

# RECLAMATION

*Managing Water in the West*

## Finding of No Significant Impact

# Installation of SatLink2 on Flow Measurement Devices in Truckee-Carson Irrigation District

16-08-MP

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April 2016

# Background

In accordance with Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended, the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) to analyze impacts of providing a WaterSMART grant to the Truckee-Carson Irrigation District (TCID) for its Water Use Efficiency Project (project). The Draft EA, dated March 2016, was available for public review on March 17, 2016. The review period ended on April 1, 2016. No comments were received on the EA.

## Proposed Action

Reclamation will award a WaterSMART Water and Energy Efficiency Grant of \$97,769 to TCID to partially fund installing 50 SatLink2 devices to allow remote monitoring of irrigation water deliveries in the Newlands Project in Churchill County, Nevada.

There are 130 meters in TCID. TCID would install SatLink2 devices at 50 of the meters in the Carson Division on lands under the jurisdiction of Reclamation. This would allow the District to monitor water deliveries and flows within an hour of the delivery. The devices would be solar powered. The automatic SatLink2 monitoring would replace the current use of a truck to drive to each of the 50 meters to manually download data each day. The fifty meters selected for the project measure deliveries for approximately 312 farms in the Newlands Project with a total of 17,340 irrigated acres. The proposed action will allow TCID to manage water delivered to the 312 farms served by these meters more efficiently and reduce spills, while using renewable energy to power the SatLink2.

## Findings

In accordance with NEPA, Reclamation has determined that the approval of 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 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).