

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

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

No. 10-SCAO-006-FONSI

Recycled Water System Pressurization and Expansion Project
Riverside County, California

Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act of 1992
(Title XVI of Public Law 102-575)

The Bureau of Reclamation is providing American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds for the Eastern Municipal Water District to implement the Recycled Water System Pressurization and Expansion Project. The project will install 4 recycled water storage tanks, a booster pump station and approximately 35,000 linear feet of pipeline ranging from 24 to 36 inches in diameter in order to pressurize and expand an existing recycled water distribution system to improve service for municipal and industrial uses.

Based on our review and evaluation of two Environmental Assessment/Environmental Impact Reports prepared to comply with Federal and California requirements, we have determined that the project is not 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. Accordingly, preparation of an environmental impact statement on the proposed action is not required.

Recommended: _____ /s/ _____ Date: 12/30/09
Doug McPherson, Environmental Protection Specialist

Reviewed By: _____ /s/ _____ Date: 12/30/09
Dennis Wolfe, Area Engineer

Approved: _____ /s/ _____ Date: 12/30/09
William J. Steele, Area Manager



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

BACKGROUND

Eastern Municipal Water District (EMWD) provides potable water, wastewater collection and treatment, and water recycling for a 555 square mile service area with a population of over 660,000 people in the western portion of Riverside County in southern California. Like many water districts in the region, EMWD relies heavily on imported water from the Sacramento/San Joaquin Bay-Delta and the Colorado River. EMWD has invested in developing and managing local water resources, including groundwater recharge, brackish groundwater desalination, and water recycling.

EMWD's four water reclamation facilities currently produce about 52,000 acre-feet per year (AFY). EMWD uses over 100 miles of pipeline to deliver 28,000 AFY, distributed by a gravity flow system primarily serving agricultural users. Surplus recycled water is discharged to Temescal Wash. Municipal and industrial demands for this supply are rapidly increasing. As the transition from agricultural use to urban use progresses, water recycling system infrastructure investments in operational storage, flow-control, and pressure zones are needed.

The Recycled Water System Pressurization and Expansion Project will create a pressurized distribution system suitable for municipal users, including at least four reservoir tanks of about 4 million gallons capacity each, with associated pipelines and pumping stations. The distribution system will also be expanded eastward to serve existing citrus groves. Project benefits include local drought protection and reduced dependence on imported water.

EMWD prepared an Environmental Assessment/Program Environmental Impact Report (EA/EIR) for the Recycled Water System Pressurization and Expansion Project (SCH No. 2008011108) to comply with both the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). A CEQA Notice of Determination was filed on August 20, 2009.

EMWD subsequently prepared an EA/EIR (SCH No. 2009041119) for three additional components that were not included in the earlier document: Leon Road Recycled Water Booster Station, Benton Road Recycled Water Storage Tank, and Benton Road Recycled Water Pipeline. A CEQA Notice of Determination was filed on October 22, 2009.

Legislation was enacted in 2008 authorizing the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) to assist EMWD in upgrading and expanding its water recycling system. Cooperative Agreement No. R10AC35R18 provides supplemental appropriations under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA) for the Recycled Water System Pressurization and Expansion Project.

PURPOSE AND NEED

The Project will allow the District to maximize the use of recycled water by pressurizing and expanding the recycled water distribution system by constructing a booster pump station, reservoirs, and additional pipelines. The primary goal of the Recycled Water System Pressurization and Expansion Project is to stabilize the pressure in the delivery system so the District can deliver reliable recycled water to its customers. The Project will enable the delivery of an additional 3,175 acre-feet per year (AFY) of recycled water and ultimately support the system capacity for the delivery of an additional 8,375 AFY.

The objectives of the Project are:

- Decreased disposal of recycled water.
- Increased reuse of recycled water.
- Decreased imports from the State Water Project and Colorado River Aqueduct.
- Decreased groundwater pumping in over-drafted basins.
- Improved reliability of agricultural water supplies.

AUTHORITY

Section 511 of the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008 (Public Law 110-229, 122 Stat. 840) amended the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act (Title XVI of Public Law 102-575, 43 USC 390h, *et seq.*), by adding section 1639: Eastern Municipal Water District Recycled Water System Pressurization and Expansion Project, California. The Secretary of Interior, in cooperation with the Eastern Municipal Water District, California, may participate in the design, planning, and construction of permanent facilities needed to establish operational pressure zones that will be used to provide recycled water in the district (43 USC 390h-24).

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

Cooperative Agreement No. R10AC35R18 will provide ARRA funds for the design and construction of the following five specific facilities:

Gibbel Road Recycled Water Tank and Pipeline. The tank will consist of a new 4 million gallon (MG) steel reservoir located northeast of the intersection of Gibbel Road / Domenigoni Parkway and State Street. The tank will include inlet and outlet piping, valves, storm drains, access manway, water level indicator, paved access area, and all other necessary site improvements and appurtenances. The new tank will be served by a 30-inch diameter pipeline approximately 4,000 feet in length that will connect with the existing recycled water system at the intersection of Gibbel Road and State Street. The pipeline will include isolation valves, air release valves, blow off valves, and all other necessary appurtenances. (Described as the East Diamond Valley tank site in the EA/PEIR).

Benton Road Recycled Water Tank and Pipeline. The tank will consist of a new 2 MG steel reservoir located northerly on a service road off of Auld Road and Pouroy Road. The tank will include inlet and outlet piping, valves, storm drains, access manway, water level indicator, paved access area, and all other necessary site improvements and appurtenances. The new tank will be served by a 24-inch diameter pipeline approximately 8,600 feet in length that will traverse along Benton Road and connect with the existing recycled water system at Winchester Road. The pipeline will include isolation valves, air release valves, blow off valves, and all other necessary appurtenances.

