

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Finding of No Significant Impact

North Bay Water Recycling Program Sonoma Valley County Sanitation District

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FONSI No. 11-20-MP



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
Mid-Pacific Region
Sacramento, California

Background

This is a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) based upon a November 2011 Supplemental Environmental Assessment (EA) to a June 2010 Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and a January 2011 Record of Decision (ROD) for the North Bay Water Recycling Program (NBWRP). The Supplemental EA was necessary because a portion of the project described in the EIS and the ROD has changed.

The NBWRP is a multi-agency effort to provide recycled water for agricultural, urban, and environmental uses. NBWRP construction activities include installing pipelines, pump stations, storage tanks, and appurtenant facilities. Reclamation is providing up to \$25 million of Federal funds (including over \$7 million of American Recovery and Reinvestment Act funds) under Title XVI of Public Law (P.L.) 102-575, as amended. The NBWRP is managed by the North Bay Water Reuse Authority (NBWRA), which is a consortium of water and wastewater agencies in Marin, Sonoma, Napa, and Solano Counties. One of those agencies, the Sonoma County Water Agency (SCWA), is the administrative agency for the NBWRA.

SCWA certified a Final Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the NBWRP in December 2009. Reclamation released a Final EIS for the NBWRP in June 2010 and issued a ROD in January 2011. The EIR and EIS included both project-level analysis for those facilities and users that were identified at that time, referred to as the Phase 1 projects, and programmatic-level analysis for the remainder of the NBWRP.

One of the NBWRA members, the Sonoma Valley County Sanitation District (SVCSD), proposes to slightly revise its portion of Phase 1, the Sonoma Valley Recycled Water Project (SVRWP), to expand recycled water service to the Sonoma Valley, which includes recycled water transmission and distribution facilities. This revision is the Proposed Action under the Supplemental EA. The Proposed Action includes providing connections for recycled water users, with consideration of willingness of landowners to grant easements, and construction access limitations.

The November 2011 Supplemental EA satisfied requirements under both the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), and provided site-specific environmental documentation for the project elements proposed under a Clean Water State Revolving Fund Program Application, required for review by the State Water Resources Control Board. This FONSI documents Reclamation's review of the proposed alignment modification within the context of the previous analysis provided in the June 2010 EIR/EIS.

Project Description

As identified in the NBWRP EIR/EIS, the SVRWP Phase 1 pipeline will consist of approximately 5.2 miles of pipeline in western Sonoma Valley. The main pipeline will originate from the SVCSD Wastewater Treatment Plant, extend southwest and then northwest through a

vineyard to Arnold Drive. The pipeline will continue north along Arnold Drive to Orange Avenue, and extend north on Orange Avenue to Elm Avenue. The pipeline will then continue east on Elm Avenue, cross a field to Arnold Drive, extend north on Arnold Drive, and end just north of Leveroni Road. Secondary pipelines or segments will extend from the main pipeline on the following roadways: Highway 116, Watmaugh Road, and Leveroni Road.

The process of finalizing the design of the SVRWP has resulted in modification of the pipeline distribution system, referred to herein as the Watmaugh Road Reach. The revised alignment will be reduced to an approximately 1.0-mile recycled water pipeline that will extend from the western edge of the WWTP northwest to Watmaugh Road East. This pipeline will be installed west of Schell Creek. The pipeline will be installed under Schell Creek using a trenchless construction method (i.e. bore and jack) to avoid ground surface disturbance.

The Watmaugh Road Alignment will be located within SVCSD's existing easement for its Sewer Trunk Main Project. SVCSD approved the Sewer Trunk Main Replacement Project Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration to repair and improve the existing sewer trunk main to reliably handle dry and wet weather inflows. This project is scheduled for construction from December 2011 through spring 2012, providing the opportunity for installation of both the Sewer Trunk Main Replacement Project pipeline and the NBWRP Watmaugh Road Alignment within the same easement, thereby minimizing construction related disturbance. The proposed NBWRP Watmaugh Road Alignment pipeline will be installed approximately 10 feet west of the Sewer Trunk Main Pipeline, within the existing 50-foot wide easement. Implementation of the Sewer Trunk Main Replacement Project is on schedule, will be installed slightly before the proposed modification, and is considered part of the environmental baseline.

Findings

Based on the November 2011 EA, which is incorporated by reference, Reclamation has found that the proposed action is not a major Federal action that will significantly affect the quality of the human environment. Therefore, an environmental impact statement is not required for carrying out the proposed action. The EA complies with the Council of Environmental Quality's National Environmental Policy Act Regulations and other requirements such as the Endangered Species Act, the National Historic Preservation Act, and applicable local and State requirements.

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

1. *Surface Hydrology.* The proposed pipeline will be underground and will not add to impervious surfaces or change the existing drainage patterns. Drainage designs will be integrated with existing drainage systems, and will be designed to avoid or minimize effects to downstream areas and infrastructure. To prevent alteration of the stream course of Schell Creek, the pipeline will be installed via trenchless technology (i.e. bore and jack or bridge suspension).

2. *Biological Resources.* The Proposed Action will not affect any new species or habitat not already covered by the Fish and Wildlife Service's (FWS) biological opinion for NBWRP or the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) concurrence that the NBWRP is not likely to adversely affect listed species under their jurisdiction. Reinitiating formal consultation will only

be required if (1) new information becomes available indicating that listed species or critical habitat may be affected by the project in a manner or to an extent not previously considered; (2) current project plans change in a manner that causes an effect to listed species or critical habitat in a manner not previously considered; or (3) a new species is listed or critical habitat designated that may be affected by the action. The proposed modifications for the NBWRP do not meet these criteria and therefore further consultation with FWS or NMFS is not necessary.

3. *Cultural Resources*. As part of the NBWRP, Reclamation initiated Section 106 consultation with California State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO). SHPO issued concurrence with the finding of no adverse affect to historic properties on March 21, 2011. As part of the Watmaugh Road Alignment Project, an addendum cultural resources records search and field survey was completed and additional letters were sent to Native American Tribes requesting their assistance in identifying any sites of religious or cultural significance. No historic properties were identified in the records search and field survey and no responses were received from Native American Tribes. In a letter of July 19, 2011, the SHPO concurred with Reclamation's finding of no adverse effect for the Watmaugh Road Alignment. The development of a formal Post-Review Discovery Plan is not recommended due to the very low potential for exposing prehistoric or historic-period archaeological materials within or adjacent to the Area of Potential Effects. In the unlikely event that cultural resources or human remains are identified during the implementation of this project, Reclamation may have additional responsibilities pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.13.

4. *Indian Trust Assets*. Indian Trust Assets (ITAs) are legal interests in property or rights held in trust by the United States for Indian Tribes or individual Indians. Indian reservations, Rancherias, and Public Domain Allotments are common ITAs in California. There are no ITAs at or near the revised alignment area.

5. *Environmental justice*. Implementation of the Proposed Action will not disproportionately affect any minority or low-income populations.