

RECLAMATION

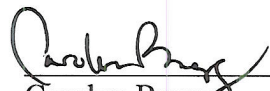
Managing Water in the West

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Sweeney/McCune Creek Outflow Recovery and Automation Project

FONSI 15-14-CCAO

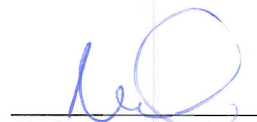
Recommended by:


Carolyn Bragg

Natural Resource Specialist
Central California Area Office

Date: 2/3/16

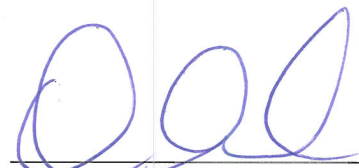
Concurred by:



Catherine Blackwell
Chief, Resources Management Division
Central California Area Office

Date: 11 Feb 2016

Approved by:



Drew Lessard
Area Manager
Central California Area Office

Date: 2/19/16

INTRODUCTION

The Sweeney/McCune Creek Outflow Recovery and Automation Project (proposed project) is located within unincorporated Solano County, California. The Solano Irrigation District (District), in cooperation with Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), proposes to construct a long crested weir within the confluence of Sweeney Creek and McCune Creek. The purpose of the proposed project is to recover substantial surface water outflow for redistribution within the District boundaries by installing a long crested weir, along with integrated flume meters and automated discharge gates, within the channels.

The weir would be constructed in a manner to allow any natural drainage flows occurring during the non-irrigation season to simply pass through or flow across the structures. The proposed project structure would provide control and automation capabilities to regulate flow rates to pass by the check structure. The portion of the long crested weir within Sweeney Creek is approximately 139 feet x 57 feet long, and the portion of the long crested weir within McCune Creek is approximately 72 feet x 59 feet long. The weir foot print requires an approximate excavation depth of 7.5 feet, and includes two outlets, slip gate controls, flume meters, and a SCADA system for automation and communications.

Reclamation's involvement is limited to contributing funding for this proposed project through an Assistance Agreement pursuant to Public Law 111-11 SEC. 9504 (a)(1) and (3) Water Management Improvement. The proposed project is anticipated to start in May of 2016 and commence within two months.

Reclamation posted the draft Environmental Assessment/Initial Study (EA/IS) for public review and comment on Reclamation's website and through a press release that was distributed on December 23, 2015. The public review period began on December 23, 2015 and ended on January 22, 2016. No comments were received on the EA/IS during this period.

FINDINGS

In accordance with Section 102(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, and the Council on Environmental Quality's Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (40 Code of Federal Regulations Parts 1500-1508), the Mid-Pacific Region of Reclamation finds that the proposed project is not a major federal action that would significantly affect the quality of the human environment. This Finding of No Significant Impact is supported by the EA/IS, *Sweeney/McCune Creek Outflow Recovery and Automation Project*. The EA/IS describes the existing environmental resources in the proposed project area, evaluates the effects of the no action and the proposed project 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/IS, and is hereby incorporated by reference.

The following factors support this determination:

1. The proposed project will not significantly affect public health or safety (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(2)).
2. The proposed project 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; 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)). The proposed project area is located within designated prime farmlands although the proposed project's actions would have no effect to designated prime farmlands. The proposed project was designed to result in no effect to flood plains.
3. The proposed project 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 project 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 project will not have significant cumulative impacts (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(7)).
7. The proposed project has no potential to affect historic properties (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(8)).
8. The environmental commitments associated with the proposed project will result in no affects to listed or proposed threatened or endangered species (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(9)).
9. The proposed project 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 project will not affect any Indian Trust Assets (512 DM 2, Policy Memorandum dated December 15, 1993), as there are none in the proposed project area.
11. Implementing the proposed project will not disproportionately affect minorities or low-income populations and communities (EO 12898).

12. The proposed project 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). There were no sacred sites identified within the proposed project area.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITMENTS

Reclamation is obligated to ensure fulfillment of any environmental commitments prescribed to mitigate or eliminate impacts resulting from implementation of the proposed project.

Environmental commitments and mitigation measures described in Chapter 3, section 3.1.4., of the EA/IS will be implemented. In addition, Reclamation will coordinate with the District throughout the duration of the proposed project to ensure avoidance or minimization of effects to the environment, in accordance with all required permits, is in compliance with this determination.