

RECLAMATION


Managing Water in the West

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Sacramento Suburban Water District 2014 – Water Use Efficiency Grants


FONSI-14-13-CCAO

Recommended by:


Carolyn Bragg
Natural Resources Specialist
Central California Area Office

Date: 12/31/2014

Concurred by:


Elizabeth Vasquez
Chief, Resources Management Division
Central California Area Office

Date: 12/31/2014

Approved by:


Drew Lessard
Area Manager
Central California Area Office

Date: 1/6/15



Introduction

In accordance with section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) has determined that providing funding towards two CALFED Water Use Efficiency Grants (a-R14AP00159 & b-R14AP00167) and one WaterSMART Water Use Efficiency Grant (R14AS00001) to the Sacramento Suburban Water District to assist in implementation of water conservation measures within the Sacramento Region will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment and an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. This Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI 14-13-CCAO) is supported by Reclamation's Environmental Assessment, *Sacramento Suburban Water District 2014 – Water Use Efficiency Grants*, which is hereby incorporated by reference. The Proposed Action is authorized under Public Law 108-361, section 103(c)(d)(3)(A) – Water Supply, Reliability, and Environmental Improvement Act, Title I- California Water Security and Environmental Enhancement, Section D and Public Law 111-11 (42, USC 10364, P. L. 111-11), Title IX of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009, Subtitle F, Secure Water, Section 9504 (a)(1)(3), Water Management Improvement. Authorized activities include water conservation projects that provide water supply reliability, water quality, and ecosystem benefits to the California Bay-Delta system.

Proposed Action

Reclamation proposes to provide funding to assist in current water use efficiency efforts in the Sacramento Region. Under the Proposed Action, Reclamation will provide funding for two CALFED Water Use Efficiency Grants (a-R14AP00159 & b-R14AP00167) and one WaterSMART Water Use Efficiency Grant (R14AS00001) to the Sacramento Suburban Water District.

Findings

The Proposed Action of providing funding to these existing water management improvement programs would have a de minimus effect, including direct, indirect and cumulatively, to environmental resources. The funding provided only achieves the goals of existing programs that replace or install indoor water efficient fixtures, meters, and water pipes more quickly therefore a comparison of the effects expected under the No Action and the Proposed Action would be undetectable and therefore discountable. The proposed activities under the Proposed Action will be the responsibility of the grant holder. The Proposed Action does not have a potential to affect Indian Trust Assets and is not located on or have the ability to impact federal lands. There will be no impact to any populations; therefore, there will be no adverse human health or environmental effects to minority or low-income populations nor are there any known Indian sacred sites identified within the footprint of the Proposed Action area. There are no listed eligible structures that will be involved with the Proposed Action's activities and there are no known archeological sites within the Proposed Action area. In addition, there are no other known past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions that will cumulatively result in significant impacts to the human environment when taking the Proposed Action into consideration and there will be no modifications to any features of the current irrigation systems due to the Proposed Action.

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Environmental Assessment

Sacramento Suburban Water District 2014 - Water Use Efficiency Grants



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

December 2014

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.

Introduction

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) has prepared this Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate and disclose any potential environmental impacts associated with Reclamation providing funding towards two CALFED Water Use Efficiency Grants (a-R14AP00159 & b-R14AP00167) and one WaterSMART Water Use Efficiency Grant (R14AS00001) to the Sacramento Suburban Water District (SSWD) (Proposed Action). Under the Proposed Action, Reclamation would provide funding to assist in implementation of water conservation measures within the Sacramento Region. The Proposed Action is authorized under Public Law 108-361, section 103(c)(d)(3)(A) – Water Supply, Reliability, and Environmental Improvement Act, Title I- California Water Security and Environmental Enhancement, Section D and Public Law 111-11 (42, USC 10364, P. L. 111-11), Title IX of the Omnibus Public Land Management Act of 2009, Subtitle F, Secure Water, Section 9504 (a)(1)(3), Water Management Improvement. Authorized activities include water conservation projects that provide water supply reliability, water quality, and ecosystem benefits to the California Bay-Delta system.

Purpose of the Proposal

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to provide funding to existing programs that replace or install indoor water efficient fixtures, meters and water pipes to improve water efficiency in the Sacramento metropolitan area.

