

# RECLAMATION

*Managing Water in the West*

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

## **Table Mountain Rancheria as Recipient for the Madera Irrigation District and Flyin' J Contracts**

FONSI-16-007



## **Mission Statements**

The mission of the Department of the Interior is to protect and manage the Nation's natural resources and cultural heritage; provide scientific and other information about those resources; and honor its trust responsibilities or special commitments to American Indians, Alaska Natives, and affiliated 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.

**BUREAU OF RECLAMATION**  
**South-Central California Area Office, Fresno, California**

**FONSI-16-007**

**Table Mountain Rancheria as Recipient  
for the Madera Irrigation District and  
Flyin' J Contracts**



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08/22/2016  
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08/23/2016  
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# Introduction

In accordance with section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, the South-Central California Area Office of the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), has determined that an environmental impact statement is not required for the following: (1) the addition of Table Mountain Rancheria as a point of delivery for Madera Irrigation District's (Madera ID's) Soquel water under Contract No. 10-WC-20-3984B and (2) the delivery of groundwater pumped from Flyin' J Ranch to Table Mountain Rancheria under Warren Act Contract No. 15-WC-20-4686. This Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) is supported by Reclamation's Environmental Assessment (EA-16-007), *Table Mountain Rancheria as Recipient for the Madera Irrigation District and Flyin' J Contracts*, which is hereby incorporated by reference.

Reclamation provided the public with an opportunity to comment on the Draft FONSI and Draft EA between July 16, 2016 and August 17, 2016. Reclamation received no comment letters.

## Background

Table Mountain Rancheria is located adjacent to Millerton Lake in Fresno County, California (see Figure 1 in EA-16-007). Table Mountain Rancheria has an agreement with Madera ID to receive a portion of Madera ID's pre-1914 water rights water from North Fork Willow Creek (referred to as Soquel water). Since 2009, this water has been delivered to Table Mountain Rancheria under Warren Act contracts and/or agreements issued by Reclamation to Madera ID. Table Mountain Rancheria also has a Warren Act Contract (Contract No. 15-WC-20-4686) with Reclamation for introduction, storage, and conveyance of up to 600 acre-feet per year (AFY) of groundwater pumped from Flyin' J Ranch for delivery to Friant Division and/or Cross Valley contractors located in Fresno County. Table Mountain Rancheria is requesting to take delivery of 600 AF of groundwater and up to 500 AFY of Madera ID's Soquel water through direct delivery.

On May 13, 2014, Reclamation executed Contract No. 10-WC-20-3984B) authorizing Madera ID to introduce, store, and convey up to 25,000 AFY of its Soquel water in Central Valley Project (CVP) Friant Division facilities through February 28, 2019. The execution of the contract was analyzed in EA-11-016 and a FONSI was issued on January 31, 2014. EA-11-016 also analyzed the delivery of up to 500 AF of Madera ID's Soquel water to Fresno County Waterworks #18 (Waterworks #18) for ultimate delivery to Table Mountain Rancheria. Both EA and FONSI 11-016 are incorporated by reference.

On July 15, 2015, Reclamation executed Contract No. 15-WC-20-4686 with Table Mountain Rancheria to introduce, convey, and store up to 600 AFY of pumped groundwater from Flyin' J Ranch within and through CVP Friant Division facilities for delivery to Friant Division and Cross Valley contractors located within Fresno County over a 5-year period. The execution of

the contract was analyzed in EA-14-019 and a FONSI was issued on March 23, 2015. Both EA and FONSI 14-019 are incorporated by reference.

## **Proposed Action**

Reclamation proposes to approve the following as described in EA-16-007: (1) the addition of Table Mountain Rancheria as a point of delivery for Madera ID's Soquel water under Contract No. 10-WC-20-3984B and (2) the delivery of groundwater pumped from Flyin' J Ranch to Table Mountain Rancheria under Warren Act Contract No. 15-WC-20-4686.

## **Environmental Commitments**

Table Mountain Rancheria and Madera ID will ensure that no native or untilled land (fallow for three consecutive years or more) may be cultivated or put into production with this water without additional environmental analysis and approval. Environmental consequences for resource areas assume the measures specified would be fully implemented.

## **Findings**

Reclamation's finding that implementation of the Proposed Action will result in no significant impact to the quality of the human environment is supported by the following findings:

### **Resources Eliminated from Detailed Analysis**

As described in Table 1 of EA-16-007, Reclamation analyzed the affected environment and determined that the Proposed Action does not have the potential to cause direct, indirect, or cumulative adverse effects to the following resources: air quality, cultural resources, environmental justice, global climate change, Indian Sacred Sites, Indian Trust Assets, land use, recreation, and socioeconomics.

### **Biological Resources**

The water delivered to Table Mountain Rancheria under the Proposed Action would be used for existing municipal purposes and would not be used to place untilled lands into production or to convert undeveloped land to other uses. No construction or modification of facilities would be required to deliver the water to Table Mountain Rancheria. With the implementation of the environmental commitments described above, Reclamation has determined that there would be No Effect to proposed or listed species or critical habitat under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. §1531 et seq.) and No Take of birds protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. §703 et seq.).

### **Water Resources**

The total quantity of groundwater that would be pumped into Kerckhoff Reservoir under the Proposed Action by Table Mountain Rancheria would be limited to 600 AFY over a five year period as analyzed previously in EA-14-019. The only change between what was analyzed previously and what is proposed now is the delivery of this water to Table Mountain Rancheria for existing municipal purposes. There would be no additional impacts to water resources beyond those previously analyzed.

Up to 500 AF of Madera ID's Soquel water previously analyzed in EA-11-016 would be delivered directly to Table Mountain Rancheria's water treatment facility near Winchell Cove through County Service Agreement (CSA) #34's facilities rather than through Waterworks #18 facilities. This would eliminate the need to have treated water trucked to Table Mountain Rancheria. All water would be used for existing municipal purposes.

**Cumulative Impacts**

Cumulative impacts result from incremental impacts of the Proposed Action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time. Significance exists if it is reasonable to anticipate a cumulatively significant impact on the environment.

***Water Resources***

Reclamation analyzed water resources cumulative impacts in EA-14-019 and EA-11-016. As the waters proposed for use under the Proposed Action are the same amounts of water previously analyzed and they would be used for existing municipal purposes no additional cumulative impacts would occur.

***Biological Resources***

Reclamation has determined that the Proposed Action is not expected to result in any direct or indirect impacts to biological resources, there would be no cumulative impacts.