

RECLAMATION


Managing Water in the West

Authorization of Naval Air Station Fallon Stormwater Discharge

Finding of No Significant Impact


FONSI No. LO-2012-1027

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INTRODUCTION

Naval Air Station (NAS) Fallon is located near Fallon, Nevada. It is the U.S. Department of the Navy's premier air-to-air and air-to-ground training facility, and it also supports Navy SEAL Combat Search and Rescue Training. The main station covers 8,670 acres and includes airfield and maintenance facilities, public works and supply facilities, and housing. Storm drain systems throughout the main station capture stormwater and route it into U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) Newlands Project irrigation drainage facilities. NAS Fallon has discharged stormwater into Newlands Project facilities since the 1950s. Reclamation consent is required for conveyance of non-agricultural water discharges entering into Reclamation facilities. Consent is contingent upon a determination by Reclamation that proposed conveyances would not interfere with Reclamation's use of its facilities and easements.

PROPOSED ACTION

The Proposed Action would authorize the continued discharge and conveyance of stormwater from NAS Fallon through Newlands Project drainage facilities. Expected volumes and flow rates of stormwater discharging to Reclamation facilities would not change from the current estimated amounts. NAS Fallon would continue to be responsible for obtaining, complying with, and renewing their Nevada Division of Environmental Protection permit (*Stormwater General Permit NVR050000 for Stormwater Associated with Industrial Activity*) for the continued discharge of this stormwater. NAS Fallon would also continue to implement their Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan, Installation Restoration Program, Installation Stormwater Site Inspection Program, and structural and non-structural Best Management Practices for stormwater discharges, as required by the State of Nevada.

FINDINGS

Based on the attached EA, Reclamation finds that the Proposed Action is not a major Federal action that will significantly affect the quality of the human environment. The attached EA describes the existing environmental resources in the Proposed Action area and evaluates the effects of the Proposed Action and No Action Alternative on those resources. The EA was prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA; 42 United States Code 4321–4347), Council on Environmental Quality regulations for implementing the procedural requirements of NEPA (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 1500–1508), and Department of the Interior NEPA regulations (43 CFR Part 46). The analysis provided in the attached EA 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); floodplains (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 will not impact listed or proposed threatened or endangered species or critical habitat (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 Departmental Manual (DM) 2, Policy Memorandum dated December 15, 1993).
11. 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 sites (EO 13007 and 512 DM 3).
12. Implementing the Proposed Action will not disproportionately affect minorities or low-income populations and communities (EO 12898).