

# RECLAMATION

*Managing Water in the West*

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT, 15-15-MP

## Firebaugh Canal Water District 1<sup>st</sup> Lift Canal Lining Project Phase 3 – Shaw Avenue to Check 1 at Highway 33


Mid-Pacific Regional Office, Sacramento, California

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Date: 12/03/2015

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FOR Richard Woodley  
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Date: 12/3/15



U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Reclamation

December 2015

## **Mission Statements**

The mission of the Department of the Interior is to protect and provide access to our Nation's natural and cultural heritage and honor our trust responsibilities to Indian Tribes and our commitments to island communities.

The mission of the Bureau of Reclamation is to manage, develop, and protect water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the American public.

## **Background**

The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) proposes to provide a \$500,000 grant through the CALFED Water Use Efficiency Grant Program to the Firebaugh Canal Water District (FCWD) for its 1<sup>st</sup> Lift Canal Lining Project Phase 3 – Shaw Avenue to Check 1 at Highway 33 (Project). Reclamation prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA Number 15-15-MP) in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR 1500-1508), and Department of the Interior regulations (43 CFR Part 46) to consider potential impacts of providing grant funding to FCWD. This Finding of No Significant Impact is supported by EA Number 15-15-MP, which is hereby attached and incorporated by reference. The EA was available for public review from November 10, 2015 to November 24, 2015. No comments were received.

## **Alternatives Including Proposed Action**

### *No Action Alternative*

Under the No Action Alternative, Reclamation would not contribute financial funding to FCWD for the project.

### *Proposed Action*

Reclamation would contribute \$500,000 to the FCWD's Project through a CALFED Water Use Efficiency Grant Program grant. The FCWD would provide the remaining funding to implement the Project. The Project entails the concrete lining of 1.5 miles of the 1<sup>st</sup> Lift Canal of the Firebaugh Canal Water District Lift System from Shaw Avenue to the Check 1 structure immediately east of Highway 33. The Project would also involve upgrading irrigation turnout connections with pre-cast concrete gate structures containing slots for future trash screens, and typical irrigation canal gates. The Project would reduce seepage losses, reduce subsurface drain water discharges to the local perched saline water table, and improve water management capabilities. Approximately 200 acre feet per year (AFY) of irrigation supplies currently lost to seepage would be directly conserved, and approximately 560 AFY would be indirectly conserved since the improved 1<sup>st</sup> Lift Canal structures would lead to the future conversion to high-efficiency irrigation systems for FCWD's growers. The Project would also result in an estimated 19 percent load reduction of selenium, seven percent load reduction of boron, and four percent load reduction of salt discharged to the San Joaquin River and Bay-Delta each year.

## **Findings**

In accordance with NEPA, the Mid-Pacific Regional Office of Reclamation determined that the approval of the Proposed Action is not a major federal action

that will significantly affect the quality of the human environment; consequently, an environmental impact statement is not required.

The following reasons are 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)(2)).
2. The proposed action will not significantly affect natural resources and unique geographical characteristics such as proximity to 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. There is no potential for the effects to be considered highly controversial (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(4)).
4. 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)).
5. 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)).
6. The proposed action will not have cumulatively significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(7)).
7. The proposed action will not significantly affect historic properties (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(8)).
8. The proposed action will not significantly affect listed or proposed threatened or endangered species, or its habitat that has been determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(9)).
9. The proposed action will not threaten a violation of 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 adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (EO 13007 and 512 DM 3).