



FAQ – General Summer-Fall 2026

Frequently Asked Questions *(QA list will be supplemented)*

Secretary's Order 3446, Cutting Red Tape and Reducing Consumer Costs at Bureau of Reclamation Construction Projects

Question: What kind of language and instrument will Reclamation use to transfer the procurement function?

Answer: Reclamation will partner with requesting entities to first review the specific authorization for the project(s) in question. If there is no project-specific authority allowing for the transfer of the procurement function, Reclamation will consider whether a transferred works operating contract, existing or new, could be used. If so, and if additional language is needed in the contract, Reclamation will work with the local partner to amend the contract with agreement of the partner entity. Template language has been provided by the Office of the Solicitor, which is below:

"The [partner entity] shall have exclusive authority over all procurement activities conducted under this Agreement. All acquisitions, contracts, and purchasing decisions will be governed by the procurement laws, regulations, and policies of the State. The Parties agree to comply with all applicable state procurement requirements, including competitive bidding procedures, contract oversight, and ethical standards. Any disputes arising from procurement activities will be resolved according to state law and applicable regulatory provisions."

Question: What is the ideal non-federal entity to implement this SO?

Answer: Consistent with Section 8 of the SO, a reliable, well-capitalized non-federal O&M partner with interest in conducting procurement for a procurement-heavy project on a reserved work. Section 8.d. of the SO specifies that the entity should have, "A documented history of successful contract execution or equivalent experience."



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Question: What bearing do the ongoing revisions to the Federal Acquisition Regulation have on this SO?

Answer: Updates to the Federal Acquisition Regulation (FAR) are underway per Executive Order 14275, "Restoring Common Sense to Federal Procurement". Reclamation will adaptively manage to FAR updates. Reclamation will document where FAR changes warrant adapting the approach with customers. To date, the interim FAR updates adopted pursuant to the EO are consistent with Reclamation's SO 3446 approach.

Question: How do we modify contracts?

Answer: New standard article contract term will be available for use with entities which express interest in assuming the federal procurement function. Reclamation expects that these parties will typically have a pre-existing contractual relationship with Reclamation, ideally transferred works operating entities or parties which demonstrate ability to meet the SO's Risk Management and Partner Qualifications requirements. Contract modifications will be made per [PEC 05-02](#).



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Question: As of mid-2026, what milestones have been completed for SO3446?

Answer: **SO 3446 Implementation Timeline through end of December 2026**

Timeline covers December 2025-December 2026. Blue check marks indicate completed milestones; purple cells show work underway through the target completion month.

Milestone	Status	Dec 2025	Jan 2026	Feb 2026	Mar 2026	Apr 2026	May 2026	Jun 2026	Jul 2026	Aug 2026	Sep 2026	Oct 2026	Nov 2026	Dec 2026
1 SO 3446 web page, email box established	Done	✓												
2 Stakeholder briefing on technical/planning/O&M reviews 12/12/25*	Done	✓												
3 Stakeholder kickoff webinar 12/19/25	Done	✓												
4 Stakeholder status webinar 1/29/26	Done		✓											
5 90-day Report to ASWS 2/19/26	Done			✓										
6 Stakeholder briefing on NHPA 4/14/26 (small group)*	Done			✓										
7 Stakeholder webinar: Title Transfer process CMP revisions 4/24/26	Done					✓								
8 CPN Region: Procurement MOU with BPA for purchase of power equipment 4/29/26	Done					✓								
9 NEPA reforms: Guidance Document distributed internally and externally 4/30/26	Done					✓								
10 Review Guidelines published (in draft form) for Designs Performed by non-Reclamation entities	Done					✓								
11 NEPA reforms: new Categorical Exclusions for hydropower published in Federal Register 5/29/26	Done						✓							
12 Cost shares adjusted in NOFOs for Desalination projects construction and Title XVI construction; other NOFOs prioritized local cost share	Done						✓							
13 Stakeholder webinar: NEPA process revisions 6/30/26	Done							✓						
14 Stakeholder SO implementation status webinar 7/17/26	Done								✓					
15 RM Comment web form established per Acting Commissioner: www.usbr.gov/recman/	Done								✓					
16 MB Region: Transition from '638 agreement to OM&R Contract for Garrison Rural Water Project tribal features	Done								✓					
17 Reclamation Manual RCD series changes (RCD 03-01 to TRMR134)*	Done								✓					
18 CGB Region: Contract w/SLDMWA for OBBA-funded XM on Delta-Mendota Canal, \$230 million	Done									✓				
19 CGB Region: Contract w/FWA for OBBA-funded XM on Friant-Kern Canal, \$195 million	Done									✓				
20 All Regions: Contracts for non-federal procurement of IJJA-funded XM/Aging Infrastructure repairs, \$60m as of late-August 2026*	Done									✓				
21 CGB Region: Contract w/SLDMWA for OBBA-funded XM on San Luis Canal, \$50 million*	Underway										✓			
22 Reclamation Manual LND series changes (LND 02-03)	Underway											✓		
23 Reclamation Manual WTR series changes/trainings (WTR 11-02, 11-01)	Underway												✓	
24 Reclamation Manual CMP series changes/trainings (09-04)	Underway													✓
25 Reclamation Manual PEC series changes/trainings (PEC 05-03)*	Underway													✓
Implementation will extend into 2027; other actions pending														

* Items with specific additional activity extending through 2026 into 2027