special-status species is discovered inside a pipe, that section of pipe should not be moved until Reclamation has consulted with the Service.	Construction Phase

Biological Resources	Prior to initiation of any on-site preparation/construction activities, a Reclamation approved biologist shall conduct an education and training session for all available individuals who will be involved in the site preparation or construction, including the project representative(s). Training sessions will be required for all new or additional personnel before they are allowed to access the project site. Attendance sheets identifying attendees and the contractor/company they represent will be provided to Reclamation. The training will include, at a minimum, the species listed in Table 1 as "possible", "present", or "unlikely". The training will include a description of the species, its habitat, and the necessary measures to protect and avoid it on-site.	Construction Phase
Biological Resources	Exclusion fencing shall be placed around the construction areas, trenching areas and staging areas to keep California tiger salamanders from entering these areas. A Reclamation-approved biological monitor will be on-site during the installation of the fencing and will ensure that the exclusion fencing is continuously maintained, and that all construction equipment is confined to designated work areas, until all construction activities are completed.	Construction Phase
Biological Resources	Before the start of work each morning, the on-site Reclamation approved biological monitor will check for animals under all vehicles and equipment such as stored pipes, and in all steep-walled holes or trenches greater than one foot deep. California tiger salamanders will only be removed by individuals that have a special permit issued by the Service allowing them to handle listed species. If a California tiger salamander is discovered, work on the project must stop immediately and Reclamation and the Service will be contacted for further guidance.	Construction Phase
Biological Resources	Burrows that may be used by the California tiger salamander shall be avoided.	Construction Phase
Biological Resources	To avoid effects to the California tiger salamander, construction shall not occur at nighttime or during the rainy-season.	Construction Phase
Biological Resources	A preconstruction survey would be conducted by the Reclamation approved biologist no less than 14 and no more than 30 days prior to any construction activities on the project site, for the San Joaquin kit fox, its sign and burrows. If no kit foxes, kit fox sign or burrows are found during the survey, a letter report documenting survey methods and findings will be submitted to Reclamation at least 5 days before construction. If kit foxes, kit fox sign or burrows are found during the survey, construction shall not commence until receiving Reclamation's approval.	Construction Phase
Biological Resources	All equipment will be maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's directions so there will be no leaks of fluids such as gasoline, oils, or solvents.	Construction Phase
Biological Resources	All food-related trash items such as wrappers, cans, bottles, and food scraps will be disposed of in closed containers and removed at least once a week from a construction or project site.	Construction Phase
Biological Resources	To prevent harassment, injury or mortality of California tiger salamander (or other special-status species), or their refugia or burrows no pets of any kind will be permitted on the project site.	Construction Phase
Biological Resources	If any listed species are observed in the project area, the project will be rescheduled to avoid all impacts to species. Scheduled operations and maintenance activities will be rescheduled or postponed to avoid impacts to listed species.	Construction Phase

Reclamation's finding that implementation of the Proposed Action will result in no significant impact to the quality of the human environment is supported by the following findings:

Findings

Water Resources

Currently some storm water runoff enters the Antioch Creek from the soccer fields. A new drainage system would be installed as part of the Proposed Action that has been designed to detain storm water runoff and facilitate at least some percolation of the storm water runoff into the underlying soils. The new drainage system which includes a rock layer and drain into the detention design, along with proposed landscaping and swales to attenuate and divert storm water runoff flows from adjacent hillsides, are expected to improve water quality. These improvements in addition to temporary Best Management Practices (BMPs) utilized during construction described in the Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (EA 12-031 Appendix B) and permanent BMPs implemented on site as described in the Storm Water Control Plan (EA 12-031 Appendix C) would ensure that there would be no adverse impacts to water resources.

Land Use

The proposed project would only improve existing recreation facilities and extend the useful life of the facilities. There would be no adverse impacts or changes in current land use.

Executive Order 11988 requires that all Federal agencies take action to reduce the risk of flood loss, to restore and preserve the natural and beneficial values served by floodplains, and to minimize the impact of floods on human safety, health, and welfare. Reclamation has determined that the Proposed Action would not affect floodplains as there are none within the action area

Biological Resources

With the exception of the electrical trenching to the west, all construction on the project will occur within the footprint of the existing fields. This project would cause some ground disturbances, alteration of vegetation, and generation of noise, however because the provided avoidance measures would be fully implemented there would not be any impacts to listed species in the area. With the environmental commitments listed in Table 1 of this document, Reclamation has determined there would be *No Effect* to proposed or listed species or critical habitat under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. §1531 et seq.), and no take of birds protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. §703 et seq.).

