

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Draft Environmental Assessment – Long-Term Transfers of Central Valley Project Water among the Glenn Colusa Irrigation District and the Holthouse and Colusa County Water Districts in Support of the Colusa Generating Station

**Central Valley Project, CA
Mid-Pacific Region**



Contents

| | Page |
|---|-----------|
| Introduction..... | 1 |
| Contractual Background..... | 1 |
| Water Supply | 1 |
| Water Delivery..... | 2 |
| Place of Use | 2 |
| Use | 3 |
| Purpose of and Need for Action..... | 3 |
| Proposed Action and Alternatives | 3 |
| Proposed Action..... | 3 |
| Site Alternatives Identified But Not Evaluated Further..... | 4 |
| Water Supply Alternatives Not Evaluated Further | 4 |
| No Action Alternative..... | 5 |
| Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences..... | 5 |
| Physical Resources..... | 5 |
| Biological Resources (Vegetation)..... | 6 |
| Biological Resources (Wildlife) | 7 |
| Cultural Resources | 10 |
| Indian Trust Assets | 10 |
| Other Socioeconomic Resources | 10 |
| Consultation and Coordination | 11 |

Introduction

A series of transfers are proposed that will enable the county of Colusa to supply up to 180 acre feet (af) of water per year for up to 30 years to the Colusa Generating Station (CGS), a 660-megawatt combined-cycle (natural gas fueled) power plant now under construction by Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) just south of the Colusa and Glenn Counties' joint boundary.

The water would be provided under a four-party agreement, in which the Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District (GCID) would transfer Central Valley Project (Project) water to the County of Colusa from April through October, the Holthouse Water District (Holthouse) would transfer Project water to the County of Colusa (County) from November through March, the County of Colusa would deliver water to the CGS year round. The Project water that GCID would transfer to Holthouse from April through October will be equivalent to the quantity of Project water that Holthouse transferred to the County during the preceding November through March period. Water deliveries under the proposed transfers to the County, Holthouse, and the CGS would be by means of the Tehama-Colusa Canal (TCC) through existing turnouts.

The CGS would be connected to the PG&E's northern California transmission grid, enabling power generated by the facility to serve energy needs throughout California. The CGS would be predominantly air cooled to reduce consumptive water use by over 90 percent and would employ a zero liquid discharge system. However, some cooling water for the facility would be required.

This Environmental Assessment (EA) addresses the environmental implications of the proposed transfers. Details concerning the design and operation of the CGS are given in the application for certification for the Colusa Generating Station Application for Certification (06-AFC-9) Colusa County (AFC) and the National Environmental Policy Act review by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which are included in this EA by reference.

Contractual Background

Water Supply

On February 28, 2005, the United States of America and GCID entered into the "Contract Between the United States and Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District, Diverter of Water from Sacramento River Sources, Settling Water Right Disputes and Providing for Project Water," designated as Contract Number 14-06-200-855A-R-1 (Contract 855A). Contract 855A provides for "Project water" and "Base supply." Project water is the quantity of water identified in Contract 855A, which GCID may divert for its use within a defined service area each month, during the period April through October of each year, for which GCID initially pays the United

States for 75% of the contract quantity, whether the water is diverted or not. Base supply is the quantity of water available for diversion by GCID under its water rights on the Sacramento River and Stony Creek during the period April through October of each year, which are not subject to payment to the United States. Article 3(e) of Contract 855A provides that no sale, transfer, exchange, or other disposal of any water for use on land other than the contractor's service area shall be made without first obtaining written consent of the United States.

On February 25, 2005, the United States and the County entered into "Long-Term Renewal Contract between the United States and County of Colusa Providing for Project Water Service from the Sacramento River Division," designated as Contract No. 14-06-200-8310A-LTR1 (Contract 8310A), for 20,000 acre-feet (af) of Project water. On February 25, 2005, the County and Holthouse also entered into "Subcontract between the County of Colusa and the Holthouse Water District Providing for Resale of Water under Contract between the United States of America and the Colusa," designated as Contract No. 1-07-20-W0224-R-1, which allocated to Holthouse 2,450 af of the 20,000 af of Project water made available under Contract 8310A. On December 17, 2007, the County, the United States, and Holthouse executed an agreement that assigned 2,450 acre-feet of Project water under Contract 8310A to Holthouse. Article 9(a) of Contract 8310A requires the written consent of the United States for all sales, transfers, or exchanges of Project water. The provisions of Article 9(a) are applicable to the proposed transfer from Holthouse to the County under the December 17, 2007, assignment.

