

1.3 Need for the Action

The New Mexico Environment Department (NMED) consistently detected bacterial and nitrate contamination in drinking water supplies in Chimayó. In addition, Chimayó needs a water system for fire control. The EID prepared by Taschek Environmental Consulting for EPA describes in more detail the need for the proposed project.

1.4 Purpose of the Action

The objective of the proposed action would be to develop and construct a community water system that will provide safe and reliable drinking water for the current and future residents of Chimayó. Development of deeper and more reliable wells will improve the quality of water now and in the future. Reclamation would provide funds for a portion of this community water system described in Chapter 2 in more detail as the proposed action.

1.5 Relevant Statutes, Regulations, and other Plans

Reference is made to Public Law 108-354 attached in Appendix A.

1.6 Issues, Public Scoping

A public information meeting was held Tuesday, December 9, 2003, at the Holy Family Church in Chimayó. Information regarding this public meeting is found in the EID.

Chapter 2. ALTERNATIVES

2.1 Description of the No Action Alternative

If no funding would be provided for the construction of a water system, no additional impacts to the environment would take place.

2.2 Description of the Proposed Action Alternative

GCMDWCA would construct the following portions of the community water system with Reclamation funds (refer to the map on page 2):

- Water Loading Station (referred to as Emergency Storage referred to here in the EID)

Chimayó would construct a twelve foot square concrete block building inside a locked six foot high chain link fence. This station would allow residents without water to access a source of potable water.

The station would be located in the Benny Chavez Community Center parking lot adjacent to County Road SF 98 (refer to Appendix B).

- Booster Station No. 2 (referred to in the EID as part of the distribution system)

Chimayó would also construct a twelve foot square concrete block building located inside a locked six foot high chain link fence. The facility would be connected to the distribution system (8-inch diameter water line). In addition, this station would be constructed along County Road RA 100 and would provide the necessary water pressure to Zone 4 shown on the drawing in Appendix B.

- Construct 1450 feet of 8-inch water lines on the right of way of road number RA 100.

An 8-inch water pipe would be installed in a four foot deep trench within the road right of way. Since the existing road is paved, the road would be repaved over the area that would be trenched.

For safety, traffic control would be required.

- Construct 4050 feet of 12-inch water lines on the right of way of road number RA 88, 87, and 101.

A 12-inch water pipe would be installed in a four foot deep trench within the road right of way. Since the existing road is paved, the road would be repaved over the area that would be trenched.

For safety, traffic control would be required.

- Apply a base course on gravel road numbers SF94, 94A, a portion of SF92A, RA 101, and RA 103.

A 4-inch layer of new base course gravel would replace the existing gravel base. The new base course gravel will be spread and compacted to match the width of the existing road.

Chapter 3. AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT/ENVIRONMENTAL CONSEQUENCES

3.1 Introduction

The relevant affected resources and the environmental consequences of the proposed action are described in Chapter 3 of the EID and are incorporated by reference in this EA. However, Indian Trust Assets (ITA) have not been included as an affected resource. The Department of Interior policy requires Reclamation to carry out its activities in a manner which avoids adverse impacts to ITAs when possible. As a result, a section in NEPA documents is required. The following statement therefore addresses ITAs for this supplement to the EID to fulfill that requirement for Reclamation: