

# RECLAMATION

*Managing Water in the West*

## Draft Finding of No Significant Impact

## Yountville Recycled Water Expansion Project

Recommended: \_\_\_\_\_  
Natural Resources Specialist

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Concurrence: \_\_\_\_\_  
Program Manager, Title XVI Program

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chief, Division of Planning

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

FONSI No. \_\_\_\_\_



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

## **BACKGROUND**

The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) prepared a draft environmental assessment, which was part of a joint Environmental Assessment/ Initial Study – Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration (EA/IS-Proposed MND) in July 2012, to evaluate the effects of the Yountville Recycled Water Expansion Project (Project). The Project may be constructed in three phases, with full project build-out completed in Phase 3. Construction of Phase 1 is expected to take eight months to complete, and is anticipated to occur from April 2013 to November 2013. The construction schedules for Phases 2 and 3 depend on funding, but the duration would be similar to Phase 1. Funding for construction of Phases 2 and 3 has not been secured.

The Federal action (Proposed Action) is to provide partial funding for Phase 1 of the Project. Under the Proposed Action, the Town of Yountville (Town) will extend recycled water distribution pipelines to address irrigation demands at several existing vineyards. The Proposed Action will install approximately 6,100 linear feet of new 8-inch diameter pipeline, 1,190 linear feet of new 6-inch diameter pipeline, new valves and turnouts (inlets), and equipment upgrades at the Joint Wastewater Treatment Plant (JTP) and Recycled Water Pump Station (RWPS) to distribute disinfected tertiary recycled water to new customers for storage in existing vineyard irrigation ponds. The Proposed Action will enable the Town to meet its National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) wastewater discharge permit requirements and will offset river water and groundwater use.

The Town has identified four primary objectives for the Project:

- Comply with the Town's NPDES Permit by minimizing discharges to the Napa River;
- Expand the delivery of disinfected Title 22 tertiary treated recycled water to current and future irrigation customers to replace groundwater and Napa River water;
- Construct the infrastructure necessary to deliver recycled water to current and future recycled water customers; and
- Increase delivery rate of recycled water and utilize existing storage capacity of the recycled water system, while balancing recycled water production with customer demand.

Reclamation may provide a portion of the funds to design and construct the Proposed Action through Section 1604 of Public Law 102-575, as amended (Title XVI), and subsequent project-specific construction authorization. Reclamation, which has discretionary approval over the provision of this funding, is the lead agency for the Proposed Action under the National Environmental Policy Act.

## **FINDINGS**

Based on the attached EA/IS- Proposed MND, Reclamation finds 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/IS- Proposed MND complies with the Council of Environmental Quality's Regulations (40 CFR 1500-1508), Department of the Interior Regulations (43 CFR Part 46), and other requirements such as the Endangered Species Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, and local and State requirements (see below).

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

1. The Proposed Action will not significantly affect aesthetics/visual resources. Construction activities will temporarily affect the views of nearby residences, businesses and vehicles; however, the pipelines will be buried and will not be permanently visible from public view. While tree removal is not part of the Proposed Action, pipeline installation along Washington Street will occur adjacent to trees that serve as a visual screen. The EA/IS- Proposed MND includes a mitigation measure to avoid or minimize tree loss and replace trees if any are damaged or lost.
2. The Proposed Action will not significantly affect agricultural and forest resources, land use and planning, mineral resources, or recreation.
3. The Proposed Action will not significantly affect air quality or increase green house gas (GHG) emissions. Sensitive receptors could be affected by short-term construction-related emissions of criteria air pollutants and GHGs; however construction-related emissions are below the Bay Area Air Quality Management District (BAAQMD) and EPA thresholds for criteria air pollutants, as well as the BAAQMD threshold for GHGs. Implementation of the BAAQMD standard construction measures described in the EA/IS- Proposed MND will further reduce air quality and GHG impacts. Operation of the Proposed Action will not increase GHG emissions for the recycled water system and will not generate air quality emissions.
4. The Proposed Action will not significantly affect biological resources. Potential construction-related impacts to California red-legged frog, nesting birds, wetlands and waters of the United States will be avoided, minimized or mitigated by implementing the mitigation measures discussed in the EA/IS- Proposed MND. Reclamation is requesting that the Fish and Wildlife Service concur that the Proposed Action is not likely to affect listed or proposed threatened or endangered species.
5. The Proposed Action is a federal undertaking that requires compliance with Section 106 of the National 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. Reclamation will complete identification of historic properties, consultation, and finding of effect as outlined in 36 CFR Part 800. Reclamation will complete section 106 prior to any project related ground disturbance and submit a finding of effect with the appropriate documentation to the California State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO), seeking concurrence on the findings.

