RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Finding of No Significant Impact – Buckhorn Dam/Grass Valley Creek Toe Drain and Channel Rehabilitation Project Environment Assessment/Initial Study

FONSI No.TR-EA0112

Central Valley Project, CA
Mid-Pacific Region

U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation

March 2012

Finding of No Significant Impact

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended, and with the Council on Environmental Quality's Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), the Northern California Area Office (NCAO) of the Bureau of Reclamation has found that the Proposed Action, supported by the *Buckhorn Dam/Grass Valley Creek Toe Drain and Channel Rehabilitation Project Environmental Assessment/Initial Study* (EA/IS), will result in no significant impacts on the human environment considering the context and intensity of impacts. Supporting documentation in the EA/IS was prepared to meet the requirements of NEPA as well as the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

Environmental review by:

F. Brandt Gutermuth
Environmental Scientist
Bureau of Reclamation

March 8, 2012
Date

Approved by:

for Brian Person
NCAO Area Manager
Bureau of Reclamation

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Background

Buckhorn Dam is located in Trinity County along the eastern border with Shasta County near Buckhorn Summit. The dam is approximately 1 mile south of State Route 299, 13 miles southeast of the town of Weaverville, and 25 miles west-northwest of Redding, California. The proposed project is located west of the Buckhorn Dam outlet works, primarily within the Buckhorn Dam outlet channel and includes portions of Sections 15, 16, and 22, Township 32 North, Range 8 West, of the Mount Diablo Meridian. The project area extends from the Buckhorn Dam outlet works plunge pool downstream approximately 800 feet within the Buckhorn Dam outlet channel.

The Bureau of Reclamation began construction on the Buckhorn Dam in 1988, with construction completed in November 1991. The dam was built to trap fine sediment eroding from the upper Grass Valley Creek (GVC) watershed in order to reduce fine sediment input into the Trinity River. It has an uncontrolled/un-gated "run of the river" concrete spillway on the north end of the dam that spills during the winter-spring runoff period or storm events. The dam also has a buried 800-foot long gated-conduit system as the main outlet works. Reclamation historically has managed the outlet works discharge level between 6 and 10 cubic feet per second (cfs) throughout the calendar year.

Soon after Buckhorn Dam was completed, sediment deposition began occurring immediately downstream of the outlet works discharge pipe. This has caused the Buckhorn Dam outlet channel to aggrade (fill) approximately 1-3 feet in elevation immediately downstream of the dam outlet works for approximately 600 feet resulting in a corresponding increase in the water-surface elevation. Toe drains located at the downstream side of the dam near the outlet works are designed to be dry and to serve as an indicator of dam integrity. The toe drains are currently submerged because of the increased water-surface elevation in the Buckhorn Dam outlet channel and thus not useful for measuring dam seepage. Streambed aggradation has caused water to back up into the outlet works and toe drains. The inability to measure dam seepage hinders assessment of the dam's structural integrity; without the ability to measure toe drain flows, it is likely that seepage could go undetected and could possibly result in dam failure. The inability to measure dam seepage has created a "Safety of Dams" issue.

In addition to the need to correct the dam safety issue, the Buckhorn Dam outlet works could be enhanced to provide additional fish habitat. GVC is a fourth-order stream that has coho salmon (*Oncorhynchus kisutch*) living throughout the 10.8 miles of stream length from Buckhorn Dam to the Trinity River. The dam does not have a fish passage system and thus eliminates migration to the upper 9 miles of historic headwater habitat. GVC currently serves as one of the vital production tributaries to the Trinity River for coho. The Southern Oregon Northern California Coast Evolutionarily Significant Unit (SONCC ESU) of coho salmon was listed as a threatened population under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) on May 6, 1997. The GVC watershed geology is composed primarily of weathered quartz diorite, commonly referred to as "Decomposed Granite" or "DG", which is easily erodible throughout the stream corridor.

Historic poor logging practices in the upper GVC watershed has caused the DG to erode more severely resulting in deposition in critical spawning gravel substrate. In addition, approximately 600 feet downstream of the outlet works is an exposed bedrock outcrop that is causing a natural hydraulic control and raised water-surface elevation within the channel. Beaver have taken advantage of this feature and have strategically raised the water an additional foot or more above the bedrock, effectively blocking all coho salmon and all but a few steelhead from accessing this segment of the channel.

