FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
and
DECISION RECORD
for
Weber Basin Water Conservancy District – Weber West Water Campus (WWWC) Environmental Assessment
PRO-EA-FY26-003

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION – UPPER COLORADO REGION
PROVO AREA OFFICE; PROVO, UTAH

1.0 Background and Introduction

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) is considering funding and implementing the Weber West Water Campus (WWWC) proposed by the Weber Basin Water Conservancy District (WBWCD) in Marriott-Slaterville, Weber County, Utah. The Proposed Action includes constructing a recycled water treatment facility, drinking water treatment plant, pump stations, a diversion structure on or adjacent to the Weber River, and multiple pipelines, including raw water conveyance to the drinking water treatment plant, finished water distribution, reverse osmosis concentrate discharge, stormwater discharge, and utility water supply. The federal decision to be made is whether to authorize the WWWC using Reclamation Title XVI and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Water Infrastructure Finance and Innovation Act (WIFIA) funds.

Reclamation prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) to analyze the environmental impacts from implementing one of the two alternatives:

- Under the No Action Alternative, Reclamation would not authorize funding, and the WWWC would not be constructed.
- Under the Proposed Action Alternative, Reclamation would authorize WBWCD to construct WWWC facilities and associated pipelines/pump stations as described above.

Proposed Action Alternative Summary

- Construct a recycled water treatment facility and the Weber West Water Treatment Plant (WWWTP) (drinking water) on the WWWC site.
- Install pipelines, including Raw Water conveyance to the WWWTP, Finished Water distribution, Reverse Osmosis Concentrate discharge to the Weber River, Stormwater discharge to the Weber River, and Utility Water supply from the river diversion.
- Construct pump stations (Central Weber Sewer Improvement District [CWSID] to the Renew facility; Weber River to the WWWTP) and a diversion structure at or near the Weber River.

2.0 Environmental Commitments

Environmental commitments (mitigation measures) from the EA are incorporated into the Project and will be implemented by WBWCD and its contractors. The commitments are summarized below; detailed specifications are provided in the EA.

Invasive plants and noxious weeds, soil, and vegetation

WBWCD's contractor will implement standard best management practices (BMPs) to mitigate and minimize impacts to vegetation and soil including limiting disturbance to the smallest practicable area, minimizing exposed soil, protecting undisturbed vegetation, and flagging construction limits before ground disturbance. Equipment and materials will be free of noxious weed seeds before entering the site and cleaned before exiting the site; no dirt or excess material will be hauled off site. Disturbed areas will be reseeded with a certified weed-free seed mix, with varieties confirmed through coordination with the local Natural Resources Conservation Service

office. Topsoil will be preserved and replaced following pipeline installation to support successful revegetation. WBWCD will monitor disturbed areas for noxious weed establishment for a minimum of 5 years postcompletion, implementing appropriate control measures, including mechanical removal or herbicide application, if noxious weeds are identified. Noxious weed control activities will be carried out according to a formal noxious weed contract to be established before construction.

Water resources (streams, riparian areas, and waters of the United States)

BMPs, including silt fences and other erosion-control features in areas adjacent to wetlands and streams, will be implemented to minimize disturbing streams and riparian areas. Temporarily disturbed areas will be restored following construction, and erosion and sediment control measures will be used to prevent sedimentation.

Wildlife (including migratory birds)

WBWCD will ensure compliance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. Trees and shrubs will be removed during the non-nesting season (about August 1 to April 14). If removing trees and shrubs during this period is not possible, the contractor will arrange for preconstruction nesting surveys conducted by a qualified biologist no more than 10 days before ground-disturbing activities. If active nests are found, the construction contractor will coordinate to avoid impacts to migratory birds.

Hazardous and solid waste

WBWCD's contractor will comply with applicable federal, state, and local hazardous materials regulations; obtain Utah Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Construction Stormwater General Permit coverage and implement a Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan and Spill Prevention Control and Countermeasures Plan; properly store, handle, and dispose of construction-generated waste; transport construction debris to an approved off-site disposal facility; and maintain spill response materials on site, containing and cleaning up any spills immediately.

3.0 Finding of No Significant Impact Determination

Based on the review of the analysis in PRO-EA-FY26-003, and in accordance with 42 U.S. Code Section 4336(e)(7), under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Reclamation has determined that an environmental impact statement is not needed for this Proposed Action. The selected Proposed Action Alternative will not have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment as defined in NEPA. This determination has been made by considering factors in 516 Departmental Manual (DM) 1 – U.S. Department of the Interior Handbook of NEPA implementing procedures, namely:

Both short- and long-term effects

The referenced EA analyzes the short- and long-term effects of the identified issues reasonably foreseeable environmental trends and planned actions in relation to those issues. None of the impacts from the Proposed Action are expected to rise to the level of significance.

Both beneficial and adverse effects

Potentially beneficial and adverse impacts related to the Proposed Action are disclosed and analyzed in Section 3 of the EA in the Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences sections, by each resource topic. Minor adverse effects associated with construction activities, including temporary disturbance to vegetation, soil, and riparian areas, would be minimized by implementing BMPs and mitigation measures. Beneficial effects include improved water supply reliability, support for regional population growth, and progress toward instream flow objectives on the Weber River. None of these effects are determined to be significant.

Effects on public health and safety

Effects on public health and safety are discussed in the EA and have not been found to be significant. It is expected that public health and safety would likely improve as WBWCD provides a more reliable and resilient municipal water supply system.

Economic effects

The Project is intended to improve water supply reliability for existing and future water users in the WBWCD service area. Implementation would not result in adverse economic impacts and would likely result in minor beneficial economic effects through improved operational efficiency and reduced long-term water supply costs. The proposed Project is not expected to impact employment (positively or negatively) or appreciably change the area's population.

Effects on the quality of life of the American people

The quality of life of the American people in the Project area would continue as it is currently. The construction and operation of the WWWC would improve water supply reliability, support reuse, and contribute to the long-term water security of the region.

4.0 Decision Record

The NEPA process is intended to help public officials make decisions that are based on an understanding of environmental consequences and take actions that protect, restore, and enhance the environment. Reclamation has considered all relevant information raised in the NEPA process, and that NEPA process is now closed. Therefore, based on the information in Environmental Assessment PRO-EA-FY26-003, and all other information available to me at this time, it is my decision to approve the implementation of the Proposed Action Alternative and mitigation measures as described in the subject EA consistent with the above Finding of No Significant Impact determination.



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Rick Baxter
Area Manager