UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

MID-PACIFIC REGION

SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Temporary Supply of Incremental Level 4 Water to Willow Creek Mutual Water Company for Wetlands Management

FONSI 10-21-MP

Recommended by:

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RECLAMATION
Managing Water in the West

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
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BACKGROUND

In accordance with Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended, the Bureau of Reclamation has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the *Temporary Supply of Incremental Level 4 Water to Willow Creek Mutual Water Company for Wetlands Management*, dated *May 26, 2010* and is incorporated by reference.

Under the Proposed Action, Reclamation proposes to enter into a temporary water service contract with the Company to provide up to 3,000 acre-feet (AF) of Incremental Level 4 Water per year for wetland habitat management purposes. The Proposed Action is being undertaken pursuant to, and will be in full compliance with, Section 3406(d) (106 Stat. 4706) of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act (CVPIA), which authorizes new water supply contracts for fish and wildlife purposes. Although the temporary water service contract with the Company would be for three years, the Interagency Refuge Water Management Team would have the opportunity each year to assess whether or not the 3,000 AF of water could be applied to a CVPIA wildlife refuge. If the water is not needed for one of these refuges, then the water would be provided to the Company for use only on its conservation easement lands. The Proposed Action does not involve any construction activities and would not cause any land use changes.

FINDINGS

In accordance with NEPA, the Mid-Pacific Regional Office of Reclamation has found that the proposed temporary supply of water is not a major federal action that would significantly affect the quality of the human environment. Consequently, an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. This determination is supported by the following factors:

1. **Surface Water Resources:** Under the Proposed Action, the water would be delivered to the Company via the PID/Princeton-Codora-Glenn Irrigation District's joint pumping plant on the Sacramento River and any additional point(s) of delivery mutually agreed to in writing. This water would be delivered to the Company's wetlands during the spring/summer until late fall (October). Prior to the delivery of water pursuant to the Agreement, the Company would prepare a wetland habitat water management plan for their conservation easement lands in order to ensure the effective use of water supplies to meet wetland resource needs. Water rights held by the United States or others would not be altered. The Proposed Action does not involve any construction activities and would not cause any land use changes. As a result, the Proposed Action would not impact surface water resources.

2. **Land Use:** The Proposed Action does not involve any construction activities and would not cause any land use changes; therefore, the Proposed Action would not adversely impact land use. Benefits to land use would include the ability of the Company to maintain wetlands within its service area at times when other water supplies are not available.

3. **Biological Resources:** The Proposed Action would be beneficial to the area's biological resources particularly migratory waterfowl and GGS (although it is recognized that late summer water is not as beneficial as spring water). No adverse impacts to biological resources are expected, including special-status species such as GGS or anadromous fish species as water will be delivered via an existing pumping plant on the Sacramento River and existing conveyance systems. Reclamation has determined that the Proposed Action would not affect special status species or migratory bird species with the potential to occur in the project area of effect. Therefore, no further consultation is required under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act.

4. **Indian Trust Assets:** The Proposed Action does not affect any Indian Trust Assets (ITA). The nearest ITA is a Public Domain Allotment approximately eight miles southeast of the project location; therefore there would be no adverse effects to ITAs as a result of the Proposed Action.

5. **Cultural Resources:** No ground disturbing activities, including excavation or construction are required to convey the water. This administrative action is not the type of activity that has the potential to affect historic properties pursuant to the regulations at 36 CFR Part 800.3(a)(1). As a result of this no potential to affect historic properties determination, no cultural resources would be impacted as a result of the Proposed Action.

6. **Environmental Justice:** Due to the nature of the Proposed Action (i.e., land use and agriculture would remain unchanged), there would be no adverse effects to minority or disadvantaged populations.

7. **Climate Change:** Since the Proposed Action would have no construction element and would use existing facilities within the range of normal operations, it would have no effect on climate change.

8. **Cumulative Impacts:** The proposed temporary supply of Level 4 water will not result in any additions to irrigated lands or otherwise induce land use changes. Rather, the intended effect is to maintain current land use and prevent deterioration of existing wildlife habitat; therefore, there are no anticipated cumulative effects resulting from the Proposed Action.