

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Draft Finding of No Significant Impact – Interim Renewal Contract Between the United States and Elk Creek Community Services District Providing for Project Water Service From the Black Butte Project

FONSI No. NC-11-10

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



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Background

Reclamation plans to issue an initial 12-month interim renewal contract for no more than 100 acre-feet (af) of water per year to the Elk Creek Community Services District (District), Glenn County, California (Figure 1). This IRC would provide a back-up or supplemental water supply for Elk Creek until such time as the Bureau of Reclamation is prepared to enter into a long-term renewal contract, which would be the subject of a separate National Environmental Policy Act analysis. The terms and conditions of the interim renewal contract would be the same as those of the long-term renewal contracts renewed throughout the western Sacramento Valley in 2005; the 2004 EA for that action is included in the EA for this action by reference.

Findings

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, Reclamation's Mid-Pacific Regional Office has determined that an Environmental Impact Statement is not required for this interim contract for up to 100 af of water per year.

This Finding of No Significant Impact is based on the following:

1. Central Valley Project operations will not be significantly affected, and no construction will be required.
2. No federally listed species would be affected because the action will not measurably change the flows in Stony Creek, the mouth of which provides non-natal rearing habitat for Chinook salmon.
3. Cultural resources will not be at risk because existing facilities will be used and land uses will remain unchanged.
5. No Indian Trust Assets will be affected because the action will simply maintain an existing operation and will not affect the water available to the nearby Grindstone Rancheria.
6. The contract will be consistent with federal policies on environmental justice because the proposed action will benefit lower- and higher-income neighborhoods equally.

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Recommended: _____
Environmental Specialist
Mid-Pacific Region
Date _____

Concur: _____
Environmental Specialist
Northern California Area Office
Date _____

Approved: _____
Area Manager
Northern California Area Office
Date _____

Concur: _____
Regional Environmental Officer
Mid-Pacific Region
Date _____