RECLAMATION
Managing Water in the West

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Temporary Transfer of Water from the Clear Creek Community Service District to the Orland-Artois Water District in 2013

Final FONSI 13-06-NCAO

Recommended by: _____ Date: 7/15/2013
Paul Zedonis
Natural Resource Specialist
Environmental and Natural Resources Division
Northern California Area Office

Concurred by: _____ Date: 7/15/2013
Rich Robertson
Supervisory Repayment Specialist
Water and Lands Division Chief
Northern California Area Office

Concurred by: _____ Date: 7/15/13
Don Reck
Supervisory Natural Resource Specialist
Environmental and Natural Resources Division Chief
Northern California Area Office

Approved by: _____ Date: 7/15/13
for Brian Person
Area Manager
Northern California Area Office

Introduction

In accordance with Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, the Northern California Area Office of the Bureau of Reclamation, has determined that an environmental impact statement is not required for the temporary transfer of up to 5,000 acre-feet (AF) of water from the Clear Creek Community Service District (CCCSD) to the Orland-Artois Water District (OAWD) served by the Tehama Colusa Canal (TCC). This Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) is supported by Reclamation's Environmental Assessment (EA) Number EA-13-06-NCAO, Temporary Transfer of Water to the Clear Creek Community Service District to the Orland Artois Water District, Mid-Pacific Region, which is incorporated by reference and attached.

Reclamation circulated a Draft EA/FONSI 13-06-NCAO between June 28 and July 12, 2013. No comments were received. All changes to the Draft EA/FONSI are indicated by a vertical line in the left margin of this Final FONSI and the Final EA.

Background

Reclamation proposes to approve a 1-year transfer of up to 5,000 AF of Central Valley Project (Project) water from CCCSD to OAWD. The source of the transfer water is a contractual entitlement under a Project water service contract between Reclamation and CCCSD. The OAWD also is a Project water service contractor in the same area of origin as CCCSD, and therefore the transfer will be conducted in accordance with Section 3405(a)(1)(M) of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act (CVPIA). The Project water to be transferred would originate at Trinity Lake, be diverted through Carr Tunnel into Whiskeytown Reservoir, then, rather than being diverted through the Muletown Conduit to the CCCSD, would be released into the Sacramento River after flowing through the Spring Creek and Keswick Powerplants. This water would then be diverted at the screened Red Bluff Pump Station into the TCC for delivery to the OAWD diversions located in Glenn County between mileposts 33 and 45 of the TCC.

The request from the OAWD for transfer of Project water stems from the reduced rainfall during the winter and spring that resulted in reduced Project water allocations for agricultural use. Reclamation's April 2013 press release announced that north of the delta allocation are100 percent for municipal and industrial customers and 75 percent for agriculture. This quantity of water is insufficient to meet current year irrigation requirements.

Alternatives Including Proposed Action

No Action Alternative

The No Action Alternative would consist of Reclamation not approving the transfer of Project water from CCCSD to OAWD. The OAWD would be required to operate within the confines of the available water supply under its water service contract, use of groundwater, or acquire water from other willing sellers.

Proposed Action

The Proposed Action is approval of transfer of up to 5,000 AF of Project water from CCCSD to OAWD from June through October 2013. This transfer water is a contractual entitlement under the water service contract between Reclamation and CCCSD (Contract# 14-06-200-489-A-LTR1). Accounting for allocation reductions for agricultural use in 2013, the quantity of water available to the CCCSD for agriculture is 10,054 AF, of which 5,000 AF is considered for transfer. The OAWD is also a Project contractor in the same area of origin as CCCSD, and therefore the transfer would be conducted in accordance with Section 3405(a)(1)(M) of the CVPIA.

The Project water to be transferred would originate at Trinity Lake, be diverted through Carr Tunnel into Whiskeytown Reservoir, then, rather than being diverted through the Muletown Conduit to the CCCSD, would be released into the Sacramento River after flowing through the Spring Creek and Keswick power plants. This water would then be diverted at the screened Red Bluff Pump Station into the TCC for delivery to the OAWD diversions located between mileposts 33 and 45 of the TCC.

As a condition of approval, the water subject to transfer would be for irrigation purposes for OAWD lands irrigated within the previous 3 years and not lead to land conversion. Additionally, this water would be conveyed through existing facilities with no new construction or modification to facilities.

Findings

The attached EA describes the existing environmental resources in the Proposed Action area and evaluates the effects of the No Action and Proposed Action Alternatives on the resources. Effects on several environmental resources were examined and found to be absent or minor.

