



— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION

Finding of No Significant Impact and Decision Record

Delta Cross Channel Gate Improvements Project

Interior Region 10 – California Great Basin

ED Tracking #: 2025-068

Prepared and Recommended by:

Carolyn Bragg

Natural Resources Specialist

Bay-Delta Office

Interior Region 10- Great Basin, Bureau of Reclamation

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BRAGG

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CAROLYN BRAGG
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Approved by:

Janice Piñero

Chief, Conservation and Conveyance Division

Bay-Delta Office

Interior Region 10- Great Basin, Bureau of Reclamation

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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 improve the existing Delta Cross Channel (DCC) gates within the DCC facility at Walnut Grove, 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 Delta Cross Channel Gate Improvement Project EA (EA Number CGB-2025-068), incorporated here by reference.

Purpose and Need

The purpose of the Delta Cross Channel Gate Improvements Project is to update the aging facility to improve its operational flexibility, reliability, duration and safety. Improved flexibility and reliability of gate operations is important for managing water quality and water supply, maintaining the ability to close the gates during high flow conditions in the Sacramento River, and protecting migrating salmonids. Structure improvements would extend the life of the DCC gate facility. Additionally, improvements would support improved working conditions for DCC operators and maintenance workers, and address safety hazards associated with boat passage. Improved public access in the area would also result from the Proposed Action to provide for safer and increased recreational opportunities.

Proposed Action

Over the course of the DCC gate facility's life, Reclamation has performed routine and as-needed operations and maintenance activities at the facility. The Proposed Action consists of improvements to the existing DCC gate facility, including complete replacement of the existing radial gates and installation of new wire rope hoists with full remote operation control and monitoring capability, new maintenance building(s), moveable barriers would be added as an additional boater safety feature, and public

access ramp would be constructed. The Proposed Action would be a benefit to operations of the facility, the public, and recreational boaters.

Mitigation, Monitoring, and Enforcement

Mitigation, monitoring, and enforcement measures have been identified in Section 2.2.4 *Environmental Commitments* of the EA to address potential adverse impacts. These measures are considered a part of the Proposed Action. The authority to implement these measures is derived from Endangered Species Act (ESA) Section 7 consultation and Clean Water Act Sections 401 (a)(1) and 404.

Finding

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

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

1. Short- and long-term effects: Potential short- and long-term effects of the Proposed Action were analyzed in Section 3.0 *Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences* of the EA. As a result of Proposed Action implementation, there are minimal short term adverse effects to the affected environment that would be further minimized with implementation of environmental commitments (Section 2.2.4). There would be no adverse long-term effects to resources analyzed under the Proposed Action. Long-term beneficial effects are described below.
2. Beneficial and adverse effects: Potential adverse effects would be minimized as described above. The Proposed Action would be beneficial by providing long-term recreation opportunities, management of water quality, improved operational and recreating conditions, and migratory salmonid protection (Section 3.0).
3. Effects on public health and safety: The Proposed Action would be a benefit to the public, recreational boaters, and workers implementing maintenance on the DCC gates and facility area by reducing current hazards and public safety issues and concerns (Section 3.6 *Hazards, Hazardous Materials, and Public Health*).

4. Economic effects: Economic effects would be relatively the same under the No Action Alternative and the Proposed Action with minimal benefits resulting from the Proposed Action (Section 3.9 *Recreation*).
5. Effects on the quality of life of the American people: As described above, while implementation of the Proposed Action would have the potential for minimal short term adverse effects, it would also be associated with long-term beneficial effects on the quality of life of the American people related to hydrology and water quality, recreation, and health and safety (Section 3.0).

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

- Endangered Species Act
 - As described in Section 4.2 *Endangered Species Act* of the EA, Reclamation, through analysis, determined that formal consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service was not required as the Proposed Action's activities would not affect listed species or critical habitat under their jurisdiction. Reclamation, in consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), determined that the Proposed Action is not likely to adversely affect California Central Valley steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), Central Valley spring-run Chinook salmon (*O. tshawytscha*), Sacramento River winter-run Chinook salmon (*O. tshawytscha*), and southern distinct population segment of North American green sturgeon (*Acipenser medirostris*) and any designated critical habitats. On October 30, 2023, NMFS issued a concurrence letter to Reclamation to concur that the Proposed Action is not likely to adversely affect the subject listed species and designated critical habitats
- Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act
 - As described in Section 4.3 *Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act* of the EA, Reclamation, through Section 7 ESA consultation with NMFS, considered potential impacts from the Proposed Action to Essential Fish Habitat (EFH). Minimization and avoidance measures included in the project's Proposed Action will minimize impacts to EFH. EFH consultation was completed on October 30, 2023.
- National Historic Preservation Act

- As described in Section 4.4 *National Historic Preservation Act* of the EA, Reclamation, through consultation, has determined the Proposed Action would have no adverse effect on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places.
- Clean Water Act
 - As described in Section 4.5 *Clean Water Act* of the EA, Reclamation will obtain authorizations from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) and State Water Resources Control Board under the Clean Water Act prior to construction commencing. All permit requirements will be implemented throughout the duration of the Proposed Action.
- Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899
 - As described in Section 4.6 *Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899* of the EA, Reclamation will obtain authorization from USACE under Section 10 of the Rivers and Harbors Act prior to construction commencing. If applicable, all permit requirements will be implemented throughout the duration of the Proposed Action.

As described in Section 4.1.2 *Public Involvement* of the EA, Reclamation provided opportunities for members of the public to engage with and consult using a variety of communication venues and engagement tools. Reclamation released the draft EA to the public for review and comment from June 23, 2025, through July 23, 2025. Five comment letters were received and incorporated into the EA as appropriate.

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

Decision

Based on the analysis of the Proposed Action in the Delta Cross Channel Gate Improvement Project EA (CGB-EA-2025-068), Reclamation has decided to select the Proposed Action Alternative for implementation. The Selected Alternative best meets the purpose and need to update the DCC aging facility. Practicable and reasonable mitigation, monitoring, and enforcement measures to minimize 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.



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David Mooney
Bay-Delta Office
Interior Region 10- Great Basin, Bureau of Reclamation