

# RECLAMATION

*Managing Water in the West*

## FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

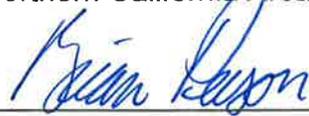
### Temporary Transfer of CVP Water from the City of Redding To the Bella Vista Water District in 2014

FONSI 14-05-NCAO

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# Introduction

The Bureau of Reclamation proposes to approve a 1-year transfer of up to 1,200 acre-feet (AF) of Central Valley Project (Project) water from the City of Redding (City) under Federal Contract No. 14-06-200-2871A-R-1 to the Bella Vista Water District (District). Earlier than normal groundwater pumping and corresponding curtailment of surface water production by the City allowed the City to realize a surplus of Project water available for transfer in 2014.

In accordance with Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, Reclamation's Northern California Area Office 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-14-05-NCAO, *Temporary Transfer of Project Water from the City of Redding to the Bella Vista Water District in 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 1,200 af of Project water from the City to the District in 2014. The District 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 1,200 AF of Project water from the City to the District from July through October, 2014. The schedule of maximum quantities transferred in each month from July through October is 200, 150, 700, and 150 AF.

This transfer water is a contractual entitlement under the water service contract between Reclamation and the City (Contract# 14-06-200-2871A-R-1), which would be used to augment the District's water supply primarily for municipal and industrial purposes. The District is also a Project contractor in the same area of origin as the City, and therefore the transfer would be conducted in accordance with Section 3405(a)(1)(M) of the CVPIA.

The Project water to be transferred, as in the No Action Alternative, would originate from either Shasta Lake or Trinity Lake and eventually make its way through several diversions and power plants for eventual release to the Sacramento River at Keswick Dam. Water would be withdrawn at the existing Wintu Pump Station operated by the

District, which is located 4.8 miles downstream of the Keswick Powerhouse and Dam. The accounting of this water would occur at the Wintu Pump Station.

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

- Use existing facilities and operations.
- 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:

- The Proposed Action would not substantially affect physical resources at the points of diversion, in the conveyance facilities, or at the places of use. Water deliveries would be restricted to use of existing facilities, and only the point of diversion would change. In this case, the diversion would move from one approved point of diversion to the other (i.e. from the Diestelhorst pump station to the Wintu Pump Station), which is two miles further downstream in the mainstem Sacramento River. .
- Use of existing facilities and operations and the absence of land use changes within the transferor service areas caused by this action precludes any adverse effect on unique geological features such as wetlands, wild or scenic rivers, refuges, floodplains, rivers placed on the Nationwide Rivers Inventory, and prime or unique farmlands
- There would be no effect to federally listed species or their habitat.
- The Proposed Action will it will not result in the construction of new facilities or the modification of existing facilities, and it will not result in any changes in land use. In doing so, the Proposed Action would merely allow continued service to existing residential developments; cultural resources would not be affected.
- The Proposed Action would not increase the amount of water available or the amount of irrigated land within the Sacramento Valley but merely ensure that the District receives adequate water and prevent M&I shortages that could otherwise negatively affect regional economics.
- The Proposed Action would increase the availability of water that would provide the District the ability to augment existing water supplies to increase the likelihood that minorities or low-income populations are not affected.
- The Proposed Action does not have a potential to impact Indian Trust Assets.
- The Proposed Action will not result in any adverse cumulative impacts.