Proposed Action Alternatives

This EA considers two possible actions: No Action and the Proposed Action. The No Action Alternative reflects future conditions without the Proposed Action and serves as a basis of comparison for determining potential effects to the human and natural environment.

No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, Reclamation would not provide funding towards the proposed water use efficiency grants. The execution of the Sacramento Suburban Water District Regional Indoor Efficiency Retrofit Project, Sacramento Region 2014-2016 Residential Water Meter Installation Project, and the Sacramento Suburban Water District Regional Residential Water Meter Installation Project, under the No Action Alternative, would continue unchanged from the current schedule.

Proposed Action

Reclamation proposes to provide funding to assist in current water use efficiency efforts in the Sacramento Region. Under the Proposed Action, Reclamation would provide funding for two CALFED Water Use Efficiency Grants (a-R14AP00159 & b-R14AP00167) and one WaterSMART Water Use Efficiency Grant (R14AS00001).

Grant a-R14AP00159 – Under the Proposed Action, funding would be provided to the SSWD Regional Indoor Efficiency Retrofit Project. Activities would include the retrofit of approximately 3,000 residential housing units through the direct installation of indoor water efficient fixtures (toilets, showerheads, and faucets) to achieve an estimated water savings of 3,200 acre-feet over the approximate 25-year expected lifetime of improvements, or an average savings of 127 acre-feet per year (SSWD 2014a).

These proposed activities would be a collaborative project between three participating water supply agencies within the Sacramento Region and would expand the capacity of the current Regional Water Efficiency Program that is administered by the Regional Water Authority (RWA). This grant funding would allow execution of this already existing program more quickly.

Associated Activities

The contractor, with assistance from the participating water agencies and RWA, would identify customers who are disadvantaged or customers that are living in pre-1992 constructed homes without indoor fixture upgrades. The contractor would conduct a survey in each home. The survey would include verifying flow rates of each toilet, showerhead and faucet, checking for leaks and providing the customer with water saving tips and suggestions. Each survey would follow recommendations made by the California Urban Water Conservation Council.

Following the survey to identify indoor water efficiency opportunities, a direct installation of indoor efficiency devices would be implemented including high efficiency toilets, showerheads, and faucets to willing customers. The direct install would be completed at no cost to the customer.

The contractor would provide each accepted household with a WaterSense labeled high efficiency toilet, showerhead, and two faucets. WaterSense labeled products are preferred for because it supports the United States Environmental Protection Agency's WaterSense Program for identifying efficient fixtures.

These activities would continue through September 30, 2016.

Grant b- R14AP00167 - Under the Proposed Action, funding would be provided to the already operational Sacramento Regional 2014-2016 Residential Water Meter Installation Project. Since 2004, the participating agencies have installed more than 50,000 residential water meters. In addition, the City of Sacramento has replaced 74,000 lineal feet of water main replacements since 2011. Activities would include the installation of 1,850 residential water meters within the Sacramento Region. In addition, approximately 24,000 feet of existing 8 to 12-inch water mains, located within the City of Sacramento Water District's boundaries, would be replaced (SSWD 2014b). These activities would improve water efficiency resulting from the reduction in surface water diversions which would reduce irrecoverable losses and increase the volume of water available to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. This grant funding would allow execution of this already existing program more quickly.

Associated Activities

Proposed activities would be completed by a licensed contractor and would utilize hand tools and small equipment, such as a bobcat or residential backhoe, to complete. The contractor would install the meters on existing service connections for each of the meter installations. All areas have been previously disturbed due to the construction of the existing residences.

The majority of residential customers have either a ¾-inch or 1-inch residential meter, with some connections up to 2-inches. For the City of Sacramento only, replacement of approximately 24,000 feet of existing 8 to 12-inch water mains would be completed.

