

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Supplemental Environmental Assessment

**Supplement to the 2011 Pelger Mutual Water Company
Groundwater Production Well - Sacramento Valley
Integrated Regional Water Management Program**



**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
Mid Pacific Regional Office
Sacramento, California**

July 2013

Mission Statements

The mission of the Department of the Interior is to protect and provide access to our Nation's natural and cultural heritage and honor our trust responsibilities to Indian Tribes and our commitments to island communities.

The mission of the Bureau of Reclamation is to manage, develop, and protect water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the American public.

Table of Contents

Section 1	Introduction.....	1
1.1	Background.....	1
1.2	Need for the Proposal.....	1
Section 2	Proposed Action	1
Section 3	Affected Environment & Environmental Consequences	4
3.1	Water Resources	4
3.2	Biological Resources	4
3.3	Cultural Resources	5
Section 4	Consultation and Coordination	5
4.1	Public Review Period.....	5
4.2	Federal Endangered Species Act	6
4.3	National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. § 470 et seq.)	6

List of Figures

Figure 1	Proposed Project Location and Vicinity
Figure 2	Proposed Well and Other Site Features

List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

2011 EA/IS	Environmental Assessment/Initial Study for the Pelger Mutual Water Company Groundwater Production Element Project & Sutter Mutual Water Company Groundwater Monitoring Project – Sacramento Valley Integrated Regional Water Management Program Grant
APE	Area of Potential Effect
CEQA	California Environmental Quality Act
EA	Environmental Assessment
FONSI	Finding of No Significant Impact
IS	Initial Study
ITA	Indian Trust Assets
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NRHP	National Register of Historic Places
PMWC	Pelger Mutual Water Company
Reclamation	Bureau of Reclamation
SHPO	State Historic Preservation Officer
SMWC	Sutter Mutual Water Company
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Section 1 Introduction

1.1 Background

An Environmental Assessment (EA)/Initial Study (IS) for the *Pelger Mutual Water Company Groundwater Production Element Project & Sutter Mutual Water Company Groundwater Monitoring Project – Sacramento Valley Integrated Regional Water Management Program Grant* was completed in September 2011 with the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) as the lead federal agency for National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and Pelger Mutual Water Company (PMWC) as the lead state agency for California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) (2011 EA/IS). Reclamation signed a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) in January 2012. Since that time, PMWC has had to revise the proposed well location and as a result, this Supplemental EA has been prepared to evaluate and disclose any potential environmental impacts associated with the change to the Proposed Action as originally described in the 2011 EA/IS, which is hereby incorporated by reference.

