

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Finding of No Significant Impact

Central California Irrigation District CALFED Funding Grant for the Oil Station System Improvement Project

15-18-MP

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Date: 23 NOV 2015

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Date: 11/23/2015



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

December 2015

Background

In accordance with Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended, the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) to analyze impacts of providing a CALFED grant to the Central California Irrigation District for its Oil Station Improvement Project (proposed project). The Draft EA, dated October 2015, was available for public review on October 27, 2015. The review period ended on November 11, 2015. No comments were received on the Draft EA.

Proposed Action

Reclamation would award a \$418,500 CALFED Grant for the construction of the proposed project. The proposed project would replace an existing cast in place pipeline with a 36" PVC Pipeline and construct a small buffering reservoir with a pump station to provide water delivery service to the Oil Station Service Area (approximately 1,100 acres of farm land in western Stanislaus County). The proposed project is expected to conserve 1,055 acre-feet of water per year through a combination of tailwater recapture and operational spill elimination. It is also expected to improve water quality in the San Joaquin River. Project construction would include activities consistent with digging, trenching, and excavation of soil to replace the pipeline and create the buffering reservoir.

Findings

In accordance with NEPA, the Mid-Pacific Regional Office of Reclamation has analyzed the potential effects of the proposed project on the quality of the human environment. Reclamation has found that the proposed project will have no significant impact on the quality of the human environment. The attached EA describes the existing environmental resources in the project area and evaluates the effects of the Action and 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.

The following are the reasons why the impacts from 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 is not likely to affect listed or proposed threatened or endangered species (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(9)). Reclamation received a letter of concurrence from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on September 15, 2015.
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).