

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Categorical Exclusion Checklist

Inclusion of 23 Parcels into Madera Irrigation District

CEC-11-066

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Background

Madera Irrigation District (MID) revised their Contractor Service Area with the Madera Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) in order to annex agricultural lands located in Madera County. LAFCo determined that the annexation was exempt from the California Environmental Quality Act under Section 15319 of the California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Chapter 3, and approved the annexation on February 22, 2012 (Resolution Number 2011-011). MID has requested that the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) change their Central Valley Project (CVP) service area boundary to reflect the LAFCo action.

Purpose and Need for Action

Landowners within Madera County need a reliable source of irrigation water as their current sole source of water is groundwater pumped from an overdrafted aquifer. The purpose of the Proposed Action is to extend the boundaries of MID's existing service area pursuant to Article No. 36 of its Repayment contract (No. I754-2891D) in order to deliver water to the landowners listed in Table 1.

Proposed Action

Reclamation proposes to approve the annexation of 23 separate parcels (2,673.01 acres) in Madera County to MID and to amend the district's CVP service area boundary to include the parcels listed in Table 1. This table also describes the legal descriptions and locations of the subject parcels.

Table 1 Parcels to be Annexed into MID

Assessor's Parcel Number	Acreage	Section	Township	Range	County Zoning	Placed under a Williamson Act	Land Use
030-172-003	312.10	28	9S	17E	ARE-40	Yes	Agriculture
030-212-003	175.14	32	9S	17E	ARE-40	Yes	Agriculture
030-212-004	32.47	32	9S	17E	ARE-40	Yes	Agriculture
030-230-005	15.96	33	9S	17E	ARE-40	Yes	Agriculture
030-241-001	522.42	33	9S	17E	ARE-40	Yes	Agriculture
030-242-011	39.07	34	9S	17E	ARE-40	Yes	Agriculture
030-242-012	39.07	34	9S	17E	ARE-40	Yes	Agriculture
030-252-003	42.37	36	9S	17E	ARE-40	Yes	Agriculture
030-252-004	40.85	36	9S	17E	ARE-40	Yes	Agriculture
030-252-005	41.69	36	9S	17E	ARE-40	Yes	Agriculture
030-252-006	57.68	36	9S	17E	ARE-40	Yes	Agriculture
030-252-014	39.46	36	9S	17E	AEX-40	Yes	Agriculture
030-252-015	38.25	36	9S	17E	AEX-40	Yes	Agriculture
030-252-016	39.57	36	9S	17E	AEX-40	Yes	Agriculture
030-252-017	38.18	36	9S	17E	AEX-40	Yes	Agriculture
030-252-018	37.45	36	9S	17E	AEX-40	Yes	Agriculture
030-252-019	37.45	36	9S	17E	AEX-40	Yes	Agriculture
030-270-002	117.57	5	10S	17E	ARE-40	Yes	Agriculture
030-270-003	599.22	5	10S	17E	ARE-40	Yes	Agriculture
030-292-004	37.49	1	10S	17E	ARE-40/OS	Yes	Agriculture
030-292-005	36.54	1	10S	17E	ARE-40/OS	Yes	Agriculture
049-590-009	26.90	2	12S	19E	RRS	No	Agriculture

Assessor's Parcel Number	Acreage	Section	Township	Range	County Zoning	Placed under a Williamson Act	Land Use
052-100-024	306.11	31	9S	18E	AEX-40	Yes	Agriculture
ARE-40 = agricultural , rural, exclusive 40-acre AEX-40 = agricultural, exclusive 40-acre OS = open space							

No land use changes are associated with the Proposed Action. No property alterations or improvements are needed for the delivery of CVP water and none are included as part of the Proposed Action. No additional CVP water would be allocated due to this annexation.

