

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

**National Environmental Policy Act
FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

No. 10-SCAO-027-FONSI

Recycled Waterline, Zone 4 to Zone 3 Interconnection
City of Corona Water Recycling and Reuse Project
Riverside County, California

The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) is providing funds to the city of Corona to construct 8,700 feet of 16-inch diameter pipeline in existing rights-of-way along Foothill Parkway and Bedford Canyon Road to expand their recycled water system service area to the southern portion of the city.

Based on our review of an Initial Study for the *Reclaimed Waterline Zone 4 to Zone 3 Interconnection* (SCH No. 2009031025) certified pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), we have determined that the proposed financial assistance does not constitute a major Federal action which would significantly affect the quality of the human environment within the meaning of Section 102(2)(C) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA). Accordingly, preparation of an environmental impact statement on the proposed action is not required.

Recommended: _____ /s/ _____ Date: 9/27/2010
Doug McPherson, Environmental Protection Specialist

Reviewed By: _____ /s/ _____ Date: 9/27/2010
Dennis Wolfe, Area Engineer

Approved: _____ /s/ _____ Date: 9/27/2010
William J. Steele, Area Manager



**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
Lower Colorado Region
Southern California Area Office
Temecula, California**

To reduce demand on potable water supplies, the City of Corona (City) proposes to expand its existing recycled water distribution system. The City has sources of two recycled water: Water Reclamation Facility 1 (WRF-1) and Water Reclamation Facility 3 (WRF-3). Combined, the facilities have a supply capacity of 10 million gallons per day. WRF-1 has surplus supply and WRF-3 has demands that exceed available supply. The proposed interconnection project would make the surplus supply from WRF-1 available to the WRF-3 area in the southern portion of the City.

Cooperative Agreement No. R10AC35292 provides Title XVI funding for the *City of Corona Water Recycling and Reuse Project, Recycled Waterline Zone 4 to Zone 3 Interconnection*, in Riverside County, California. An Initial Study (California State Clearinghouse Number 2009031025) was prepared under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The Corona City Council adopted a Mitigated Negative Declaration on May 20, 2009, finding that no Environmental Impact Report was required under CEQA.

PURPOSE AND NEED

Dependable water supplies for southern California are becoming more difficult to develop and maintain. Continued reliability of imported water sources such as the Colorado River and northern California is uncertain and the need to develop new supplies and fully utilize existing sources is evident. This includes fully developing and facilitating better use of existing water supplies, including recycled water.

The city of Corona has been pursuing the development of local water sources for beneficial purposes and is constructing a system to deliver recycled water to customers for use in lieu of potable water. The Recycled Waterline Zone 4 to Zone 3 Interconnection will provide operational flexibility and increase the efficiency of the overall system and will allow the city to supply up to 3,500 acre-feet per year of recycled water to the southern section of the city.

AUTHORITY

Title IX, Subtitle B, Section 9113 of Public Law 111-11 (Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009), amended the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act (Title XVI of Public Law 102-575) by adding section 1656: City of Corona Water Utility, California, Water Recycling and Reuse Project. The Secretary of Interior, in cooperation with the City of Corona Water Utility, California, is authorized to participate in the design, planning, and construction of, and land acquisition for, a project to reclaim and reuse wastewater, including degraded groundwaters, within and outside of the service area of the City of Corona Water Utility, California. This authority has been delegated to Reclamation.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Federal funds cover the activities and costs necessary to construct the Recycled Waterline Zone 4 to Zone 3 Interconnection, a 16-inch ductile iron recycled water pipeline approximately 8,700 feet long. The pipeline will connect the system supplied by the Water Reclamation Facility 1 to the system supplied by the Recycled Water Reclamation Facility 3. The pipeline will be constructed within Foothill Parkway from the intersection of California Avenue to Bedford Canyon Road then south along Bedford Canyon to Georgetown Drive. The waterline will be placed a minimum of 42 inches below existing grade.

ADOPTION OF EXISTING ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENT

NEPA requires review of a proposed Federal action to determine its impact on the human environment. Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations direct Federal agencies to cooperate with State and local agencies to the fullest extent possible to reduce duplication between NEPA and State and local requirements (40 CFR 1506.2). Department of Interior regulations for implementing NEPA encourage tiering of environmental documents and provide for adoption of existing environmental documents if, upon evaluation by a responsible official, it is found to comply with relevant provisions of the CEQ regulations.

Reclamation staff reviewed the Initial Study/Environmental Checklist for the *Reclaimed Waterline Zone 4 to Zone 3 Interconnection* (SCH No. 2009031025) and concluded that the document adequately identifies and discloses the reasonably foreseeable environmental effects of the proposed action. We adopt the document in accordance with CEQ (40 CFR 1506.3) and Department of the Interior (43 CFR 46.320(a)) regulations for implementing NEPA.

