

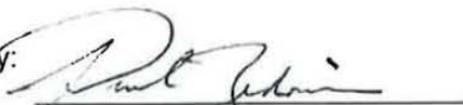
RECLAMATION

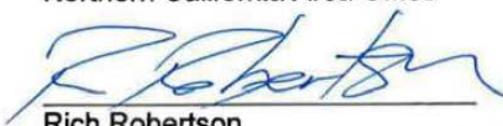
Managing Water in the West

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Temporary Transfer of Water from the McConnell Foundation to Kanawha and Glide Water Districts in Contract Year 2014

Final FONSI 14-03-NCAO

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Introduction

The Bureau of Reclamation proposes to approve a 1-year transfer of up to 5,100 acre-feet (AF) of Central Valley Project (Project) water from the McConnell Foundation (Foundation) to the Kanawha and Glide water districts (Districts) served by the Tehama-Colusa Canal. Water made available to the Districts could come from direct transfer from the Foundation or indirectly through the City of Redding's water service contract, the Buckeye Contract (#14-06-200-5272A-LTR1), or a combination thereof. Water made available to the Foundation for transfer is based upon a pre-1914 right to divert water regardless of Central Valley Project allocations (see Contract No. 00-WC-20-1707).

In accordance with Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, the Northern California Area Office of the Bureau of Reclamation, has determined that an environmental impact statement is not required for further review of these modifications. This Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) is supported by Reclamation's Environmental Assessment (EA) Number EA-14-03-NCAO, *Temporary Transfer of Water from the McConnell Foundation to Kanawha and Glide Water Districts in Contract Year 2014*, which is incorporated by reference and attached.

Alternatives Including Proposed Action

No Action Alternative

The No Action Alternative would consist of Reclamation not approving the transfer of Project water from the Foundation to the Districts. The Districts would be required to operate within the confines of the available water supply that might include groundwater, or acquire water from other willing sellers.

Proposed Action

The Proposed Action is approval of the transfer of up to 5,100 AF of Project water from the Foundation to the Districts from April through February 28, 2015. Water made available to the Districts could come directly from the Foundation or indirectly through the Buckeye Contract through the City of Redding, or a combination thereof. In the case of direct transfer, any quantity delivered would be subject to a reduction by a factor of 1.786 because this water would be used outside Shasta County (see Contract No. 00-WC-20-1707). In contrast, any Project water transferred through the Buckeye contract would not be subject to a reduction.

The Project water to be transferred would originate at Trinity Lake, be diverted through Carr Tunnel into Whiskeytown Reservoir then through Spring Creek and Keswick power plants into the Sacramento River. This water, minus any potential conveyance loss, would be diverted at the screened Red Bluff Pump Plant (RBPP) into the TCC for delivery to the Districts between mileposts 45 and 58.

In addition, the water transfer would be subject to the following parameters:

- Occur within a single water year.
- Qualify as historic and routine transfers.
- Use existing facilities and operations.
- Maintain existing land uses.
- Provide water for lands irrigated within the last 3 years, groundwater recharge, maintenance of fish and wildlife resources, incidental domestic use, or M&I use.
- Comply with all applicable federal, state, local, or Tribal laws or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment and Indian Trust Assets (ITAs).
- Occur between willing buyers and willing sellers.

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 EA and is summarized in the following:

- No adverse impacts to physical resources are anticipated because of this transfer.
- The minor change in flow of the Sacramento River from Keswick Dam to the point of diversion (Red Bluff Pumping Plant) would not change Project water storage because the Project Water in question could be transferred to other users resulting in a similar effect. Consequently, there is no anticipated effect to water storage.
- The amount of water diverted at the TCC would be the same as that which is released from Keswick Dam to result in a zero-sum action, resulting in no change to flows of the Sacramento River below the point of diversion, which is similar to the No Action Alternative.
- No new facilities would be needed to distribute the water. The Project water would be applied to existing agricultural land and/or M&I uses and would be conveyed through existing facilities, which would avoid any adverse effects on unique geological features such as wetlands, wild or scenic rivers, refuges, floodplains, rivers placed on the nationwide river inventory, or prime or unique farmlands.
- The Proposed Action would not affect any listed species because the Proposed Action would not affect these species or their habitat.
- The Proposed Action will not produce any ground disturbances, it will not result in the construction of new facilities or the modification of existing facilities

- The Proposed Action would maintain agribusiness and M& I uses that supports local and regional economies.
- The transfer would not disproportionately affect minority or low-income populations and communities because this water would help provide water to areas of greatest need.
- No Indian Trust Assets are served by the water to be transferred under the proposed action and therefore no Indian Trust Assets would be affected
- The Proposed Action will not result in any adverse cumulative impacts