

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION**

MID-PACIFIC REGION

SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

**Supplement to the 2011 Pelger Mutual Water Company Groundwater
Production Well - Sacramento Valley Integrated Regional Water
Management Program**

FONSI 13-13-MP

Recommended by:

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RECLAMATION
Managing Water in the West

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INTRODUCTION

In accordance with Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, the Mid-Pacific Regional Office of the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) has determined that construction of a new groundwater well for the Pelger Mutual Water Company (PMWC) is not a major federal action that will significantly affect the quality of the human environment and an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. This Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI 13-13-MP) is supported by the attached Environmental Assessment (EA), *Supplement to the 2011 Pelger Mutual Water Company Groundwater Production Well - Sacramento Valley Integrated Regional Water Management Program*, which is hereby incorporated by reference.

An EA/Initial Study (IS) for the *Pelger Mutual Water Company Groundwater Production Element Project & Sutter Mutual Water Company Groundwater Monitoring Project – Sacramento Valley Integrated Regional Water Management Program Grant* was completed in September 2011 with Reclamation as the lead federal agency and PMWC as the lead state agency. Reclamation signed a FONSI in January 2012. Since that time, PMWC has had to revise the proposed well location and as a result, a Supplemental EA has been prepared to evaluate and disclose any potential environmental impacts associated with the change to the Proposed Action as originally described in the 2011 EA/IS.

PROPOSED ACTION

The revised proposed well location is within a 0.5-acre area in an unincorporated portion of Sutter County, California, approximately eight miles northwest of the town of Robbins and south of Pelger Road. The proposed well would require a 100-foot by 100-foot construction staging area and the final footprint of the well would not exceed 25 feet by 25 feet, with an estimated maximum well depth of 600 feet. A maximum 50 feet of discharge piping, up to 20 inches in diameter, would be installed at the production well and would discharge directly into an existing earthen canal via an open-ended aboveground discharge (though it be partially buried beneath the existing dirt road so as to not impede access). The proposed well would be powered by electricity and could require a maximum 120 feet of overhead service line and one new power pole, approximately 12 inches in diameter, within 100 feet of the new well. Access to the well would be via existing roads, none of which would require improvements. Also, a 12-inch-diameter service pole with a three-phase, 440-volt electrical controls panel box would be placed within 20 feet of the pump. Drill cuttings and fluids would be disposed of onsite at a location previously agreed to by the property owner.

Construction is expected to occur between August 2013 and February 2014.

FINDINGS

Reclamation's determination that implementation of the Proposed Action will result in no significant impacts to the quality of the human environment is supported by the attached Supplemental EA and is summarized in the following:

Water Resources

Reclamation anticipates that pumping additional water from the proposed well would involve the same potential impacts that were analyzed and mitigated in the 2011 EA/IS.

Biological Resources

On October 19, 2011, Reclamation informally consulted with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act regarding potential impacts of the Proposed Action to the federally listed giant garter snake (GGS). The USFWS concurred with Reclamation's determination that the Project is not likely to adversely affect GGS in a memo dated, November 21, 2011. As a result of a change in project location and construction timing, Reclamation provided an addendum to USFWS to reflect changes to the project description and to reevaluate potential impacts to GGS. A technical memorandum report was prepared as a result of a May 20, 2013 site visit to the new project location and provides a map of the new location, description of the site conditions, and GGS avoidance measures that will be implemented. USFWS was informally consulted with on the proposed project change, in which Reclamation requested concurrence with the determination that the Proposed Action is not likely to adversely affect GGS (July 2, 2013). The project will not be implemented until Section 7 compliance is completed.

Cultural Resources

The Proposed Action is the type of activity that has the potential to affect historic properties. A records search, a cultural resources survey, and Tribal consultation identified historic properties within the Area of Potential Affect. Constructing the proposed PMWC production well and connecting the well discharge pipeline to the unnamed PMWC lateral will not diminish the structural integrity and will not adversely impact the historic characteristics that make the canal eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places under Criteria A. The function of the canal will not change. Since no historic properties would be adversely affected, no cultural resources would be impacted as a result of implementing the Proposed Action. Concurrence from the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) to conclude the Section 106 compliance process is pending. The project will not be implemented until the Section 106 compliance process has been completed.

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 individual Indians. There are no Indian reservations, Rancherias or allotments in the Proposed Action area. The closest ITA is the Colusa Reservation (Cahil Dehe) approximately 25 miles to the northwest of the proposed well location. The Proposed Action does not have a potential to affect ITA.

Environmental Justice

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.