The Project water to be transferred from GCID and Holthouse to the County for subsequent delivery to the CGS and the associated transfer from GCID to Holthouse would be through the previously mentioned, four-party transfer agreement involving GCID, the Holthouse, the County, and PG&E.

Water Delivery

The Project water transferred from GCID and Holthouse to the County would be transported through the TCC, an existing Project conveyance facility, and delivered to the CGS at a turnout constructed at milepost 63.21L. The Project water transferred from GCID to Holthouse would be transported through the TCC and delivered to Holthouse through existing diversion facilities at its authorized point of delivery on the TCC at Mile Post 65.80L.

Place of Use

The Project water transferred to the County by GCID and Holthouse will be used to provide water service to the CGS, which is situated within the County's service area under Contract 8310A. The Project water transferred to Holthouse by GCID will be used within the authorized contract service area for Holthouse established by the December 17, 2007, assignment agreement.

Use

Districts, such as GCID or Holthouse, that receive Project water under Sacramento River settlement or water service contracts are authorized under Section 3405(a) of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act of 1992, to transfer all or a portion of the Project water subject to such contract to any other California water user or water agency, state or Federal agency, Indian Tribe, or private nonprofit organization for project purposes or any purpose recognized as beneficial under applicable state law. The County and Holthouse, as the recipients of the proposed Project water transfers, are in turn authorized to supply municipal and industrial, as well as agricultural, water users within their respective contract service areas.

Purpose of and Need for Action

The purpose of the transfers from GCID and Holthouse to the County is to enable the County to supply water to the CGS. The purpose of the associated transfer from GCID to Holthouse is to replace the Project water transferred from Holthouse to the County.

These transfers are needed because the County has assigned to others all but 1 af of the 20,000 af of Project water originally made available pursuant to Article 3(a) of Contract 8310A.

Proposed Action and Alternatives

Proposed Action

The proposed action is Reclamation's approval of three long-term transfers. Two would be transfers to the County from GCID and Holthouse that would collectively provide up to 180 af of Project water per calendar year for a period of up to 30 years and incidental right-of-way permits to allow diversion of that water from the TCC by the County to provide water service to the CGS. The third would be the long-term transfer of up to 25 af of Project water per calendar year from GCID to Holthouse for a period of up to 30 years.

The long-term transfers would occur as follows: Holthouse would transfer up to 25 af of Project water to the County during the 5 months, November through March. GCID would then transfer the same amount of Project water to Holthouse during the 7 months, April through October, to replace the quantity of Project water previously transferred from Holthouse to the County. GCID would also transfer up to 155 af of Project water to the County during that same 7 months, April through October.

Under the proposed transfer from Holthouse to the County, up to 25 af of the 2,450 af of Project water that would otherwise be available for delivery to Holthouse each year pursuant to the assignment agreement dated December 17, 2007, would be transported via the TCC during

November through March for delivery to the County at milepost 63.21L on the TCC near the site of the GGS.

Under the proposed GCID transfers, up to 180 af of Project water that would otherwise be diverted by GCID from the Sacramento River at Hamilton City each year during April through October would be diverted at the Red Bluff Diversion Dam and conveyed via the TCC for transfer and delivery to the County (155 af) and Holthouse (25 af). The point of delivery to the County would be at milepost 63.21L on the TCC near the site of the CGS. The point of delivery to Holthouse would be its existing point of delivery on the TCC at Mile Post 65.80L.

The approval of the proposed transfers will be contingent upon a current executed settlement or water service contract being in force for all participants for the proposed 30-year transfer.

Site Alternatives Identified But Not Evaluated Further

Two clusters of potential sites for the CGS were examined in the County; one along the Interstate 5 (I-5) corridor and the other on the Holthouse Ranch. The I-5 sites lacked the high-voltage transmission and high-pressure gas pipeline infrastructure needed for the power plant and were highly visible from the highway; therefore, they were dropped from further consideration. The proposed site was deemed the best of the sites in the second group, with the others being deemed more environmentally sensitive. None of these would have had materially different options for water supply, as the same surface water infrastructure would have supplied all sites adjacent to I-5, as well as the Holthouse Ranch. The ranch, which is now the Holthouse Water District, is supplied water under an assignment with the County. The Project water supply for Holthouse is delivered via the TCC.

