

# RECLAMATION

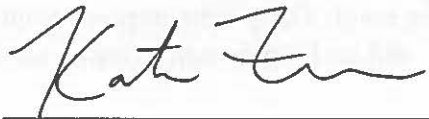
## *Managing Water in the West*

Finding of No Significant Impact

### **Contra Costa Resource Conservation District Recovery Actions for California Red-legged Frog and California Tiger Salamander Project, Phase 2**

FONSI 18-24-MP

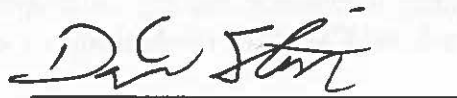
Prepared by:



Date: 9/11/2019

Kaitlin Flahive  
Natural Resources Specialist  
Mid-Pacific Region

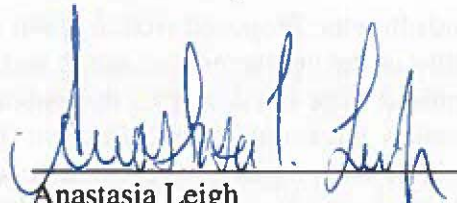
Reviewed by:



Date: 9/11/2019

Daniel Strait  
Program Manager, CVPIA Habitat Restoration Program  
Mid-Pacific Region

Approved by:



Date: 9/11/2019

Anastasia Leigh  
Regional Environmental Officer  
Mid-Pacific Region



## Background

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, the Bureau of Reclamation prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) for Phase 2 of the *Recovery Actions for California Red-legged Frog and California Tiger Salamander in Contra Costa County* project. The EA was prepared to examine the potential direct, indirect, and cumulative effects associated with providing funding through the Central Valley Project Improvement Act (CVPIA) Habitat Restoration Program to the Contra Costa Resource Conservation District (CCRCD) to partially fund the restoration of a 0.15-acre livestock pond, the Bayberry pond. The CVPIA Habitat Restoration Program helps mitigate the past impacts of Reclamation's Central Valley Project on threatened and endangered species and helps minimize future impacts. The restored pond would provide habitat for two species that have been affected by the Central Valley Project, the California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*) and California tiger salamander (*Ambystoma californiense*), both federally-listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act.

## Alternatives Including the Proposed Action

**No Action:** Reclamation would not provide \$14,000 from the CVPIA Habitat Restoration Program to CCRDC to restore the Bayberry pond. The livestock pond would continue to fill with sediment, hold a reduced amount of water, and no longer support cattle ranching operations or provide habitat for CTS and CRLF.

**Proposed Action:** Reclamation would provide \$14,000 from the CVPIA Habitat Restoration Program to CCRDC to partially fund the restoration of Bayberry pond, located at the Lime Ridge Open Space in Contra Costa County, California. Restoration activities would include the removal of approximately 485 cubic yards of sediment from the livestock pond. The project would increase the pond's annual duration of ponding to enhance ongoing cattle operations and to establish breeding habitats for the federally-listed California red-legged frog and California tiger salamander.

## Findings

Based on the attached EA, Reclamation finds that the Proposed Action is not a major Federal action that will significantly affect the quality of the human environment, and preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. The EA describes the existing environmental resources at the location of the Proposed Action and evaluates the effects of the No Action and Proposed Action alternatives. The attached EA was prepared in accordance with National Environmental Policy Act, Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR 1500-1508), and Department of the Interior Regulations (43 CFR Part 46) and is hereby incorporated by reference. Following are the reasons why the impacts of 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 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)).

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 will not adversely affect any districts, sites, highways, structures, or objects listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(8). Pursuant to 54 USC § 306108, commonly known as Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, and its implementing regulations at 36 CFR Part 800, Reclamation determined the undertaking would not affect historic properties.
8. The Proposed Action will not negatively affect listed or proposed threatened or endangered species (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(9)).
9. The Proposed Action will not violate Federal, State, 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).