

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

APPROVAL OF TITLE TRANSFER OF A FEDERALLY-OWNED WATER
DISTRIBUTION SYSTEM TO THE MONTECITO WATER DISTRICT

In accordance with the section 102 (2) (c) of the National Environment Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, the Area Manager of the South-Central California Area Office of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), has determined that the proposed action will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment. Furthermore, an environmental impact statement is not required. This Finding of No Significant Impact is supported by the attached Environmental Assessment, Number 00-92, Title *Transfer of a Federally-Owned Water Distribution System to the Montecito Water District*, dated July 6, 2001, and is hereby incorporated by reference.

Implementing the proposed action would result in a transfer of ownership of an existing water distribution system from the Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation (Bureau) to the Montecito Water District (MWD). This service infrastructure is already located within MWD boundaries and is currently operated and maintained by the MWD. Based on the analyses and conclusions of the EA, Reclamation has determined that implementation of the project is neither president setting, highly controversial, nor an action usually requiring an Environmental Impact Statement.

This finding is supported by the following reasons:

1. Air Quality: The project would not involve any activities that would create air pollutant emissions or adversely impact air quality.
2. Water Quality/Flooding: No alterations to water use or wastewater generation would result from the project. The project would not result in any activities that would influence surface or groundwater flow, nor introduce any structures into a flood hazard area. Additionally, there are no elements of the project that would influence water quality.
3. Public Facilities/Solid Waste: The project does not involve any new physical modification or expansion of the service infrastructure that would create a direct or indirect demand for public services. Uses of public facilities/ solid waste would remain the same as if the proposed action would not occur (No Action). Therefore, no impacts upon public facilities/solid waste management will result.
4. Land Use: No changes to existing land uses are proposed and land uses would remain the same as if the proposed action would not occur (No Action). Therefore, the project will not affect land uses and no impacts upon land use will result.
5. Transportation/Circulation: The project does not involve any new physical modification or expansion of the service infrastructure that would generate additional traffic or otherwise influence transportation systems. Therefore, no significant impacts upon transportation systems will occur.

6. **Natural Environment:** The project does not involve any new physical modification or expansion of the service infrastructure that would affect plants, animals, or their habitat. Therefore, no impacts upon the natural environment will occur.
7. **Environmental Justice and Population:** The project does not involve any new physical modification or expansion of the service infrastructure that would affect neighborhoods or individual residents. Therefore, no impacts regarding environmental justice and human population will occur.
8. **Construction:** The project does not involve new physical modification or expansion of the service infrastructure or other construction. Therefore, no impacts upon air quality, water quality, noise levels, solid waste disposal, soil erosion, or siltation resulting from construction will occur.
9. **Energy:** The project does not involve any new physical modification or expansion of the service infrastructure that could increase demand upon existing sources of energy. The project will not require the development or extension of new sources of energy or the use of energy conservation measures. Therefore no significant impact will occur.
10. **Noise Abatement and Control:** Noise generating activities will not occur. Current operations do not generate noise, and would continue. Therefore, no significant impact will occur.
11. **Explosive/Flammable Operations:** The project does not involve any new physical modification or expansion of the service infrastructure, and will not expose people or buildings to any explosive or flammable fuels or chemicals. Therefore, no impacts associated with their use or presence will result.
12. **Toxic, Chemical and Radioactive Materials:** No uses of hazardous materials are proposed nor would the project expose people to existing toxic, chemical, or radioactive material. Therefore, no impacts resulting from toxic, chemical, or radioactive materials will occur.
13. **Geologic Processes:** No activities that would alter earth conditions are proposed. Therefore, no impacts upon or resulting from geologic processes will occur.
14. **Cultural Resources:** No known historic properties are present on the lands owned or controlled by the Bureau of Reclamation. Historic properties are present on easement lands. The historic properties present on easement lands may be on or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. However, the Bureau's easements possess only the right of use of the land and that right of use extends only to the extent necessary to provide the actual benefit (water distribution) intended by the easement. The lands underlying the Bureau's MWD distribution system easements are not under the direct or indirect jurisdiction of the Bureau and are not under the Bureau's ownership or control. The project does not involve any new physical modification or expansion of the service infrastructure that could alter, disrupt, disturb, or destroy any archaeological or historic resources that may be present within the MWD's service area. Therefore no significant impact will occur.
15. **Ethnic Resources:** The project does not involve any new physical modification or expansion of the service infrastructure that would have the potential to adversely affect ethnic resources or activities. Therefore, no impacts upon ethnic resources will occur.

16. Fire Protection: The project does not involve any new physical modification or expansion of the service infrastructure, or any other development that could increase demand for fire protection services, create a fire hazard, or interfere with fire protection response. Therefore, the proposed project will have no impact on fire protection.
17. Recreation: The project does not involve any new physical modification or expansion of the service infrastructure, and will not conflict with any recreational uses of the area, or impact the quality or quantity of existing recreational opportunities. Therefore, no impacts on recreation will result.
18. Aesthetic and Visual Resources: The project does not involve any new physical modification or expansion of the service infrastructure, and will not obstruct or change any aesthetic or visual resources in the area. Therefore, the proposed project will have no impact on aesthetic or visual resources.
19. Housing: The project does not involve any new physical modification or expansion of the service infrastructure, and will not displace any current residents or cause the loss of affordable dwellings through demolition, conversion, or removal. Therefore, the proposed project will have no impact on housing.
20. Threatened and Endangered Species: The project will not affect any species listed under the Endangered Species Act as endangered or threatened. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service concurs with the "no affect" determination to any threatened or endangered species. Therefore there are no affects to endangered or threatened species.
21. Indian Trust Assets: There are no Indian Trust Assets within the project area.

Recommended: Kathleen Wood 8-03-01
 Chief, Resource Management Division Date
 South-Central California Area Office

Concur: David K. Young Aug 1, 2001
 Environmental Officer Date
 South-Central California Area Office

Approved: Michael Jackson August 6th, 2001
 Area Manager Date
 South-Central California Area Office