

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Temporary Transfer of Central Valley Project Water from the City of Redding to Member Units of the Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority in Contract Year 2015

Final FONSI 15-02-NCAO

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Introduction

The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) proposes to approve a one-year transfer of Central Valley Project (Project) water from the City of Redding (City), California, Sacramento River Settlement Contract No. 14-06-200-2871A-R-1, to Member Units of the Tehama-Colusa Canal (TCC) Authority, served by the TCC in northern California: 707 acre feet (AF) collectively to the Kanawha, Glide, Glenn Valley, Davis, Corning, Cortina, 4-M and Westside Water Districts (Districts).

In accordance with Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, the Northern California Area Office of the Bureau of Reclamation, has determined that an environmental impact statement is not required for further review of these modifications. This Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) is supported by Reclamation's Environmental Assessment (EA) Number EA-15-02-NCAO, *Temporary Transfer of Water from the City of Redding to Member Units of the Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority in Contract Year 2015*, which is incorporated by reference and attached.

Alternatives Including Proposed Action

No Action Alternative

The No Action Alternative would consist of Reclamation not approving the transfer of Project Water from the City to the Districts. The Districts would be required to operate within the confines of the available water supply that might include groundwater, or acquire water from other willing sellers.

Proposed Action

The Proposed Action is approval of the transfer of up to 707 AF of Project Water from the City to the Districts from May 2015 through February 28, 2016.

The Project Water to be transferred would originate at Shasta Lake. This water would pass through the Shasta Powerplant, Keswick Reservoir, and then through Keswick Powerplant to discharge to the Sacramento River. The Project Water would then be diverted approximately 55 miles below at the screened Red Bluff Pumping Plant (RBPP) into either the TCC for delivery to the Districts between mileposts 45 and 91 or into the Corning Canal between mileposts 13 and 21.

In addition, the water transfer would be subject to the following parameters:

- Occur within a single water year.
- Qualify as (similar to other approved) historic and routine transfers.
- Use existing facilities and operations.

- Maintain existing land uses.
- Provide water for lands irrigated within the last 3 years, groundwater recharge, maintenance of fish and wildlife resources, incidental domestic use, or M&I use.
- Comply with all applicable federal, state, local or Tribal laws or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment and Indian Trust Assets (ITAs).
- Occur between willing buyers and willing sellers.

Findings

Reclamation's determination that implementation of the Proposed Action would not result in significant impacts to the quality of the human environment is supported by the attached EA and is summarized in the following:

- No adverse impacts to physical resources are anticipated because of the Proposed Action.
- The minor change in flow of the Sacramento River from the Keswick Powerplant to the point of diversion (RBPP) would not change Project Water storage because the Project Water under the Proposed Action could be transferred to other users resulting in a similar effect. Consequently, there is no anticipated effect to water storage.
- The amount of Project Water diverted at the RBPP would be the same as that which is released from Keswick Dam to result in a zero-sum action, resulting in no change to flows of the Sacramento River below the point of diversion, which is similar to the No Action Alternative.
- No new facilities would be needed to distribute the water. The Project Water would be applied to existing agricultural land and/or used at M&I facilities and conveyed through existing facilities, avoiding any adverse effects on unique geological features such as wetlands, Wild and Scenic rivers, refuges, floodplains, rivers placed on the nationwide river inventory, or prime or unique farmlands.
- The Proposed Action would not impact any listed species because the Proposed Action would not affect these species or their habitat.
- The Proposed Action would not produce any ground disturbances and would not result in the construction of new facilities or the modification of existing facilities
- The Proposed Action would maintain Irrigation and M&I purposes that support local and regional economies.
- The Proposed Action would not disproportionately affect minority or low-income populations and communities.
- No Indian Trust Assets (ITAs) are served by the water to be transferred under the Proposed Action. Therefore no ITAs would be affected.
- The Proposed Action would not result in any adverse cumulative impacts