

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Finding of No Significant Impact

City of Yuba City – Irrigation Systems Upgrade Project

NCAO-17-13

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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 the potential direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts to the affected environment associated with Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) providing funding to support the City of Yuba City's (City) irrigation system upgrades project in Sutter County, CA.

Proposed Action

Reclamation's Proposed Action (Project) is to provide a WaterSMART Small-Scale Water Efficiency Project grant for the City to upgrade their timer operated/manual shut-off irrigation system to a WBIC system. The City will replace all existing irrigation controllers at 11 public City parks and 13 Land Management Districts.

System upgrades will include purchase and installation of 24-station controllers, 12-station controllers, 2-inch in-line plastic master valves, and 2-inch plastic flow sensors. The scope of work includes removing all existing equipment; installing new controllers, antennas, and related components; furnishing and installing new master gate valves; furnishing and installing flow sensors; and programming the system. Work activities at the majority of the project sites will not involve earth disturbance. The excavations at the two project sites that will require earth disturbance would be limited to 2 ft by 2 ft surface areas, to a depth of approximately 1 ft.

Construction activities would be performed by the City's landscape contractor over the course of approximately 15 months, beginning in September 2018. The City would manage and maintain the new infrastructure components following installation and monitor the new system for one year to provide a comparison of current water usage to historical usage.

Findings

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 EA found that any potential environmental impacts from the Proposed Action would be minor and temporary due to the limited disturbance from construction activities associated with the action. As a result, Reclamation has determined that implementing the Proposed Action is not a major Federal action that would significantly affect the quality of the human environment and therefore, does not require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement. Reclamation's determination is supported by the EA which describes the existing environmental resources in the Project area and evaluates the effects of the Proposed Action and No Action Alternative on those resources. The analysis provided in the EA is incorporated by reference and Reclamation's determination that the Proposed Action will not result in significant impacts is summarized in the following. References to sections of regulations, Executive Orders and agency policies defining "significant" are provided in parentheses, where applicable:

- The Proposed Action will not significantly affect public health or safety (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(3)).
- 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 and 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)).
- 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)).
- 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)).
- There is no potential for the effects to be considered highly controversial (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(4)).
- The Proposed Action will not have significant cumulative impacts (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(7)).
- The Proposed Action has no potential to affect historic properties (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(8)).
- The Proposed Action will have no effect on proposed or listed threatened or endangered species (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(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)).
- The Proposed Action will not affect any Indian Trust Assets (512 DM 2, Policy Memorandum dated December 15, 1993).
- Implementing the Proposed Action will not disproportionately affect minorities or low-income populations and communities (EO 12898).
- 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).