Water Supply Alternatives Not Evaluated Further

Willing sellers other than the GCID and Holthouse might be found, but the water delivery would still require either use of the TCC, leaving the environmental impacts at the site unchanged, or use of the GCID canal, with essentially the same impacts plus additional pumping requirements. Similarly, off-site impacts can be presumed to be small in any district with sufficient water to supply the CGS.

Groundwater and municipal water from the town of Maxwell were considered, but neither appeared to have the desired reliability. Test wells indicated it might be possible to extract enough water to meet anticipated needs. Since a sustained safe yield was not confirmed, groundwater supplies were deemed less reliable than surface water supplies. Maxwell, the nearest alternative and a developed water source, is about 5 miles from the site and has a limited capacity to supply water. It was, therefore, deemed infeasible as a water source.

No Action Alternative

Under the no action alternative, Reclamation would not approve the long-term transfers of Project water from GCID and Holthouse to the County, or the associated transfer from GCID to Holthouse. The County would be required to pump whatever groundwater is available, as well as tie into the municipal supply from the town of Maxwell, even though neither appears to have the desired reliability, as previously stated. Therefore, either the CGS would operate with less than an optimal reliability of water supply or the project would be abandoned.

Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences

Physical Resources

The proposed power plant site is located about 1.5 miles south of the Glenn and Colusa County line, very nearly midway between the TCC and the GCID Canal.

The topography is essentially flat, with slopes on the order of 2 percent; although the foothills begin to noticeably steepen about a half mile to the west, just west of the TCC.

Groundwater supplies in the area, which are at the edge of the foothills, are not reliable even though the site lies near the junction of three groundwater units: the Colusa Basin, the Stony Creek alluvial fan, and an alluvial fan that extends from Delevan to Zamora.

Surface water in the vicinity consists of seasonal streams, the Tehama-Colusa and GCID canals, and drainage water from irrigated lands. Flows in these creeks are not known, but measured flows in Stone Corral Creek and the South Fork of Willow Creek, two of the larger creeks nearby, drop below 1 cubic foot per second by June, cease altogether from August through October, and remain low through November. Temperatures can be presumed to be high by fisheries standards. Temperatures in the GCID canal at Hunters Creek are in the mid-sixties to high seventies May through October, and can be expected to be this higher or higher for somewhat longer periods the much smaller creeks.

The soils on the site are a complex mixture of clays and clay loams. The soils of small, irregular portions of the site are types found on adjacent lands designated as prime agricultural land, but this site has not been so designated, and the land use prior to the CGS construction was unirrigated pasture.

Geologic risks are low. Even though the Sites-Paskenta fault, which has the potential for an estimated magnitude 6 seismic event, is located 3 miles to the south and west of the proposed power plant site, activity along the two major fault zones has historically been concentrated about 25 miles and 50 miles to the south and west respectively. Based on historic records, this

appears to be a seismically quiet portion of the Central Valley. Moreover, the site is approximately 3 miles from the nearest 100-year flood zone, and the streams within a quarter to one-half mile of the site are merely tributaries of Hunters Creek, which is dry during the summer.

No known mineral deposits of commercial value occur within 2 miles of the proposed power plant site. Air quality analyses prepared in support of the AFC indicated air emissions would be in compliance with applicable standards and would not negatively affect visibility, terrestrial, or aquatic resources. (See the AFC for details.)

No important, adverse physical effects are anticipated. No unique geologic features and valuable mineral resources or prime agricultural lands would be impacted.

Biological Resources (Vegetation)

The site of the CGS is essentially at the border of large expanses of rangeland and rice fields. The nearest rice fields, and hence potential giant garter snake habitat, are about three-quarters of a mile east of the CGS site. The area between the CGS site and the rice fields is rangeland, with the exception of an existing multi-acre PG&E Compressor Station, which lies directly between the rice fields and the CGS site. Virtually all the land east of the GCID canal is planted to rice, while virtually all land to the west of the canal is rangeland. Prior to construction, the CGS site was rangeland dominated by nonnative species, with local exceptions of vernal pool and alkali grasslands, habitats potentially holding listed species.

