

# RECLAMATION

*Managing Water in the West*

## FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

# Henry Miller Reclamation District #2131 Island Canal System Modernization Project

FONSI 13-14-MP

Recommended by:



Date: 1/14/14

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U.S. Department of the Interior  
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## **Introduction**

The United States Department of Interior (DOI) Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) will provide a WaterSMART Water and Energy Efficiency grant to the Henry Miller Reclamation District #2131 to construct the Island Canal System Modernization Project (Proposed Action). The Island Canal system is the continuation of the Delta Canal, which conveys San Joaquin River water from the Arroyo Canal. All these canals are operated under upstream control with regular flashboard check structures, and the District recently installed a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system to control a Central Regulating Reservoir and several flow control structures. During previous years, unnecessary canal spill within HMRD was measured and totaled approximately 1,700 acre-feet.

The need for the Proposed Action, consistent with the purpose of Reclamation's WaterSMART Program to conserve and use water more efficiently and facilitate water markets, is to reduce unwanted operational spill from HMRD's Island Canal system, improve its water management and service to water users, and reduce dependence on the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta and groundwater.

Reclamation prepared the attached Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate the effects of the Proposed Action. The EA was available for public review from December 17, 2013 to December 24, 2013. No comments were received.

## **No Action**

Reclamation would not provide grant funds to HMRD to support construction of the Proposed Action. The irrigation system currently in place would continue to operate. The HMRD would continue to provide irrigation service to its users via the Island Canal system, Delta Canal, and Noble Ditch. Canal spill and deep well pumping of water high in salinity would continue. There would be no increase in water conservation and management.

## **Proposed Action**

The Proposed Action consists of Reclamation providing grant funds to the HMRD to support the construction of the Island Canal System Modernization Project. The Proposed Action would involve constructing a pump bay control building and retrofitting 15 existing manual check structures into four automatic flow control structures and 11 long crested weirs. At each flow control structure site, a SCADA system and enclosure would be installed for remote monitoring and control. In addition to the new structures, the height of 1,100 linear feet, per bank, of the Island "C" Canal concrete liner would be extended by five inches.

## **Findings**

Based on the attached EA, Reclamation finds that the Proposed Action is not a major Federal action that will significantly affect the quality of the human environment. The EA describes the existing environmental resources in the Proposed Action area, evaluates the effects of the No

Action and Proposed Action alternatives on the resources, and proposes measures to avoid, minimize, or mitigate any adverse effects. The EA was prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR 1500-1508), and DOI Regulations (43 CFR Part 46). The analysis provided in the attached EA supports the following findings, and is incorporated by reference.

1. The Proposed Action will not significantly affect air quality or increase greenhouse gas emissions.
2. The Proposed Action will not significantly affect water resources.
3. The Proposed Action will not significantly affect threatened or endangered species.
4. The Proposed Action will not significantly affect historic properties.
5. The Proposed Action will not affect Indian Trust Assets.
6. The Proposed Action will not affect Indian sacred sites.
7. The Proposed Action will not disproportionately affect minorities and low income populations and communities.
8. The Proposed Action will not result in adverse cumulative effects.
9. There is no potential for the effects to be considered highly controversial.