

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT, 14-24-MP

Firebaugh Canal Water District 2nd Lift Canal Modernization and Lining Project Phase 4 – Washoe to Douglas Avenue

Mid-Pacific Regional Office, Sacramento, California

Recommended by:


Alexandra C. Aviles
Natural Resources Specialist, MP-152
Mid-Pacific Regional Office

Date: January 13, 2015

Concurred by:


Lee Mao
Chief, Program Management Branch
Mid-Pacific Regional Office

Date: 12 January 2015

Approved by:


Richard Woodley
Regional Resources Manager
Mid-Pacific Regional Office

Date: 1/13/2015



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 commitments 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.

Background

In accordance with Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended, the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) in accordance with NEPA, Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR 1500-1508), and Department of the Interior (DOI) Regulations (43 CFR Part 46) to provide a \$1,000,000 grant through the CALFED Water Use Efficiency Grants Program to the Firebaugh Canal Water District (FCWD) for its 2nd Lift Canal Modernization and Lining Project Phase 4 – Washoe to Douglas Avenue (Project).

This Finding of No Significant Impact is supported by Reclamation's EA Number 14-24-MP, and is hereby attached and incorporated by reference. The EA was available for public review from December 22, 2014 to January 5, 2015. No comments were received.

Alternatives Including Proposed Action

No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, Reclamation would not contribute any financial funding to FCWD for the project. FCWD may find other sources of money or proceed with part of the Project.

Proposed Action

Reclamation would contribute \$1,000,000 to the FCWD's Project through a WaterSMART Program grant. The FCWD would provide \$1,889,500 of its own non-federal funding. The Project entails the concrete lining of 2.6 miles of the 2nd Lift Canal of the Firebaugh Canal Water District Lift System from Washoe Avenue to Douglas Avenue. The Project would also upgrade turnout structures and Pump Station 109 controls, and replace the existing Pump Station 109 meter structure at the 2nd Lift Canal discharge pipe with a long-crested weir. The Project would reduce seepage losses, reduce subsurface drain water discharges to the local perched saline water table, and improve water management capabilities. Approximately 336 acre-feet per year (afy) would be conserved, which would also result in a reduction of an estimated 55 pounds of selenium, 5,500 pounds of boron and 1,700 tons of salt discharged to the San Joaquin River and Bay-Delta each year. Modernized controls would prevent backflows into the Delta-Mendota Canal and provide more accurate metering and operation flexibility, which would allow better management of an average 25,500 afy of water deliveries through the 2nd Lift Canal.

Findings

In accordance with NEPA, the Mid-Pacific Regional Office of Reclamation has found that the approval of the Proposed Action is not a major federal action that

will significantly affect the quality of the human environment. Consequently, an environmental impact statement is not required.

The following are the reasons why the impacts from the proposed action are not significant:

1. The proposed action will not significantly affect public health or safety (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(2)).
2. The proposed action will not significantly affect natural resources and unique geographical characteristics such as proximity to historic or cultural resources; parks, recreation, and refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order (EO) 11990); flood plains (EO 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(3) and 43 CFR 46.215(b)).
3. There is no potential for the effects to be considered highly controversial (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(4)).
4. The proposed action will not have possible effects on the human environment that are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(5)).
5. The proposed action will neither establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects nor represent a decision in principle about a future consideration (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(6)).
6. The proposed action will not have cumulatively significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(7)).
7. The proposed action will not significantly affect historic properties (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(8)).
8. The proposed action will not significantly affect listed or proposed threatened or endangered species, or its habitat that has been determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(9)).
9. The proposed action will not threaten a violation of Federal, State, tribal or local law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(10)).
10. The proposed action will not affect any Indian Trust Assets (512 DM 2, Policy Memorandum dated December 15, 1993).

11. Implementing the proposed action will not disproportionately affect minorities or low-income populations and communities (EO 12898).
12. The proposed action will not limit access to, and ceremonial use of, Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (EO 13007 and 512 DM 3).