This FONSI is based on the following:

1. The transfer will not cause any notable change in the flow in the Sacramento River from Keswick Dam or below the point of diversion at the TCC at Red Bluff in comparison to what the flow would be in the absence of this action.

2. Water would be applied to existing agricultural land and would be conveyed through existing facilities, which would avoid any adverse effects on unique geological features such as wetlands, wild or scenic rivers, refuges, floodplains, rivers placed on the nationwide river inventory, or prime or unique farmlands.

3. Reclamation has determined that the Proposed Action would have no effect on federally threatened and endangered species or proposed or designated critical habitat because:

   a. Conditions of approval maintain existing land use practices;

   b. Water subject to transfer would be for irrigation purposes for lands irrigated within the previous 3 years and not lead to land conversion;

   c. Transfer water would be conveyed through existing facilities with no new construction or modification to facilities; and

   d. The quantity of water transferred over the period of time considered would be through screened facilities and would be very small relative to the total flow in the Sacramento River.

4. No negative impacts to cultural resources are anticipated because no new or additional land would be placed under irrigation nor would new facilities be constructed. Therefore, no properties listed or eligible to be listed in the National Register of Historical Places would be affected by the transfer.

5. The transfer would not disproportionately affect minority or low-income populations and communities.

6. No Indian Trust Assets are served by the water to be transferred under the proposed action, and therefore no Indian Trust Assets would be affected.

7. The Proposed Action will not impact and/or prohibit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites

8. The proposed temporary transfer will not result in any adverse cumulative impacts.

RECLAMATION
Managing Water in the West

Environmental Assessment

Temporary Transfer of Water from the Clear Creek Community Service District to the Orland-Artois Water District in 2013
Mid-Pacific Region

EA-13-06-NCAO

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
Mid-Pacific Region

July 2013

Mission Statements

The mission of the Department of the Interior is to protect and provide access to our Nation's natural and cultural heritage and honor our trust responsibilities to Indian Tribes and our commitment to island communities.

The mission of the Bureau of Reclamation is to manage, develop, and protect water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the American public.

Table of Contents

Section 1 Introduction....1
1.1 Background....1
1.2 Need for the Proposal....1
1.3 Scope....1
Section 2 Alternatives Including Proposed Action....3
2.1 No Action Alternative....3
2.2 Proposed Action Alternative....3
Section 3 Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences....4
3.1 Physical Resources....4
3.2 Biological Resources....5
3.3 Cultural Resources....9
3.4 Environmental Justice....9
3.5 Indian Trust Assets....9
3.6 Cumulative Impacts....9
Section 4 Consultation and Coordination....9
4.1 Public Review Period....9
4.2 Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1521 et seq.)....9
Section 5 List of Preparers and Reviewers....10

List of Tables and Figures

Table 3-1. Federally listed species that occur in Trinity, Shasta, Tehama, and Glenn Counties. Source: the California Natural Diversity Database and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife websites....5

Figure 1-1. Proposed Action area and associated Central Valley Project features....2

Section 1 Introduction

1.1 Background

The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) provided the public with an opportunity to comment on the Draft Finding of No Significant Impact and Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) between June 28 and July 12, 2013. Reclamation received no comments.

The Bureau of Reclamation proposes to approve a 1-year transfer of up to 5,000 acre-feet (AF) of Central Valley Project (Project) water from the Clear Creek Community Service District (CCCSD) to the Orland-Artois Water District (OAWD). The source of the transfer water is a contractual entitlement under a Central Valley Project (Project) water service contract between Reclamation and CCCSD. The OAWD also is a Project water service contractor in the same area of origin as CCCSD, and therefore the transfer will be conducted in accordance with Section 3405(a)(1)(M) of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act. The water to be transferred will be provided by the CCCSD and conveyed to OAWD, located in Glenn County, via the Tehama-Colusa Canal (TCC).

The request from OAWD for transfer of Project water stems from the reduced rainfall during the winter and spring that resulted in reduced Project water allocations for agricultural use. Reclamation's April 2013 press release announced that north of the delta allocation are 100 percent for municipal and industrial (M&I) customers and 75 percent for agriculture. This quantity of water is insufficient to meet current year irrigation requirements.

1.2 Need for the Proposal

The purpose of the project is to transfer Project water to alleviate an unexpected shortfall in water supply to the OAWD in 2013. This water is needed to support irrigation needs and/or M&I uses.

