

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Cawelo Water District and North Kern Water Storage District Calloway Canal Lining Project – Reaches C1, C2, and D

FONSI 15-01-MP

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INTRODUCTION

The Calloway Canal Lining Project, Reach C1, C2, and D (Proposed Action) is in Bakersfield, California. The Bureau of Reclamation will award Cawelo Water District (CWD) with a \$300,000 CALFED Water Use Efficiency Grant to assist in funding the lining of Reach C1 of the Calloway Canal and a similar CALFED grant for \$1,000,000 to assist in funding the lining of Reach C2. Reclamation will also award North Kern Water Storage District (NKWSD) with an Agricultural Water Conservation and Efficiency grant for \$609,500 to assist in funding the lining of Reach D. CWD will split the local cost share with neighboring North Kern WSD. The two districts will provide the required local cost share in funding from capital improvement accounts supported with water fees or sale of bonds.

The Proposed Action will further the goals and objectives of the CALFED program as they apply to water supply reliability and water quality. The Proposed Action will decrease seepage to a groundwater basin containing constituents of concern by lining 5,290 linear feet of the Calloway Canal with concrete.

Previously, CWD, in partnership with NKWSD, applied for and was selected as a recipient of a CALFED Water Use Efficiency Grant to help fund lining 3,523 feet of the Calloway Canal (Reach A) between the Cross Valley Canal Intertie and Coffee Road, and a grant to help fund lining of 4,124 feet of the canal (Reach B). Reclamation prepared an EA and signed a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) in April 2013 on the lining of Reach A of the canal and prepared an EA and signed a FONSI on the lining of Reach B in July 2014.

Reclamation prepared the attached Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate the effects of the Proposed Action. The EA was available for public review on February 20, 2015. The review period ended on March 6, 2015. No comments were received on the EA.

PROPOSED ACTION

The Proposed Action involves concrete lining of a total of 5,290 linear feet of the currently unlined Calloway Canal. The Proposed Action will be implemented when the canal is not being utilized for surface water conveyance to the CWD and NKWSD, 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 rights-of-way that are owned and operated by the NKWSD. 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 roads. Additional fill material is not anticipated for the completion of the Proposed Action.

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 No Action 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 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)). CWD and NKWSD are participating in the Metropolitan Bakersfield Habitat Conservation Plan (MBHCP). They will follow any recommendations by the MBHCP staff for a Biological Clearance Survey to determine if there are any kit fox dens on site. CWD and NKWSD will follow the U.S. Fish And Wildlife Service *Standardized Recommendations for Protection of the Endangered San Joaquin Kit Fox Prior to or During Ground Disturbance*. They will pay into the MBHCP for the acquisition or enhancement of habitat for kit fox.

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).