Because of the needs identified above, the EA/IS for this project considered two alternatives: the No Action Alternative and the Proposed Action Alternative. After inclusion of all mitigation measures (discussed in detail in Section 2.3.1 and Appendix A of the EA/IS), no significant impacts were identified for the Proposed Action pursuant to NEPA and CEQA. Details concerning these alternatives, and other alternatives considered but not carried forward for evaluation, are included in Chapter 2 of the EA/IS. The Proposed Action maximizes environmental benefits with less-than-significant environmental impacts and is preferred for implementation. The Proposed Action, developed by an interdisciplinary team of specialists, is described below.

The Proposed Action includes two primary design objectives: 1) Reduce water-surface elevations in the Buckhorn Dam outlet works/toe drain system and throughout the initial 600 feet of the outlet channel reach; and 2) Develop coho salmon rearing and potentially spawning habitat within the project area. The project would excavate approximately 9,000 cubic yards (cy) of material in order to lower the outlet channel and to develop coho salmon habitat features. Approximately half of the excavation volume is for lowering and re-alignment of the outlet channel within the project reach and the remaining volume is to excavate slow water habitat ponds and side channels. The primary work area is located within approximately 800 feet of the outlet structure along the outlet channel corridor. The design alters the centerline alignment and profile of the outlet channel, creating more sinuosity, building pool/riffle habitat, lowering streambed elevations, increasing slope, widening the cross-sectional area, and developing inset floodplain benches. The design also redevelops the meander pattern of the 800 foot outlet channel by increasing the meander wavelength to an average of 225 feet.

Two coho salmon rearing ponds are included in the project design; both have an approximate area of 6,000 ft^2. The rearing ponds are adjacent to the outlet channel and are connected with side channels that allow a percentage of flow to divert into the slow water pond habitat. The ponds are designed with an average depth of 6 feet but would be built with a variable bottom elevation for diversity of water depth. These pond areas would also be filled with wood material to serve as shelter for rearing salmonids. Large woody debris (LWD) structures would be incorporated into the final design for both habitat and geomorphic/hydraulic purposes. LWD would create cover for coho and provide hard points for necessary flow portioning into the side channel/pond areas.

Implementation of the Buckhorn Dam/GVC project would take place during the late summer or early fall 2012. All spoils generated during excavation would be placed at strategic upland locations near the project area. Access roads already exist within the project area and contractor staging would occur alongside these roads. Most of the bedrock encountered during construction will be the weathered quartz diorite and can be penetrated with an excavator.

Dewatering of the project area would be essential during construction and would be implemented by diverting the normal base flow through a pump system. The flow would be pumped and rerouted from behind the outlet works wing walls, around the project reach, and back into the outlet channel downstream of the construction area. Capture and relocation of fish from within the project area to downstream of the confluence with the spillway outlet would be mandatory before excavation begins.

Findings

The No Action Alternative and Proposed Action Alternative were evaluated in the EA/IS with respect to their impacts in the following issue areas: land use; soils and geology; water resources and water quality; vegetation; fishery resources; wildlife; wetlands; recreation; socioeconomic values; cultural resources; air quality; aesthetics; hazards and hazardous wastes; noise; public services and utilities/energy; transportation; tribal trust; and environmental justice. Based on the following summary of the implementation effects of the Proposed Action (as discussed fully in the EA/IS), implementation of the Proposed Action would result in no significant impacts to the quality of the human environment.

Land Use

The Proposed Action is consistent with the goals, policies, and objectives of existing plans, including the Trinity County General Plan, as well as the Lewiston/Douglas City Community Plan. During project implementation, construction crews and equipment would be present in the project area for up to three months during the late summer or early fall 2012. This would not interfere with, preclude, or conflict with existing land uses adjacent to the project area. Potential conflicts with or disruptions to adjacent land uses resulting from activities associated with the Proposed Action would be less than significant.

Soils and Geology

Construction activities associated with the project could result in increased erosion and short-term sedimentation of the outlet channel and GVC. The exposure of DG soils during and after construction would increase the potential for soil erosion and sedimentation. The use of heavy equipment for project activities would likely increase soil compaction and potentially surface water runoff. An increase in the volume of surface water runoff increases the potential for erosion. Therefore, project implementation would include sediment and erosion control measures to reduce and avoid potential short-term construction impacts on soils. Implementation of the specified mitigation measures would reduce the impacts of the Proposed Action on soils and geology to less than significant.