The City of Sacramento and the City of West Sacramento would complete their installations in 2015, with installations occurring between January 2015 and December 2015. Sacramento Suburban Water District would complete their installations in 2016, with installations occurring between January 2016 and September 2016

WaterSMART – R14AS00001 – Under the Proposed Action, funding would be provided to the Sacramento Suburban Water District Regional Residential Water Meter Installation Project. This WaterSMART grant would be a collaborative effort between Sacramento Suburban Water District and the City of Sacramento municipal water supply agencies that would be coordinated and managed by the RWA. Activities would include the installation of 3,665 residential water meters on existing residential service connections within the Sacramento Region (SSWD 2014c). These activities would improve water conservation and management through direct measurement of consumption using meters. The proposed meter installations would result in conservation of valuable water resources, improving water use efficiency and reducing energy demands. This grant funding would allow execution of this already existing program more quickly.

Associated Activities

Proposed activities would be completed by a licensed contractor and would utilize hand tools and small equipment, such as a bobcat or residential backhoe, to complete. Materials would include a minimum of; meter, meter box, meter lid, and meter setter. The contractor would install the meters on existing service connections for each of the meter installations. Proposed activities would consist of only minor excavation at existing residential locations where the meters are to be installed. All areas have been previously disturbed due to the construction of the existing residences. Any disturbed landscaping or irrigation would be returned to existing condition upon project completion.

The majority of residential customers have either a ¾-inch or 1-inch residential meter, with some connections up to 2-inches. Materials include a minimum of a meter, meter box, meter lid, and meter setter.

The purchase and installation of the meters would begin January 2015 and would be completed by September 2016.

Environmental Consequences

This EA examined the affected environment of the Proposed Action and No Action Alternative in order to determine the potential impacts and cumulative effects to environmental resources.

The Proposed Action of providing funding to these existing water management improvement programs would have a de minimus effect, (including direct, indirect, and cumulatively), to environmental resources. A comparison of the effects expected under the No Action and Proposed Action would be undetectable and therefore discountable. In addition, there are no other known past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions that would cumulatively result in significant impacts to the human environment when taking the Proposed Action into consideration and there would be no modifications to any features of the current irrigation systems due to the Proposed Action. The Proposed Action would not impact the surrounding environment. In addition, the RWA would oversee all aspects of the proposed activities on behalf of the participating agencies to ensure full compliance with their grant agreement. The participating agencies shall adhere to Federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and codes, as applicable, and shall obtain all required approvals and permits. In addition, the participant is responsible for construction inspection, oversight, and acceptance. RWA would compile information submitted by the participating agencies and prepare consolidated reports for submission to Reclamation in order to track approximate water savings and to ensure all requirements of the grant are met.

In addition, in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended Reclamation considered and determined that the Proposed Action would not impact the resources described below.

Indian Sacred Sites

No Indian sacred sites have been identified within the footprint of the Proposed Action.

Indian Trust Assets

Indian Trust Assets 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 Proposed Action does not have a potential to affect Indian Trust Asset's.

Environmental Justice

The Proposed Action would not disproportionately affect the health or environment of minority or low-income populations.

Cultural Resources

The Proposed Action has no potential to cause effects to cultural resources eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Properties pursuant to 36 CFR §800.3(a)(1).

Consultation and Coordination

Under the Proposed Action, coordination between Reclamation and all participants would continue. Under the Proposed Action, Reclamation would provide funding to assist in water use efficiency conservation actions. The participating agencies would be responsible to adhere to Federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and codes, as applicable, and shall obtain all required approvals and permits.

References

Sacramento Suburban Water District. 2014a. Sacramento Regional Indoor Efficiency Retrofit Project. R14AP00159.

Sacramento Suburban Water District. 2014b. Sacramento Regional 2014-2016 Residential Water Meter Installation Project. R14AP00167.

Sacramento Suburban Water District. 2014c. Sacramento Regional Residential Water Meter Installation Project. R14AS0001.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2014. Threatened and Endangered Species

CULTURAL RESOURCE COMPLIANCE
Mid-Pacific Region
Division of Environmental Affairs
Cultural Resources Branch

MP-153 Tracking Number: 14-MPRO-241

Project Name: Sacramento Regional Residential Water Meter Installation Project - WaterSMART

EPA Document: CCAO-CEC-1431

Project Manager/NEPA Contact: Carolyn Bragg

MP 153 Cultural Resources Reviewer: Adam Nickels 

Date: 12/15/15

The proposed undertaking to issue a financial assistance grant to the Sacramento Suburban Water District for the purpose of upgrading water supply lines with residential water meters feet has no potential to cause effects to historic properties pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800.3(a)(1)

The proposed action will involve the location of existing water supply lines within the service area of the SSWD. Water meters will be installed on un-metered lines and some pipes may be upgraded. All actions will occur within existing disturbed contexts where pipes have previously been installed.

