

**U.S. Department of the Interior**

**BUREAU OF RECLAMATION**  
**Albuquerque Area Office**  
**Albuquerque, New Mexico**

*Finding of No Significant Impact*

**THE COMMUNITY OF CHIMAYÓ WATER SYSTEM PROJECT**  
**Arriba and Santa Fe Counties, New Mexico**

\_\_\_\_\_  
Manager, Environment Division

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Date

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Area Manager, Albuquerque Area Office

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

AAO-06-007  
FONSI Number

## **BACKGROUND**

The Greater Chimayó Mutual Domestic Water Consumers Association (GCMDWCA) of Chimayó, New Mexico (Rio Arriba and Santa Fe Counties) proposes to develop a community drinking water supply system. The project is a community water system consisting of water production facilities, water distribution, and storage facilities (storage tanks and associated pipe lines). A majority of the funding for the project will come from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Since funding is being provided by EPA, the proposed project is considered a federal action requiring compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Consequently, EPA prepared an Environmental Information Document (EID), dated September 2004, and a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), dated August 4, 2005. The EID addresses the environmental conditions associated with supply wells, storage tanks, and distribution water lines that would be installed along existing roads in the public right-of-way.

Reclamation funds would also be provided by Public Law 108-354 for a portion of GCMDWCA's community water system. These funds would be considered a federal action for Reclamation requiring compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

Part 516 of the Department of the Interior's Departmental Manual (DM) pertains to NEPA compliance. 516 DM 3.6 states that an Environmental Assessment (EA) prepared by another agency may be adopted if, upon independent evaluation by the responsible official, it is found to comply with the DM and relevant provisions of the Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) National Environmental Policy Act implementing regulations, 40 CFR 1500-1508.

Reclamation has reviewed EPA's EID and FONSI and has found that a section on Indian Trust Assets (ITA) has not been included. The Department of Interior's policy in 516 DM 3.13.5 requires an ITA section in the EID. As a result, a supplement to the EID has been prepared prior to the preparation of this FONSI.

## **SUMMARY OF THE PROPOSED ACTION**

The Bureau of Reclamation, Albuquerque Area Office, proposes to provide funds for the following features of the proposed water development for GCMDWCA:

- Water Loading Station (referred to as Emergency Storage in the EID).
- Booster Station No. 2 (referred to in the EID as part of the distribution system).
- 1450 feet of 8-inch water lines on road number RA 100.
- 4050 feet of 12-inch water lines on road numbers RA 88, 87, and 101.
- Application of base course on gravel roads numbered SF94, 94A, SF 92A, RA 101, and RA 103.

## **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS RELATED TO THE RESOURCES OF CONCERN**

As a result of analyzing the effects of the proposed action in this EA, the following summarizes the reasons why there would be a Finding of No Significant Impact:

### Indian Trust Assets (ITAs)

There are no ITAs within the project area or within the vicinity to be affected.

### Cultural Resources

In an effort to insure that cultural resources affected by the proposed action of this supplement have been considered, the following describes Reclamation's involvement regarding cultural resources:

The Booster Station, Water Fill Station, construction of two water lines, and construction of a base course over existing roads were reviewed by a Reclamation archeologist. Based upon the cultural resource survey of the project (prepared by Taschek Environmental Consulting, dated May 2004), the only cultural property falling within this portion of the project is the Acequia del Distrito, which is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. Construction of the water pipelines will follow the concurred recommendation by the New Mexico State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) of boring under the acequia for installation of the lines.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITMENTS**

Should evidence of possible scientific, prehistorical, historical, or archeological data be discovered during the course of this action, work shall cease at that location and the Area archaeologist shall be notified by phone immediately, with the location and nature of the findings. Care shall be exercised so as not to disturb or damage artifacts or fossils uncovered during operations, and the proponents shall provide such cooperation and assistance as may be necessary to preserve the findings for removal or other disposition by the Government.

Any person who knows or has reason to know that he or she has inadvertently discovered human remains on Federal or tribal lands, must provide immediate telephone notification of the inadvertent discovery, with written confirmation, to the responsible Federal agency official with respect to Federal lands, and, with respect to tribal lands, to the responsible Indian tribe official. The requirement is prescribed under the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act (P.L. 101-601; 104 Stat. 3042) of November 1990 and National Historic Preservation Act, Section 110(a)(2)(E)(iii) (P.L. 102-575, 106 Stat. 4753) of October 1992.

### **COORDINATION**

Reclamation's Archeologist reviewed the EID's archeological survey of the proposed project. A field trip was conducted and the New Mexico State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) was contacted by telephone to discuss the project. A letter dated September 13, 2006, to the SHPO office requested concurrence for portions of the project funded by Reclamation. Construction activities will not begin until the SHPO have concurred in a letter to Reclamation.

## **CONCLUSION**

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended, and based on the analysis in the supplemental EA and the EID, Reclamation has determined that EPA's EID and FONSI may be adopted. In addition, implementing the proposed action of Reclamation's supplement to the EID would not result in a significant impact on the human environment and does not require the preparation of an environmental impact statement.