

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

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

No. 10-SCAO-017-FONSI

Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District
Wildomar Recycled Water Master Plan Project
Riverside County, California

The Bureau of Reclamation is providing American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 funds to the Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District for the Wildomar Recycled Water System Phase 1 Project, in Riverside County, California. The Project will construct 29,000 linear feet of 6-inch to 12-inch diameter recycled water pipelines, three turnouts, and on-site system conversions to provide recycled water service to 25 customers, including six schools, a cemetery, three parks, a church, a nursery, two homeowners associations, two apartment complexes, several businesses, and a minor league baseball stadium.

Based on our review of the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Wildomar Recycled Water Master Plan Project (SCH No. 2005011072) and supporting documents prepared and certified pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), we have determined that the proposed assistance agreement 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: 8/12/2010
Doug McPherson, Environmental Protection Specialist

Reviewed By: _____ /s/ _____ Date: 8/12/2010
Dennis Wolfe, Area Engineer

Approved: _____ /s/ _____ Date: 8/16/2010
William J. Steele, Area Manager



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

The Temecula Valley Regional Water Reclamation Facility (TVRWRF) Effluent Disposal Pipeline conveys recycled water from the Temecula area to a discharge location near Lake Elsinore, in Riverside County, California. The *Wildomar Recycled Water Master Plan* will develop a recycled water distribution system to use water from this pipeline for non-potable demands in the cities of Wildomar and Lake Elsinore.

The Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District approved the *Wildomar Recycled Water Master Plan* on February 24, 2005. The Master Plan describes components of a recycled water system to serve the Wildomar service area and is intended to ultimately deliver about 3,000 acre-feet per year (AFY) of recycled water to end user sites. The recycled water system requires construction of pipelines, pump stations, reservoirs, turnouts, and pressure reducing stations to distribute water from the TVRWRF Effluent Disposal Pipeline to user sites.

No Environmental Impact Report was required under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). An Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the *Wildomar Recycled Water Master Plan* (SCH No. 2005011072) determined that the project would not have significant adverse environmental impacts. Mitigation measures were made a condition of approval.

Cooperative Agreement No. R10AC35R05 provides Federal funding for the District to install the Wildomar Recycled Water Phase 1 facilities. The Phase 1 Project has functional utility regardless of whether other phases of the Master Plan are implemented.

PURPOSE AND NEED

Water demand within the District service area has been growing rapidly due to new development and population growth, and is expected to more than double from 2000 to 2020. The District seeks to use recycled water to offset limited sources of potable water supply. Since the alignment of the TVRWRF pipeline traverses the Wildomar area, the District has an opportunity to access a convenient and cost-effective supply of high quality recycled water to meet non-potable demands.

The Wildomar Recycled Water System Phase 1 Project (Project) will result in the reclamation and reuse of about 300 acre-feet per year (AFY) of water each year. This is the first phase of a recycled water system recommended by the *Wildomar Recycled Water Master Plan*, developed in 2004. Ultimately, the Wildomar Recycled Water System will recycle about 3,000 AFY. The project will ultimately offset the current and future use of potable water in the District's Wildomar service area, and provide the District with increased operational flexibility through diversification of its water supply portfolio.

AUTHORITY

Title IX, Subtitle B, Section 9109 of Public Law 111-11, the 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 1650: Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District Projects, California. The Secretary of Interior is authorized to participate in the design, planning, and construction of permanent facilities needed to establish recycled water distribution and wastewater treatment and reclamation facilities that will be used to treat wastewater and provide recycled water in the Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District, California.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

The Phase 1 Project includes the construction of approximately 29,000 linear feet of 6-inch to 12-inch diameter recycled water pipelines, three turnouts, and the necessary on-site system conversions to provide recycled water service to 25 customers, including six schools, a cemetery, three parks, a church, a nursery, two homeowners associations, two apartment complexes, several businesses, and a minor league baseball stadium.

The Phase 1 Project will be predominately within existing roadways. The pipeline will be suspended from existing bridges over the San Jacinto River at Summerhill Drive and Lakeshore Drive. All work will be conducted from the bridges, and no construction activities will occur in the river. Two crossings of Murrieta Creek at Central Avenue and the southeastern terminus of Como Street will be installed by horizontal boring. See the attached Cultural and Biological reports for Phase 1 project details.

The Master Plan proposed implementation of the recycled water system in four (4) phases: Phase 1, Phase 1A (now known as Tuscany), Phase 2, and Ultimate Phase. Federal funding is available for the Phase 1 project. Phase 1A (Tuscany) is not currently proposed for Federal funding. Phase 2 and the Ultimate Phase will require additional site-specific environmental analyses prior to any construction efforts, implementation of which will be based on future (and yet undetermined) demand levels. See Table 1 for current details concerning proposed facilities.

**TABLE 1
KEY FACILITIES IN WILDOMAR RECYCLED WATER MASTER PLAN PHASES**

Facility	Phase 1	Phase 1A (Tuscany)	Phase 2	Ultimate^a	Total
Pipeline	29,000 LF of 6-inch to 12-inch dia. pipeline	38,000 LF of 6-inch to 18-inch dia. Pipeline	22,700 LF of 6-inch to 12-inch dia. pipeline	27,000 LF of 6-inch to 18-inch dia. pipeline (with potential to upsize to 30-inch)	116,700 LF of 6-inch to 18-inch dia. pipeline
Pump Station	None	1 @ 180 HP	None	1 @ 120 HP 1 @ 90 HP	3 total: 180 HP 120 HP 90 HP
Turnout (TO)	TO #1, 2A, 2B	TO #4	None	TO #5	5 total: TO #1 TO #2A TO #2B TO #4 TO#5
Storage	None	0.8 MG	None	2 @ 0.44 MG	1.68 MG
AFY (delivered)	342	832	168	1,526	2,868

Notes:

- a The Summerly Recycled Water Pipeline – Segment 2 (Summerly 2) was originally planned as an 18-inch pipeline for the Ultimate Phase to coincide with the John Laing Homes development, including the Summerly Golf Course. However, the development was constructed earlier than expected and the project schedule for Summerly 2 was moved forward. The District is responsible for the oversizing from an 18-inch to 30-inch, which is required to accommodate existing and future users.

