

DELTA-MENDOTA CANAL UNIT

**ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT
LONG-TERM CONTRACT RENEWAL**

Chapter 3

**Affected Environment, Environmental Consequences, and
Environmental Commitments**

February 2005

CHAPTER 3

AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT, ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES, AND ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITMENTS

INTRODUCTION

This chapter analyzes impacts resulting from the implementation of Alternatives 1 and 2 when compared to the No-Action Alternative. The specific provisions of these alternatives are summarized in Chapter 2 of this EA. This chapter does not analyze impacts for which it would not be reasonable to assume that significant impacts could occur. Specifically, potential impacts to transportation, noise, hazards/hazardous materials, and public services, utilities, and service systems are not analyzed, because it would not be reasonable to assume that the action of renewing long-term contracts could result in impacts to these resources and services.

Sections 3.1 through 3.13 analyze the environmental effects associated with long-term contract renewals in the areas of agriculture, socioeconomics and power resources, land use, air quality, soils and geology, groundwater, surface water resources, biological resources, cultural resources, recreational resources, visual resources, and public health. Each resource section begins with a discussion of the affected environment for that particular resource area and then analyzes the environmental impacts of the action alternatives (Alternative 1, Alternative 2, and the Preferred Alternative) as compared to the No-Action Alternative. Mitigation is discussed in the following resource sections as appropriate, if impacts expected to result from the implementation of Alternative 1 or 2 could be avoided or reduced through such mitigation.

Each resource section concludes with a discussion of cumulative impacts. A cumulative impact is the impact on the environment that results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, regardless of what agency (federal or non-federal) or person undertakes such other actions. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time (40 CFR 1508.8).