

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

2016-2020 Water Transfers by the Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District to Contiguous Parcels

Final FONSI 16-03-NCAO

Prepared by:



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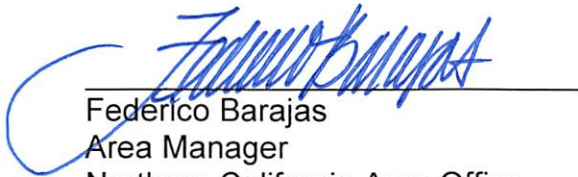
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Date: 4/14/2016

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Introduction

The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) proposes to consent to the temporary transfer of up to 20,000 acre-feet (af) of Base Supply, annually, from Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District (GCID) to neighboring agricultural water users for irrigation purposes. The term for the consent will be a period of five years, commencing with contract year 2016 and continuing through contract year 2020, after which time a new environmental assessment would be necessary to continue the transfers.

In accordance with Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, the Northern California Area Office of the Bureau of Reclamation, has determined that an environmental impact statement is not required for further review of the proposal. This Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) is supported by Reclamation's Environmental Assessment (EA) Number EA-16-03-NCAO, *2016-2020 Water Transfers by the Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District to Contiguous Parcels*, which is incorporated by reference and attached.

Alternatives Including Proposed Action

No Action Alternative

The No Action Alternative would consist of Reclamation not consenting to the transfer of Base Supply from GCID to contiguous parcels outside its service area. The adjacent landowners would be required to operate within the confines of their available water supply that might include groundwater, acquire water from other willing sellers, or institute their own water conservation measures, which may include crop changes or idling.

Proposed Action

The Proposed Action is Reclamation's consent to the transfer of up to 20,000 af of Base Supply annually from GCID to contiguous irrigable lands from April 1, 2016 through October 31, 2020.

Water to be transferred would discharge from Shasta Lake to the Sacramento River. The Base Supply would then be diverted at the screened Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District Pumping Plant (GCIDPP) at River Mile 206 West.

To ensure the water diverted from the Sacramento River for transfer under the program would not injure other legal water users, the total acreage irrigated within the GCID service area and in adjacent areas receiving transferred water would be limited to prior levels, that is, 126,918 acres in any year when transfers occur under the program.

The Base Supply transfers would be also be subject to the following parameters:

- Occur within the period of April 1 through October 31 of any year
- Use existing facilities and operations
- Maintain existing land uses
- Provide water for lands irrigated within the last 3 consecutive years
- Have adequate drainage facilities
- Are outside the jurisdiction of any CVP contractor
- Have been reviewed as appropriate under CEQA
- Comply with all applicable Federal laws and requirements imposed for the protection of the environment and Indian Trust Assets (ITAs)
- Occur between willing buyers and the willing seller

Findings

Reclamation's determination that implementation of the Proposed Action would not result in significant impacts to the quality of the human environment is supported by the attached EA and is summarized in the following:

- No adverse impacts to physical resources are anticipated because of the Proposed Action.
 - The 20,000 af volume represents approximately four percent of GCID's most recent five-year average annual diversion of Base Supply from the Sacramento River. There would be no distinguishable effect on river flow from the Proposed Action.
 - The Base Supply would be applied to existing agricultural land and conveyed through existing facilities.
- The Proposed Action would maintain Irrigation purposes that support local and regional economies.
- The Proposed Action will not significantly affect public health or safety (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(3)).
- The Proposed Action will not significantly impact natural resources and unique geographical characteristics such as historic or cultural resources; parks, recreation, and refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order (EO) 11990); flood plains (EO 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(3) and 43 CFR 46.215(b)).
- The Proposed Action will not have possible effects on the human environment that are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(5)).

- The Proposed Action will neither establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects nor represent a decision in principle about a future consideration (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(6)).
- There is no potential for the effects to be considered highly controversial (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(4)).
- The Proposed Action will not have significant cumulative impacts (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(7)).
- The Proposed Action has no potential to affect historic properties (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(8)).
 - The Proposed Action would not produce any ground disturbances and would not result in the construction of new facilities or the modification of existing facilities.
- The Proposed Action will not affect listed or proposed Threatened or Endangered species (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(9)).
- The Proposed Action will not violate Federal, state, tribal or local law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(10)).
- The Proposed Action will not affect any Indian Trust Assets (512 DM 2, Policy Memorandum dated December 15, 1993).
- Implementing the Proposed Action will not disproportionately affect minorities or low-income populations and communities (EO 12898).
- The Proposed Action will not limit access to, and ceremonial use of, Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (EO 13007 and 512 DM 3).