

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Kaweah Delta Water Conservation District Paregien Basin Project

FONSI 13-09-MP

Recommended: _____ Date: _____
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U. S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
Mid-Pacific Region
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Background

The United States Department of Interior (DOI) Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) will provide DOI's WaterSMART program grant funds to the Kaweah Delta Water Conservation District (District) to construct the Paregien Basin Project (Proposed Action). The Proposed Project/Action consists of two groundwater recharge/stormwater control basins to provide groundwater recharge and to provide flood protection for the nearby City of Farmersville and the Linnell Farm Labor Center.

The need for the Proposed Action, consistent with the purpose of Reclamation's WaterSMART program, is to provide a reliable source of groundwater recharge for non-storable storm and flood waters and to improve the District's water supply management efficiency.

Reclamation prepared the attached Environmental Assessment (EA) in July 2013, to evaluate the effects of the Proposed Action.

No Action

Reclamation would not provide grant funds to the District to support construction of the Proposed Action. There would be no increase in groundwater recharge and no increase in flood protection.

Proposed Action

The Proposed Action consists of Reclamation providing grant funds to the District to support the construction of two groundwater recharge/stormwater control basins, one of 19.6 acres and one of 3.4 acres, that will be used to provide a reliable source of groundwater recharge and will provide flood protection for the nearby City of Farmersville and the Linnell Farm Labor Center. An average annual total of 2,370 acre-feet of groundwater supplies would be conserved. In addition, piezometers and two new monitor wells will be installed to monitor groundwater movement. One hundred oak trees and associated native vegetation will be planted to be consistent with historic riparian oak savannah characteristics of the area.

Findings

Based on the attached EA, Reclamation finds that the Proposed Action is not a major Federal action that will significantly affect the quality of the human environment. The EA describes the existing environmental resources in the Proposed Action area and evaluates the effects of the No Action and Proposed Action alternatives on the resources. The EA 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 incorporated by reference.

Following are the reasons why the impacts of the Proposed Action are not significant:

1. The Proposed Action will not affect air quality or increase greenhouse gas emissions.
2. The Proposed Action will not significantly affect water resources.
3. The Proposed Action will not significantly affect threatened or endangered species.
4. The Proposed Action will not affect historic properties.
5. The Proposed Action will not affect Indian Trust Assets.
6. The Proposed Action will not affect Indian sacred sites.
7. The Proposed Action will not disproportionately affect minorities and low income populations and communities.
8. The Proposed Action will not result in adverse cumulative effects.
9. There is no potential for the effects to be considered highly controversial.