AFY – acre-feet per year MG – million gallons per day
 dia. – diameter MGD – million gallons per day
 HP – horsepower TO – turnout
 LF – linear feet

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.

In accordance with CEQ regulations for implementing the procedural requirements of NEPA, Reclamation staff reviewed the MND 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 regulations (40 CFR 1506.3) and Department of the Interior regulations for implementing NEPA (43 CFR 46.320(a)).

FINDINGS

The District filed the Mitigated Negative Declaration for the *Wildomar Recycled Water Master Plan* on January 14, 2005. The CEQA evaluation concluded that implementation of the Master Plan could affect aesthetics, geology and soils, hazards and hazardous materials, and transportation/traffic. Mitigation measures were recommended and adopted to reduce the identified impacts to less-than-significant.

In July 2008, the District prepared an addendum for the Phase 1 Recycled Water System including a Biological Technical Report and a Cultural Resource Survey to evaluate refinements in the proposed Phase 1 pipeline alignments. No new adverse effects were identified. The addendum is attached.

Clean Air Act

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 Master Plan project could result in a total of about 3,000 AFY of recycled water delivered to non-potable uses within the District's Wildomar service area. This water would replace potable water supplies currently used on existing irrigated urban landscapes.

Land Use

The Master Plan is consistent with the Riverside County General Plan, the City of Lake Elsinore General Plan, and the Tuscany Hills and Lumos Specific Plans, which allow distribution and conveyance facilities within public right of way or District-fee title areas. The project does not involve a change in zoning.

Indian Trust Assets

No known Indian Trust Assets will be affected. There are no tribes possessing legal property interests held in trust by the United States in the facilities or recycled water involved with this action, nor is there such a property interest in the lands designated for implementation of this proposed action.

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 within either the EVMWD or neighboring EMWD service areas. 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

Proposed project facilities would generally be located within existing, urban developed areas, or along existing developed road right-of-ways with minimal to no habitat value. The Phase 1 Project will not result in direct effects to endangered species or critical habitats.

Riparian habitat suitable for Least Bell's Vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*) exists in the San Jacinto River under the Summerhill Drive and Lakeshore Drive bridges. Construction activities will take place entirely from the existing bridges to avoid any habitat areas and will occur outside the nesting season (February 15th through August 31st) to avoid indirect noise impacts to any potential nesting species.

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.

Wetlands and Floodplain

No jurisdictional wetlands will be affected. Riparian habitats associated with the San Jacinto River and Murrieta Creek will be avoided. Most project facilities will be outside the 100 year floodplain identified by

the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Pipelines that cross the floodplain are designed in accordance with accepted engineering standards.

Clean Water Act

Project construction will comply with General Construction Permit discharge and NPDES conditions. Operation of the project facilities will not require any Clean Water Act discharge permits.

Prime and Unique Agriculture

Proposed project facilities will not be located on Prime Farmland, Unique Farmland, or Farmland of Statewide Importance; all construction will be on sites identified by the Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program as "Urban and Built Up Land" or "Other Land" (California Department of Conservation, 2008) and zoned for residential use. 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 Wildomar service area is outside the California Coastal Zone boundary.

Cumulative Effects

The Master Plan MND evaluated cumulative impacts of current and foreseeable future capital improvement projects and development proposals as contained in the Wildomar Recycled Water Facilities Planning Report. No cumulatively considerable adverse impacts were identified.

AGENCY CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

Fish and Wildlife Service

Consultant staff contacted the Carlsbad Fish and Wildlife Office during preparation of the Master Plan MND and later environmental reviews. The Phase 1 Project will not affect any Federal listed species or critical habitats. No consultation is required under section 7 of the Endangered Species Act. Additional surveys and consultation may be required prior to approval of future phases of the Master Plan.

California State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO)

No properties eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places will be affected by the Phase 1 undertaking. Consultation with the California State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) is required under section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

California Department of Conservation

Farmland Mapping and Monitoring Program data was consulted to determine if the project could affect Prime or Unique farmland. No impacts to mapped farmland were identified, Consultation with the Natural Resources Conservation Service is not required.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITMENTS

Biological Resources

1. Federal funding of future phases will not occur until additional biological surveys are completed. Consultation with the Fish and Wildlife Service will be required if effects to listed species or critical habitats are identified.

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:

Final Mitigated Negative Declaration Addendum, Wildomar Phase 1 Recycled Water System, prepared for the Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District by HDR Engineering, Inc., March 2009 (includes the following):

- 1) Wildomar Recycled Water Master Plan, Kennedy/Jenks Consultants, June 2004
- 2) Wildomar Recycled Water Master Plan Mitigated Negative Declaration, Kennedy/Jenks Consultants, January 2005
- 3) Biological Technical Report, Phase 1 Recycled Water System, HDR, July 2008
- 4) Cultural Resource Survey, Phase1 Recycled Water system, Kyle consulting, April 2008