

# RECLAMATION

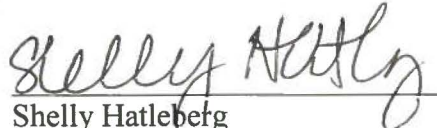
*Managing Water in the West*

**Finding of No Significant Impact 17-28-MP**

## **Corning Water District Partial Reallocation of CVP Refuge Water Supply**

**Refuge Water Supply Program  
Bureau of Reclamation, Mid-Pacific Region  
Sacramento, California**

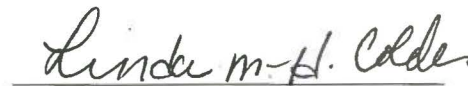
Prepared by:

  
Shelly Hatleberg  
Natural Resources Specialist  
Mid-Pacific Regional Office

Date:

9/19/17


Reviewed by:

  
Linda Colella  
Water Acquisition Program  
Mid-Pacific Regional Office

Date:

9/19/17

Approved by:

  
Richard Woodley  
Regional Resources Manager  
Mid-Pacific Regional Office

Date:

9/19/17

## **Mission Statements**

The Department of the Interior protects and manages the Nation's natural resources and cultural heritage; provides scientific and other information about those resources; and honors 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.

# Background

This Environmental Assessment (EA) examines the environmental effects of the Department of the Interior Refuge Water Supply Program's (RWSP) Amendment to the Long-term Renewal Contract with Corning Water District (District). The Proposed Action will provide Project Water Service from the Sacramento River Division, for the purpose of relinquishing a portion of Corning Water District's Central Valley Project Water Supply to Reclamation to help meet its statutory obligation to provide a water supply to wildlife refuges in the Sacramento Valley. The water would be delivered to four refuges in the Sacramento Valley in Glenn, Colusa and Sutter counties.

The proposed acquisition is being undertaken pursuant to, and would be in full compliance with, Sections 3406(b)(3) and 3406(d)(2) of Title XXXIV of the Act of October 1992 (106 Stat. 4706) Central Valley Project Improvement Act (CVPIA), which authorizes new water supply contracts for fish and wildlife purposes.

This Finding of No Significant Impact is supported by August 2017 Environmental Assessment/Initial Study titled "*Amendment to the Long-Term Renewal Contract Between the United States and Corning Water District Providing Project Water Service from the Sacramento River Division for the Purpose of Relinquishing a Portion of Contract Total*", and is hereby attached and incorporated by reference.

## Alternatives Including Proposed Action

### No Action Alternative

The No Action Alternative assumes the District would not relinquish 3,000 acre-feet (AF) of its Contract Total, would receive no compensation from Reclamation, and would be required to retire its debt to the US pursuant to its CVP Water Service Contract. Under the No Action Alternative, the District's service area would no longer receive CVP water deliveries and the service area presently served by the District would rely entirely on groundwater. In addition, Reclamation would not have the 3,000 AF of water from the District available to meet Incremental Level 4 (IL4) requirements, and the refuges would not receive the 3,000 AF relinquished by the District. Reclamation would need to find another source of IL4 supplies to meet the requirements mandated in the CVPIA.

### Proposed Action

The Proposed Action would amend the contract between the US and District to reduce the total water available for delivery by 3,000 AF (from 23,000 to 20,000 AF). As part of the Proposed Action, Reclamation would pay the District for the 3,000 AF of relinquished water and use the relinquished water to meet annual IL4 water supply requirements at CVPIA refuges located within the Sacramento Valley. Except as modified in the contract under the Proposed Action, the existing contract would remain in full force and effect as originally written and executed.

# Public Comment

A comment letter dated August 17, 2017 was received from the Grassland Water District (GWD) requesting that the project description be modified to reflect existing contractual requirements and policies according to CVPIA Refuge Contracts<sup>1</sup>. Reclamation has revised the project description as follows: “If authorized by applicable Federal and California State laws, and then-current guidelines or regulations, this water may be pooled and reallocated to other CVPIA refuges, subject to approval by Reclamation.”

## Findings

In accordance with NEPA, the Mid-Pacific Regional Office of Reclamation has found that approval of the Proposed Action is not a major federal action that will significantly affect the quality of the human environment. Consequently, an environmental impact statement is not required.

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)(2)).
2. The proposed action will not significantly affect natural resources and unique geographical characteristics such as proximity to 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. There is no potential for the effects to be considered highly controversial (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(4)).
4. 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)).
5. 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)).

---

<sup>1</sup> CVPIA Refuge Contracts Article 6 (“Whenever the maximum quantities of... Incremental Level 4 Water Supplies... are reduced... the remaining... Incremental Level 4 Water Supplies may be pooled for use on other Refuge(s)”), and Article 7 (“Project Water made available under this Contract may be transferred, reallocated or exchanged in that Year to other Refuge(s)..”)

6. The proposed action will not have a cumulatively significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(7)).
7. The proposed action will not significantly affect historic properties (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(8)).
8. The proposed action will not significantly affect listed or proposed threatened or endangered species, or its habitat that has been determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(9)).
9. The proposed action will not threaten a violation of 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 adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (EO 13007 and 512 DM 3).