

RECLAMATION

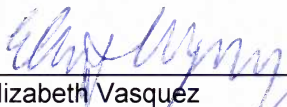
Managing Water in the West

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

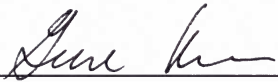
Cawelo Water District Calloway Canal Lining Project

FONSI 12-08-MP

Recommended by:



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Date: APRIL 12, 2013



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
Mid-Pacific Regional Office
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Introduction

In accordance with section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) has determined that awarding Cawelo Water District (CWD) a CALFED Water Use Efficiency Grant to support implementation of the Proposed Action is not a major Federal action that will significantly affect the quality of the human environment and an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. This Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI [No. 12-08-MP]) is supported by Reclamation's Environmental Assessment (EA) title *Cawelo Water District Calloway Canal Lining Project*, which is hereby incorporated by reference. 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.

Reclamation provided the public with an opportunity to comment on the FONSI and EA from December 20, 2012 to January 17, 2013, and no comments were received during the review period.

Proposed Action

Under the Proposed Action Alternative, Reclamation would award CWD with a CALFED Water Use Efficiency Grant providing partial funding for lining the Calloway Canal between the Cross Valley Canal Intertie and Coffee Road. The portion of the canal to be modified under the Proposed Action does not contain any structures. Dewatering of the canal would not be necessary due to construction occurring when the canal is normally dry. All associated construction activities would occur on existing facilities within an industrial area of Bakersfield.

Construction activities would include the following:

- The existing canal would be trimmed to provide a prism at a nominal depth of 8.5 feet with a 50 foot wide bottom and approximately 29' sides at a slope of 3:1.
- Approximately 14,092 cubic yards of concrete would be used to cover approximately 3,523 feet at 4-inches thick.
- Trimming foundation work and the placement of backfill would likely include the use of an excavator, loader, and compaction equipment.
- Access would be through the existing Rosedale Highway access ramps. If necessary, additional access would be through Charity Avenue and property currently being utilized for the construction of the Cross Valley-Calloway Canal Intertie.
- Work would be completed within the maintained canal right-of-way (ROW).
- Staging would occur within the existing ROW or property currently being utilized for the construction of the Cross Valley-Calloway Canal Intertie.
- Excess material would be placed within the existing canal ROW.
- Construction is limited to daytime hours, defined as no earlier than 30 minutes after sunrise and no later than 30 minutes before sunset.

Access and staging may occur outside of the canal ROW. If additional access and staging areas are necessary, adjacent land on the south side of the canal would be used. The property is disturbed land currently being utilized for staging of fill materials for the Cross Valley-Calloway Canal Intertie Project. The Cross Valley-Calloway Canal Intertie Project is being completed as part of the System Operations Improvement Project, and was included in the 2006 Initial Study /Negative Declaration completed by North Kern Water Storage District. The land was cleared and grubbed before utilized.

The construction timeline would be dependent on hydrology, when the canal is dry and unused. If 2013 is a dry year, construction would occur any time after April; if it is a wet year, construction would occur between August and September. The post-project seepage losses would be expected to be near zero but nominal losses would still occur through the concrete joints. The actual canal loss seepage reductions would be verified by continued daily measurements recorded by the City of Bakersfield at two weirs to determine the difference in flow.

Findings

Reclamation's determination that implementation of the Proposed Action will result in no significant impact to the quality of the human environment is supported by the referenced EA and is summarized in the following:

Cultural Resources

Reclamation consulted with the California State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) June 22, 2012 regarding a finding of no effects to historic properties pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800.4(d)(1). SHPO concurred with Reclamations' findings and determination on June 27, 2012.

Indian Trust Assets (ITA)

There are no tribes possessing legal property interests held in trust by the U.S. within the Affected Environment involved with the Proposed Action. The nearest ITA is a Public Domain Allotment approximately 38 miles east of the project location. The Proposed Action has no potential to affect ITA.

Indian Sacred Sites

No Indian sacred sites have been identified within the footprint for the Proposed Action and therefore will not be affected.

Environmental Justice

Implementing the Proposed Action will not disproportionately affect minority or low-income populations and communities since land use and the tax base would remain unchanged.

Water Resources

The Proposed Action will not increase or decrease surface water supplies CWD diverts from the Kern River. Implementation of the Proposed Action would result in no change from the existing condition of surface water supplies.

While surface water lost due to seepage would have contributed to groundwater elevations, the implementation of the Proposed Action would reduce groundwater recharge to an area where recovery of the groundwater would be problematic due to concentration of Phenol, a constituent of concern. Given the poor condition of the groundwater basin under the Calloway Canal between the Cross Valley Canal Intertie and Coffee Road, there would be no adverse affect to the groundwater resources as a result of the Proposed Action.

Biological Resources

Under the Proposed Action, the potential for impacts to wildlife and special-status species would be limited, since the project would be constructed within the existing, disturbed ROW for CWD. Preconstruction surveys will be performed prior to ground disturbance for burrowing owl, San Joaquin kit fox, and other special-status species. If surveys confirm presence of burrowing owl or other species protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, then the mitigation measures to minimize impacts to avian species would be implemented. Specifically, if burrowing owls are present measures would be taken consistent with CDFW 2012 to protect burrowing owls, their burrows, and foraging habitat. If surveys confirm presence of San Joaquin kit fox, then the Proposed Action would halt while Reclamation coordinates with the Service and the appropriate corrective measures have been completed or it has been determined that the species will not be harmed. Additionally the Proposed Action includes a suite of avoidance and minimization measures to protect San Joaquin kit fox. With implementation of surveys and avoidance and minimization measures, Reclamation has determined that the Proposed Action may, but is not likely to adversely affect the San Joaquin kit fox. Reclamation has received concurrence with this finding from the USFWS on March 7, 2013. By implementing a strategy of preconstruction surveys and avoidance and minimization measures, the impacts to wildlife and special-status species would be less than significant.

Air Quality

Operation and construction emissions from the Proposed Action will be well below the *de minimis* threshold for Federal general conformity, as well as State and local thresholds. In addition, dust control measures such as applying water to ground-disturbing areas would help suppress fugitive dust emissions. The Proposed Action will not violate any Federal, State, or local air quality standards for the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin. Additionally, the Proposed Action would comply with the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District's Regulation VIII control measures for construction emissions of PM₁₀.

Cumulative Impacts

When taking into consideration other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable projects, the Proposed Action will not contribute to impacts that could significantly affect the quality of the human environment.