After reviewing the CEC titled "Sacramento Regional Residential Water Meter Installation Project- Dated 12/2014 I am able to concur with line 8.

This Section 106 conclusion statement is intended to convey the conclusion of the Section 106 process for this undertaking. Please retain a copy of this conclusion statement with your files.



Bragg, Carolyn <cbragg@usbr.gov>

Re: ITA Request**RIVERA, PATRICIA** <privera@usbr.gov>

Mon, Dec 15, 2014 at 9:19 AM

To: "Bragg, Carolyn" <cbragg@usbr.gov>

Cc: Kristi Seabrook <kseabrook@usbr.gov>, "Mary (Diane) Williams" <marywilliams@usbr.gov>

Carolyn,

I reviewed the proposed action presented below and determined there are no potential impact to Indian Trust Assets.

Proposed Action:

The action proposed is to approve and authorize a collaborative project between two water supply agencies within the Sacramento Region that would be coordinated and managed by the Regional Water Authority.

The Proposed Action would include the installation of 3,665 residential water meters on existing residential service connections within the Sacramento Region. The Proposed Action would achieve water savings estimated at 518 acre-feet per year or 10,360 acre-feet over the 20-year expected lifetime of the improvements. The Proposed Action would continue for approximately two years.

Under the Proposed Action, there would be no modifications to any features of the current irrigation system. The Proposed Action would consist of only minor excavation at existing residential locations where the meters are to be installed. Any disturbed landscaping or irrigation would be returned to existing conditions upon project completion. Each participating agency would perform its own construction installation inspections.

Patricia Rivera
Native American Affairs Program Manager
US Bureau of Reclamation
Mid-Pacific Region
2800 Sacramento, California 95825
(916) 978-5194

Kristi please log it. No further action needed. Thanks

CULTURAL RESOURCE COMPLIANCE
Mid-Pacific Region
Division of Environmental Affairs
Cultural Resources Branch

MP-153 Tracking Number: 14-MPRO-219

Project Name: Sacramento Suburban WD Regional Indoor Efficiency Retrofit CALFED

NEPA Document: CCAO-CEC-1426

Project Manager/NEPA Contact: Carolyn Bragg

MP 153 Cultural Resources Reviewer: Adam Nickels

Date: 12/15/15

The proposed undertaking to issue a financial assistance grant to participating water agencies and the Regional Water Authority who service the Sacramento region for the purpose of identifying disadvantaged customers that are living in pre-1992 constructed homes without indoor fixture upgrades and surveying each home to identify water upgrades and assist financially in installation of the identified upgrades has no potential to cause effects to historic properties pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800.3(a)(1)

The proposed action will use funds distributed through the grant to help fund a program to assist disadvantaged water customers with upgrading interior fixtures which will save water and money.

After reviewing the CEC titled "Sacramento Suburban Water District Regional Indoor Efficiency Retrofit Project – CALFED Water Use Efficiency Grants– Dated 12/2014 I am able to concur with line 8.

This Section 106 conclusion statement is intended to convey the conclusion of the Section 106 process for this undertaking. Please retain a copy of this conclusion statement with your files.



Bragg, Carolyn <cbragg@usbr.gov>

Re: ITA request

1 message

RIVERA, PATRICIA <privera@usbr.gov>

Wed, Dec 10, 2014 at 4:04 PM

To: "Bragg, Carolyn" <cbragg@usbr.gov>

Cc: Kristi Seabrook <kseabrook@usbr.gov>, "Mary (Diane) Williams" <marywilliams@usbr.gov>

Carolyn,

I reviewed the proposed action to approve and authorize a collaborative project between three water supply agencies within the Sacramento Region that would be coordinated and managed by the Regional Water Authority. The Proposed Action would be funded under the Bay Delta Restoration Program – CALFED water use efficiency grants. The projected outcome of the Proposed Action would be the long-term savings that could be achieved by replacing indoor fixtures. The water savings from the Proposed Action would also assist with decreasing future water demands and thus help to achieve broader statewide water efficiency benefits.

