

# RECLAMATION

*Managing Water in the West*

## FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

### **Reintroduction of Crampton's Tuctoria to Olcott Lake at Jepson Prairie Preserve, California**

FONSI 14-23-MP

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

# Background

The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) will provide \$63,500 from the Central Valley Project Conservation Program (CVPCP) to Carol W. Witham, sole proprietor, to reintroduce Crampton's tuctoria to Olcott Lake, a large vernal pool at Jepson Prairie Preserve. The Preserve is located in Solano County, California.

The need for the project is to recover populations of Crampton's tuctoria, a vernal pool plant which is listed as endangered under the Federal and California endangered species acts. The Central Valley Project (CVP) has had a significant impact on vernal pools within the historic range of this species. Losses of vernal pools to agricultural and urban conversion have occurred in and around the CVP service area.

## Alternatives Including the Proposed Action

### No Action

Reclamation would not provide \$63,500 from the CVPCP to Carol W. Witham to reintroduce Crampton's tuctoria to Olcott Lake at Jepson Prairie Preserve. She would have to obtain funding from other sources to implement the project.

### Proposed Action

Reclamation will provide \$63,500 from the CVPCP to Carol W. Witham to reintroduce Crampton's tuctoria to Olcott Lake at Jepson Prairie Preserve.

Jepson Prairie Preserve is the site where Crampton's tuctoria was first documented in 1958 but at which it has not been seen since 1993. Therefore, the species is presumed to have been extirpated from the site. The reintroduction project will take place over the course of five years, beginning in 2015. Seed for the reintroduction will be collected from the Davis Communication Annex and the Yolo Grasslands Regional Park, both in Yolo County, California (Yolo Sites). Only seed from the Yolo sites will be introduced into Olcott Lake in the locations in which the species previously occurred. The general locations of the collection sites are known to Ms. Witham, and exact placement of the reintroduction sites in Olcott Lake will be refined in the field by using botanist Beecher Crampton's historic photographs and other documentation.

The project proponent will obtain all Federal and State permits, and permissions to access collection and planting sites on private lands, before beginning work.

## Findings

Based on the attached environmental assessment (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. This EA was prepared in accordance with National Environmental Policy Act, Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR 1500-1508), and Department of the Interior Regulations (43 CFR Part 46). Effects on several environmental resources were

examined and found to be absent or minor. That analysis is provided in the attached EA, and the analysis in the EA is hereby 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).