Water Resources and Water Quality

The elevation and extent of the Buckhorn Dam outlet channel floodplain would be modified through activities associated with the Proposed Action; however, this would not result in an increase in the base floodwater elevation. The displacement of channel and floodplain materials has only a minimal potential to change groundwater hydraulics within the project area boundaries. The tendency of the surface water-groundwater system to move to equilibrium conditions and the overall absence of impacts to the regional driving mechanisms of groundwater recharge, such as seasonal precipitation, suggest that no long-term impacts on water table elevations would occur. The Proposed Action would not result in activities that would increase base floodwater elevations in the project area.

A work area within the outlet channel (approximately 800 linear feet) would be dewatered before and during in-channel construction activities. Therefore, there would not be an increase in turbidity and total suspended solids during construction. However, increases in turbidity levels could occur when water is returned to the outlet channel because of disturbance to alluvial material related to removal of approximately 9,000 cy of excavated material.

Collectively, the activities included in the Proposed Action could result in short-term increases in turbidity and suspended solids concentrations in the water column. Post-construction exposure of sediment to rainfall and/or flows would also result in short-term increases in turbidity and suspended solids concentrations in the water column. These short-term increases in turbidity and suspended solids levels after construction would be a significant impact. Therefore, project implementation would include several mitigation measures to reduce the potential for impacts to water resources and water quality associated with the Proposed Action. Implementation of the specified mitigation measures would reduce the impacts of the Proposed Action on water resources and water quality to less than significant.

Vegetation

The Proposed Action would result in the temporary disturbance of upland plant communities. Upland areas that would be disturbed consist of previously disturbed areas that were used during the construction of the dam; project activities would include driving on these areas and possibly using them for spoils. While project activities would modify some upland areas, these areas would be subject to natural recruitment of native plants, supplemented by revegetation efforts. Over time, these upland areas would be revegetated to the degree that site conditions allow. A combination of replanting and natural revegetation would occur to ensure that upland habitat values meet wildlife needs for the long term. The need for revegetation would be determined via monitoring, coordination with local resource agencies, and adaptively managing to meet changing needs and desired future conditions. Disturbed areas would be restored to their original condition upon completion of work. Therefore, this impact would be less than significant.

No special status plants are present in the project area. Project implementation could result in the spread of non-native and invasive plant species during ground-disturbing activities. Therefore, mitigation measures would be implemented to reduce the potential for impacts

associated with the Proposed Action; this would reduce the impacts of the Proposed Action on vegetation to less than significant.

Fishery Resources

To comply with section 7 of the ESA, Reclamation initiated informal consultation with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) concerning project effects on the federally and state-listed (threatened) SONCC ESU of coho salmon. Under the Proposed Action, no permanent adverse effects to coho salmon spawning habitat would occur within the project area. Rather, the Proposed Action is expected to result in immediate as well as long-term improvements by developing additional rearing habitat in the outlet channel. Adverse effects on spawning habitat are expected to be limited to short-term, localized sedimentation caused by settling of silt disturbed by bank-side excavation activities and contouring and grading in the channel. Silt suspended by these activities may be dispersed and resettle on downstream suitable spawning areas near the construction area. However, all in-channel work would be conducted only during late-summer or early fall low-flow conditions, at times prior to spawning of coho salmon and steelhead. Work at this time will avoid impacts to spawning anadromous salmonids.

Some temporary effects on the quality of habitat for juvenile salmonids would occur through disturbance of riparian vegetation that contributes to shaded riverine aquatic (SRA) habitat in the project reach. The adverse impacts on habitat are expected to be offset in the long-term by benefits associated with implementing the Proposed Action by improving rearing habitat abundance for all anadromous salmonids. LWD would be strategically placed within the project area to provide complex physical habitat for juvenile and adult fish. Large wood hydraulic and habitat structures would create spawning and rearing habitat, increase nutrient and organic matter retention (which increases food production in the system), and provide refuge from predators and cover during high winter flows.

Any temporary construction impacts on fish-rearing habitat are expected to be offset by permanent beneficial changes to physical rearing habitat associated with project implementation. Collective improvements in fluvial channel dynamics contributed by the Proposed Action, in conjunction with future channel rehabilitation projects on the Trinity River between Lewiston Dam and the North Fork Trinity River, are ultimately expected to improve rearing habitat diversity for all anadromous salmonids. Because of the Proposed Action's inclusion of mitigation measures to protect fishes and generally localized effects, no significant effects would occur to fisheries resources.