1.2 Need for the Proposal

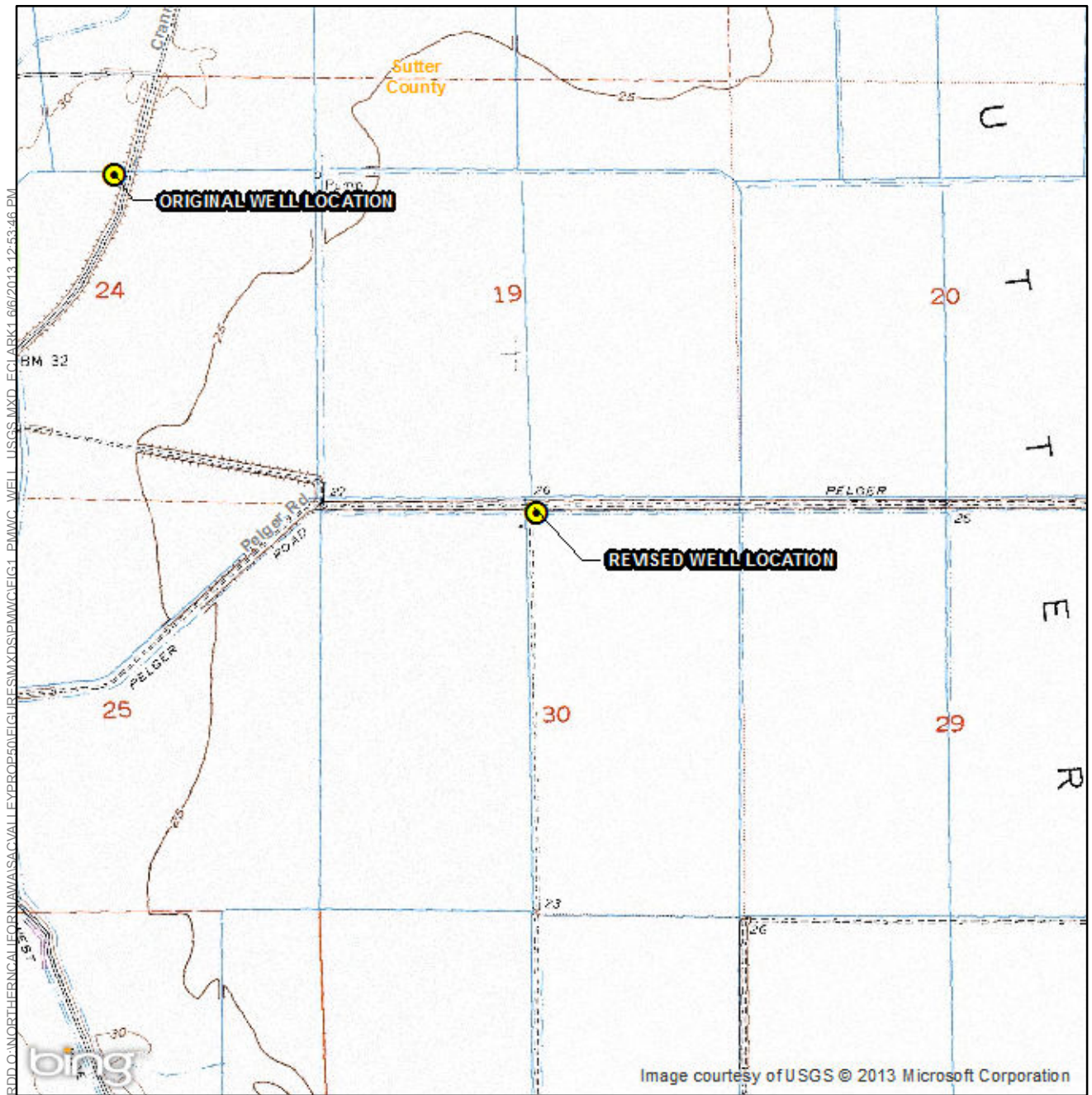
The need for the Proposed Action remains unchanged from the 2011 EA/IS.

Section 2 Proposed Action

For purposes of comparison, the No Action Alternative is the same as the one in the 2011 EA/IS.

The revised proposed well location is within a 0.5-acre area in an unincorporated portion of Sutter County, California, approximately eight miles northwest of the town of Robbins. The well would be south of Pelger Road (USGS Kirkville quad: Section 30, Township 13 North, Range 2 East) (Figure 1).

The proposed well would require a 100-foot by 100-foot construction staging area. The final footprint of the well would not exceed 25 feet by 25 feet, with an estimated maximum well depth of 600 feet. A maximum 50 feet of discharge piping, up to 20 inches in diameter, would be installed at the production well. The piping would discharge directly into an existing earthen canal via an open-ended aboveground discharge (though it be partially buried beneath the existing dirt road so as to not impede access). See Figure 2 for well location and site features. The proposed well would be powered by electricity and could require a maximum 120 feet of overhead service line and one new power pole, approximately 12 inches in diameter, within 100 feet of the new well. Access to the well would be via existing roads, none of which would require improvements. Also, a 12-inch-diameter service pole with a three-phase, 440-volt electrical controls panel box would be placed within 20 feet of the pump. Drill cuttings and fluids would be disposed of onsite at a location previously agreed to by the property owner. Construction is expected to occur between August 2013 and February 2014.



