



— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION

Finding of No Significant Impact and Decision Record

Hoopa Ceremonial Flow Release

Interior Region 10 – California Great Basin

ED Tracking #: CGB-ED-2025-159

Prepared and Recommended by:
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Approved by:
Elizabeth Hadley
Area Manager
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August 2025

Mission Statements

The U.S. 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, Native Hawaiians, 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.

Introduction

In accordance with section 102(2) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) to examine the potential effects to the environment associated with Reclamation's proposed action to authorize a supplemental flow release at Lewiston Dam in Trinity County, California. This Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) follows implementation regulations for an EA described in 43 CFR Part 46 and the Department of the Interior Handbook of NEPA Implementation Procedures (516 DM 1). This FONSI is supported by Reclamation's Hoopa Ceremonial Flow Release EA (EA Number CGB-2025-159), incorporated here by reference.

Purpose and Need

The HVT Council sent a letter to Reclamation requesting a flow release from Lewiston Dam to meet the needs associated with the biannual Boat Dance ceremony. A supplemental flow release from Lewiston Dam would meet the safety needs associated with the Hoopa Valley Tribe's biennial Boat Dance ceremony which will be held on Tuesday, August 26th at approximately 7 p.m.

Proposed Action

Reclamation proposes to authorize a supplemental flow release from Lewiston Dam. The flow release would consist of increasing flows to achieve 1,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) on August 22nd, peak at 2,600 cfs on the 26th at 7 p.m. and return to 1,000 cfs for the 27th–30th as measured at the Hoopa USGS gage. Based on the analysis documented in the EA, the action as proposed would not result in appreciable or significant adverse effects nor permanent impacts to natural or cultural resources and would have beneficial impacts to salmonid species in the Trinity River as well as to the quality of life of the American people.

Finding

The EA evaluated the reasonably foreseeable effects of the No Action and Proposed Action Alternative.

Analysis of effects was accomplished as required by the NEPA and DOI NEPA Handbook, 516 DM 1, Appendix 3 (6) to determine whether the effects of the proposed action will be significant. Section 3.2 assessed effects to Indian Trust Assets, Indian Sacred Sites, cultural resources, noise, socioeconomics, air quality, land use, soils, vegetative communities, recreation, Wild and Scenic River, power generation, and Trinity Reservoir's cold-water pool. The analysis found that there would be no impact or temporary and minor impacts to these resources. Sections 3.3 through 3.5 assessed effects to water resources/hydrology, biological resources (special status species), effects on the quality of life of the American people, and reasonably foreseeable effects. The analysis found minor short-term effects and no long-term effects to water resources/hydrology, no negative effects to special status species, and higher quality experiences and products to Americans. No appreciable or significant individual adverse effects on any resources were identified when evaluating the Proposed Action Alternative, and it has been determined that this Project, as proposed, would not incrementally contribute to additive effects on the human environment.

In determining the degree of significance, the following were considered:

1. Short- and long-term effects; Section 3.2 evaluated the impact and duration to water and biological resources and public health and safety which found minor short-term effects and no long-term effects.
2. Beneficial and adverse effects; Sections 3.1, 3.2.2, 3.2.3, and 3.4 evaluated both beneficial and adverse effects to biological resources, public health and safety, and the quality of life of the American people.
3. Effects on public health and safety; Section 3.2.3 evaluated impacts to public health and safety which found no adverse effects. and
4. Effects on the quality of life of the American people. Section 3.4 evaluated these impacts and found that the proposed action would result in beneficial effects.

Reclamation coordinated with appropriate federal, state, and local entities through permitting and consulting procedures. Reclamation reviewed the Proposed Action Alternative for conformance with land use plans, and compliance with laws pertinent to the decision. The following are relevant findings of the Proposed Action Alternative, with respect to the plans and laws associated with the affected environment.

- National Historic Preservation Act
 - Reclamation determined this type of undertaking would not have the potential to cause effects to historic properties and would not have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by Reclamation.
- Endangered Species Act
 - Reclamation has determined there would be no effect to federally listed species that have potential to inhabit the action area.

Given the routine and minor occurrence and inappreciable effects of the Proposed Action Alternative, a draft environmental assessment for publication was not prepared.

After consideration of the information described above and analysis contained within the EA, Reclamation finds that the Proposed Action Alternative would not have a significant impact on the human environment.

Decision

Based on the analysis of the proposed action in the Hoopa Ceremonial Flow Release Environmental Assessment (EA) (CGB-ED-2025-159), Reclamation has decided to implement the Proposed Action which is the Selected Action Alternative. The Selected Alternative best meets the purpose and need to facilitate public safety for the biennial Hoopa Valley Tribe Boat Dance ceremony while promoting a higher quality of life of the American people. All practicable means to avoid or minimize environmental harm from the Proposed Action are adopted with this decision. This document certifies that Reclamation has considered all relevant information raised in the NEPA process and that the NEPA process has concluded. The Responsible Official has decided to adopt the FONSI.

Certified by:

Elizabeth Hadley

Area Manager

Northern California Area Office

Interior Region 10- Great Basin, Bureau of Reclamation

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