Cultural Resources

The Proposed Action is the type of activity that has the potential to affect historic properties. A records search and Tribal consultation failed to identify historic properties within the APE. Since no historic properties are present, there will be no effect on such properties as a result of implementing the Proposed Action. As a result of Reclamation's efforts to consult with the SHPO on Reclamation's finding of no historic properties affected, and the fact the SHPO has not provided a response within 30 days and no other party has objected to our finding, the proposed undertaking shall be permitted to move forward under NHPA Section 106. If the SHPO responds, or re-enters the Section 106 process, and objects to our findings, Reclamation shall

seek to resolve any reasonable concerns; however, this effort shall not delay or stall the implementation of this project.

Indian Sacred Sites

Executive Order 13007 requires Federal land managing agencies to accommodate access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites by Indian religious practitioners and to avoid adversely affecting the physical integrity of such sacred sites.

No Indian sacred sites, as defined under Executive Order 13007, are known to exist within the project area and no such sites have been identified through a record search by the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) or through consultations with Indian tribes.

Indian Trust Assets

Indian trust assets (ITA) are legal interests in assets that are held in trust by the United States Government for federally recognized Indian tribes or individuals.

On May 27, 2010, a North State Resources archaeologist initiated the outreach process by sending comment solicitation letters to Native American contacts listed with the NAHC. No specific information about historic properties or locations of traditional use in the park area was received as a result of this outreach.

The nearest ITA is Lytton Rancheria approximately 28 miles west of the project location. There would be no adverse impacts to Indian Trusts Assets.

Socioeconomic Resources

There is a potential for limited beneficial effects to socioeconomic resources as local supplies or services may be utilized during the construction phase and the improvements may increase park visitation. In addition, there are potential reductions in water use and maintenance costs. There would be no adverse impacts to socioeconomic resources.

Environmental Justice

The February 11, 1994, Executive Order 12898 requiring Federal agencies to ensure that their actions do not disproportionately impact minority and disadvantaged populations went into effect. The Proposed Action does not propose any features that would result in adverse human health or environmental effects, have any physical effects on minority or low-income populations, and/or alter socioeconomic conditions of populations that reside or work in the vicinity of the Proposed Action.

Air Quality

Established under Clean Air Act section 176(c)(4), the General Conformity Rule requires Federal agencies to work with state, tribal and local governments in a nonattainment or maintenance area to ensure that federal actions conform to the air quality plans established in the applicable state or tribal implementation plan. Regulations under 43 CFR §93.150 through 43 CFR §93.165 require a conformity determination for each criteria pollutant or precursor where the total of direct and indirect emissions of the criteria pollutant or precursor in a nonattainment or maintenance area caused by a Federal action would equal or exceed a *de minimis* threshold.

Modeling completed for the proposed action (EA 12-031) indicates that all pollutants fall far below the de minimis thresholds set by the Bay Area Air Quality Management District. As such, there would be no significant direct impacts to air quality from the Proposed Action. Materials removed during construction would be taken to an appropriate landfill by the contractor. In addition, emissions from construction would be reduced below that estimated in the modeling as a result of compliance with the environmental commitments described in Table 1.

Global Climate

The EPA has issued regulatory actions under the Clean Air Act as well as other statutory authorities to address climate change issues (EPA 2011). In 2009, the EPA issued a rule (40 CFR §98) for mandatory reporting of greenhouse gases (GHG) by large source emitters and suppliers that emit 25,000 metric tons or more of GHG [as carbon dioxide equivalents (CO_{2e}) per year] (EPA 2009). The rule is intended to collect accurate and timely emissions data to guide future policy decisions on climate change and has undergone and is still undergoing revisions (EPA 2011). In 2006, the State of California issued the California Global Warming Solutions Act of 2006, widely known as Assembly Bill 32, which requires California Air Resources Board (CARB) to develop and enforce regulations for the reporting and verification of statewide GHG emissions. CARB is further directed to set a GHG emission limit, based on 1990 levels, to be achieved by 2020.

The construction phase of the Proposed Action would result in the direct emissions of GHGs through the use of petroleum fuels. The operational phase of the Proposed Action would result in indirect emissions through the use of electrical power.

The construction emissions would not continue past the Proposed Action completion date. The total CO_{2e} of 43,219.84 lbs (21.66 tons total) is far below the 75,000 tons per year threshold for significant GHG emissions. As such, this would not result in a substantial change in GHG emissions, and there would be no adverse effect.

GHG generated by the Proposed Action is expected to be extremely small as GHG emissions are de minimis and temporary from construction and electricity used to light the fields would not increase electrical generation. While any increase in GHG emissions would add to the global inventory of gases that would contribute to global climate change, the Proposed Action would result in potentially minimal to no increases in GHG emissions and a net increase in GHG emissions among the pool of GHG would not be detectable.