1.3 Scope

This EA has been prepared to examine the potential impacts of approving the temporary transfer of up to 5,000 AF of Project water from CCCSD to OAWD from June through October 2013. For purposes of this EA, the action area includes four counties: Trinity, Shasta, Tehama, and Glenn. A map depicting pertinent locations of the Project, including the Trinity River Division of the Project, the CCCSD and OAWD service areas, and the Sacramento River and TCC are shown in Figure 1.1.

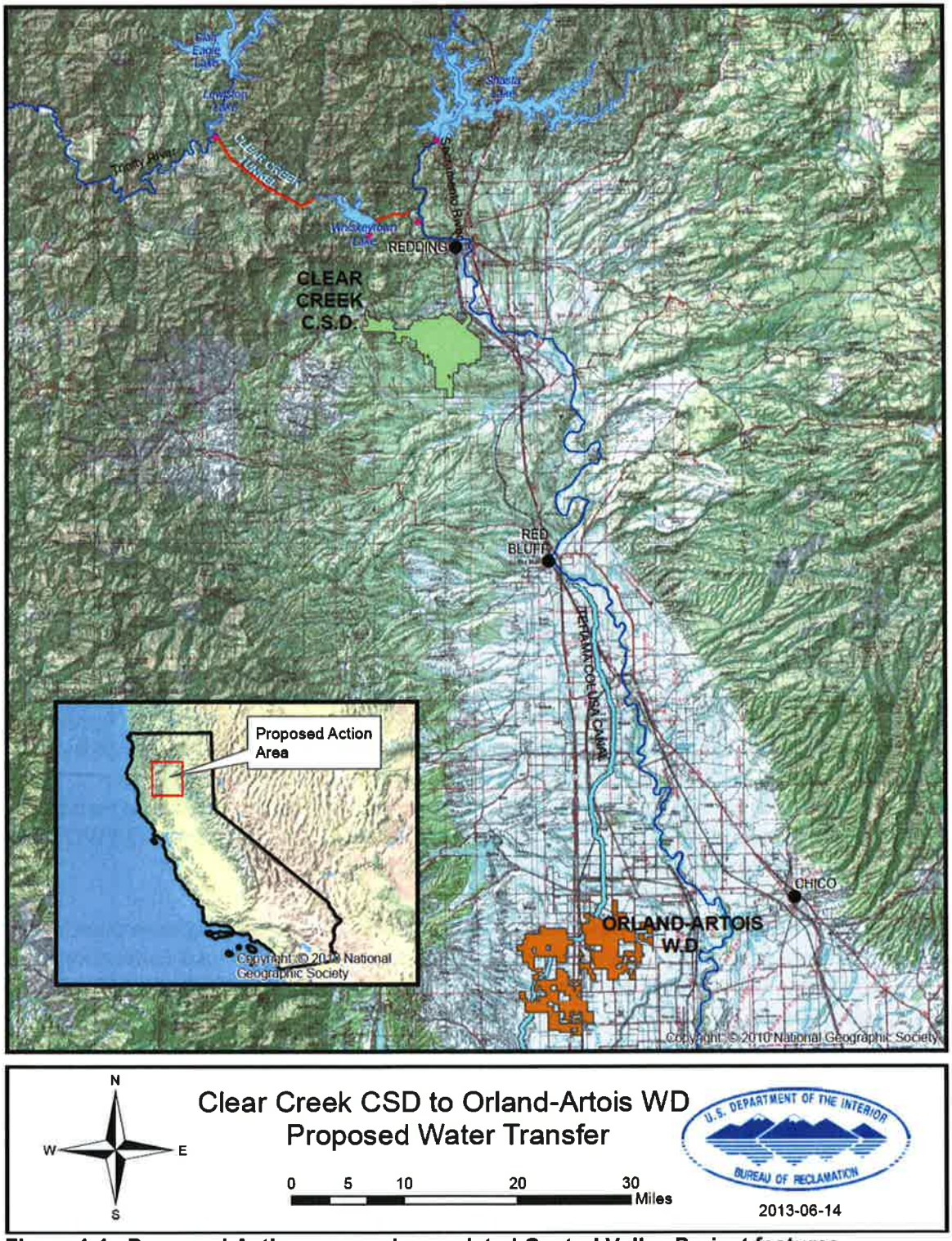

Figure 1-1. Proposed Action area and associated Central Valley Project features.

Section 2 Alternatives Including Proposed Action

2.1 No Action Alternative

The No Action Alternative would consist of Reclamation not approving the transfer of Project water from CCCSD to OAWD. OAWD would be required to operate within the confines of the available water supply under its water service contract, use groundwater, or acquire water from other willing sellers.