Wildlife

Construction noise and activity would not significantly impede movement of wildlife in the project vicinity. Construction noise could temporarily alter foraging patterns of resident wildlife species, and vegetation removal along the river could temporarily disrupt wildlife movement through the area. However, no long-term impediments to wildlife movement within the project area are anticipated as a result of implementing the Proposed Action. Implementation of fishery

mitigation measures would ensure that there is no net loss of riparian habitat and a long-term increase in riparian habitat diversity. Implementation of wildlife mitigation measures would ensure that there is no direct impact to the little willow flycatcher, foothill yellow-legged frog, western pond turtle, songbirds, raptors, or bats, or to their habitat. Implementation of these mitigation measures would reduce the impacts of the Proposed Action on wildlife to less than significant.

Wetlands

Construction activities associated with the Proposed Action would result in temporary impacts to jurisdictional waters, including wetland features in the project area. The Proposed Action would impact 0.683 acres of wetlands – 0.112 acres (up to 890 feet) of the outlet channel itself and 0.571 acres of adjacent wetland vegetation. Reclamation would take advantage of opportunities during or after project construction to enhance wetland functions within the project boundaries or to create conditions required for functional jurisdictional wetlands (i.e., hydrology, vegetation, and hydric soils) to persist over time. Fishery mitigation measures will be implemented to reduce the potential for impacts associated with the Proposed Action. Implementation of these mitigation measures would reduce the impacts of the Proposed Action on wetlands to less than significant.

Recreation

During implementation of the Proposed Action, there would be construction equipment and activity within the active channel, the floodplain, and adjacent upland areas in close proximity to the Buckhorn Dam outlet channel. However, given the remoteness of the area and that no fishing/visitation occurs in the outlet channel, there would be no recreational impact from implementing the Proposed Action.

Implementation of the Proposed Action would increase the potential for turbidity and total suspended solids during construction activities. Fine sediments could be suspended in the stream for several hours following in-channel activities, adversely affecting the recreational experience of downstream anglers and the aesthetic values held by other user groups. The extent of downstream sedimentation would be a function of the instream flow velocity and particle size. Water quality mitigation measures would be implemented to reduce the potential for impacts associated with the Proposed Action. Implementation of these mitigation measures would reduce the impacts of the Proposed Action on recreation to less than significant.

Socioeconomic Values

The Proposed Action could directly generate short-term income growth through the payment of wages and salaries related to construction employment, but would result in little increased long-

term economic activity. Because of the limited project size and duration, there would be no significant impact on socioeconomic values, including population and housing.

Cultural Resources

No cultural resources were identified within the Area of Potential Effect. If cultural materials or human remains are encountered during work for the project, construction would be halted and the proper agency contacted. Because of the pre-project cultural resource survey and mitigation measures to cover potential finds during construction, project impacts to cultural resources during implementation of the Proposed Action would not be significant.

Air Quality

Construction associated with the Proposed Action would require excavation, grading, vegetation removal, disposal of earthen materials, and the use of heavy equipment and travel on unpaved roads, which would temporarily contribute fugitive dust in the project area. This equipment and sources of fugitive dust would temporarily contribute to air pollution in the area in the form of ozone precursors, particulate matter (PM_{10}), and greenhouse gas emissions. Because Reclamation would include provisions in construction contract documents that minimize construction-related impacts on air quality resulting from project activities, the Proposed Action would not result in a significant impact on air quality.

Aesthetics

Over the long-term, implementation of the Proposed Action is expected to complement the visual resources and aesthetic values of the project area by improving the function and form and fish habitat within the Buckhorn Dam outlet channel. Activities associated with the Proposed Action are intended to be not only functional (e.g., enhance fisheries and restore river sinuosity), but to complement the aesthetic values and visual resources associated with the project area. Excavated materials would be removed to upland areas and would be placed in a manner that blends the materials into the contours of the topography. Retention of existing topographic features would significantly lessen the degree of visual impact. Over time, the Proposed Action would produce gradual, ever-improving changes in the aesthetic quality of this reach. These changes would retain the character of existing land uses and features; therefore, implementation of the Proposed Action would result in a less than significant impact on aesthetic resources.