Small areas of alkali grassland occur immediately outside the project area to the southwest, and a band of northern clay pan vernal pools extends across the northeastern border of the site.

Dominant plant species on the nonnative grassland portion of the site include yellow star thistle (*Centaurea solstitialis*), medusahead (*Taeniatherum caputmedusae*), wild oats (*Avena* spp.), ripgut brome (*Bromus diandrus*), filaree (*Erodium botrys*), and geranium (*Geranium dissectum*). The vernal pools have all been grazed and heavily marked by hoofprints up to 10 inches deep, but contain vernal-pool specific species such as Popcornflower (*Plagiobothrys greenii*), meadowfoam (*Limnanthes douglasii*), and Fremont's goldfields (*Lasthenia fremontii*). The vegetation of the alkali scalds includes barley (*Avena* spp.), soft chess brome (*Bromus hordeaceus*), dwarf peppergrass (*Lepidium latipdes* var. *latipes*), California burclover (*Medicago polymorpha*), long-beaked filaree (*Erodium botrys*), and cut-leaf plantain (*Plantago coronopus*).

The federally-listed plant species whose ranges overlap the site are Hoover's spurge (*Chamaesyce hooveri*), hairy orcutt grass (*Orcuttia pilosa*), and palmate-bracted bird's beak (*Cordylanthus plamatus*).

The Federal plant species of concern potentially occurring in the area are mainly species of alkali flats and vernal pools. Little mousetail (*Myosurus minimus* ssp. *apus*) and Ferris' milk vetch (*Astragalus tener* var. *ferrisiae*) are species of alkaline vernal pools. San Joaquin saltbush (*Atriplex joaquiniana*), Heckard's peppergrass (*Lepidium latipes* var. *heckardii*), brittlescale (*Atriplex depressa*), and heartscale (*Atriplex cordulata*) require alkaline soils, although not necessarily vernal pools. The vernal pool smallscale (*Atriplex persistens*), as the name implies,

requires vernal pools, although the closest known occurrence is 4.6 miles from the proposed CGS site. The adobe lily (*Fritillaria pluriflora*) is a species of clay soils and occurs in chaparral, grassland, and foothill woodland vegetation, but the nearest known occurrence is 10 miles from the proposed CGS site.

All of these species of concern were sought, but not found, at the site, with several being sought at times when checks of known occurrences confirmed the plants could be readily identified, if present. The nearest occurrences of these species range from 5.6 miles to 12 miles from the site. However, the specialists surveying the area deemed the pools to likely be too shallow to be inundated long enough to support either Hoover's spurge or the hairy orcutt grass. Hoover's spurge is endemic to large vernal pools with a median pool size of 1.4 acres. Its closest known occurrence is 8 miles away, and the pools adjacent to the proposed CGS site are shallow and unlikely to be inundated long enough to support this species. The hairy orcutt grass pools require even larger pools with a median pool size of 4.3 acres. The closest known occurrence is 6.8 miles away. The pools also appear to be unsuited for the palmate-bracted bird's beak, which is a hemiparasite using salt grass as a host. It was sought, and not found, near the proposed CGS site at a time in which a visit to a known site near Davis confirmed the plant could be easily recognized. Additional detail is given in the AFC and Corps documents.

Since no listed plant species were observed and the avoidance of vernal pool habitat was addressed by the Corps' permitting process prior to construction, the proposed water transfer would not affect listed plant species.

Biological Resources (Wildlife)

The federally-listed animal species whose ranges overlap the proposed site are Swainson's hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*), bald eagle (*Haliaeetus leucocephalus*), giant garter snake (*Thamnophis gigas*), steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), conservancy fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta conservatio*), vernal pool fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta lynchi*), and vernal pool tadpole shrimp (*Lepidurus packardii*). The AFC also listed three runs of Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) as being potentially in the area affected on the basis of the very broad designation of critical habitat for these species.

