

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Cawelo Water District Calloway Canal Lining Project – Reach B

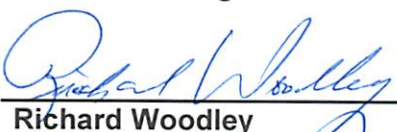
FONSI 14-02-MP

Recommended: 
Douglas Kleinsmith
Natural Resources Specialist
Mid-Pacific Regional Office

Date: July 25, 2014

Concurrence: 
Lee Mao
Chief, Program Management Branch
Mid-Pacific Regional Office

Date: July 28, 2014

Approved: 
Richard Woodley
Regional Resources Manager
Mid-Pacific Regional Office

Date: July 28, 2014



U. S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
Mid-Pacific Region
Sacramento, California

July 2014

INTRODUCTION

The Bureau of Reclamation will award Cawelo Water District (CWD) a \$500,000 CALFED Water Use Efficiency Grant to assist in funding the lining of Reach B of the Calloway Canal in Kern County, California. CWD provides raw water for direct irrigation or water spreading for groundwater recharge, with no water provided for municipal services.

In 2013, Reclamation awarded a CALFED grant to CWD to help fund the lining of Reach A of the Calloway Canal (Reach A) between the CVC Intertie and Coffee Road. Reclamation prepared an environmental assessment and signed a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) in April, 2013 on the lining of Reach A.

Currently, Reach B of the canal loses approximately 1,442 acre-feet per year or over 72,100 acre-feet over the life of the project through seepage to a groundwater basin in the Tulare Lake Hydrologic Region containing phenol, a constituent of concern. Water is not recovered from the groundwater basin due to the cost of treatment to remove the contaminant. The implementation of the Proposed Action will increase operational efficiency in the CWD and decrease recharge to the underlying groundwater basin.

CWD will split the local cost share with neighboring North Kern WSD. The two districts will provide the \$1,216,704 in funding from capital improvement accounts supported with water fees or from sale of past bonds. The Proposed Action will further the goals and objectives of the CALFED program as they apply to water supply reliability and water quality.

Reclamation prepared the attached Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate the effects of the Proposed Action. The EA was available for public review on January 22, 2014. The review period ended on February 4, 2014. No comments were received on the EA.

PROPOSED ACTION

Under the Proposed Action Alternative, Reclamation will award CWD a CALFED Water Use Efficiency Grant to assist in funding the lining of 4,124 feet of the Calloway Canal between the Cross Valley Canal Intertie and Coffee Road. CWD will split the local cost share with neighboring North Kern Water Service District. The two districts will provide the \$1,216,704 in funding from capital improvement accounts supported with water fees or from sale of past bonds.

The Proposed Action will be implemented when the canal is not being utilized for surface water conveyance within the CWD and therefore canal dewatering measures will not be necessary. The proposed land disturbance activities will include trimming the sides and bottom of the Calloway Canal to the desired design depths prior to lining the canal. All associated construction activities will occur on existing facilities and previously disturbed right-of-way's (ROW) that are owned and operated by CWD. The material that will be removed from the areas where the canal is too narrow and/or shallow will be utilized in the areas where the canal section is too wide and/or deep. Access to the project site will be obtained through the existing Calloway Canal

Operations and Maintenance (O&M) roads. Additional fill material is not anticipated for the completion of the Proposed Action. The construction will take approximately 4 months.

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 attached 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 affect water quality.
3. The Proposed Action will not significantly affect biological resources. On May 22, 2014, CWD and funding partner NKWSD requested to participate in the Metropolitan Bakersfield Habitat Conservation Plan and to use the related Incidental Take Permits to avoid any potential impacts from the Proposed Action to the San Joaquin kit fox. CWD and NKWSD were accepted to participate in the MBHCP. They will pay into the MBHCP for the acquisition or enhancement of habitat for kit fox.
4. The Proposed Action will not significantly affect land use or agriculture.
5. The Proposed Action will not affect historic properties.
6. The Proposed Action will not affect Indian Trust Assets.
7. The Proposed Action will not affect Indian sacred sites.
8. The Proposed Action will not have any impact on minority or low-income populations.
9. The Proposed Action will not result in adverse cumulative effects.
10. There is no potential for the effects to be considered highly controversial.