RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Finding of No Significant Impact – Long-Term Transfers of Central Valley Project Water Among the Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District, the Holthouse Water District and the County of Colusa in Support of the Colusa Generating Station FONSI No. 10-01

Central Valley Project, CA
Mid-Pacific Region

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation

February 2010

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Background

The Bureau of Reclamation proposes to approve a series of transfers to enable the County of Colusa (County) to supply up to 180 acre-feet (af) of water per year for up to 30 years to the Colusa Generating Station (CGS), a 660-megawatt combined-cycle (natural gas fueled) power plant now under construction by the Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E), just south of the Colusa County and Glenn County joint boundary.

The water would be provided under a four-party agreement, in which the Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District (GCID) would transfer Central Valley Project (Project) water to the County from April through October, the Holthouse Water District (Holthouse) would transfer Project water to the County from November through March, and the County would deliver water to the CGS year-round. The Project water that the GCID would transfer to Holthouse from April through October will be equivalent to the quantity of Project water that Holthouse transferred to the County during the preceding November through March period. Water deliveries under the proposed transfers to the County, Holthouse, and the CGS would be by means of the Tehama-Colusa Canal (TCC) through existing turnouts.

Findings

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, Reclamation's Mid-Pacific Regional Office has determined that an Environmental Impact Statement is not required for this short-term transfer of up to 180 af of water per year for up to 30 years.

This Finding of No Significant Impact is based on the following:

1. Project operations will not be affected, as the transfers will be within the contractual amounts of the respective parties and will use existing facilities.

2. Prior consultations by the California Energy Commission and other permitting agencies have found that species listed under the Endangered Species Act will not be adversely affected.

3. Archaeological surveys have found no cultural resources at risk from the power plant construction, and no physical changes would result from the water transfers.

4. No Indian Trust Assets will be affected because none are present at or near the site.

5. The action is consistent with environmental justice as it will not differentially effect lower- and higher-income populations.

Recommended: Natalie Wolder — December 22, 2009
Repayment Specialist
Northern California Area Office

Concur: _____ 2/25/10
Environmental Specialist — Date
Northern California Area Office

Approved: _____ 2/25/10
Area Manager — Date
Northern California Area Office

Concur: _____ _____
Regional Environmental Officer — Date
Mid-Pacific Regional Office