

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Finding of No Significant Impact

12-22-MP

Ivanhoe Irrigation District Control System Project – 69 Main WaterSMART Water and Energy Efficiency Grant

Recommended by:

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BACKGROUND

In conformance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended, the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate and disclose any potential environmental impacts associated with implementation of the Ivanhoe Irrigation District (District) Control System Project – 69 Main WaterSMART Water and Energy Efficiency Grant. Reclamation proposes to provide WaterSMART program grant funds to the District for the implementation of the Control System Project – 69 Main. Under the WaterSMART program, Reclamation provides cost-shared funding on a competitive basis for on-the-ground water conservation and energy efficiency projects. Reclamation would further the goals and objectives of the WaterSMART program as they apply to water management operations in the District by providing funding for the installation of SCADA equipment, the construction of a new water control structure and above ground low-flow bypasses, the installation of three new pumps and associated electrical wiring, the construction of air vents and the removal of an existing baffle structure (Proposed Action).

PROPOSED ACTION

The Proposed Action would consist of Reclamation providing grant funds to support the installation of SCADA equipment, the construction of a new water control structure and above ground low-flow bypasses, the installation of three new pumps and associated electrical wiring, the construction of air vents and the removal of an existing baffle structure.

FINDINGS

Based on the attached EA, Reclamation finds that the Proposed Action is not a major federal action that will significantly affect the quality of the human environment. The attached EA describes the existing environmental resources in the Proposed Action area, evaluates the effects of the No Action and Proposed Action alternatives on the resources, and proposes measures to avoid, minimize, or mitigate any adverse effects. This EA was prepared in accordance with NEPA, Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 CFR 1500-1508), and Department of Interior (DOI) Regulations (43 CFR Part 46). Effects on several environmental resources were examined and found to be absent or minor. This analysis is provided in the attached EA, and is hereby incorporated by reference.

Air Quality

The minor size in construction activities, in addition to the short period for when these activities would occur, would not emit pollutants that will exceed Federal, State, and local thresholds for the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin.

Water Resources

Under the Proposed Action, the District's 69 Main Lateral would be upgraded in order to more efficiently monitor and control the District's water resources. Construction activities would occur entirely out of water channels, thus no channel alterations or similar water quality impacts would be associated with the Proposed Action's construction efforts. The Proposed Action would increase the availability of surface water delivery by 298 AF, which is currently lost to direct recharge as a result of improperly managed surface water deliveries. The increase in surface water delivery would result in a net reduction of groundwater reliance as a source of supply for District landowners, while continuing to be a source of groundwater recharge supply through in-lieu recharge efforts.

Biological Resources

The Proposed Action area is annually excavated, graded, and sprayed for maintenance purposes resulting in the absence of sufficient habitat criteria required to support special-status species. Based on the lack of potentially suitable habitat for special-status species, including the San Joaquin kit fox, and the fact that construction would occur during daylight hours only, Reclamation has determined that the Proposed Action would have no effect to special status species.

Cultural Resources

Reclamation evaluated the 69 Main Lateral and its appurtenant features for National Register eligibility and determined that they are not eligible for National Register inclusion. No other historic or prehistoric cultural resources were identified in the project Area of Potential Effects. Pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800.4(d)(1), Reclamation has initiated consultation with the California State Historic Preservation Officer on a finding of no historic properties affected for this undertaking. Reclamation will conclude the Section 106 process prior to implementation of the Proposed Action. Given Reclamation's Section 106 finding of effect, the Proposed Action will result in no significant impacts to cultural resources.

Indian Trust Assets/Indian Sacred Sites

There are no Indian Reservations, Rancherias or allotments in the project area. The Proposed Action does not have a potential to affect ITA. The Proposed Action likewise will not inhibit use or access to any known Indian Sacred Sites.

Environmental Justice

The Proposed Action would support delivery of agricultural water. Low income and minority populations are commonly found working in agricultural settings, therefore, the Proposed Action would not disproportionately affect the health or environment of minority or low-income populations as change in the need for farm labor is not anticipated.