

# **CHAPTER 3**

## **SUMMARY OF PREVIOUS ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION**

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### **INTRODUCTION**

Reclamation and CCWD have undertaken a number of environmental studies to evaluate the environmental impacts associated with continued provision of CVP water to CCWD. The CVPIA PEIS, prepared by Reclamation and the Service, evaluated the regional environmental effects of implementing the CVPIA provisions at a programmatic level. The Future Water Supply Implementation Environmental Impact Report (FWSI EIR), prepared by CCWD, evaluated at a programmatic level the environmental effects of implementing water system improvements to facilitate projected increased water demand in Contra Costa County. The Multi-Purpose Pipeline Project Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (MPP EIR/EIS), prepared by CCWD, evaluated the project-specific impacts of constructing a water supply pipeline adjacent to the Contra Costa Canal. The CCWD environmental documents were developed to be consistent with the Contra Costa County General Plan Environmental Impact Report (County General Plan EIR), but because they were published more recently, their analyses also included impacts related to growth planned and approved since publication of the County General Plan EIR. These documents are incorporated by reference into this EA.

The PEIS and FWSI EIR are particularly relevant to this EA because they evaluate programmatic and project-level impacts associated with the continued provision of CVP water to CCWD, and therefore provide the programmatic context for consideration of the more specific impacts associated with the proposed CVP long-term water service contract renewals. The project-specific analysis of impacts potentially occurring adjacent to the Contra Costa Canal provided in the MPP EIR/EIS sufficiently evaluates localized indirect impacts that could occur with the continued provision of CVP water to CCWD. The following discussion summarizes these environmental studies and identifies their relevance to this EA.

### **CVPIA PROGRAMMATIC ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

On October 30, 1992, the President signed into law the Reclamation Projects Authorization and Adjustment Act of 1992 (Public Law 102-575), which included Title XXXIV, the Central Valley Project Improvement Act. The CVPIA amended the previous authorizations of the CVP to include fish and wildlife protection, restoration, and mitigation as project purposes having equal priority to irrigation and domestic uses and fish and wildlife enhancement as a project purpose equal to power generation. Through the CVPIA, Reclamation is developing policies and programs to improve environmental conditions that were affected by the operations, management, and physical facilities of the CVP. The CVPIA also includes tools to facilitate larger efforts in California to improve environmental conditions in the Central Valley and the San Francisco Bay–Sacramento–San Joaquin Delta system. The PEIS addressed the potential impacts and benefits of implementing provisions of the CVPIA.

The analysis in the PEIS was intended to disclose the probable region-wide effects of implementing the CVPIA and to provide a basis for selecting a decision among alternatives. The PEIS was developed to allow subsequent environmental documents to incorporate the PEIS analysis by reference, thereby limiting the need to re-evaluate the region-wide and cumulative impacts of CVPIA. In some cases, worst-case assumptions were used to maximize the utility of the analysis for tiering from the PEIS.

As project-specific actions are considered, the lead agencies must determine if the specific impacts were adequately analyzed in the PEIS. If the actions under consideration were evaluated in the PEIS and the impacts of such actions would not be greater than those analyzed in the PEIS or would not require additional mitigation measures, the actions could be considered a part of the overall program approved in the PEIS ROD. In this case, an administrative decision could be made that no further environmental documentation would be necessary. If it is determined that a document can be tiered to the PEIS, that document may be an EIS or an EA. In this instance, “tiering” means that the EIS or the EA can use the PEIS by reference to avoid duplication, thereby focusing more narrowly on the new alternatives or more detailed site-specific effects. Therefore, only changes from the alternatives and their effects considered in the PEIS would be addressed in detail in the tiered documents.

### **Localized Impacts of the PEIS Preferred Alternative**

The primary impact to CVP water service contractors of the PEIS Preferred Alternative was not from contract provisions, but rather from the implementation of CVPIA. The re-allocation of CVP water for fish and wildlife purposes under CVPIA reduced average annual CVP water deliveries to water service contractors from 2,270,000 acre-feet per year under the PEIS No Action Alternative to 1,933,000 acre-feet per year under all the PEIS alternatives, including the Preferred Alternative. The reduction occurred differently for various classifications of users, as summarized below.

- Average annual CVP water deliveries for agricultural water service contractors located in the Contra Costa Canal service area decreased by 12 percent from pre-CVPIA affected environment conditions.
- Average annual CVP water deliveries for municipal water service contractors located in the Contra Costa Canal service area decreased by 4 percent from pre-CVPIA affected environment conditions.

### **FUTURE WATER SUPPLY IMPLEMENTATION EIR**

The FWSI EIR adequately evaluated on a programmatic level the direct impacts to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and the secondary or indirect impacts associated with growth in Contra Costa County as a result of the availability of additional water supplies by the District. CCWD’s water demand estimates were based on the demands previously planned for by local and regional planning agencies. The FWSI EIR proposed three actions to provide reliability and operational flexibility during droughts: renegotiating the CVP Amendatory Contract (175r-3401); implementing an expanded District-wide conservation program; and completion of two or more water transfers. The FWSI EIR responded to mitigation measures outlined in the County General Plan EIR, including the directive to develop supplies and facilities to meet future water needs based on the growth

policies contained in the County and cities' general plans (Policy 7-17 of the County General Plan).

