

**Final
Environmental Impact Report / Environmental Impact Statement
for the
Contra Costa Water District
Alternative Intake Project**

This Final Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) has been prepared by the Contra Costa Water District (CCWD) and the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) in accordance with the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

This Final EIR/EIS has been prepared to respond to comments received on the Draft EIR/EIS for the Alternative Intake Project, which is a drinking water quality improvement project proposed for implementation by CCWD. The basic project purpose is to protect and improve the quality of water delivered to CCWD's untreated- and treated-water customers. Key objectives of the project purpose are as follows:

- ▶ improve delivered water quality, especially during drought periods;
- ▶ protect and improve health and/or aesthetic benefits to consumers;
- ▶ improve operational flexibility; and
- ▶ protect delivered water quality during emergencies.

The Proposed Action (Alternative 1) includes a new, 250 cubic foot per second (cfs) screened water intake and pump station located along the lower third of Victoria Canal on Victoria Island in the central Delta where water quality is typically better than at CCWD's existing intakes. A buried pipeline would extend 12,000–14,000 feet from the new intake across Victoria Island and beneath Old River and tie into CCWD's existing Old River conveyance system on Byron Tract. The Proposed Action would involve adding a new point of diversion to certain existing water rights held by CCWD and by Reclamation. CCWD would not seek to increase its water rights, Central Valley Project (CVP) contract amounts, or permitted Los Vaqueros Reservoir filling rates through this action. The new intake would change the location, timing, and quality of some of CCWD's diversions, but would not increase total diversions.

The Draft EIR/EIS evaluated the potential environmental effects of the Proposed Action (Alternative 1) and four alternatives: the No-Action Alternative; Alternative 2, Indirect Pipeline Route; Alternative 3, Modified Operations Alternative; and Alternative 4, Desalination Alternative. The Proposed Action or alternatives would result in significant adverse environmental effects to agricultural resources and air quality, and would result in a beneficial impact with respect to fish losses through entrainment and impingement at existing CCWD Delta intakes.

For further information regarding the Final EIR/EIS, please contact Ms. Samantha Salvia, Contra Costa Water District, 1331 Concord Avenue, Concord, CA 94524 or Ms. Katrina Chow, Bureau of Reclamation Mid-Pacific Region, 2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, CA 95825-1898.

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