

# RECLAMATION

*Managing Water in the West*

## Finding of No Significant Impact

**San José Laterals and Gardens  
South Bay Water Recycling Program  
Mid-Pacific Region  
Sacramento, California**

Recommended by: Douglas Kleinsmith  
Environmental Specialist

date: 2/4/10

Concurrence by: Daryl T. White  
Program Manager, Title XVI Program

date: 02/10/10

Approved by: M. J. [Signature]  
Chief, Division of Planning

date: 2/11/10

FONSI No. 10-07-MP



## **Background**

The City of San José (City) has planned and implemented the San José Nonpotable Reclamation Project, now known as the South Bay Water Recycling Program (Program), to provide recycled water from the San José/Santa Clara Water Pollution Control Plant for industrial and a variety of irrigation uses, including agriculture and landscaping in institutional, commercial, and residential areas. The Program includes installing pipelines, pump stations, storage tanks, and appurtenant facilities. The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), pursuant to funding provided through Title XVI of Public Law 102-575, has been providing up to 25 percent of the total cost to the City to help fund the Program. Funding is also being provided through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (P.L. 111-5).

The City certified a final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the Program in November 1992. Reclamation released a final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the Program in May 1996 and issued a Record of Decision in July 1996. The EIR and EIS included both project-level analysis for those facilities and users that had been identified at that time, and programmatic-level analysis for the remainder of the Program.

Since then, the City has expanded the service area and slightly revised the distribution facilities. Reclamation prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) and signed a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) on December 3, 1996 for these changes.

The City has continued to design additional pipelines and associated facilities within the Program area. For these additional projects, the City has adopted addenda to the Program EIR, as required by the California Environmental Quality Act. Reclamation has continued to provide funding for these projects under Title XVI, and has prepared EAs and categorical exclusion checklists as appropriate, tiering off of the original EIS, as required by the National Environmental Policy Act.

## **Project Description**

The San José Laterals and Gardens (Phase 1C-1) Pipeline Extension (Proposed Action) is located within the City of San José, California and will provide recycled water for landscape irrigation and commercial/industrial uses to three separate locations on Spring Street, Walnut and Taylor Streets, and at the Santa Clara County General Services location (See Figures in Addendum EA Attachment).

- Spring Street is located in the Coleman Loop area within the "Clear Zone" between McKendrie Street and West Hedding Street. The Spring Street segment (approximately 450-feet of 6-inch pipe) will connect to the existing recycled water pipeline on West Hedding Street. Spring Street is a two lane paved roadway with a dirt and gravel shoulder. A 4-inch access valve gate box will be installed along this alignment. Gate

valves will be installed at the terminal ends of this pipeline segment on West Hedding Street and McKendrie Street.

- The Walnut Street and Taylor Street segments are also located in the Coleman Loop area within the "Clear Zone". The Walnut Street segment (approximately 350-feet of 6-inch pipe) and the Taylor Street segment (approximately 250-feet of 6-inch pipe) will connect to the existing recycled water pipeline on Ashbury Street. A service valve for a 2-inch service tap will be installed at the Walnut Street and Taylor Street intersection. Walnut Street is a two lane paved roadway that begins at Asbury Street intersecting with Taylor Street, a four lane paved roadway with a center turn lane.
- The Santa Clara County Service Center alignment is located northeast of the Coleman Loop area. The County Service Center alignment (approximately 525-feet of pipe) will connect to the existing recycled water pipeline on Oakland Road and run through a parking lot area to a 2-inch service valve at the Santa Clara County General Services location.

Construction of the pipelines follows the "cut and cover" method. This method involves excavating an open trench to accommodate the size of the pipe, laying the pipeline, and replacing and compacting soil to refill the trench. The trench is then restored to original or better condition.

The additional users will help fulfill the Program's goal of diverting an additional 20 million gallons per day of effluent from discharge into the South San Francisco Bay to beneficial uses in the Program area.

The proposed recycled water users are consistent with those described in the 1992 EIR and 1996 EIS. Operation of the pipelines will be the same as described in previous environmental documents and will be similar to operation of the existing potable water distribution system, with the addition of safeguards for use of recycled water. Signs will be posted to notify the public of areas where recycled water is being used. Pipelines and taps supplying recycled water at user sites will be identified.

Construction is anticipated to occur in early 2010.

## **Findings**

Reclamation has adopted the addendum to the EIR and Supplemental EA that was prepared by the City on December 16, 2009. Based on the addendum, the Division of Planning of the Mid-Pacific Region of Reclamation, has found that the Proposed Action is not a major Federal action that would significantly affect the quality of the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement is not required for carrying out the Proposed Action.