Leon Road Recycled Water Tank and Pipeline. The tank will consist of two new steel reservoirs approximately 2 MG located adjacent to each other northeasterly of Leon Road and Holland Road. The tank will include inlet and outlet piping, valves, storm drains, access manway, water level indicator, paved access area, and all other necessary site improvements and appurtenances. The new tank will be served by a 24-inch diameter pipeline approximately 1,200 feet in length that will connect with the existing recycled water system in the vicinity of Ano Crest Road and Leon Road. The pipeline will include isolation valves, air release valves, blow off valves, and all other necessary appurtenances. (Described as the Menifee East tank site in the EA/PEIR)

Leon Road Booster Station. The booster station consists of facilities to convey a stable recycled water supply and adequate pressures to serve the existing 1627 Pressure Zone and the proposed 1508 Pressure Zone. The booster station includes two duty pumps and one standby pump each capable of delivering 3,500 gpm, suction and discharge pipes, and surge tanks.

Hemet Citrus Pipeline. The 36-inch diameter pipeline will extend approximately 22,500 feet from San Jacinto Valley Regional Water Reclamation Facility to Alessandro Pond, and will supply recycled water to new and existing customers, including citrus farms. The pipeline will include isolation valves, air release valves, blow off valves, and all other necessary appurtenances.

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 both EA/EIRs and supporting information and concluded that the documents adequately identify and disclose the reasonably foreseeable environmental effects of the proposed action. We adopt the documents in accordance with CEQ regulations (40 CFR 1506.3) and Department of the Interior regulations for implementing NEPA (43 CFR 46.320(a)).

SUMMARY OF CEQA FINDINGS

The CEQA evaluation concluded that construction of the project components could result in significant adverse impacts with respect to air quality. Total estimated emissions from construction of the individual components would be less than significant; however, emissions would be potentially significant for oxides of nitrogen, particulate matter and carbon dioxide if all components were constructed simultaneously, based on the regional South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD) threshold criteria.

The CEQA evaluation also identified impacts that are reduced to a “less than significant” level by implementation of mitigation measures: Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Hazards and Hazardous Materials, Hydrology and Water Quality, Noise, and Traffic. All other project impacts were found to be less than significant.

OTHER FEDERAL REQUIREMENTS

Clean Air Act

The EA/PEIR identified air emissions during construction that could exceed SCAQMD thresholds. The estimated construction emissions will not exceed Clean Air Act conformity applicability *de minimis* thresholds at 40 CFR 93.153(b). No conformity determination is required.

Endangered Species Act

The Gibbel Road Recycled Water Tank (East Diamond Valley tank site) may impact up to 5 acres of Riversidean sage scrub, suitable as habitat for threatened coastal California gnatcatcher (*Polioptila californica californica*). The species is known to occur in adjacent areas.

The Leon Road Recycled Water Tank (East Menifee tank site) may impact up to 4.5 acres of Riversidean sage scrub interspersed with non-native grasslands. An adult Quino checkerspot butterfly (*Euphilotes editha quino*), an endangered species, was observed at the site in 1997. Gnatcatchers were also observed in the area in 1997 and 2002.

Installation of these two components will be authorized under incidental take permit No. TE-088609-0, issued to the Riverside Conservation Authority (RCA) under the Western Riverside Multi-Species Habitat Conservation Plan. The US Fish and Wildlife Service approved the permit under section 10 of the Endangered Species Act. EMWD has applied to RCA for status as a participating special entity.

Other project components are within existing streets or developed land with no biological value.

Clean Water Act (CWA)

EMWD will obtain coverage under the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) General Construction Permit.

Wetlands

No wetlands will be impacted

Floodplain

No components are located within Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) floodplain zone A.

Cultural Resources

The Leon Road Recycled Water Tank (East Menifee) project will cross a recorded historic site and is within an area proposed as a National Register archeological district. No effect to historic properties was identified. Two cultural sites identified at the Diamond Valley tank site will be enclosed and protected within the property fence under an agreement with the Soboba tribe. All ground disturbing activities will be monitored by a qualified archaeologist and members of the Soboba and/or Pechanga tribes.

Farmlands

No prime or unique farmlands will be affected.

Environmental Justice

The project is not located in a neighborhood that suffers from known exposure to adverse human health or other environmental conditions. The project has no potential to adversely impact any low income or ethnic communities in the long term.

Indian Trust Assets

No known Indian Trust Assets will be affected.

Wild and Scenic Rivers

No designated Wild and Scenic Rivers will be affected

Coastal Zone Management Act (CZMA)

The project is outside of the California Coastal Zone. No CZMA consistency certification is required.

Sole source Aquifer

The project site is not located over a sole source aquifer.

AGENCY CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION

Fish and Wildlife Service

Reclamation staff consulted informally with Fish and Wildlife Service biologists at the Carlsbad, California field office and contacted the Riverside Conservation Authority to verify the participating special agency process. Reclamation will submit a memo to Fish and Wildlife requesting concurrence that the certificate of inclusion under the Western Riverside MSHCP will resolve any ESA issues.

California State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO)

Reclamation will submit a finding of no effect to eligible properties to the California SHPO.

Soboba Tribe

EMWD has executed an agreement with the Soboba tribe.

Pechanga Tribe

EMWD will execute an agreement with the Pechanga tribe before ground-breaking activities.

ATTACHMENTS

Comment Letters