USGS QUAD: KIRKVILLE
TOWNSHIP 13 NORTH, 02 EAST
SECTION 30

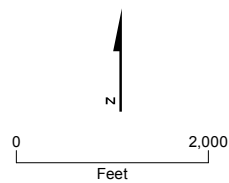


FIGURE 1
PELGER MUTUAL WATER COMPANY
PRODUCTION WELL LOCATION

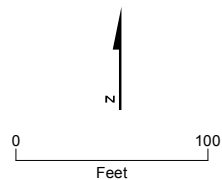


LEGEND

- PRODUCTION WELL
- EXISTING POWER POLE
- PROPOSED POWER POLE
- PROPOSED ACCESS ROAD
- PROPOSED CONVEYANCE LINE
- PROPOSED LOCATION OF GGS EXCLUSION FENCING
- PROJECT AREA

Notes:

1. Site conditions as indicated based on a May 20, 2013 site visit with PMWC and Reclamation Staff.
2. Proposed location of exclusion and erosion control fencing is approximate as shown. The fencing will be established just outside of the top of bank.



VICINITY MAP

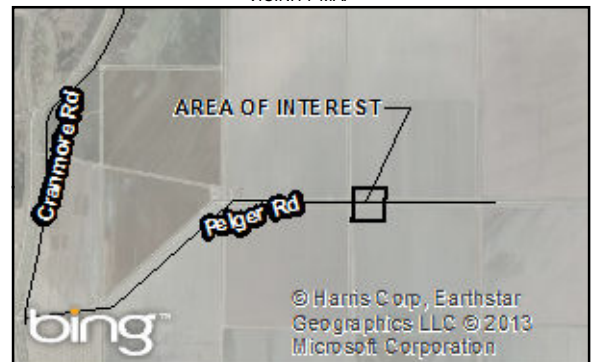


FIGURE 2
PELGER MUTUAL WATER COMPANY
PRODUCTION WELL LOCATION AND
SITE FEATURES

Revised: 6/10/2013

PROPOSITION 50 GROUNDWATER WELL PROJECTS,
PELGER AND SUTTER MUTUAL WATER COMPANIES

CH2MHILL

Section 3 Affected Environment & Environmental Consequences

Effects on several environmental resources were examined and found to be minor and unchanged from the 2011 EA/IS. Because of this, the following resources were eliminated from further discussion from this Supplemental EA: Air Quality; Aesthetic Resources; Geology, Soils, Seismicity and Minerals; Hazards and Hazardous Materials; Indian Sacred Sites; Land Use and Agriculture; Noise; Population and Housing; Recreation; Transportation and Circulation; Utilities, Public Services, and Service Systems.

Indian Trust Assets

Indian Trust Assets (ITA) are legal interests in assets that are held in trust by the United States government for federally recognized Indian tribes or individual Indians. There are no Indian reservations, Rancherias or allotments in the Proposed Action area. The closest ITA is the Colusa Reservation (Cahil Dehe) approximately 25 miles to the northwest of the proposed well location. The Proposed Action does not have a potential to affect ITA.

Environmental Justice

The Proposed Action would not disproportionately affect the health or environment of minority or low-income populations as change in the need for farm labor is not anticipated.

3.1 Water Resources

The 2011 EA/IS analyzed the potential impacts of the Project on water quality and groundwater levels. Reclamation anticipates that pumping additional water from the proposed well would involve the same potential impacts that were analyzed and mitigated in the prior environmental documentation.

3.2 Biological Resources

Unlike the original proposal, construction is expected to occur between August 2013 and February 2014, with the first two months of construction occurring when giant garter snakes (*Thamnophis gigas*) (GGS) are likely to be active. However, GGS is unlikely to be within the immediate area where construction will occur (all work will occur outside the top of the banks for the drainage channel and canals). Given the lack of basking sites and burrows within and adjacent to the action area, implementation of the conservation measures noted in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's (USFWS) November 21, 2011 written concurrence memo (except for the construction period), and the additional conservation measure of exclusionary fencing as described in the May 20, 2013 report and July 2, 2013 letter to USFWS, potential impacts to GGS are considered to be insignificant and discountable. As a result, Reclamation has determined that the Project, as newly proposed, is not likely to adversely affect GGS.

