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## **ODESSA SUBAREA SPECIAL STUDY**

### **Alternative 4, Modified Partial Replacement Alternative (Preferred Alternative)**

**November 1, 2011**

In response to comments received on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), the Bureau of Reclamation and Washington State Department of Ecology are developing a modified partial replacement alternative that would serve lands north and south of Interstate-90 (I-90) from the existing East Low Canal. Alternative 4 will be presented as the Preferred Alternative in the Final EIS, which will be made available early 2012.

Potential environmental impacts associated with Alternative 4 are encompassed within the range of impacts already evaluated under the Full and Partial Alternatives that were analyzed in the October 26, 2010, Draft EIS. The Final EIS represents the first step in a tiered environmental process. As phased implementation of the preferred alternative proceeds, additional NEPA/SEPA analysis would occur, as appropriate, in coordination with Tribes and jurisdictional agencies.

Alternative 4 would provide replacement water for approximately 70,000 acres of currently groundwater-irrigated lands. Of that total, 60,000 acres could be served with expansions of East Low Canal south of I-90. Conveyance conservation measures would allow an additional 10,000 acres of land to be served with replacement water over time. The total volume of water needed would average 164,000 acre-feet per year. Complete phased construction of Alternative 4 and full utilization of the additional diversion would take at least 10 years. Approximately 25,000 acres would be located north of I-90, while the remaining 45,000 acres would be south of I-90.

The Preferred Alternative would utilize Banks Lake reservoir, which would be augmented by water supplies developed through a water use efficiency program undertaken by Reclamation and the Columbia Basin Irrigation Districts in cooperation with Ecology. This program, referred to as the Coordinated Conservation Program, is being administered in addition to the Odessa Subarea Special Study.

Alternative 4 would include an “infill” option to allow some groundwater irrigators in areas distant from the East Low Canal to move their operations to previously disturbed lands closer to the canal. It is anticipated that as much as 15 percent of the lands served under this alternative would involve infill. Relocation would be limited to an acre-per-acre exchange, that is, one acre of currently groundwater-irrigated land would be retired for each acre of relocated irrigated land served with replacement water.

Water pumped from the Columbia River for the Odessa Subarea would be in accordance with Federal Columbia River Power System’s established water management objectives; therefore, water availability is limited. No additional pumping would occur July through September.

More information about the Odessa Subarea Special Study can be found at Reclamation’s Odessa webpage at [http://www.usbr.gov/pn/programs/ucao\\_misc/odessa/index.html](http://www.usbr.gov/pn/programs/ucao_misc/odessa/index.html).



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