Hazards and Hazardous Wastes

Implementation of the Proposed Action would potentially release hazardous materials (e.g., oil and fuels) through accidental spills that could pose a public hazard. However, Reclamation will ensure that the contractor follows Best Management Practices to prevent the release of hazardous

materials into the environment and to provide adequate response measures in case a spill does occur. These practices would ensure that implementation of the Proposed Action would not have a significant impact with respect to hazardous materials.

Noise

Construction and traffic associated with the Proposed Action would generate noise. Although there are no residences adjacent to the project area, to minimize potential noise impacts, construction activities would be scheduled between 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. Monday through Saturday. During working hours, Reclamation will ensure that the contractor operates all equipment to minimize noise impacts to nearby sensitive receptors so that no significant project impacts from noise would occur.

Public Services and Utilities/Energy

No activities would occur to disrupt electrical or telephone service or any other public services or utilities within or adjacent to the site. Construction would consume energy primarily in the form of fuel from local commercial sources and would not have a significant effect on local or regional energy sources. Therefore, no significant effects to public services and utilizes/energy would result from implementation of the Proposed Action.

Transportation

Construction activities associated with the Proposed Action would be managed to ensure that State
Route 299, the road serving as access for the site, as well as Shingle Shanty Road and the Dam Access Road would remain open to through-traffic. Temporary traffic control may be necessary during the mobilization and demobilization of heavy equipment; however, no road closures are planned. Passage for emergency vehicles would not be restricted. Because construction activities would not reduce/close existing traffic lanes this impact would be less than significant.

Tribal Trust

Under the Proposed Action, GVC and the Trinity River downstream would continue to support tribal trust assets. Reclamation's overarching goal of restoring, enhancing, and conserving the natural production of anadromous fisheries, native plant communities, associated wildlife resources, and overall health of the Trinity River Basin are consistent with Federal Tribal trust responsibilities. The Federal Government's trust responsibility includes protecting fishing and water rights for ceremonial, subsistence, and commercial purposes of the region's Indian tribes. Several short-term impacts that would affect Tribal trust assets are considered acceptable provided that long-term fishery and healthy river goals are supported. These impacts are

generally associated with construction activities, which would temporarily affect fish and wildlife resources, vegetation, and water quality in GVC. Potential impacts on Tribal trust assets would be avoided and minimized by project design criteria and mitigation measures provided to protect Tribal trust assets. While some level of impact to fisheries and water quality cannot be avoided during construction activities, the impacts that would occur to these tribal trust assets would be kept at a less-than-significant level. Therefore, the Proposed Action would not have a significant impact on tribal trust assets.

Environmental Justice

There is no evidence to suggest that the Proposed Action would cause a disproportionately high adverse human health or environmental effect on minority or low-income populations. The Proposed Action would not have a significant impact on environmental justice.

Summary

Implementation of the Proposed Action, including mitigation measures, would contribute to the long-term environmental quality and sustainability of the GVC and Trinity River ecosystems with no significant impacts to the environment.

Finding of No Significant Impact in Accordance with 40 CFR 1508.27

After considering the environmental effects described for the Proposed Action in the EA/IS for the Buckhorn Dam/GVC Toe Drain and Channel Rehabilitation Project, it has been determined that it will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment considering the context and intensity of impacts. Therefore, an environmental impact statement is not needed. This determination is based on the analysis in the EA/IS and the context and intensity of the following factors (40 CFR 1508.27):

1) **There will be no significant effects, beneficial or adverse, resulting from implementation of this project.** The finding is not biased by the beneficial effects of the action. The proposed construction and rehabilitation activities at the Buckhorn Dam/GVC Toe Drain and Channel Rehabilitation Project site are expected to provide localized improvements in aquatic and riparian habitats currently present at the site. The project will assist in meeting long-term needs to enhance fish habitat and provide properly functioning river conditions in the Trinity River Basin.
2) **Public health and safety are not significantly affected by the project.** Due to the limited duration of the project and implementation of public safeguards, public safety will not be at

risk. Standard Reclamation practices for notifying the public of heavy equipment activities during project implementation will be implemented.

3) **There will be no significant adverse effects on floodplains, wetlands, historic or cultural resources, ecologically critical areas, civil rights, women, or minority groups.** No impacts to floodplains and no net loss of wetlands will occur as a result of the Proposed Action. There will be no significant adverse effects to historic or cultural resources, ecologically critical areas, civil rights, women, or minority groups.

