

# RECLAMATION

*Managing Water in the West*

## Finding of No Significant Impact

# Tranquillity Irrigation District, East-West Intertie Water Conservation Project

16-09-MP

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

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# Background

In accordance with Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended, the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and the Tranquillity Irrigation District (District) prepared an Environmental Assessment/Initial Study (EA/IS) to analyze impacts of providing a WaterSMART grant to the District for the implementation of the East-West Intertie project (Proposed Action) in Fresno County, California. The need for the Proposed Action is to reduce the loss of water to seepage and to improve operational efficiency by providing redundant water infrastructure and increased operational flexibility to deliver surface and groundwater.

The EA/IS was available for public review from March 2, 2016 to April 1, 2016. No comments were received on the EA.

# Proposed Action

Reclamation will award a WaterSMART Water and Energy Efficiency Grant of \$300,000 to the District to partially fund the construction of the East-West Intertie Water Conservation Project. Installation of the intertie would involve construction of a pump structure and turnout at the Western Distribution System's Towne Ditch. An approximately one-half mile 24-inch diameter PVC pipeline would be constructed to intertie with the Eastern Distribution System's South Canal. The Proposed Action/Project would include installation of a flow-meter and a Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition control system. The District would also construct a 13.5 kilowatt photovoltaic solar panel system on a portion of a nine acre parcel owned by the District located at the southeast corner of West Silveria Avenue and Colorado Road.

# Findings

In accordance with NEPA, the Mid-Pacific Regional Office of Reclamation determined that the approval of the Proposed Action is not a major federal action that will significantly affect the quality of the human environment. The attached EA/IS describes the existing environmental resources in the project area and evaluates the effects of the Action and No Action on the resources. The EA/IS was prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR 1500-1508), and Department of the Interior Regulations (43 CFR Part 46). The analysis provided in the attached EA/IS is incorporated by reference.

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)(3))
2. The proposed action will not significantly impact natural resources and unique geographical characteristics such as 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. 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)).
4. 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)).
5. There is no potential for the effects to be considered highly controversial (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(4)).
6. The proposed action will not have significant cumulative impacts (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(7)).
7. The proposed action has no potential to affect historic properties (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(8)).
8. The proposed action will not affect Federally-listed or proposed threatened or endangered species (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(9)).
9. The proposed action will not violate 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 significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (EO 13007 and 512 DM 3).