

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION**

**MID-PACIFIC REGION**

**SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA**

**DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

**RD 108 South Steiner Pumps and Pipeline Project**

**FONSI 11-15-MP**

Recommended by:

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**RECLAMATION**  
*Managing Water in the West*

# **DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

## **RD 108 South Steiner Pumps and Pipeline Project**

### **FONSI 11-15-MP**

#### **BACKGROUND**

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the *RD108 South Steiner Pumps and Pipeline Project*, dated September 2011.

Reclamation District 108 (District) proposes to abandon in place the South Steiner Pumping Plant (SSPP) on the Sacramento River after constructing a 2,830 foot pipeline and related facilities to redirect irrigation water pumped from the Wilkins Slough Pumping Plant and Fish Screen Facility (also on the Sacramento River) to fields previously served by the SSPP (Proposed Project). This action is required due to ongoing siltation caused by recent U.S. Army Corps of Engineers work on a critical erosion site in the area. The Proposed Project includes two primary components: 1) installation of pump sumps; and 2) construction of a dual 21-inch, 2,830 foot-long PVC pipeline. The Proposed Project would be funded in part by Reclamation through the Central Valley Project Improvement Act (CVPIA) Anadromous Fish Screen Program via the Family Water Alliance Small Screen Program. Reclamation is providing partial funding for the Proposed Project for purposes of eliminating fish entrainment at the existing unscreened intake at SSPP [consistent with CVPIA Section 3406 b(21)]. The Proposed Project would allow the District to continue delivering irrigation water to the District's service area while protecting important fisheries.

#### **FINDINGS**

In accordance with NEPA, as amended, the Mid-Pacific Regional Office of Reclamation has found that the Proposed Project 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 finding of no significant impact is based on the following:

##### **1. Surface Water and Groundwater Resources**

The Proposed Project would not alter conditions in the Sacramento River channel or floodplain. It could result in temporary effects on water quality in Irrigation Lateral 7J and 11B during construction activities; however, these activities would not result in any long-term changes to the existing drainage pattern of the project area, would not affect the rate or amount of surface runoff in the project area, would not increase exposure of persons or private property to flood hazards, would not alter the geomorphology of the Sacramento River, and would not reduce water supply or alter regional or local hydrology.

Although erosion and generation of contaminated runoff are possible during construction, anything more than minor releases of sediment is unlikely. In addition, temporary erosion control measures would be implemented during construction activities to minimize stormwater pollution resulting from erosion and sediment migration from the construction and staging areas. Implementation of the mitigation measures described in the EA/IS would require the preparation of a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) and implementation of standard best management practices to minimize ground and vegetation disturbance and use and store hazardous materials in the designated staging area.

The Proposed Project would not result in any effects on groundwater quality or conditions in the project area. In addition, the Proposed Project would not affect groundwater recharge capabilities in the project area or vicinity.

## **2. Land Use/Agricultural Resources**

The Proposed Project would result in temporary impacts to agricultural land for the duration of the construction period. However, the construction period would be timed so as to not disrupt the farming season for the affected field. The Proposed Project would benefit agricultural lands by continuing to provide irrigation services. There would be no direct conversion of prime farmland to nonagricultural uses within the project area, and therefore, no impacts to agricultural resources would occur as a result of the Proposed Project.

## **3. Biological Resources**

The Proposed Project is not anticipated to adversely affect giant garter snake. The project area could be used as a migratory corridor though unlikely; however, giant garter snake would not be migrating through the area during the time of construction and the project area would be restored to pre-project conditions and therefore no indirect effects would occur as a result of the Proposed Project. Implementing mitigation measures as outlined in the EA/IS would further reduce the likelihood that any giant garter snakes are harmed as a result of the Proposed Project.

Construction of the Proposed Project could potentially result in direct and indirect effects to Swainson's hawk and other tree nesting raptors, swallows, black phoebes, and other migratory birds if these species begin nesting adjacent to the project area prior to construction; however, construction would occur during the non-nesting season.

## **4. Cultural Resources**

The Proposed Project is a federal undertaking that requires compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (NHPA), as amended. Section 106 of the NHPA requires federal agencies to take into consideration the effects of their actions on historic properties. Such properties are, by definition, cultural resources included in or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (National Register). Through the Section 106 process, as outlined in the regulations at 36 CFR Part 800, Reclamation identified historic properties within the area of potential effects and reached a finding of no adverse effect to historic properties. Reclamation has consulted with Indian tribes concerning this undertaking and is currently in consultation with the California

State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) regarding the finding of no adverse effect. If consultation with the SHPO results in a change in the finding of effect, Reclamation will continue to consult under Section 106 of the NHPA to resolve those effects. As required under Section 106 of the NHPA, the Proposed Project will not be implemented until consultations are complete. In the event of an inadvertent, post-review discovery of cultural resources during project implementation, Reclamation must be contacted to assess the find as outlined at 36 CFR § 800.13.

## **5. Indian Trust Assets**

The nearest Indian Trust Asset (ITA) is the Colusa Rancheria, located north of the City of Colusa. The Proposed Project would not affect ITAs because the Colusa Rancheria is located approximately 20 miles northwest of the project area, and there are no discernable changes that would occur outside the project area.

## **6. Environmental Justice**

The Proposed Project would not displace any residences or businesses, would not take place near any sensitive receptors, and would not result in a change to any existing public service or facility. The Proposed Project does not take place in minority or low-income areas or communities, and therefore, would not disproportionately affect low-income or minority groups in the project area.

## **7. Air Quality**

Based on the short-term (four weeks or less) and temporary nature of construction-related air quality impacts, and the limited amount of construction equipment and workers, implementation of the Proposed Project is not anticipated to result in violations of any ambient air quality standards. In addition, the Proposed Project is not anticipated to result in a cumulatively considerable net increase of any criteria air pollutants for which the area is already designated as non-attainment. Thus, impacts related to emissions of criteria air pollutants would not occur.

## **8. Climate Change**

Construction activities associated with the Proposed Project would generate direct greenhouse gas (GHG) exhaust emissions. However, project specific GHG emissions are considered less than significant, as climate change would not occur directly from project emissions.

## **9. Cumulative Impacts**

No cumulative impacts are anticipated as a result of the Proposed Project.