

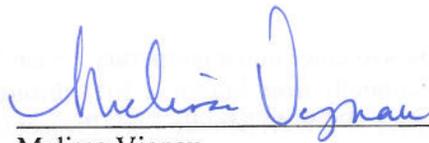
United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation

Mid-Pacific Region
Central California Area Office (CCAO)
Folsom, California

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT (FONSI)

Approval by United States
For The
2011 Temporary Warren Act Contract with
Sacramento Suburban Water District (SSWD)

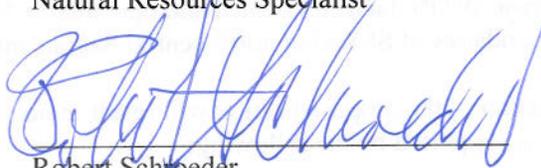
Recommended:



Melissa Vignau,
Natural Resources Specialist

Date: 3/30/2011

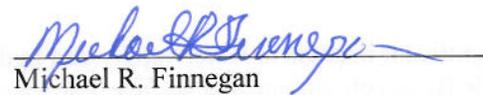
Concur:



Robert Schroeder,
Chief, Division of Resources

Date: 3/30/11

Approved:



Michael R. Finnegan
CCAO Area Manager

Date: 3/31/11

Date: MAR 31 2011

FONSI No: CCAO-FONSI-11-5

FONSI

Temporary Warren Act Contract between the United States And Sacramento Suburban Water District (SSWD)

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, the Central California Area Office (CCAO) of the United States Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation has determined that an environmental impact statement is not required for the approval of a temporary 1-year Warren Act (WA) contract with the SSWD. This FONSI is supported by Reclamation's 'Environmental Assessment for the Temporary Warren Act Contract between the United States and the Sacramento Suburban Water District', and is hereby incorporated by reference.

Background

Under the proposed action, Reclamation proposes to enter into a temporary 1-year WA contract with the SSWD for the conveyance of up to 14,500 AF annually from March 1, 2011 through February 28, 2012 of Placer County Water Agency (PCWA) Middle Fork Project (MFP) water through the Folsom Reservoir and the Folsom Pumping Plant at Folsom Dam (Project Facilities) to the Sydney N. Peterson Water Treatment Plant (Peterson WTP), facilities owned and operated by San Juan Water District, for ultimate delivery to the boundaries of SSWD in north-central Sacramento County.

Reclamation's finding that implementation of the proposed action will result in no significant impact to the quality of the human environment is supported by the following:

Findings

Water Supply and Hydrology

The proposed action does not result in significant impacts to water supply and hydrology. Potential changes in French Meadows and Hell Hole Reservoir storage and surface water elevations would not adversely affect water supply availability for Central Valley Project (CVP) and State Water Project (SWP) customers, and non-CVP American River water users. An existing agreement between Reclamation and PCWA dates February 20, 1963 conditions and limits the rights of PCWA to store and release waters from its MFP facilities. In addition, there would be no impacts on water supply availability at Folsom Reservoir or within the Lower American River (LAR) under the proposed action, relative to the No Action Alternative.

The proposed action would provide SSWD, PCWA, and other entities with the operational flexibility to better meet their existing and future water demands through a combination of CVP and non-CVP surface water supply deliveries, resulting in reduced reliance on groundwater withdrawals to provide water supplies within north-central Sacramento County.

The proposed action has no impacts to water supply within the SSWD service area because the proposed surface water supply would only provide an in-lieu replacement of an already existing groundwater supply.

Implementation of the Proposed Action would not adversely affect Folsom Reservoir operations because the analysis conducted for implementation of the long-term WA contract found that there were no adverse affects to Folsom Reservoir operations. Therefore, it is reasonable to conclude that implementation of the proposed action, a temporary 1-year contract, would also not result in any adverse affects to Reclamation's operation of Folsom Reservoir or management of the cold-water pool.

Biological Resources

Implementation of the proposed action may affect but is not likely to adversely affect listed, proposed, or candidate species or designated or proposed critical habitat protected under the Endangered Species Act. This determination is based on the following:

- Water delivered under the proposed action will be delivered to the boundary of SSWD in north-central Sacramento County. Delivery of Federal water has undergone consultation by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) (Reference 1-1-07-1-0191) and with National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) (Reference: 2006/06094). Additional consultation with FWS was conducted in March 2010, where Reclamation was directed to adhere and implement the Biological Opinion (BO) issued for the WA contract for the SSWD in the American River Division, Placer County, California (1-1-07-1-0191).
- Reclamation contacted both agencies by e-mail, and phone, and received concurrence with this determination that the 2011 temporary 1-year WA contract may affect but is not likely to adversely affect listed species.
- The analysis for the long-term WA contract found that there was no significant adverse affect to Folsom Reservoir operations or CVP management with implementation of a 1-year contract; as a result it is reasonable to conclude that implementation of the proposed action would also not result in any adverse affects to Reclamation's operation of Folsom Reservoir or management of the cold-water pool to meet downstream fisheries requirements for steelhead and fall- and spring-run Chinook salmon.
- Existing minimum in-stream flow agreements would remain in effect and Non-Project Water shall be delivered to the Contractor only: a) in years when the projected March-to-November unimpaired inflows to Folsom Reservoir (UIFR) is greater than 1,600,000 AF; or b) Notwithstanding a) above, in a December, January, and February following a March through November period when the UIFR was less than 1,600,000 AF, when and after water is being released from Folsom Reservoir for flood protection.
- No new development or construction will occur as a result of the proposed action.
- No ground disturbing activities are associated with the project or activities associated with the proposed action.
- Only water measured and reported is available for diversion.
- The contract is a temporary 1-year action.

Cultural Resources

Implementation of the proposed action would result in no potential to affect historic properties pursuant to 36CFR Part 800.3(a) (1).

Indian Trust Assets

There are no Indian Trust Assets identified within the action area, therefore no adverse impacts to Indian Trust Assets are anticipated with implantation of the proposed action.

WBR:RSchroeder:jtaylor:2/25/11:916-989-7274

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