

ADDENDUM

TO INTERIM RENEWAL CONTRACT PROPOSED ACTION/PROJECT DESCRIPTION

December 2003

The contract amount for the City of Shasta Lake (City) under the new interim renewal water contract in the environmental documentation being prepared for interim renewal contracts will be corrected in the final documents to reflect that their interim contract will be for 4,400 acre-feet/year rather than the 2,750 described previously.

Reclamation believes that this change in contract amount will have no significant or demonstrable effects on the environment for the following reasons:

- (1) Although the contract amount is changing to 4,400 acre-feet (ac-ft), the actual use of water within the CVP Service Area will not change significantly. Over the last 3 years the City has utilized the following quantities of water:

2000 - 2615 ac-ft
2001 - 2775 ac-ft
2002 - 2930 ac-ft
2003 - 3000 ac-ft (projected to date)

These figures represent an annual increase in use of about 4 ½ percent. Amounts over the interim contract amount of 2,750 ac-ft have been obtained via transfers of other CVP water. Absent the change in the contract amount it is expected that over the next 2 years of the interim contracts the City would continue to meet its needs via continued transfers. Projected use for the next 2 years assuming a continuation of an annual increase of 4 ½ percent would result in the following use of CVP water:

2004 - 3,135 ac-ft
2005 - 3,276 ac-ft

Expressed as a diversion rate, this projected 2005 usage would be about 0.66 cfs greater than the amount allowed under the prior interim contracts.

- (2) There likely would be no adverse effect on listed terrestrial species within the City's CVP Service Area because the City's CVP Service Area lacks either designated critical habitat or known occurrences of listed species, with the possible exception of valley elderberry longhorn beetle (elderberries). Bald eagles occur along the shores of Shasta Lake, 2-6 miles north of the City, but the City's CVP Service Area does not provide good foraging habitat for bald eagles, so bald eagles are to be expected, and, therefore, neither are affects on bald eagles. There are 43 acres of vernal pools in the southeastern portion of the Service Area, but none are classified as critical habitat for the listed vernal pool species present or potentially present in Shasta County. Hence, the presence of vernal pools poses no endangered or threatened species issues, although vernal pools are habitat of concern that are protected by State and Federal laws concerning wetlands. Similarly, elderberries, if present would be expected to be in locally exceptional area protected by wetlands laws because the intermittent streams in the Service Area are mostly bordered by blue oak/grey pine forests rather than the species, such as willows, cottonwoods, and sycamores, that are indicative of wetlands.

- (3) There would likely be no adverse effects on listed and other aquatic species.

All diversions occur at Shasta Dam, which is upstream of the first impassable barrier on the Sacramento River. Hence, entrainment of juvenile salmonids is not an issue.

The flows in the Sacramento River would not be measurably altered because the water involved is only 0.02% of the 3,000 cfs minimum releases from Shasta/Keswick.

Flows in the small, intermittent drainages within the City's CVP Service Area would not be altered with the probable exception of Newtown Creek, an intermittent tributary of upper Churn Creek. Newtown Creek receives effluent from the waste water treatment plant, but the increment in its flow (<0.66 cfs) would not be large enough to affect the downstream reaches of Churn Creek which might contain steelhead or juvenile Chinook.

Finally, the incremental amount of water under the contract would be made available in full compliance with all applicable biological opinion requirements currently in place, or will be in place during the period of the interim contracts. From an operational standpoint this contract amount represents no demonstrable change in CVP operation since transfers of this magnitude between CVP contractors are a routine part of CVP operations.

(4) In effect, this action will have no affect on the City's usage of water.

In the short run it will merely allow the City to suspend the series of temporary water transfers it has relied upon in recent years.

In the long run, this contract change will not affect growth because the region's abundant groundwater resources give the local communities the long term capability of developing lands without Reclamation's involvement. The large reserves of groundwater in the Redding Basin, where sustainable yields of 40,000 ac-ft are being incorporated into water management plans, give the area's governments the ability to proceed independently of Reclamation, and they are doing so, choosing only to inform us of their growth plans as a courtesy.

(5) This action will not affect regional settlement/development patterns although some such changes are foreseeable.

The rates of change have been modest in the City's CVP Service Area during the past ten years, with the 1993/2000 land cover change data for the City indicating a conversion of about 0.1% of the land area from natural vegetation to urban uses. Of the 19 acres of the City's CVP Service Area indicated as changing from natural to urban land cover, 11 acres went from woodland to urban use and 8 acres went from grassland to urban use. However, these values may be low by several fold as they apparently don't include the recent extension of Pine Grove Avenue from I-5 to Lake Boulevard. Even so, they are not markedly off, and surely are well below 1%.

Future rates of land conversion in the general area, however, may be higher than the recent past would indicate because the City of Redding plans to develop an area just south of the southeastern part of the City of Shasta Lake's CVP Service Area as a "big box" commercial area. This change, however, would be wholly independent of the City of Shasta Lake's interim contract for the reasons previously noted and because the water would be provided by the City of Redding.

Thus, while the land use changes will not be affected by the proposed interim water service contract, as previously noted, it is probable that urban development in the City's CVP Service Area may accelerate in the next ten years. It is probable that some development will ensue in the southeastern part of the City's CVP Service Area in response to the City of Redding action and the access provide by the new Pine Grove extension. If so, one would expect in-fill development between the existing urban areas with impacts mainly on grassland, shrublands, and blue-oak/grey pine woodland. Again, as noted above, any such changes in the region will be able to occur independent of the proposed action.