2.2 Proposed Action Alternative

The Proposed Action is approval of transfer of up to 5,000 AF of Project water from the CCCSD to OAWD from June through October of 2013. This transfer water is a contractual entitlement under the water service contract between Reclamation and CCCSD (Contract# 14-06-200-489-A-LTR1). Accounting for allocation reductions for agricultural use in 2013, the quantity of water available to the CCCSD for agriculture is 10,054 AF, of which 5,000 is considered for transfer. The OAWD is also a Project contractor in the same area of origin as CCCSD, and therefore the transfer would be conducted in accordance with Section 3405(a)(1)(M) of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act.

The Project water to be transferred would originate at Trinity Lake, be diverted through Carr Tunnel into Whiskeytown Reservoir, then, rather than being diverted through the Muletown Conduit to CCCSD, would be released into the Sacramento River after flowing through the Spring Creek and Keswick Powerplants. This water would then be diverted at the screened Red Bluff Pump Station into the TCC for delivery to OAWD diversions located between mileposts 33 and 45 of the TCC.

As a condition of approval, the water subject to transfer would be for irrigation purposes for OAWD lands irrigated within the previous 3 years and not lead to land conversion. Additionally, this water would be conveyed through existing facilities with no new construction or modification to facilities.

Section 3 Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences

This section identifies the potentially affected environmental resources and the environmental consequences that could result from the Proposed Action and the No Action Alternative.

3.1 Physical Resources

No adverse impacts associated with Project water delivery are anticipated as a result of this transfer. The water to be transferred would originate at Trinity Lake, be diverted into Whiskeytown Reservoir, and then released into the Sacramento River at Keswick Dam over the period of several months. Water diverted from the Trinity Basin is used for multiple uses including environmental requirements for coldwater in Clear Creek, as outflow from Whiskeytown Dam and Keswick (via the Spring Creek Tunnel) to support water temperature requirements in the mainstem Sacramento River. In the case of the Sacramento River, the temperature compliance location was placed at Airport Road Bridge in 2013, due to the drought conditions. This location is approximately 17 miles below Keswick Dam.

The transfer water would result in a minor increase in flow of the Sacramento River until being diverted at the Red Bluff Pumping Plant (RBPP), a screened pumping plant, from which water would then flow into the TCC to be diverted by the transferee whose point(s) of diversion are on the TCC. However, the influence is expected to be so small that it would be essentially immeasurable. For example, assuming the delivery of 5,000 AF of transfer water occurred over the period of 3 months, the average increase of flow in this reach of river would increase by 28 cubic feet/second from Keswick Dam. Placing this volumetric increase in the context of what is typically released during this time from Keswick Dam (e.g. 10,000 + cfs), however, would constitute less than a 0.3 percent increase in flow, which is considerably smaller than typical measurement error for stream gauges. Additionally, because this minor increase in flow would come from Whiskeytown through Spring Creek Tunnel, the water would be sufficiently cold to assist in meeting the temperature compliance objective in the Sacramento River, which is above the diversion point at the RBPP.

The amount of water diverted at the TCC would be the same as that which is released from Keswick Dam to result in a zero-sum action, resulting in no change to flows of the Sacramento River below the point of diversion, which is similar to the No Action Alternative.

No new facilities would be needed to distribute the water. The Project water would be applied to existing agricultural land and would be conveyed through existing facilities, which would avoid any adverse effects on unique geological features such as wetlands,

wild or scenic rivers, refuges, floodplains, rivers placed on the nationwide river inventory, or prime or unique farmlands.

3.2 Biological Resources

Several federally listed species are known to inhabit the Project area, which includes portions of Trinity, Shasta, Tehama, and Glenn Counties (Table 3.1). However, Reclamation has determined that the Proposed Action would have no effect on these species or designated critical habitat because conditions of approval maintain existing land use practices. These conditions include: (1) That water subject to transfer would be for irrigation purposes for lands irrigated within the previous 3 years and not lead to land conversion; and (2) transfer water would be conveyed through existing facilities with no new construction or modification to facilities. Riverine species would not be affected by the Proposed Action because the quantity of water transferred over the period of time would be very small relative to the total flow in the Sacramento River and water diverted into the TCC would be screened so as to avoid impacts to fish species of concern.

Table 3-1. Federally listed species that occur in Trinity, Shasta, Tehama, and Glenn Counties. Source: the California Natural Diversity Database and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife websites.