Fourteen animal species of special concern, including eight bat species, potentially occur in the area as well. However, the area lacks natural bat roosts, and the bridges, when inspected, showed no evidence of use by bats. Therefore, the bats are only expected to be present as occasional foragers, or absent altogether. The remaining species are the San Joaquin pocket mouse (*Perognathus inornatus ssp. inornatus*), horned lark (*Emophila alpestris*), tricolored blackbird (*Agelaius tricolor*), western burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia hypugea*), cliff swallow (*Hirundo pyrrhonota*), and the western spadefoot toad (*Scaphiopus hammondi*).

Five Swainson's hawk nests occurred within foraging distance of the proposed CGS site in 2000, and nests have been recorded within 5 miles of the site. Swainson's hawk can, therefore, be anticipated to be at least a visitor to the area; however, suitable nesting habitat appears to be absent within 1 mile of the site. No nesting habitat was found on the lands surveyed, although access was not available for a very small area (about 2,000 square feet). If construction were to

begin after April 1, preconstruction surveys would be conducted to determine whether any nests had been established within 1 mile of the proposed CGS site. If so, approximately 22 acres of mitigation lands would be acquired in conformance with California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG) mitigation requirements.

The nearest bald eagle nest is on the eastern shore of East Park Reservoir, 12 miles to the west, and the vicinity of the proposed CGS site provides poor foraging habitat, so infrequent use of the proposed site by bald eagles may occur, but neither nesting nor intensive foraging use is to be expected.

Giant garter snakes are known to occur 9 miles to 10 miles from the proposed CGS site, and it is possible that the giant garter snake occurs near the proposed CGS site in the rice fields and ditches between the GCID canal and I-5. However, the proposed CGS site itself lacks even marginal giant garter snake habitat and is about three-quarters of a mile from such habitat. Therefore, the snake is not expected to be present on-site. Potential habitat occurs, however, along portions of the access road and at the Teresa Creek bridge, which is bordered by rice fields. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's 1997 reasonable and prudent measures for work in giant garter snake habitat would be used to minimize the potential for incidental take during off-site work related to the access routes. These would include the following:

- Construction speed limits.
- Restriction of work to the May 1 to October 1 period.
- Adherence to dewatering requirements.
- Minimal clearance of vegetation.
- Biological inspections just prior to start of construction.

About 3 acres of land (maximum 200-foot radius) would be temporarily disturbed by construction, and a 40- by 40-foot area would be permanently altered by backfill to bring it up to grade.

The Chinook salmon runs are unlikely to be influenced by any events at the proposed CGS site because the local streams are too ephemeral to support successful spawning. Nor are the streams suitable for non-natal rearing since they empty into the Colusa Basin Drain (Drain), which has a series of small check dams in it that would preclude passage by juveniles even if they were to move into the mouth of the Drain. Moreover, these streams are 30 miles from the Drain's confluence with the Sacramento River, more than twice the 12 miles to 13 miles distance juvenile salmon are known to migrate up tributaries with shallow gradients.

In March 2000, a steelhead was reported by the biological consultant to be in Teresa Creek, a tributary of Hunters Creek, about 2 miles from the proposed CGS site. However, this stream does not appear to offer suitable habitat, as the streambed is incised in fine-textured sediments (clays and clay loams), unsuitable for spawning. Nonetheless, construction work at the Teresa Creek bridge site would be limited to the period between June 1 and September 15 when water temperatures would exceed 70°F, which is unsuitable for salmonids. (This is based on temperature measurements in Stony Creek, the largest tributary of the Sacramento River in

Glenn and Colusa Counties.) This step alone should be sufficient to avoid adverse affects, but additional steps are also planned. (See the AFC.)

The closest known occurrences of the three vernal pool species are at the Sacramento National Wildlife Refuge, 5 miles to the east of the proposed CGS site. Given this proximity, they may occur near the proposed CGS site, although the only part of the proposed project that may impact vernal pools would be the transmission towers required for connection to the existing PG&E transmission lines, about 2,000 feet east of the proposed CGS site. The northern segment of this intertie would pass through an area of diffuse vernal pools, although there is enough flexibility with respect to siting the towers to allow avoidance of these pools. The towers will be located at least 250 feet from any pool likely to support listed species or will be located outside the watersheds of such pools. Erosion control measures would be used as necessary during construction to prevent sediment from reaching vulnerable pools during construction.

As previously noted, the bat species of concern are unlikely to occur in the area, although cliff swallows do use the undersides of the local bridges as nest sites. Swallow foraging in the CGS area can be expected, as the roost sites are 0.5 miles to 1.5 miles from the proposed power plant, but adverse affects appear unlikely.

