

MP-410  
ENV-1.10

To: Interested Parties (See Attached List)

From: John F. Davis  
Regional Resources Manager

Subject: Final Environmental Assessment and Final Finding of No Significant Impact for the Temporary Acquisition of Water from Semitropic Water Storage District for the Kern National Wildlife Refuge for Water Supply Years 2000 - 2003

The U.S. Department of the Interior, through Reclamation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, proposes to acquire temporary water supplies to meet the 2000/2001, 2001/2002, 2002/2003, and 2003/2004 water supply years Level 4 refuge water requirements for Kern National Wildlife Refuge (KNWR) as required by the Central Valley Project Improvement Act. Pursuant to Section 3406(d)(2) of Central Valley Project Improvement Act, Reclamation must provide 80 percent of the full Level 4 water requirements in 2000/2001, 90 percent of the full Level 4 water requirements in 2001/2002, and 100 percent of the Level 4 water requirements in 2002/2003 and 2003/2004. The proposed action to purchase up to 17,500 acre-feet of water per water year would provide up to 15,050 acre-feet to KNWR after conveyance losses (which are assumed to be 14 percent of the purchased amount). Three options exist for the source of the water supply being offered by Semitropic Water Storage District (SWSD).

SWSD may purchase surplus water from the Kern County Water Agency pooled water supply, if available. The pooled water supply consists of State Water Project (SWP) water. Kern County Water Agency, as a state water contractor, can provide SWP water to SWSD and KNWR since they are within the Agency's service area and the SWP place of use. The KNWR is predominantly located within the SWSD district boundaries and can accept water from the SWSD. The acquired water would be conveyed to KNWR through canals owned and operated by Buena Vista Water Storage District (BVWSD) from the California Aqueduct. Delivery through the BVWSD is the most direct route to the KNWR thus minimizing conveyance losses.

Another source of water, in the event that the excess pooled water is not available, is the SWP interruptible supplies. Interruptible supplies is water that is in excess of what is needed to meet SWP

contractors annual entitlement deliveries. These supplies may be delivered to KNWR since it is within the service area of the requesting contractor. However, the timing and duration of the availability of this supply are uncertain. Historically, this water supply has been available when San Luis Reservoir is full or filling is imminent. The interruptible water supply, if available, will be acquired in the event that the excess pooled water is not available.

A possible third source of water is the Kern County Water Bank Authority, of which SWSD is a member district. SWSD water would be made available for purchase by exchanging a portion of their SWP water allocation for the SWP water stored in the Kern County Water Bank. The acquired water would then be made available for delivery to the KNWR from the California Aqueduct through the BVWSD canals.

The Final Environmental Assessment (EA) and Final Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) were prepared to comply with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act. The Final EA evaluates the potential environmental impacts, both beneficial and adverse, associated with the proposed acquisition of water. A draft EA and FONSI were circulated for a 30-day public review period. No comments were received on the draft EA and FONSI.

Questions regarding the attached Final EA and Final FONSI can be directed to Mr. Dan Meier at (916) 978-5559 (TDD 978-5608), Facsimile (916) 978-5290, or E-mail at: [dmeier@mp.usbr.gov](mailto:dmeier@mp.usbr.gov).

Thank you for your interest in this Project.

Attachments 2

bc: MP-150, 400, 410 (Burke, Meier), 440  
(ea w/attachs)

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H:\Pub410\WAP\Semitrop\EA2000.wpd\final2000\interested parties.wpd  
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