3.3 Cultural Resources

In an effort to identify historic properties, PMWC contracted a consultant to conduct an inventory and evaluation of cultural resources within the Area of Potential Effect (APE). The consultant completed a records search at the Northeast Information Center and a pedestrian survey of the APE. Four cultural resources were identified within the PMWC APE: a segment of Pelger Road, a Reclamation District 1500 (RD 1500) drainage ditch, an unnamed PMWC lateral, and an unnamed Sutter Mutual Water Company (SMWC) lateral. These resources were evaluated and determined to be eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). No modifications are proposed to Pelger Road, the unnamed RD 1500 ditch, or the unnamed SMWC lateral. The modifications to the unnamed PMWC lateral would be consistent with other modifications over the years that have been made to facilitate water delivery. The Proposed Action will not alter the characteristics that make the segment of the unnamed PMWC lateral eligible for inclusion in the NRHP. Construction of the new well will not diminish the integrity of design or appearance of the canal segment given that adding another discharge pipeline similar to other such existing facilities is consistent with the purpose and function for which the unnamed PMWC lateral as a whole was built and will not affect the ability to deliver water. Therefore, the Proposed Action would result in no adverse effects to historic properties.

The Proposed Action is the type of activity that has the potential to affect historic properties. A records search, a cultural resources survey, and Tribal consultation identified historic properties within the APE. All project activities will not adversely affect historic properties pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800.5(b). Constructing the proposed PMWC production well and connecting the well discharge pipeline to the unnamed PMWC lateral will not diminish the structural integrity and will not adversely impact the historic characteristics that make the canal eligible for listing on the NRHP under Criteria A. The function of the canal will not change. Since no historic properties would be adversely affected, no cultural resources would be impacted as a result of implementing the Proposed Action. Concurrence from the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) to conclude the Section 106 compliance process is pending.

Section 4 Consultation and Coordination

4.1 Public Review Period

The 2011 EA/IS was circulated for a 30-day public review on September 28, 2011. Letters were received from the California Department of Fish and Game (now referred to as California Department of Fish and Wildlife) and Caltrans, and were addressed in the final document.

Reclamation will make this Supplemental EA available for a fifteen (15) day public comment period.

4.2 Federal Endangered Species Act

On October 19, 2011, Reclamation informally consulted with the USFWS pursuant to Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act regarding potential impacts to the federally listed GGS for the Proposed Action. The USFWS concurred with Reclamation's determination that the Project is not likely to adversely affect GGS in a memo dated, November 21, 2011. As a result of a change in project location and construction timing, Reclamation provided an addendum to USFWS to reflect changes to the project description and to reevaluate potential impacts to GGS. A technical memorandum report was prepared as a result of a May 20, 2013 site visit to the new project location and provides a map of the new location, description of the site conditions, and GGS avoidance measures that will be implemented. USFWS was informally consulted with on the proposed project change, in which Reclamation requested concurrence with the determination that the Proposed Action is not likely to adversely affect GGS (July 2, 2013).

4.3 National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. § 470 et seq.)

The National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.), requires that federal agencies give the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation an opportunity to comment on the effects of an undertaking on historic properties, properties that are eligible for inclusion in the National Register. The 36 CFR Part 800 regulations implement Section 106 of the NHPA.

Section 106 of the NHPA requires federal agencies to consider the effects of federal undertakings on historic properties, properties determined eligible for inclusion in the National Register. Compliance with Section 106 follows a series of steps that are designed to identify interested parties, determine the APE, conduct cultural resource inventories, determine if historic properties are present within the APE, and assess effects on any identified historic properties.