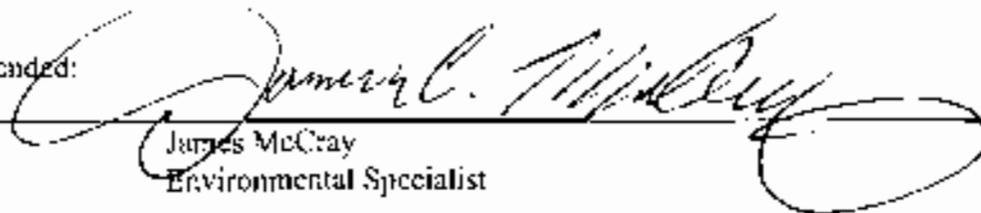


U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
MID-PACIFIC REGION
SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

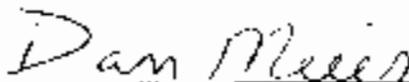
TEMPORARY ACQUISITION OF WATER FOR SAN JOAQUIN VALLEY WILDLIFE
REFUGES FROM KERN-TULARE WATER DISTRICT AND ROSEDALE-RIO BRAVO
WATER STORAGE DISTRICT

Recommended:



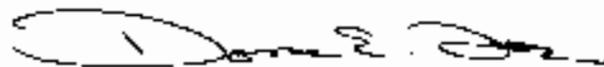
James McCray
Environmental Specialist

Recommended:



Dan Meier
Water Acquisition Program Manager

Approved:



Donna E. Tegelman
Regional Resources Manager, Sacramento

Date. 04/27/2005

FONSI Number: 05-04-MP

BACKGROUND

The Bureau of Reclamation proposes to purchase temporary banked water supplies from Kern-Tulare Water District to be exchanged for 20,000 acre feet from Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water Storage District for delivery to San Joaquin Valley wildlife refuges. The acquired water will be used to provide critical wetland habitats at the refuges as authorized under Section 3406(d)(2) of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act.

FINDINGS

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, the Mid-Pacific Regional Office of the Bureau of Reclamation has found that an environmental impact statement is not required for the proposed action.

Reclamation prepared an environmental assessment (EA) (see attached) that analyzes the impacts anticipated from the proposed action. As determined in the EA, Reclamation did not identify any significant environmental impacts.

This Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) is based upon the following:

- The proposed action results in no significant change in Central Valley Project (CVP) or State Water Project (SWP) operations, nor any change in Delta pumping by the CVP or SWP. The water acquired from Kern-Tulare Water District is surplus to their needs, and the proposed exchange of water with Rosedale Rio Bravo Water Storage District does not change their available water supplies. Groundwater levels would not be impacted by the proposed action. The acquired water will be delivered to the refuges using existing conveyance facilities. Therefore, the proposed action would not have any significant water supply impacts.
- Land uses would not change under the proposed action.
- The proposed action will not adversely affect any Federal or State-listed special status species.
- The proposed action would not contribute to a cumulatively significant adverse impact when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions given the relatively small amount of water involved, and the short-term and temporary nature of the water acquisition.