The FWSI EIR found that the implementation of the FWSI would not directly cause growth to occur, but would instead accommodate the growth already planned for in local jurisdictions' general plans and the County General Plan. The FWSI EIR incorporated the County General Plan EIR impact analysis and mitigation measures where appropriate. It expanded the evaluation of terrestrial resources and found that County mitigation and policies governing the permitting of property, in addition to state and federal protections, would be sufficient to reduce the impacts to terrestrial resources to a less-than-significant level.

The environmental resources addressed in the FWSI EIR included population and housing, land use and planning, agriculture, Delta hydrodynamics, Delta water quality, aquatic resources, terrestrial biological resources, public services and utilities, traffic, air quality, noise, cultural resources, aesthetics, and recreation. Potential impacts were related to the ability of the project to accommodate growth or remove an impediment to growth. Potential significant impacts resulting from projected buildout in Contra Costa County were identified for population and housing, land use and planning, agriculture, terrestrial biological resources, public services and utilities, traffic, air quality, noise, and cultural resources. In contrast to the County General Plan EIR, which identified impacts to natural open spaces as significant and unavoidable, the FWSI EIR noted that approximately 40,000 acres of open space have been added to the County inventory since certification of that document. Acquisition of additional acreage was the result of a voter-approved bond measure and CCWD's construction of the Los Vaqueros Reservoir and purchase of its watershed lands.

Indirect effects to the majority of these resources were related to the secondary effects of growth within CCWD's service area accommodated by the availability of additional water supplies. Further analyses of these effects is not required in this EA because they were adequately addressed in the FWSI EIR. The FWSI EIR and CCWD's adopted findings found that impacts to population, jobs, housing, terrestrial biological resources, noise, public services, and utilities as a result of growth could be mitigated to less-than-significant levels. It was concluded in the FWSI EIR and CCWD's adopted findings that all growth-related impacts to cultural resources would be prevented or mitigated to less-than significant-levels through the proper implementation of existing national, state, County, and local policies, including County policies 9-11 through 9-26. CCWD adopted a statement of overriding considerations for potential agricultural, air quality, and traffic impacts related to growth (February 3, 1999). The FWSI EIR did not evaluate the socioeconomic impacts related to the continued water allocation and modified pricing strategy proposed as part of the CVP long-term water service contract renewals.

## **MULTI-PURPOSE PIPELINE PROJECT EIR/EIS**

The MPP EIR/EIS evaluated the direct and indirect impacts of constructing a water transport pipeline to increase the reliability of the Contra Costa County water supply system and allow for increased demand. The MPP project included construction and operation of two new subsurface pipelines and pump stations, along with other improvements to the existing Contra Costa Canal. A pipeline alignment that would parallel the Contra Costa Canal was identified as the preferred alternative in the EIR/EIS. The EIR/EIS found that most project impacts would be temporary impacts resulting from construction activities and that the impacts would be less than significant

with mitigation. The EIR/EIS further concluded that implementation of the MPP Project would support additional growth within the communities served by CCWD, in accordance with the approved local land use plans of the cities and the County. The MPP project would not support growth beyond planned levels or in areas not planned for development by the appropriate land use agencies. Because implementation of the MPP project would support planned growth, it was found to have indirect, secondary effects that were potentially significant, consistent with the FSWI EIR and County General Plan EIR.

The key issues evaluated in the MPP EIR/EIS included water demand/capacity, secondary effects of growth, cumulative effects, hazardous contamination, traffic, encroachment, air quality, noise, parks and recreation, environmental justice, biology, hydrology, and water quality. Potentially significant construction-related impacts from the canal alignment were identified for land use, recreation, transportation, air quality, surface water resources, groundwater resources, geology, seismicity and soils, vegetation and wildlife, cultural resources, hazardous materials, and public services and utilities. Identified mitigation measures reduced all these impacts to less-than-significant levels. Impacts from construction activities to these resources along the Contra Costa Canal were adequately addressed in the MPP EIR/EIS, and no further analysis in this EA is required.

## **FOCUS OF THE ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT**

The analysis in this EA has been focused on land use, socioeconomics, biological resources, and cultural resources, based on the extensive and adequate analysis of other environmental resources performed in previous documents. The contract renewal action was first evaluated in the CVPIA PEIS, which assumed that all existing water contracts would be renewed. The FWSI EIR evaluated impacts from projected water demands to the year 2040. The MPP EIR/EIS evaluated impacts of a proposed pipeline adjacent to the Contra Costa Canal to convey and deliver water supplies. The proposed long-term water service contract renewal is related to these projects because it would continue delivery of up to 195,000 acre-feet per year of CVP water to CCWD. The direct and indirect impacts of providing water to CCWD have been adequately evaluated in the previous environmental documents, which are incorporated by reference into this EA.