The following are the reasons why the impacts of the Proposed Action are not significant:

1. *Geology and seismicity.* The project area does not cross a fault line, and is in a level area not subject to landslides. The Proposed Action will comply with measures identified in the Design Guidance Manual for the project. The measures include: seismic design features, protection measures for areas with high liquefaction potential, and measures to protect the pipeline against corrosive and expansive soils. With the implementation of these mitigation measures, the Proposed Action will have no significant impact on geology and seismicity.
2. *Surface water hydrology and water quality.* No aboveground facilities are proposed in flood prone areas. The project area is not subject to standing waves, tsunamis or mudflows, and does not involve the construction of levees or dams. The use of recycled water was analyzed in previous environmental documentation and is approved for use in landscape irrigation. The Proposed Action includes the following measures: monitoring and management of recycled water quality, control of irrigation to avoid runoff from excessive irrigation, and preparation of a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan. With implementation of these mitigation measures, the Proposed Action will have no significant impact on surface water hydrology and water quality.
3. *Groundwater hydrology and water quality.* The Proposed Action does not involve the extraction or use of groundwater and will not cause land subsidence. The Proposed Action will convey recycled water and will not affect groundwater levels or gradients. The project will include the following measures: protect groundwater during construction, and implementation of a Groundwater Monitoring and Mitigation Plan. With implementation of these mitigation measures, the Proposed Action will have no significant impact on groundwater hydrology and water quality.
4. *Land use.* The land use in the project area consists primarily of light and heavy industrial areas, as well as commercial businesses. The project area is fully developed. Construction impacts will be temporary and will not alter or change land use patterns. The Proposed Action will have no effect on land use.
5. *Air quality.* The project area is made up of light and heavy industrial areas. There are no sensitive receptors such as residences, churches, or schools along the pipeline corridors. Construction of the pipelines will be of short duration. During construction, there will be a minor increase in emissions from vehicles and equipment, and dust during excavation. Project operations will not generate new emissions. No significant odors are anticipated with the project. The Proposed Action will comply with the Bay Area Air Quality Management District's basic control measures for construction-related air quality impacts. With implementation of these mitigation measures, the Proposed Action will have no significant impact on air quality.
6. *Traffic.* Prior to construction, a Traffic Management Plan will be submitted to the City of Santa Clara. The Proposed Action will include the following measures: time of day restrictions on construction, temporary detours for areas requiring lane closures, bike lane and pedestrian alternative routes outside the construction zone. With implementation of these mitigation measures, the Proposed Action will have no significant impact on traffic.

7. *Biological resources.* The project area is highly developed and urbanized. Construction will remain within existing public rights of way and previously disturbed areas. The Proposed Action will not affect threatened or endangered species.

8. *Hazardous materials.* Prior to construction, a Phase I Site Assessment will be prepared for the pipeline corridors. During construction, there is potential for release of fuels or motor oil. The Proposed Action will comply with previously described mitigation measures. With implementation of these mitigation measures, the Proposed Action will have no significant impact on hazardous materials.

9. *Public health.* Previous environmental documentation determined that the use of recycled water for industrial and irrigation uses does not pose significant public health risks. The Proposed Action will comply with previously identified measures, including Regional Water Quality Control Board general requirements and Title 22 requirements for water reclamation. With implementation of these mitigation measures, the Proposed Action will have no significant impact on public health.

10. *Noise.* The Proposed Action will cause a minor, temporary increase in noise in the project area. Although noise increases during the construction period would be considered significant, the overall impact would be reduced to a less-than-significant level by the short duration of the impact and the implementation of noise controls. There will be no noise impact from operations. With implementation of these mitigation measures, the Proposed Action will have no significant impact on noise.

11. *Public services and utilities.* The Proposed Action could cause a minor increase in the need for police and fire services due to construction along public areas. Prior to construction, notification to appropriate public emergency services and utilities will be provided. Furthermore, measures will be implemented to ensure that no disruption occurs to utility lines in the project area. With implementation of these mitigation measures, the Proposed Action will have no significant impact on public services and utilities.

12. *Visual resources.* During construction, there will be a minor, temporary change in the visual character along the pipeline corridors. Construction equipment and personnel will be present during installation of the pipeline. The pipelines will be buried, and any road surfaces or walkways disturbed will be returned to pre-construction condition. With implementation of these mitigation measures, the Proposed Action will have no significant impact on visual resources.

13. *Historic and archeological resources.* Construction of the recycled water pipeline will include excavation to a depth of up to 8 feet. To avoid potential impacts to historic and archeological resources, an Area of Potential Effect was identified, a records search was performed, and a field survey was conducted by Basin Research Associates. On January 21, 2010, the Bureau of Reclamation submitted a report titled, *Historic Property Survey/Finding of Effect South Bay Water Recycling*, to the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) for concurrence on the finding "No Historic Properties Affected" under 36 CFR Part 800.4(d)(1). On January 26, 2010, SHPO responded and concurred with the finding. The Proposed Action

includes commitments that address any unanticipated discoveries of cultural resources or human remains during construction. The Proposed Action will have no significant impact on historic and archeological resources.

14. *Recreation.* There are no developed recreational facilities within the project area. The Proposed Action will have no effect on recreation.

15. *Indian Trust Assets.* There are no Indian Trust Assets within the project area. The Proposed Action will have no effect on Indian Trust Assets.

16. *Socioeconomics.* The Proposed Action will supply recycled water to customers. The project will have a limited duration and it's not anticipated to cause a change in housing or employment patterns. Temporary construction workers needed for the project will most likely come from nearby communities. The Proposed Action will have no effect on socioeconomics.

17. *Environmental justice.* The pipeline corridors are located primarily in commercial, light and heavy industrial areas. Implementation of the Proposed Action will not disproportionately affect any minority or low-income populations. The Proposed Action will have no effect on environmental justice.

18. *Cumulative effects.* The Proposed Action is short term in duration and will have no cumulative effects.