The Proposed Action would include the retrofit of approximately 3,000 residential housing units through the direct installation of indoor water efficient fixtures (toilets, showerheads, and faucets) to achieve an estimated water savings of 3,200 acre-feet over the approximate 25-year expected lifetime of improvements, or an average savings of 127 acre-feet per year. The Proposed Action would continue through September 30, 2016.

The Proposed Action would consist of only minor alterations to existing indoor facilities and would not adversely impact environmental resources, any structures, and/or associated facilities.

The proposed action does not have a potential to impact Indian Trust Assets.

Patricia Rivera
Native American Affairs Program Manager
US Bureau of Reclamation
Mid-Pacific Region
2800 Sacramento, California 95825
(916) 978-5194

Kristi please log in. No further action needed. Thanks

CULTURAL RESOURCE COMPLIANCE
Mid-Pacific Region
Division of Environmental Affairs
Cultural Resources Branch

MP-153 Tracking Number: 14-MPRO-218

**Project Name: Sacramento Regional 2014-2016 Residential Water Meter Installation
CALFED**

NEPA Document: CCAO-CEC-1430

Project Manager/NEPA Contact: Carolyn Bragg

MP 153 Cultural Resources Reviewer: Adam Nickels

AN

Date: 12/15/15

The proposed undertaking to issue a financial assistance grant to the Regional Water Authority of the Sacramento, CA region for the purpose of upgrading water supply lines with residential water meters and roughly 24,000 feet of pipe replacement has no potential to cause effects to historic properties pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800.3(a)(1)

The proposed action will involve the location of existing water supply lines within the service area of the RWA. Water meters will be installed on un-metered lines and some pipes may be upgraded. All actions will occur within existing disturbed contexts where pipes have previously been installed.

After reviewing the CEC titled "sacramento Regional 2014-106 Residential Water Meter Installation – Dated 12/2014 I am able to concur with line 8.

This Section 106 conclusion statement is intended to convey the conclusion of the Section 106 process for this undertaking. Please retain a copy of this conclusion statement with your files.



Bragg, Carolyn <cbragg@usbr.gov>

Re: ITA request

1 message

RIVERA, PATRICIA <privera@usbr.gov>

Wed, Dec 10, 2014 at 3:31 PM

To: "Bragg, Carolyn" <cbragg@usbr.gov>

Cc: Kristi Seabrook <kseabrook@usbr.gov>, "Mary (Diane) Williams" <marywilliams@usbr.gov>

Carolyn,

I reviewed the proposed action to approve and authorize a collaborative project between three water supply agencies within the Sacramento Region (City of Sacramento, City of West Sacramento and Sacramento Suburban Water District) that would be coordinated and managed by the Regional Water Authority. The Proposed Action would be funded under the Bay Delta Restoration Program - CALFED water use efficiency grants. The projected outcome of the Proposed Action is to send a better price signal to water customers and to create an incentive to conserve.

The Proposed Action would include the installation of 1,850 residential water meters within the Sacramento Region. In addition, approximately 24,000 feet of existing 8 to 12-inch water mains, located within the City of Sacramento Water District's boundaries, would be replaced. The Proposed Action would achieve water savings estimated at 274 acre-feet per year or 5,480 acre-feet over the 20-year expected lifetime of the Proposed Action's improvements.

The Proposed Action would continue for approximately two years. The City of Sacramento and the City of West Sacramento would complete their installations in 2015, with installations occurring between January 2015 and December 2015. Sacramento Suburban Water District would complete their installations in 2016, with installations occurring between January 2016 and September 2016.

Under the Proposed Action, there would be no modifications to any features of the current irrigation system. The Proposed Action would consist of only minor excavation at existing residential locations where the meters are to be installed and along the existing water main within the City of Sacramento Water District's boundaries. Any disturbed landscaping or irrigation would be returned to existing conditions upon project completion. Each participating agency would perform its own construction installation inspections.

The proposed action does not have a potential to impact Indian Trust Assets.

Patricia Rivera
Native American Affairs Program Manager
US Bureau of Reclamation