

Draft FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
Imperial Dam Facilities Electrical Improvements Project
U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
Yuma Area Office

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, and based on the following, the Bureau of Reclamation has determined that implementation of the Imperial Dam facilities electrical improvements project (Proposed Action) would not result in a significant impact on the quality of human health and the environment. The attached Environmental Assessment (EA) provides details on the Proposed Action and an analysis of potential impacts and should be used as a companion document to this Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI).

The Proposed Action would upgrade and improve electrical systems, components and service lines at Imperial Dam and its associated facilities, bringing these structures up to current safety standards and National Electrical Codes. With original construction of Imperial Dam completed in 1938, the electrical components providing site power to Imperial Dam and its associated facilities need extensive refurbishment in order to ensure long term operational efficiency and reliability. Electrical upgrades will not change Imperial Dam operations and/or adversely modify the structures.

The EA focused on those resource areas identified as potentially impacted by the alternatives considered, including the No Action Alternative. Those resource areas were land use, air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, Indian trust assets, environmental justice, and socioeconomic conditions, hazardous materials or solid waste, noise, and water resources. Based on the location and nature of the Proposed Action no negative effects are anticipated to lands, biological resources, Indian trust assets, and environmental justice and socioeconomic conditions.

Potential negative effects of the Proposed Action were identified for air quality, cultural resources, hazardous materials or solid waste, noise, and water resources:

1. Air quality will be affected by increasing particulate matter that is 10 microns in diameter or less (PM₁₀) emissions during construction phase of the Proposed Action. Effects are minimal, short term, and localized and therefore do not pose any threat to the overall air quality in the community. Additionally, best management practices would be followed to limit PM₁₀ emissions.
2. No federally protected species or areas designated as critical habitat will be affected by the proposed action. Project activities would be conducted in previously disturbed upland areas within existing facilities.

5. A no adverse effect determination was made on cultural resources. There will be no changes in use of the contributing properties and their historic character will be retained and preserved.
4. Electrical improvements within the Imperial Dam facilities would generate construction waste that would require appropriate disposal to limit any potential impacts. Surface contamination could occur from accidental spills of petroleum-based products, as well as other potentially hazardous materials used during construction. This potential would be reduced by implementing a site-specific contingency spill plan. The plan should consist of reporting guidelines in the event of a spill, good housekeeping techniques, and employee training in the use of required equipment and proper handling of potentially hazardous materials.
5. A slight increase in ambient noise levels from the Proposed Action is anticipated. However, because the noise would be consistent with current Imperial Dam operations, activities would be conducted in phases, and no sensitive noise receptors are located near the Proposed Action; therefore impacts will not be significant.
6. To minimize any potential effects to water resources a project specific storm water pollution prevention plan would be developed.
7. Cumulatively significant impacts are not anticipated to occur as a result of the proposed action. Construction of the proposed project will contribute temporary minor emissions of air pollutants in the immediate vicinity of the proposed project; the project area is surrounded by developed and undeveloped areas, other projects generating emissions are anticipated to be occurring in the vicinity of this work, however, with anticipated mitigation measures, these risks would be cumulatively less than significant as these impacts are localized and temporary.

Based on the analysis of the environmental impacts, mitigation measures and other conservation commitments, as presented in the EA, Reclamation finds no significant impact and recommends implementation of the Proposed Action to conduct the Imperial Dam Electrical Improvements Project.

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Date