

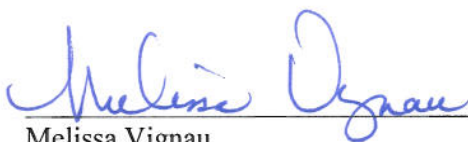
United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
Mid-Pacific Region

Central California Area Office
Folsom, California

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Camp Berryessa Development,
Lake Berryessa

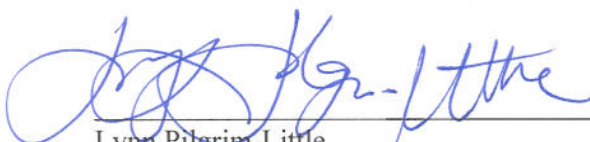
Recommended:


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3/14/2011
Date

Recommended:


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3/14/11
Date

Concur:



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3/15/11
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Approved:


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Area Manager, CCAO

3/15/11
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Date: 3/15/2011

FONSI No.: CCAO-FONSI-11-2

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Central California Area Office

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Camp Berryessa
Napa County, California

This finding of no significant impact (FONSI) and its supporting environmental assessment (EA) have been prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, and the Council on Environmental Quality's regulations for implementing NEPA. The Central California Area Office of the US Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) has determined that the Proposed Action will not significantly affect the quality of the environment; therefore, an environmental impact statement is not required and will not be prepared for this project.

BACKGROUND

Camp Berryessa is a former Boy Scout Camp on Lake Berryessa, along the shore of Putah Creek. Lake Berryessa, located approximately 30 miles north east of Napa, is a reservoir that was formed when Reclamation built Monticello Dam on Putah Creek in 1957. The lake is used for agricultural irrigation and drinking water and is one of the largest bodies of freshwater in California. It is also a major recreation destination, serving the San Francisco Bay Area and the Sacramento Valley, and offers opportunities for boating and water sports, camping, fishing, hiking, and other outdoor recreation activities.

With the termination of Reclamation's long-term concessionaire resort leases in 2008, there has been limited opportunities for public recreation access to the lake, and this provides the Napa County Regional Park and Open Space District (District) new opportunities to construct sustainably designed facilities on approximately 10 acres at the Camp Berryessa site. The District would develop facilities that would serve a broad range of constituents, with a mix of outdoor education and recreation opportunities and a primary focus on students, youth organizations, and nonprofit organizations. Further, the project would focus on sustainable energy-efficient design, the use of natural and recycled materials, and resource conservation.

ALTERNATIVES

Two alternatives are analyzed in the EA: the Proposed Action and the No Action Alternative. Under the Proposed Action, the District, in cooperation with Reclamation, would construct, operate, and maintain recreation facilities, utilities, and transportation infrastructure on Reclamation land at Camp Berryessa under a long-term management agreement. Phased construction and full build out of the project would take place over a ten year period, beginning in late 2011, depending on funding and market demand. Initial development would likely include basic utility and transportation infrastructure, features, such as drinking water system, wastewater developments, and electrical, roads, parking, trails, and the camp host site and storage building developments. Camping facilities, such as the tent cabins and recreation amenities, would be added incrementally. The central facility, large flush toilet restroom/shower facility, permanent dormitories for paid staff, and wood cabins would be considered as part of later development phases.

Under the No Action Alternative these facilities would not be constructed and use of the Camp Berryessa site would remain unchanged, with no facilities or infrastructure for recreation use, but may be available for other potential uses.

FINDINGS

Reclamation prepared an EA on the proposed project to disclose potential environmental impacts from implementing the proposed project. In accordance with NEPA and its implementing regulations, and consistent with the analysis in the EA, Reclamation has found that the Proposed Action would not significantly affect the quality of the human environment. Consequently, an environmental impact statement is not required. This determination is supported by the following factors:

- The project may have beneficial impacts on recreation and environmental justice. The Proposed Action would benefit the recreation experience by expanding the types of recreation offered at the lake. The Proposed Action would directly contribute additional revenue to the state and local communities and would provide other economic benefits. The Proposed Action would generate employment opportunities during both construction and operation.
- The Proposed Action could reduce air quality during construction. The potential exposure of site occupants to naturally occurring asbestos. However, development and implementation of an Asbestos Dust Mitigation Plan would avoid potential impacts from exposure to naturally occurring asbestos.
- The Proposed Action would disturb soil and water resources in the project area, namely erosion and siltation and disturbance of naturally occurring asbestos in serpentinite. By implementing a stormwater pollution prevention plan, an erosion control plan, and a legally required asbestos dust mitigation plan, these effects would be considered less than significant in the short term and long term.
- Reclamation consulted with the SHPO regarding a determination of no adverse effects to historic properties resulting from the long term development of Camp Berryessa. Reclamation's responsibilities under Section 106 of the NHPA have been fulfilled.
- Native American consultations for the Proposed Action have been completed. No Native American resources, such as sacred sites or Traditional Cultural Properties, were identified through the consultations.
- No Indian Trust Assets (ITAs) would be impacted by project implementation because there are no ITAs within the area of potential effect of the proposed project.
- There would be temporary impacts on vegetation from construction related activities. Long-term direct impacts would result from permanently removing vegetation where new facilities and infrastructure would be located. During construction, there would be temporary impacts on wildlife due to increased noise, human presence, vegetation removal, and soil disturbance. There would be permanent impacts from habitat loss where vegetation is removed due to the construction of new structures and development. Pre-construction surveys, work windows, protective measures of the construction plan, and revegetation of affected areas would reduce adverse impacts on vegetation and wildlife, including special status species.
- The visual quality of the site during and after construction would not substantially degrade the visual quality of the area. The improvements at the site would implement the General Design Guidelines listed in the Camp Berryessa Master Plan, which would minimize the impact of the Proposed Action on the visual quality of the site.

- The Proposed Action is not expected to significantly increase threat to public health and safety issues caused by site access, recreation, or ignition or spread of a fire.
- No impacts on land use or environmental justice are anticipated. Although minority and low-income populations do reside within the region of influence, because of the nature of the Proposed Action, none were identified.
- No significant noise impacts are expected. Noise impacts of the Proposed Action include temporary increases in local noise levels from construction and long-term incremental increases in area noise levels from increases in vehicle traffic associated with the additional recreation in the project area. Construction would be limited to daytime hours and would occur primarily on weekdays, which is consistent with the requirements of the Napa County noise ordinance.
- Implementing the Proposed Action would contribute to the overall traffic volume in the vicinity of Lake Berryessa. However, due to the limited capacity of the project site, this would be relatively small, and not a significant increase. There would be a short-term, increase in trucks and heavy equipment using Berryessa-Knoxville Road during construction.
- Water and wastewater utilities would be contained within the project site and would not affect the capacity of any local utility. Electricity demands would be relatively low for this small-scale low-impact development and would have a negligible impact on PG&E or customers using PG&E power. Solid waste generation from this small-scale low-impact development would have a negligible impact on waste disposal services and landfills.
- During the 30-day public review period for the draft EA, one comment was received. The commenter requested clarification of how water use resulting from implementation of the Proposed Action would impact the groundwater supply. Section 3.6 of the EA has been revised to further clarify that the Proposed Action would not significantly impact groundwater by depleting groundwater supplies. Therefore, the project is unlikely to become controversial.
- Project-specific NEPA and NHPA analysis will be conducted on the implementation level, which will include the development of additional mitigation measures, as necessary.