

Carlsbad Project Water Operations and Water Supply Conservation

Final Environmental Impact Statement
June 2006



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
Denver, Colorado
Albuquerque, New Mexico



New Mexico Office of the State Engineer
Interstate Stream Commission
Santa Fe, New Mexico

Mission Statements

Department of the Interior

The mission of the Department of the Interior is to protect and provide access to our Nation's natural and cultural heritage and honor our trust responsibilities to Indian Tribes and our commitments to island communities.

Bureau of Reclamation

The mission of the Bureau of Reclamation is to manage, develop, and protect water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the American public.

New Mexico Office of the State Engineer and Interstate Stream Commission

To actively protect and manage the water resources of New Mexico for beneficial uses by its people, in accordance with law:

- To investigate, measure, and distribute water in accordance with water rights and interstate obligations,
- To administer a water rights system that lawfully and effectively allocates and reallocates water and adjudicates water rights to meet the needs of New Mexico's growing population, and
- To maximize use of New Mexico's renewable interstate stream apportionments in order to improve the sustainability of New Mexico's water supplies

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT CARLSBAD PROJECT WATER OPERATIONS AND WATER SUPPLY CONSERVATION

Prepared by: U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation
New Mexico Office of the State Engineer, Interstate Stream Commission, in cooperation with
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, New Mexico Department of
Game and Fish, Carlsbad Irrigation District, Pecos Valley Artesian Conservancy District, and
Eddy County

The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and the New Mexico Interstate Stream Commission (NMISC) prepared this Carlsbad Project Water Operations and Water Supply Conservation Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) to assess the potential consequences of proposed changes in Carlsbad Project operations and the implementation of a water acquisition program in the Pecos River basin, New Mexico. This FEIS includes a description of alternative means of implementing the proposed Federal action (alternatives), including a No Action Alternative, and presents an evaluation of the potential environmental, economic, and social consequences that could result from implementing these alternatives. These proposed changes in water operations are designed to conserve the Pecos bluntnose shiner and its designated critical habitat, while conserving the Carlsbad Project water supply.

This FEIS has been prepared in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act and Reclamation procedures and is intended to serve environmental review and consultation requirements pursuant to Executive Order 11988 (Floodplain Management), Executive Order 11990 (Wetlands Protection), Executive Order 12898 (Environmental Justice), the National Historic Preservation Act (section 106), Endangered Species Act (section 7(c)), and Departmental and Reclamation Indian Trust Asset policies.

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