

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Draft Finding of No Significant Impact

Central Dublin Recycled Water Distribution and Retrofit Project

Recommended: _____ Date: _____
Environmental Specialist

Concurrence: _____ Date: _____
Regional Environmental Officer

Concurrence: _____ Date: _____
Program Manager, Title XVI Program

Approved: _____ Date: _____
Chief, Division of Planning

FONSI No. _____



U. S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
Mid-Pacific Region
Sacramento, California

BACKGROUND

The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) prepared a final environmental assessment (EA) in August 2011 to evaluate the effects of the Central Dublin Recycled Water Distribution and Retrofit Project (Proposed Action). Under the Proposed Action, the Dublin San Ramon Services District (DSRSD) would extend recycled water distribution pipelines to serve landscape irrigation demands at several schools, parks, streetscapes and medians in Central Dublin, as well as the common area of one apartment complex. Up to 4,450 feet of 12-inch pipeline, 10,468 feet of 6-inch pipeline, and 2,151 feet of 4-inch pipeline would be buried within paved streets. The Proposed Action would also provide plumbing retrofits to connect existing irrigation systems at Alamo Creek Park, Amador Lakes Apartments, Dublin schools, parks, streetscapes and medians to the recycled water system. Construction of the Proposed Action would begin in the summer of 2011, assuming the Proposed Action is funded, and would last up to one year.

DSRSD has identified four primary objectives for the Proposed Action:

1. Expand utilization of available recycled water to customers that are currently using potable water supply for irrigation.
2. Reduce importation of potable water from the San Francisco Bay Delta and the State Water Project (SWP).
3. Reduce discharge of wastewater into the San Francisco Bay.
4. Reduce energy consumption and DSRSD's carbon footprint.

The delivery of recycled water to facilities served by the Proposed Action would reduce/postpone development of new or expanded water supplies. The recycled water supply would also offset the water supply provided by the Zone 7 Water Agency (from the State Water Project) which may consequently reduce diversions, reduce groundwater extraction, and reduce energy use.

Reclamation will provide a portion of the funds to construct the Proposed Action through the Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act of 1992, or Title XVI of Public Law 102-575 (Title XVI). Reclamation, which has discretionary approval over the provision of this funding, is the lead agency for the Proposed Action.

FINDINGS

Based on the EA, the Division of Planning of the Mid-Pacific Region of Reclamation has found that the Proposed Action is not a major Federal action that will significantly affect the quality of the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement is not required for carrying out the Proposed Action.

The EA complies with the Council of Environmental Quality's NEPA Regulations and other requirements such as the Endangered Species Act, the National Historic

Preservation Act, and local and State requirements (see below). It meets Reclamation's public involvement requirements.

Following are the reasons why the impacts of the Proposed Action are not significant:

1. The Proposed Action is located entirely within an urban area. No agricultural resources are located within or near the Proposed Action footprint, and reuse of recycled water associated with the Proposed Action would have no impact on the availability of irrigation water for agricultural activities. The Proposed Action will not result in changes in agriculture or conflict with zoning for agricultural use or existing Williamson Act contracts, nor will it result in the conversion of farmland.
2. The Proposed Action will not adversely affect air quality. Short-term impacts to air quality may occur during construction; however, the magnitude of air quality impacts associated with mobile and stationary construction equipment exhaust, employee vehicle exhaust, dust from clearing the land, and other activities is considered to be short term and minor. Construction-related air quality effects will be reduced to a less-than-significant level with implementation of the best management practices (BMPs) and mitigation measures described in the EA.
3. The Proposed Action will not significantly affect climate change. Climate change is the result of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, and GHGs are emitted by innumerable sources worldwide. GHG generation during construction represents a one-time contribution and thus will have short term and minor global climatic effects. In addition, it is anticipated that operation-related air pollutant and GHG emissions will be reduced as a result of the Proposed Action. Utilization of recycled water, rather than potable water, to meet irrigation needs would reduce emissions associated with pumping, treatment, and conveyance of potable water from sources farther away from the action area, as well as emissions associated with pumping recycled water to areas further away from the DSRSD waste water plant.
4. The Proposed Action will not significantly affect water quality. Prior to construction, DSRSD and their contractors will implement BMPs in accordance with the Construction General Permit administered by the SWRCB, as documented in an approved, project-specific Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) provided for in the mitigation measures in the EA. Compliance with the General Construction Permit will minimize the potential for the Proposed Action to increase erosion, siltation, or excess runoff.

From an operational perspective, potential pathogens (i.e., cryptosporidium and giardia) will be effectively removed through the recycled water treatment process to levels that are less than existing detection limits. Both pathogens and organics will also be filtered out of the recycled water as it passes through the soil structure. The net effect of both the treatment and adsorption/absorption/filtration processes are that all trace organics and pathogens of concern will be removed prior to entering surface waters.

