

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Finding of No Significant Impact and Final Environmental Assessment

2016-2018 American River Division Interim Water Service Contract Renewal for the Placer County Water Agency

**Central California Area Office
Folsom, CA**



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
Central California Area Office

December 2015

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FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

2016-2018 American River Division Interim Water Service Contract Renewal for the Placer County Water Agency

FONSI-15-12-CCAO

Recommended by:



Date: 1/21/2016

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Natural Resources Specialist
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Concurred by:



Date: 2/5/2016

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Approved by:



Date: 2/25/16

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FINDINGS

The Bureau of Reclamation has determined that authorizing the implementation of a 24-month interim renewal Central Valley Project (CVP) water service contract with the Placer County Water Agency (PCWA) will not have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is not required.

This decision is based on a thorough review of the 2016-2018 American River Interim Water Service Contract Renewal for the Placer County Water Agency Environmental Assessment (EA dated December 2015). This decision is in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, the Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ) Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508) and the Department of the Interior (DOI) regulations for implementation of NEPA (43 CFR Part 46).

A finding of no significant impact is based on the following:

1. Indian Trust Assets (ITA's) – There are no known ITA's or treaty rights exercised by tribes, nor are there any reservations or trust lands located within or adjacent to the Proposed Action that will be affected. The Proposed Action does not have a potential to affect ITA. (512 DM 2 Policy Memorandum dated December 15, 1993)
2. Indian Sacred Sites - There are no identified Indian Sacred Sites within the action area and therefore this project will not inhibit use or access to any Indian Sacred Sites. (EO 13007 and 512 DM 3)
3. Environmental Justice – The Proposed Action will not have any disproportionately negative impact on low-income or minority individuals within the project area. Conditions under the Proposed Action will be identical to conditions under the No Action Alternative. (EO 12898)
4. Cultural Resources – The Proposed Action does not involve the types of activities that have the potential to affect historic properties pursuant to the regulations at 36 CFR Part 800.3(a)(1). Land use would remain unchanged and no new construction or new ground disturbing activities would occur in the renewal water service contract areas. Impacts to cultural resources in the American River Division counties within the Proposed Action's area of potential effect are defined in the Long-term Contract Renewals in the American River Division EIS (BOR, 2005). (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(10))
5. Biological and Aquatic Resources – Biological and aquatic resources under the Proposed Action will be identical to conditions under the No Action Alternative. The IRC will provide for the continued delivery of the

same quantity of CVP water to the same lands for the same municipal and industrial (M&I) uses that are provided for under existing contract. The contract quantity is included in the analyses and consistent with those presented in the 2008/2009 BOs from the USFWS and the NMFS, respectively on the Continued Long-term Operations of the CVP and SWP. Reclamation will continue to comply with commitments made or requirements imposed in the 2008/2009 BOs. The Proposed Action will not have any adverse effect on species either currently federally listed or proposed for listing as candidate, endangered, or threatened species, and have no adverse effect on designated critical habitat for these species that were not already considered in the 2008/2009 BOs. (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(9))

6. Global Climate Change – The Proposed Action will not emit greenhouse gases that would exceed the 25,000 metric ton/year threshold. Trends in climate change will not be affected, nor will climate change have an impact on implementation of the Proposed Action.
7. Public health and safety – The Proposed Action will not significantly affect public health and safety. (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(3))
8. Important natural resources - The Proposed Action will not significantly impact natural resources and unique geographic 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 (EO 11990); floodplains (EO 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant areas. (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(3) and 43 CFR 46.215(b))
9. Uncertain or unknown risks – The Proposed Action will not have effects on the human environment that are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks. (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(5))
10. Precedence – 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))
11. Highly controversial effects – There is no potential for the effects to be considered highly controversial. (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(6))
12. Cumulative effects – The Proposed Action will not have significant cumulative impacts. (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(7))
13. Facility operations - The Proposed Action would not result in changes to Folsom Reservoir operations or Folsom Reservoir's cold water pool

volume and therefore, would not have any additional effect on Reclamation's ability to meet downstream fisheries requirements.

Implementation of the Proposed Action does not change hydrology for the water sources included in the Proposed Action. Reclamation is currently operating the overall CVP system to meet all regulatory requirements, downstream water needs, and environmental requirements. Water delivery quantities and patterns will be the same as in the No Action Alternative.

The Proposed Action will not alter Folsom Reservoir water storage or release patterns, or the maximum volume of water to be delivered to the American River Division. The interim contract will provide for the continued delivery of the same quantities of CVP water to the same lands for the same M&I uses that are provided for under the existing contract. Facility operations will not be affected by the implementation of the Proposed Action.

SUMMARY OF ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS

The expected environmental effects of the Proposed Action are described in Chapter 3 of the attached EA. The environmental analysis indicated that the Proposed Action meets the purpose and need described in the EA with negligible effects on the human environment.

ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITMENTS

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

The following commitments are assumed under the Proposed Action:

- A 24-month interim renewal period, March 1, 2016 to February 28, 2018 is considered in the analysis;
- The contract would be renewed for a third time with existing contract quantities;
- Reclamation would continue to comply with commitments made or requirements imposed by applicable environmental documents, such as existing biological opinions (BOs) including any obligations imposed on Reclamation resulting from re-consultations;
- Reclamation would implement its obligations resulting from Court Orders issued in actions challenging applicable BOs that take effect during the interim renewal period.