

# RECLAMATION

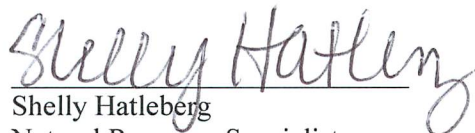
*Managing Water in the West*

## FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

### **Knights Landing Outfall Gates Fish Passage Barrier Project**

**FONSI 15-23-MP**

Recommended by:



Date:

8/27/15

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Natural Resource Specialist  
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Concurred by:

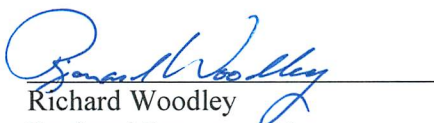


Date:

8/27/15

David Mooney  
Chief, Program Management Branch  
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Approved by:



Date:

8/31/15

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Mid-Pacific Regional Office



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

**August 2015**

## **BACKGROUND**

The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), a Cooperating Agency with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), has adopted the USACE's Draft Environmental Assessment for the Knights Landing Outfall Gate (KLOG) Structure Fish Passage Barrier Project (Proposed Action). Reclamation proposes to provide federal funding under the Central Valley Project Improvement Act (CVPIA) to Reclamation District 108 (RD 108) to construct new concrete wing walls, install a metal picket weir, install rock slope protection, and remove vegetation for construction access for this fish protection project along the Sacramento River in Yolo County, California. The USACE is also the federal lead agency for Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA); however, Reclamation's federal action (construction funding) is covered by these consultations as well.

The Proposed Action, a cooperative effort among Reclamation, USACE, California Department of Water Resources, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and RD 108, involves the installation of a barrier at the existing structure to prevent salmon from entering the Colusa Basin Drain (CBD) during upstream migration.

## **PROPOSED ACTION**

The Proposed Action area includes the area in the immediate vicinities of the CBD, and the access road and staging area.

Currently, adult salmon may be able to enter the CBD through the KLOG. Adult fish can enter the CBD through the KLOG when flow velocities are low enough to allow migrating salmon to pass through the radial gates in the KLOG structure. Once fish enter the CBD, there is no upstream route for them to return to the Sacramento River, and the fish perish. Construction of the barrier on the downstream side of the KLOG would have the primary purpose of preventing fish entry into the CBD while maintaining outflows.

A secondary purpose for implementing the Proposed Action is to address an existing erosion site on the right back of the channel, immediately downstream of the KLOG structure. The erosion site has formed as a result of water eddying after it passes through the gates, which has scoured soil out from between the KLOG foundation and the right bank. The Proposed Action would include repairs to the site, which would prevent erosion of the structure foundation and further erosion of the bank.

Funding will be provided by Reclamation under CVPIA Section 3406(b)(21), which authorizes the Secretary of the Department of Interior to develop and implement measures to avoid losses of juvenile anadromous fish resulting from unscreened diversions on the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers and their tributaries and FWCA regarding the construction and/or continued operation and maintenance of any Federal reclamation project.

## **FINDINGS**

Based on the USACE's EA, Reclamation finds that the Proposed Action is not a major federal action that will significantly affect the quality of the human environment. The EA describes the existing environmental resources in the Proposed Action area, evaluates the effects of the No Action and Proposed Action alternatives on the resources, and proposes measures to avoid, minimize, or mitigate any adverse effects. Effects on several environmental resources were examined and found to be absent or minor. This analysis is provided in the EA, and is hereby incorporated by reference.

### ***Air Quality and Climate Change***

The Proposed Action would not alter existing land use designations in the Proposed Action area and would not facilitate any new growth not previously envisioned in the County's currently adopted General Plan. Following construction, operational vehicle trips would be similar to existing conditions. Consequently, construction and operation of the Proposed Action would not conflict with or obstruct implementation of any applicable air quality regulation, plan, or policy. As a result, the Proposed Action would have no impacts to air quality or climate change.

### ***Biological Resources***

The EA concludes that impacts to wildlife would be less than significant with the implementation of avoidance and minimization measures. Impacts to special-status species, including salmonids, green sturgeon and giant garter snakes, would be avoided or minimized by implementing the measures discussed in the EA (BIO-MM-1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 and 9), the Biological Assessment (BA), USFWS Biological Opinion (BO) dated July 10, 2015 and NMFS BO dated August 10, 2015. The Proposed Action would result in an overall benefit to listed fish species.

### ***Cultural Resources***

The Proposed Action is the type of activity that has the potential to affect historic properties. A records search, a cultural resources survey, and tribal consultation did not identify historic properties within the Area of Potential Affect. As Reclamation designated the USACE as lead Federal agency for compliance with Section 106, they entered into consultation with the California State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) on July 31, 2015, seeking SHPO's concurrence on a finding of no adverse effect to historic properties pursuant to 36 CFR §800.5(b). SHPO commented that the appropriate finding would be no historic properties affected pursuant 36 CFR §800.4(d)(1), and concurred with that finding on August 18, 2015. Therefore, Reclamation's responsibilities under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act are fulfilled.

### ***Hydrology and Water Quality***

Short-term increases in turbidity may occur during construction activities; however, the increases would be temporary. Minimization and avoidance measures, as presented in the EA (WQ-MM-1 and 2), would be implemented to reduce adverse impacts on water quality in accordance with the water quality certification standards and conditions of the Clean Water Act Sections 404 and 401 permits. The Proposed Action would have no significant water quality impacts.

### ***Environmental Justice***

The Proposed Action would not disproportionately affect any minority or low-income populations. Therefore, no Environmental Justice impacts would occur.

### ***Hazards and Hazardous Materials***

Hazardous materials, such as fuels and lubricants, could incidentally be released into the environment during construction, however with Mitigation Measure WQ-MM-1, accidental spills and releases would be minimized and this impact would not be significant.

### ***Indian Trust Assets***

The nearest Indian Trust Asset (ITA) (Rumsey Rancheria) is located approximately 23 miles southwest of the Proposed Action area and will not be affected.

### ***Indian Sacred Sites***

There are no Indian Sacred Sites within the Proposed Action area.

### ***Noise***

During construction, there would be increased traffic in the area (a small percentage of existing traffic volume) and construction equipment would temporarily increase the noise levels at the construction site. By implementing Mitigation Measure NOI-MM-1, noises from construction would be minimized and there would be no significant impact as a result.