4) **Based on public participation and the involvement of resource specialists, effects of the Proposed Action on the quality of the human environment are not expected to be highly controversial.** Previously, the types of activities associated with the Proposed Action, albeit on the mainstem of the Trinity River, have received general support by Trinity County and its citizenry. With input from technical staff from the lead, cooperating, and responsible agencies, environmental, social, and economic issues have been addressed such that this project should avoid major scientific controversy over environmental effects.

5) **There are no known effects on the human environment that are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks.** The effects of the Proposed Action have been clearly evaluated in the EA/IS. Furthermore, similar actions have been completed by the Trinity River Restoration Program and other local government agencies in the past with no unpredicted developments.

6) **These actions do not set a precedent for other projects that may be implemented.** The environmental effects of future projects will be analyzed on a case-by-case basis under NEPA/CEQA. The activities proposed in this project will contribute to the overall improvement of fisheries habitat and water quality in the Trinity River Basin and are consistent with Reclamation's Trinity River Mainstem Fishery Restoration Environmental Impact Statement and Record of Decision.

7) **There are no known significant cumulative effects from this project and other projects implemented or planned on areas separated from the affected area of this project beyond those assessed.** While some short-term direct and indirect adverse effects may result from the project, these effects have been analyzed in the EA/IS, and will not lead to significant cumulative effects. When considered in the context of cumulative watershed effects, the project is intended to improve the dam safety issue at Buckhorn Dam and at the same time improve the fisheries habitat in GVC. Cumulative short-term impacts such as soil disturbance and turbidity would occur in response to the project, but not to an extent that would cause significant impacts to downstream water quality.

8) **Based on surveys accomplished prior to this decision, this action will not adversely affect sites or structures eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, or cause loss or destruction of significant scientific, cultural, or historic resources**. There are no cultural resources in the project area. Based on project design and measures described in the EA/IS, the decision maker has determined that the project will not result in the destruction of scientific, cultural, or historic resources.

9) **The project would not adversely affect an endangered or threatened species or its habitat that has been determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act of 1973**. An evaluation was performed as part of the EA/IS which determined that potential impact of the Proposed Action on threatened, endangered, and candidate species and their habitat could be reduced to less than significant by following project mitigation measures. A Biological Assessment (BA) was written to analyze the potential impact of the Proposed Action on federally listed Southern Oregon Northern California Coasts (SONCC) coho salmon, which inhabit the project reach. The BA defines mitigation measures to minimize negative impacts to SONCC salmon so that this species would not be adversely affected. Consultation with the NMFS has been initiated and their biological opinion will provide any additional protection measures to ensure that SONCC coho salmon and their habitat are not adversely affected.

   No suitable habitat or spotted owl nests are known to occur in the area and thus consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is not needed. No federally or state-listed threatened or endangered plant species occur within or adjacent to the site boundaries defined for the project.

10) **Implementation of the project does not threaten a violation of Federal, State, or local law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment.** Implementation of the Proposed Action does not threaten violation of any laws. Its implementation meets requirements under the Endangered Species Act, the Clean Water Act, NEPA, the Clean Air Act, and the National Historic Preservation Act.

    The project described in this finding is fully consistent with CEQA. The following permits are required to authorize the project:

    - Section 404, Clean Water Act, Nationwide Permit 27 (San Francisco District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers),
    - Section 401, Clean Water Act Water Quality Certification (Regional Water Quality Control Board – North Coast Region),
    - Section 10, Endangered Species Act, Incidental Take Permit (National Marine Fisheries Service)

Findings Required by Other Laws and Regulations

This decision to implement the toe drain and channel rehabilitation activities at Buckhorn Dam/GVC is consistent with Federal, state, and local statutes and regulations. Coordination with NMFS on the project is ongoing, and a BA for the project has been completed. Coordination with the Bureau of Land Management or U.S. Forest Service is not anticipated as the proposed activities occur entirely on lands managed by Reclamation. Coordination with the California Department of Fish and Game is not anticipated since this is a Federal project occurring entirely on federally managed lands. A cultural resource survey has been completed and approved by

Reclamation's Mid-Pacific Region office and the California State Historic Preservation Office. A wetland delineation has been completed and verified by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

Implementation Date

The Proposed Action is expected to be constructed in 2012 between August and November.

Contact

For additional information concerning the overall decision to implement the Proposed Action, contact Brandt Gutermuth, Environmental Scientist, Trinity River Restoration Program, P.O. Box 1300, and 1313 Main Street, Weaverville, California 96093.