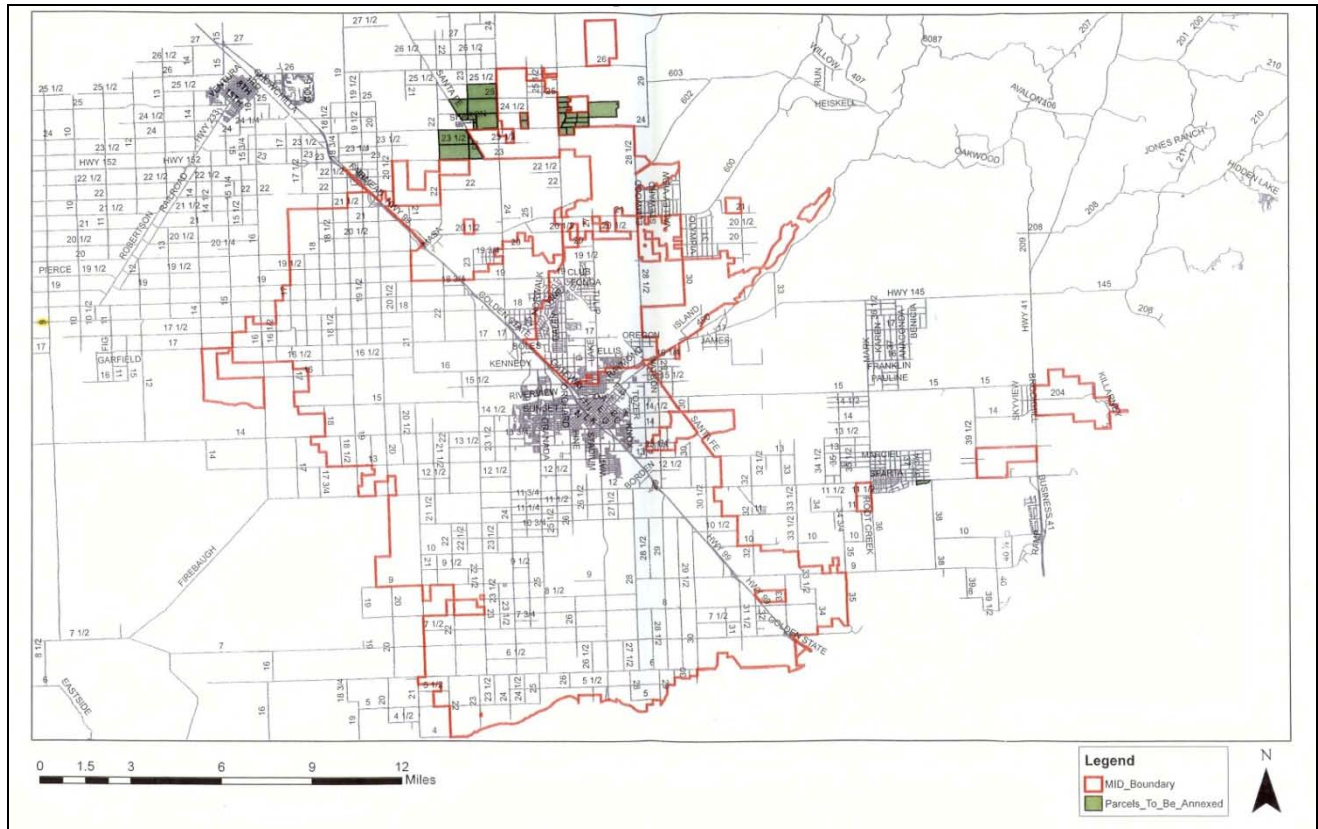


Figure 1. Parcels to be annexed into Madera Irrigation District (Source: 2011 LAFCo Report)

Exclusion Category

516 DM 14.5 paragraph D (3): *Administration and implementation of project repayment and water service contracts, including approval of organizational or other administrative changes in contracting entities brought about by inclusion or exclusion of lands in these contracts.*

Evaluation of Criteria for Categorical Exclusion:

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| 1. This action would have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment (40 CFR 1502.3). | No | ☒ | Uncertain | ☐ | Yes | ☐ |
| 2. This action would have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources (NEPA Section 102(2)(E) and 43 CFR 46.215(c)). | No | ☒ | Uncertain | ☐ | Yes | ☐ |
| 3. This action would have significant impacts on public health or safety (43 CFR 46.215(a)). | No | ☒ | Uncertain | ☐ | Yes | ☐ |
| 4. This action would have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographical characteristics 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 (EO 11990); flood plains (EO 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas (43 CFR 46.215 (b)). | No | ☒ | Uncertain | ☐ | Yes | ☐ |
| 5. This action would have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks (43 CFR 46.215(d)). | No | ☒ | Uncertain | ☐ | Yes | ☐ |
| 6. This action would establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects (43 CFR 46.215 (e)). | No | ☒ | Uncertain | ☐ | Yes | ☐ |
| 7. This action would have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects (43 CFR 46.215 (f)). | No | ☒ | Uncertain | ☐ | Yes | ☐ |
| 8. This action would have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by Reclamation (LND 02-01) (43 CFR 46.215 (g)). | No | ☒ | Uncertain | ☐ | Yes | ☐ |
| 9. This action would have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated critical habitat for these species (43 CFR 46.215 (h)). | No | ☒ | Uncertain | ☐ | Yes | ☐ |

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|--|----|-------------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------|-----|--------------------------|
| 10. This action would violate a Federal, tribal, State, or local law or requirement imposed for protection of the environment (43 CFR 46.215 (i)). | No | ☒ | Uncertain | ☐ | Yes | ☐ |
| 11. This action would affect ITAs (512 DM 2, Policy Memorandum dated December 15, 1993). | No | ☒ | Uncertain | ☐ | Yes | ☐ |
| 12. This action would have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (EO 12898) (43 CFR 46.215 (j)). | No | ☒ | Uncertain | ☐ | Yes | ☐ |
| 13. This action would 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, 43 CFR 46.215 (k), and 512 DM 3)). | No | ☒ | Uncertain | ☐ | Yes | ☐ |
| 14. This action would contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act, EO 13112, and 43 CFR 46.215 (l)). | No | ☒ | Uncertain | ☐ | Yes | ☐ |

Regional Archeologist concurred with Item 8. Their determination has been placed within the project file.

Area Office Biologist concurred with Item 9. Their determination has been placed within the project file.

ITA Designee concurred with Item 11. Their determination has been placed within the project file.