Species	Status[1]	Effects[2]	Summary Basis for ESA Determination
AMPHIBIANS			
California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*)	E	NE	Species absent from Sacramento River Valley floor and from vicinity of the Proposed Action area. No suitable habitat in the Proposed Action area. No change to wetland or riparian habitat
California tiger salamander, central population (*Ambystoma californiense*)	T	NE	No land use changes would occur to habitat for this species as a result of the action, no conversion of habitat, and no new facilities would be constructed.
BIRDS			
Western yellow-billed cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus occidentalis*)	C	NE	No land use changes would occur to habitat for this species as a result of the action, no conversion of habitat, and no new facilities would be constructed.
FISH			
Central Valley steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*)	T, X	NE	No effect to flow of any water way or coldwater resource within the species' range would be affected by the proposed action.

Species	Status[1]	Effects[2]	Summary Basis for ESA Determination
Chinook salmon - Central Valley spring-run (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*)	T, X	NE	No effect to flow of any water way or coldwater resource within the species' range would be affected by the proposed action.
Chinook salmon - Sacramento River winter-run (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*)	E, X	NE	No effect to flow of any water way or coldwater resource within the species' range would be affected by the proposed action.
Coho salmon –SONC (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*)	E, X	NE	No effect to flow of any water way or coldwater resource within the species' range would be affected by the proposed action.
North Amer.green sturgeon (*Acipenser medirostris*)	T	NE	No effect to flow of any water way or coldwater resource within the species' range would be affected by the proposed action.
INVERTEBRATES			
Conservancy fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta conservatio*)	E,X	NE	Found or believed to occur Glenn County. No land use changes would occur to habitat for this species as a result of the action, no conversion of habitat, and no new facilities would be constructed.
Shasta Crayfish (*Pacifastacus fortis*)	E	NE	Only found in the Pit River and Fall River Mills, northeast of action area. No land use changes would occur to habitat for this species as a result of the action, no conversion of habitat, and no new facilities would be constructed.
Valley elderberry longhorn beetle (*Desmocerus californicus dimorphus*)	T	NE	No land use changes would occur to habitat for this species as a result of the action, no conversion of habitat, and no new facilities would be constructed.

Species	Status[1]	Effects[2]	Summary Basis for ESA Determination
Vernal pool fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta lynchi*)	T, X	NE	No land use changes would occur to habitat for this species as a result of the action, no conversion of habitat, and no new facilities would be constructed.
Vernal pool tadpole shrimp (*Lepidurus packardi*)	E	NE	Found or believed to be in Glenn County. No land use changes would occur to habitat for this species as a result of the action, no conversion of habitat, and no new facilities would be constructed.
PLANTS			
Hoover's spurge (*Chamaesyce hooveri*)	T	NE	Found or believed to be in Glenn County. No land use changes would occur to habitat for this species as a result of the action, no conversion of habitat, and no new facilities would be constructed.
palmate-bracted bird's-beak (*Chloropyron palmatum*)	E	NE	Found or believed to be in Glenn County. No land use changes would occur to habitat for this species as a result of the action, no conversion of habitat, and no new facilities would be constructed.
Colusa grass (*Neostapfia colusana*)	T	NE	Occurs in vernal pools along the eastern side of the central Sierra Nevada foothills.
hairy Orcutt grass (*Orcuttia pilosa*)	E	NE	Found or believed to be in Glenn County. Occurs in vernal pools along the eastern side of the central Sierra Nevada foothills.
Greene's tuctoria (*Tuctoria greenei*)	E	NE	No land use changes would occur to habitat for this species as a result of the action, no conversion of habitat, and no new facilities would be constructed.

Species	Status[1]	Effects[2]	Summary Basis for ESA Determination
McDonalds's rock cress (Arabis macdonaldiana)	E	NE	Outside of the project area. No land use changes would occur to habitat for this species as a result of the action, no conversion of habitat, and no new facilities would be constructed.
REPTILES			
Giant garter snake (*Thamnophis gigas*)	T	NE	Found or believed to occur in Glenn County. No land use changes would occur. Habitat would remain the same and no new facilities would be constructed.

1 Status= Listing of federally special status species, unless otherwise indicated.
E: Listed as Endangered.
T: Listed as Threatened.
X: Critical habitat designated
2 Effects =
NE = No Effect determination.