The proposed power plant would not cause any changes at these sites other than to modestly increase motor vehicle traffic. Given the tendency of swallows to use bridges, such as the I-5 bridges over the Sacramento River, which have vastly greater traffic loads, the increases in traffic on this access road are unlikely to affect the swallows. Bridge construction at Teresa Creek, however, could impact swallows if it occurs between April 1 and August 1. If so, the bridge would be netted first to prevent occupancy. (A biological construction window would occur between August 1 and September 15.)

Horned lark habitat occurs throughout the proposed site, but the areas most likely to be used for nesting, due to the sparseness of the vegetation, are the alkali grasslands. These would be avoided by the construction to avoid affects on listed plant species and would, therefore, avoid the best horned lark nesting habitat as well.

Tricolor blackbirds may forage in the area, but large nesting colonies are unlikely to occur close to the site, as this species nests almost exclusively in freshwater marshes, although use of willow and blackberry stands also occurs. However, a permanent colony of long standing occurs on the Indian Creek arm of East Park Reservoir, about 15 miles to the southwest of the proposed CGS site.

Western burrowing owl burrows occur at several locations near the proposed power plant site, although none are known to occur in the area to be disturbed. The limiting factor on use of the site appears to be a lack of suitable burrows. CDFG mitigation measures would be used to prevent impacts to burrowing owls.

Potential western spadefoot toad habitat occurs in the previously mentioned vernal pool zone and a nearby, shallow, ephemeral stock pond west of the proposed CGS site. Presence of foraging

toads seems probable, although breeding habitat would be avoided by the project's conscious avoidance of vernal pools.

Listed species deemed potentially present in the area over the life of the project are either absent or not at risk. Many are confined to vernal pools, which the project plans to avoid. The others, with one exception, can be assumed to use the site only as foraging habitat, a locally abundant resource. The exception, the steelhead, if truly present, would be present only as occasional strays, which would be unable to successfully reproduce in streams close to the site even in the absence of the CGS. Thus, the larger project would not affect listed species nor would the provision of water by means of the proposed transfer.

Cultural Resources

The facility and the transportation and transmission line routes were surveyed for cultural resources, but no significant archaeological resources were identified. The only structures greater than 45 years of age within 1 mile of the proposed CGS site that were deemed to be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places were portions of the 230kV transmission lines and the GCID canal and irrigation district. Detailed accounts of both are given in the AFC. The potential for affects was also evaluated by Reclamation archaeologists during review of the inclusion of the site into the County's water service area; no further review is required.

There are no adverse affects on these resources, as the proposed development is compatible with the ongoing use of both facilities.

Indian Trust Assets

The transfer would not affect Indian Trust Assets, as none are present on the site or in its vicinity.

Other Socioeconomic Resources

The CGS would increase employment temporarily by 130 to 160 jobs in an area with 15 percent unemployment and create 22 skilled, full-time jobs, injecting \$1.85 million per year into the local economy. This income might be spread across a 10-county area, but can reasonably be expected to actually be concentrated in Glenn and Colusa Counties.

Given the high rates of unemployment, it is likely that this economic stimulus would be absorbed by the existing population and would induce little environmental change. Similarly, the housing vacancy rate, on the order of 6 percent to 12 percent, could absorb any increase in the work force with little problem. Demands on other social services, such as schools and hospitals, would be equally small or smaller. Therefore, the project should have little socioeconomic impact, with those effects that do occur being beneficial to the local economy.

Consultation and Coordination

The California Energy Commission certification process, upon which this EA was based, included consultation with the Native American Heritage Commission, the California Office of Historic Preservation, and the Colusa County Department of Planning and Building for cultural resources and consultation, as necessary, with the Service and the National Marine Fisheries Service as part of the Corps 404 permit issuance associated with the construction and operation of the power plant itself.

As no affects on listed species are expected from the proposed action of water delivery, no consultation was required for Reclamation's proposed action. Similarly, given the extensive public review associated with the California Energy Commission's proceedings, which included mention of water usage, this document's circulation for public review was arguably not required, but this EA is being posted to ensure the details of the water supply are fully revealed prior to a decision.

DRAFT