



— BUREAU OF —  
RECLAMATION

**Water Infrastructure Improvements for  
the Nation Act of 2016 (Pub. L. 114-322),  
Title I Water Resources Development  
Section 4009(a):**

**Desalination Project Feasibility Study Review  
Findings**

**April 2021**

*Prepared for*

**United States Congress**

*Prepared by*

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

## **Mission Statements**

The U.S. Department of the Interior protects and manages the Nation's natural resources and cultural heritage; provides scientific and other information about those resources; and honors its trust responsibilities or special commitments to American Indians, Alaska Natives, and affiliated Island Communities.

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.

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## Eligible Projects

This report is being provided in accordance with Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act of 2016 (Pub. L. 114-322), Title I Water Resources Development Section 4009(a). The purpose of this report is to provide a summary of each of the review findings for ocean or brackish water desalination project feasibility studies that have been reviewed and found to meet the established requirements as defined in the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) Manual Directives and Standards WTR-11-01 and section 4009(a) of the WIIN Act. The following list of completed feasibility studies is provided:

- City of Thousand Oaks (California), Los Robles Desalter
- Water Replenishment District (California), Regional Brackish Water Reclamation Program.

## Summary of Results

This report includes a brief one-page summary of the results of each feasibility study review under WTR 11-01, including the following determinations:

- The feasibility study report meets the requirements of a feasibility study as defined under WTR 11-01, and complies with applicable Federal laws and regulations.
- The project is technically and financially feasible and provides a Federal benefit in accordance with the reclamation laws.

Project specific reports are provided to summarize the results of each feasibility study review, provide a brief project description, and identify conditions.

## City of Thousand Oaks

**Project Sponsor:** City of Thousand Oaks

**Location:** Thousand Oaks, California

**Project:** Los Robles Desalter

**Total Estimated Project Cost:** \$15,160,000

**Review Completed:** September 10, 2020

**Project Description:** The City of Thousand Oaks considered the feasibility of constructing and operating a reverse osmosis desalter to treat currently unusable groundwater from the City-owned Los Robles Golf Course well. The proposed project will be constructed primarily at the golf course, and a new potable water conveyance pipeline will be installed offsite. The golf course would receive irrigation water, and potable water would be conveyed to the City's potable water distribution system. With conventional reverse osmosis technology, the project is anticipated to produce 895 acre-feet per year of product water during Phase 1 and up to 1,162 acre-feet per year in Phase 2.

**Feasibility Study Review Finding:** The feasibility study report meets the requirements of a feasibility study as defined under WTR 11-01. The feasibility study, and the process under which the study was developed, each comply with Federal laws and regulations applicable to feasibility studies of desalination projects. The project is technically and financially feasible and provides a Federal benefit in accordance with the reclamation laws.

### **Funding Conditions:**

- Reclamation will include City of Thousand Oaks' project on a publicly available list of projects that have a completed feasibility study that has been determined to meet program requirements. The list will be available on the Reclamation website.
- The project sponsor is eligible to apply for funding through an annual competitive funding opportunity announcement, but the total Federal funding received towards the planning, design, and construction of this project may not exceed 25 percent of the total cost of the project or \$20 million, whichever is less.
- Planning, design, and construction activities completed prior to the enactment of the WIIN Act on December 16, 2016, or that are outside of the scope of the project described in the completed feasibility study are not eligible for funding.
- Prior to receiving Federal funding, the project must comply with all applicable environmental laws, including the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).
- Prior to receiving Federal funding for construction activities, the project sponsor must demonstrate that it is financially capable of funding the non-Federal portion of project construction costs and all necessary project operation, maintenance, and replacement costs, pursuant to Reclamation Manual Directives and Standards WTR-11-02.
- Prior to receiving Federal funding, the project sponsor will provide documentation that the project is included in a State approved plan as part of its application for funding.

## Water Replenishment District of Southern California

**Project Sponsor:** Water Replenishment District of Southern California

**Location:** Lakewood, California

**Project:** Regional Brackish Water Reclamation Program

**Total Estimated Project Cost:** \$227,000,000

**Review Completed:** September 28, 2020

**Project Description:** The Water Replenishment District is the groundwater management agency responsible for management and replenishment of the Central and West Coast Groundwater Basins, two heavily utilized adjudicated groundwater basins in southern Los Angeles County. The District evaluated approaches for remediation and beneficial use of a brackish groundwater plume in the West Coast Basin. The proposed project will have an annual capacity of 20,000 acre-feet, and includes a centralized desalter facility, 14 extraction wells, and a remote wellhead desalter unit. The project will utilize existing unused water rights and provide a new local potable water supply capable of offsetting up to 20,000 acre-feet per year of imported water demand.

**Feasibility Study Review Finding:** The feasibility study report meets the requirements of a feasibility study as defined under WTR 11-01. The feasibility study, and the process under which the study was developed, each comply with Federal laws and regulations applicable to feasibility studies of desalination projects. The project is technically and financially feasible and provides a Federal benefit in accordance with the reclamation laws.

### **Funding Conditions:**

- Reclamation will include Water Replenishment District of Southern California's project on a publicly available list of projects that have a completed feasibility study that has been determined to meet program requirements. The list will be available on the Reclamation website.
- The project sponsor is eligible to apply for funding through an annual competitive funding opportunity announcement, but the total Federal funding received towards the planning, design, and construction of this project may not exceed 25 percent of the total cost of the project or \$20 million, whichever is less.
- Planning, design, and construction activities completed prior to the enactment of the WIIN Act on December 16, 2016, or that are outside of the scope of the project described in the completed feasibility study are not eligible for funding.
- Prior to receiving Federal funding, the project must comply with all applicable environmental laws, including the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.).
- Prior to receiving Federal funding for construction activities, the project sponsor must demonstrate that it is financially capable of funding the non-Federal portion of project construction costs and all necessary project operation, maintenance, and replacement costs, pursuant to Reclamation Manual Directives and Standards WTR-11-02.
- Prior to receiving Federal funding, the project sponsor will provide documentation that the project is included in a State approved plan as part of its application for funding.