FINDINGS

The Initial Study identified potential impacts pertaining to geology, hydrology and water quality, short-term construction transportation/traffic, hazards and hazardous materials, short term construction noise, and cultural resources. All potential impacts can be mitigated to less than significant by measures identified in the Initial Study. Corona City Council Resolution No. 2009-054 adopted a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the *Reclaimed Waterline Zone 4 to Zone 3 Interconnection*, finding that all environmental impacts of the project are either insignificant or can be mitigated to a level of insignificance.

Clean Air Act

The South Coast Air Basin is a designated non-attainment area for ozone, PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}. Project construction must comply with regional fugitive dust reduction practices required by South Coast Air Quality Management District Rule 403. Estimated air emissions will not exceed the Clean Air Act conformity applicability *de minimis* thresholds [40 CFR 93.153 (b)] and will not be regionally significant. No conformity determination is required.

Water Resources

The project could result in a total of about 3,500 AFY of recycled water delivered to non-potable uses in the southern section of the City. This water would replace potable water supplies currently used on existing irrigated urban landscapes.

Land Use

No General Plan amendment or zone change is required. No land use conflicts were identified.

Indian Trust Assets

No known Indian Trust Assets will be affected.

Socioeconomic Resources

Adverse socioeconomic impacts are not expected. The project will provide drought year reliability, improve local water supplies, sustain municipal water demands, and support economic vitality in the area. The project will not induce population growth. No housing or people will be displaced. No communities will be divided. No effects to public health and safety were identified. Economic or social effects are not intended by themselves to require preparation of an EIS (40 CFR 1508.14).

Environmental Justice

The Proposed Action will not disproportionately impact economically disadvantaged or minority populations. No impacts relevant to Environmental Justice are anticipated.

Endangered Species Act

The Initial Study found no evidence that the proposed project would have the potential for adverse effect on wildlife resources. A *de minimus* impact finding was filed pursuant to California Fish and Game Code section 711.2. The action will not result in direct effects to Federal endangered species or critical habitat.

Cultural Resources

No documented cultural resources were identified within the Area of Potential Effect. No structures are proposed to be demolished. No properties eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places were identified. No archaeological resources are expected within the previously disturbed right-of-way. In the event of unexpected discovery of cultural resources, ground disturbing activities will be redirected until the nature and extent of the find can be evaluated by a qualified archaeologist (meeting Secretary of the Interior Standards).

Wetlands and Floodplain

No wetlands or riparian habitat will be affected. Most of the pipeline will be outside the 100 year floodplain identified by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). A portion of the proposed project on Foothill Parkway from Winton Street to Bedford Canyon Road is within a FEMA 100-year flood zone. The project does not consist of any major structural components that would contribute to or be affected by flooding.

Clean Water Act

Construction of the proposed linear underground project will disturb less than 1-acre, the threshold for the *General Permit for Stormwater Discharges Associated with Construction and Land Disturbance Activities* under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES No CAS000002), per California State Water Resources Control Board Order No. 2009-0009-DWQ. No Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) is required. Best management Practices will be incorporated into a water control plan to control erosion. Operation of the project will not require Clean Water Act discharge permits.

Geology

A potential concern regarding changes to subgrade compaction and structural integrity of existing streets was identified as a result of excavation activities. A qualified geotechnical engineer or geologist is required to evaluate subsurface soils during initial phases of project construction.

Hazardous Waste Sites

No underground storage tanks, hazardous waste generators, landfills, or other potentially hazardous materials sources were identified within the limits of the proposed project. A mitigation measure was identified to address the unexpected discovery of hazardous materials during project construction.

Prime and Unique Agriculture

A 9-acre parcel of prime farmlands is mapped on the south side of Foothill Parkway between Tamarisk Lane and Teddy Bear Lane. These lands will not be affected. There will be no conversion of farmland to a non-agricultural use. There will be no impacts to agricultural resources.

Wild and Scenic Rivers

No creeks will be directly disturbed and none are designated Wild and Scenic Rivers in the project area.

Coastal Zone

The city of Corona is entirely outside the California Coastal Zone boundary.

Cumulative Effects

No cumulatively considerable adverse impacts were identified.

AGENCY CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

Fish and Wildlife Service

The proposed action will not affect listed species or critical habitat. No consultation with Fish and Wildlife is required under interagency cooperation regulations for the Endangered Species Act, 50 CFR Part 402.

California State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO)

SHPO consultation is required under section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

Natural Resources Conservation Service

No farmlands will be converted. Consultation under the Farmland Protection Policy Act is not required.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITMENTS

Cultural Resources

1. Consultation with the California SHPO is required in accordance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.
2. Should cultural resources be discovered during project construction, all ground disturbing activities in the area of the archeological resource will stop and the Regional Archeologist, Patricia Hicks, will be contacted at 702-293-8075. Construction will not resume in the area of the discovery until all mitigative measures developed in consultation with the SHPO have been completed.

ATTACHMENT:

Initial Study/Environmental Checklist for the *Reclaimed Waterline Zone 4 to Zone 3 Interconnection*