

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

San José Water Company Phase II Recycled Water Project

Finding of No Significant Impact

Recommended: 
Environmental Specialist

Date: 7/21/15

Concurrence: 
Program Manager, Title XVI Program

Date: 7/22/2015

Approved: 
Chief, Division of Planning

Date: 7/28/2015

FONSI No. 15-12-MP



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

Background

The San José Water Company (SJWC) prepared a revised Final Initial Study / Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) on the San José Water Company Phase II Recycled Water Project (Proposed Action) in November 2011, which is incorporated by reference. The Bureau of Reclamation prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) on the Proposed Action in July 2015. The Federal action would be to provide partial funding for the Proposed Action.

SJWC proposes to construct, own, and operate seven recycled water alignments and associated user connections identified in its Recycled Water Master Plan (RWMP) for the sale and distribution of recycled water within its existing service area, located within Santa Clara County, California (Proposed Project). Currently, SJWC purchases recycled water from the City of San José South Bay Water Recycling Program. SJWC would construct about 20.4 miles of pipeline ranging from 4 inches to 24 inches diameter. This would serve 1,533 acre-feet/year of recycled water to 180 connections. The recycled water would be used for landscape irrigation, cooling towers, and toilets in commercial buildings.

Reclamation will provide a portion of the funds to construct 3 out of the 7 alignments in the Proposed Action through the Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act of 1992, or Title XVI of Public Law 102-575 (Title XVI). Reclamation, which has discretionary approval over the provision of this funding, is the lead agency for the Proposed Action under the National Environmental Policy Act.

Findings

Based on the IS/MND and the EA, Reclamation finds that the Proposed Action is not a major Federal action that will significantly affect the quality of the human environment. The IS/MND and EA describe the existing environmental resources in the Proposed Action area and evaluate the effects of No Action on the resources. These documents meet the requirements of 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 IS/MND 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 will not 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).