Any applicable mitigation measures resulting from consultation, included in the EA/IS-Proposed MND or to avoid, minimize, or mitigate effects to known and unknown historic properties will be implemented through a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the appropriate consulting parties. In the event of an unanticipated discovery of unknown cultural resources during construction activities, Reclamation will be immediately notified and any ground disturbing activities within 50 feet of the discovery will be stopped until the find can be inspected by a qualified archaeologist and avoidance or recovery measures can be developed in consultation with Reclamation, as outlined at 36 CFR § 800.13. Work will not resume at that specific location until authorized by Reclamation.

6. The Proposed Action will not significantly increase the exposure of people or structures to geologic events or hazards. The Proposed Action will be designed to meet current seismic standards in conformance with applicable building codes, agency seismic design standards, and engineering standards of practice. Mitigation measures described in the EA/IS-Proposed MND will be implemented to reduce impacts from liquefiable or expansive soils.
7. The Proposed Action will not create a significant hazard to the public or environment from hazardous materials. The Proposed Action will be located within 1/8 mile of four environmental cleanup sites; however, the potential for these sites to affect the Proposed Action is low. Contractors will comply with existing and future laws for the transport, use and disposal of hazardous materials during construction. As discussed in the EA/IS-Proposed MND, the Proposed Action will include a traffic control plan to provide access for emergency vehicles during construction.
8. The Proposed Action will not significantly affect hydrology or water quality. Trenchless construction techniques will avoid impacts to Chase Creek and a mitigation measure to reduce potential impacts due to frac out<sup>1</sup> is included in the EA/IS- Proposed MND. Potential impacts related to erosion, siltation and turbidity during open trench construction will be minimized by implementing mitigation measures described in the EA/IS- Proposed MND; including the development of a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan and the restoration of jurisdictional waters and wetlands temporarily impacted during construction. The Proposed Action will reduce existing agricultural demands on groundwater, providing a beneficial effect on groundwater levels.
9. The Proposed Action will not significantly affect noise levels. Construction activities creating groundborne vibration or noise will be limited and short in duration and operation of the Proposed Action will not substantially increase ambient noise levels. Mitigation measures discussed in the EA/IS- Proposed MND will reduce construction-related noise effects to sensitive receptors by requiring the implementation of noise-reducing construction practices and limiting construction work hours.
10. The Proposed Action will not significantly affect transportation and traffic. The number of construction-related vehicle trips and operation-related maintenance trips will be low; any

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<sup>1</sup> When the drilling slurry containing bentonite (a fine clay material used as a lubricant) surfaces in the stream bed.

temporary effects to Level of Service, emergency access routes, or temporary hazards related to construction traffic and lane closures will be reduced through implementation of the traffic control plan discussed in the EA/IS- Proposed MND.

11. The Proposed Action will not significantly affect public services or utilities because it will not increase the demand on public services, utilities, or service systems. The Proposed Action would not increase the amount recycled water produced by the Town; it is designed to balance the supply and demand of recycled water, based on current average yearly production. Use of recycled water for agricultural use will offset potable demands and will improve local and regional water supply reliability.
12. The Proposed Action will not disproportionately impact minority or low-income populations or communities.
13. The proposed action will not affect Indian Trust Assets (ITA). The nearest ITA is Middletown Rancheria approximately 27 miles northwest of the location of the Proposed Action.
14. The Proposed Action will not significantly affect energy resources. Construction of the Proposed Action will require the use of fuels for construction activities, which will result in a temporary increase in energy use. Measures are included to promote efficiency, including requiring all contractors to maintain construction equipment per manufacturers' specifications and specifies actions to limit vehicle idling time. Following construction, the equipment upgrades at the JTP, including the RWPS and supervisory control and data acquisition system, will increase the efficiency and therefore reduce overall energy use for the recycled water distribution system.
15. The Proposed Action will not result in adverse cumulative effects. The proposed project measures (standard construction measures, traffic control plan) and mitigation measures will offset the effects of the Proposed Action on air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, geology and soils, hydrology and water quality, and noise. The Proposed Action will not contribute to any significant cumulative impacts identified in the Napa County General Plan EIR (2007).