3.3 Cultural Resources

The Proposed Action will not produce any ground disturbances, it will not result in the construction of new facilities or the modification of existing facilities, and it will not result in any changes in land use (See Attachment 1). Reclamation has determined that neither the Proposed Action nor the No Action Alternative have the potential to cause effects to historic properties, assuming such historic properties were present, pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.3(a)(1).

3.4 Environmental Justice

The transfer would not disproportionately affect minority or low-income populations and communities.

3.5 Indian Trust Assets

No Indian Trust Assets are served by the water to be transferred under the proposed action and therefore no Indian Trust Assets would be affected (See Attachment 2). Moreover, the transaction would be between a willing buyer and seller and would comply with any applicable Federal, state, local or tribal law or requirements imposed for protection of the environment.

3.6 Cumulative Impacts

The proposed temporary transfer will not result in any adverse cumulative impacts because there won't be any impacts.

Section 4 Consultation and Coordination

4.1 Public Review Period

The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) provided the public with an opportunity to comment on the Draft Finding of No Significant Impact and Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) between June 28 and July 12, 2013. Reclamation received no comments. .

4.2 Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1521 et seq.)

Reclamation determined that the Proposed Action would have no effect on federally proposed or listed threatened and endangered species or their proposed or designated critical habitat. Therefore, no consultation was required under Section 7 of the ESA.

Section 5 List of Preparers and Reviewers

Paul Zedonis, Natural Resource Specialist, NCAO
Don Reck, Supervisory Natural Resource Specialist, NCAO
Paul Fujitani, Supervisory Hydraulic Engineer, CVO - 400
Natalie Wolder, Repayment Specialist, NCAO, Willows
Rich Robertson, Supervisory Repayment Specialist, NCAO, Willows
Russ Grimes, Supervisory Natural Resource Specialist, MP-152
Patricia Rivera, ITA, MP-400
William Soule, Archaeologist, MP-150

Attachment 1.

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Mid-Pacific Regional Office
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, California 95825-1898

IN REPLY
REFER TO:
MP-153
ENV-3.00

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL ONLY

June 27, 2013
MEMORANDUM

To: Paul Zedonis
Natural Resource Specialist, Northern California Area Office

From: William E. Soule
Archaeologist, Division of Environmental Affairs

Subject: 13-NCAO-219: Temporary Transfer of Water from the Clear Creek Community Service District to the Orland-Artois Water District 2013

This proposed undertaking by Reclamation is to approve 1-year transfer of up to 5,000 acre-feet of Central Valley Project (CVP) water from the Clear Creek Community Service District (CCCSD) to the Orland-Artois Water District (OAWD). This is the type of undertaking that does not have the potential to cause effects to historic properties, should such historic properties be present, pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Section 106 regulations codified at 36 CFR Part 800.3(a)(1).

The source of the transfer water is a contractual entitlement under a CVP water service contract between Reclamation and the CCCSD. The water to be transferred will be provided by the CCCSD and conveyed to OAWD via the Tehama-Colusa Canal. The transfer is being implemented to alleviate an expected shortfall in water supply to the OAWD in 2013. The Proposed Action will not produce any ground disturbances, it will not result in the construction of new facilities or the modification of existing facilities, and it will not result in any changes in land use.

I concur with a statement in the cultural resources section of the EA for this undertaking that neither the Proposed Action nor the No Action Alternative have the potential to cause effects to historic properties, assuming such historic properties were present, pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.3(a)(1). With this determination, Reclamation has no further NHPA Section 106 obligations. This memorandum is intended to convey the completion of the NHPA Section 106 process for this undertaking. Please retain a copy in the administrative record for this action. Should changes be made to this action, additional NHPA Section 106 review, possibly including consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer, may be necessary. Thank you for providing the opportunity to comment.

CC: Cultural Resources Branch (MP-153), Anastasia Leigh – Regional Environmental Officer (MP-150)

Attachment 2.

Zedonis, Paul <pzedonis@usbr.gov>

CR & ITA Review: NCAO DEA Water Trans CCCSD to OAWD 062613

RIVERA, PATRICIA <privera@usbr.gov> Wed, Jun 26, 2013 at 2:15 PM
To: "Zedonis, Paul" <pzedonis@usbr.gov>
Cc: Kristi Seabrook <kseabrook@usbr.gov>, Mary Williams <marywilliams@usbr.gov>

Paul,

I reviewed the proposed action to approve a temporary transfer of water from the Clear Creek Community Service District to the Orland-Artois Water District in 2013.

The proposed action does not have a potential to affect Indian Trust Assets.

Patricia Rivera
Native American Affairs Program Manager
US Bureau of Reclamation
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