5. There is no suitable habitat for federally-listed plants, fish, amphibians, or terrestrial

species within the action area; as such, the Proposed Action will have no effect on federally-listed species. Construction-related impacts to migratory birds, raptors, and other common bird species that may nest in or adjacent to the action area will be avoided or minimized by implementing the BMPs and mitigation measures discussed in the EA.

6. Reclamation has concluded the Proposed Action will have no adverse affect on cultural resources. As part of the Section 106 process, Reclamation will consult with the California State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) seeking their concurrence on the finding of no historic properties affected. Reclamation will receive concurrence on the Section 106 determination prior to approving this FONSI.

In the event of an unanticipated discovery of unknown cultural resources during construction activities, work will be suspended in the area until the find can be assessed by a qualified archaeologist and avoidance, preservation, or recovery measures can be developed in consultation with Reclamation. Work will not resume at that specific location until authorized by Reclamation. Specific minimization measures to be employed in the event of the discovery of a previously unknown cultural resource are provided in the EA. No significant impacts on cultural resources are anticipated to occur.

7. The Proposed Action will not create a significant hazard to the public or environment from hazardous materials. Hazardous materials present at the project site during construction will likely include substances such as fuels and oils in construction vehicles and/or equipment. However, contractors involved in construction of the Proposed Action will be contractually required to transport, store, and handle construction-related hazardous materials in a manner consistent with relevant regulations and guidelines, including those recommended and enforced by the U.S. Department of Transportation, Alameda County Department of Environmental Health, and the RWQCB.

8. The Proposed Action will not significantly impact transportation and traffic. The Proposed Action will increase vehicular traffic on existing roads within the action area, temporarily reducing the capacity of those roadway segments during construction. Implementation of the traffic control BMPs and mitigation measures discussed in the EA will minimize these impacts. The Proposed Action will result in no operation-related change in traffic patterns or use.

9. The Proposed Action could result in short-term, construction-related disruption to land uses adjacent to the construction zone. Implementation of the mitigation measures discussed in the EA will minimize impacts to these land uses. Once installed, Proposed Action infrastructure would be compatible with both current and planned land uses in the action area.

10. The Proposed Action will not significantly affect noise levels. Construction activities will result in a temporary increase in noise, and would not expose sensitive receptors to permanent, excessive noise levels. In addition, because construction activities would occur in a linear fashion, any one sensitive receptor would only be exposed to construction-generated noise for a short duration prior to activities continuing down the

pipeline. DSRSD and the construction contractor will follow standard construction BMPs including adhering to local noise ordinances, to reduce noise levels and minimize these impacts. The Proposed Action will not result in operational noise.

11. The Proposed Action will not affect any Indian trust assets. The nearest ITA is Lytton Rancheria, which is located approximately 27 miles northwest from the action area.

12. The Proposed Action will not significantly affect aesthetics, mineral resources, population and housing, or recreation.

13. The Proposed Action will not disproportionately impact minority or low income populations or communities.

14. The Proposed Action will require energy during construction, but will not use energy in a wasteful manner. It is anticipated that operation related energy usage will be reduced as a result of the Proposed Action because recycled water, which would require less pumping and associated energy cost, would be used for irrigation purposes. Therefore, over the long term, the Proposed Action may result in a beneficial impact on energy usage.

15 The Proposed Action will not increase the demand on public services or utilities and service systems. The Proposed Action will not result in the need for additional service or the expansion of existing facilities for any of the public services provided by Alameda County; in fact, use of recycled water would reduce importation of potable water supplied by DSRSD to the area. Waste generated during construction will not exceed the permitted capacity of the Amador Valley Industries Landfill.

16. The Proposed Action will not significantly increase the exposure of people or structures to geologic events or hazards. The Proposed Action will be required to adhere to the building safety standards specified in the California Building Code (CBC), which include measures designed to prevent significant structural damage from seismic ground acceleration, as well as any additional recommendations identified in the site-specific geotechnical study prepared during project design. The Proposed Action will be required to implement BMPs as part of its SWPPP, which will prevent substantial soil erosion or the loss of topsoil during construction. Therefore, there are no significant impacts to geology and soils.

17. The Proposed Action will not result in adverse cumulative effects. Impacts to most resources will be highly localized and temporary, primarily occurring during construction, and will not contribute to a significant cumulative impact in combination with other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable projects. The effects of the Proposed Action are individually and cumulatively limited in scope, scale, and duration, and the proposed BMPs and mitigation measures will offset the effects of the Proposed Action on air quality, water quality, biological resources, cultural resources, land use, noise, transportation and traffic.