

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Patterson Irrigation District Two-Drains Project

FONSI 14-20-MP

Recommended:



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Mid-Pacific Regional Office

Date:

9/2/14

Concurrence:

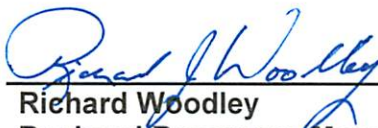


Lee Mao
Chief, Program Management Branch
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Date:

Sept. 3, 2014

Approved:



Richard Woodley
Regional Resources Manager
Mid-Pacific Regional Office

Date:

Sept. 3 2014



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

INTRODUCTION

The Bureau of Reclamation will provide Patterson Irrigation District (District) \$1,500,000 in grant funds through the WaterSMART grant program to help construct the Patterson Irrigation District Two-Drains Project. The Proposed Project would capture and deliver agricultural drain water from the Marshall Road Drain and Spanish Land Grant Drain to portions of the District's southerly conveyance system. Surface water supplies in the San Joaquin Valley are subject to severe restrictions caused by recurring dry conditions and regulatory pumping restrictions. During these dry periods, growers within the District are forced to rely on poorer quality groundwater or fallow fields. Surface drainage flows from the Marshall Road Drain and the Spanish Land Grant Drain, when blended with other water supplies, are sufficient for agricultural use and could provide a supply of supplemental water. The Proposed Project would be located approximately four miles southeast of the City of Patterson, within the southerly portion of the District.

Reclamation prepared the attached Environmental Assessment/Initial Study (EA/IS) to evaluate the effects of the Proposed Action. The EA/IS was available for public review on June 17, 2014. The review period ended on July 18, 2014. The Native American Heritage Commission sent a letter to the District recommending actions to assess and mitigate project impacts to cultural resources. Reclamation and the District have already done these actions.

PROPOSED ACTION

Under the Proposed Action Alternative, the District would construct three pump stations and four pipelines to capture agricultural surface runoff (tailwater) and operational spills from the Marshall Road Drain and Spanish Land Grant Drain and pump this water back into the District's irrigation system. The Project would allow the recovered water to be delivered to the District's Lateral 4-South, 3-South, and 2-South. Control of the pump stations would be through the District's SCADA system, based on supply, demands, and water levels.

The Project would provide the District's southerly service area with supplemental water and promote on-farm efficiency by giving the District the ability to meet the fluctuating demands of high-efficiency irrigation systems. As a result of this Project, an estimated 5,000 acre-feet per year of supplemental water supply would be made available to growers in the district.

FINDINGS

Based on the attached EA/IS, 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/IS 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/IS 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 is incorporated by reference.

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

1. The proposed action will not significantly affect public health or safety (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(3))
2. The proposed action will not significantly impact natural resources and unique geographical characteristics such 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 (Executive Order (EO) 11990); flood plains (EO 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(3) and 43 CFR 46.215(b)).
3. The proposed action will not have possible effects on the human environment that are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(5)).
4. The proposed action will neither establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects nor represent a decision in principle about a future consideration (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(6)).
5. There is no potential for the effects to be considered highly controversial (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(4)).
6. The proposed action will not have significant cumulative impacts (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(7)).
7. The proposed action has no potential to affect historic properties (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(8)).
8. The proposed action will not affect listed or proposed threatened or endangered species (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(9)).
9. The proposed action will not violate federal, state, tribal or local law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(10)).
10. The proposed action will not affect any Indian Trust Assets (512 DM 2, Policy Memorandum dated December 15, 1993).
11. Implementing the proposed action will not disproportionately affect minorities or low-income populations and communities (EO 12898).
12. The proposed action will not 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 and 512 DM 3).