

# RECLAMATION

*Managing Water in the West*

## **Environmental Assessment**

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

**EA-16-03-NCAO**



**U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Reclamation  
Mid Pacific Region**

**April 2016**

## **Mission Statements**

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 commitment to 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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# **Section 1 Introduction**

## **1.1 Background**

Sacramento River Settlement Contract No. 14-06-200-855A-R-1 (Settlement Contract) is a contract between GCID and Reclamation that provides for the diversion of surface water from the Sacramento River for use within GCID's service area, which currently consists of approximately 138,000 irrigable acres. The Settlement Contract contains provisions for the diversion of both Central Valley Project (Project) Water and Base Supply. Base Supply is generally defined as the quantity of Surface Water GCID may divert for use within its service area each month during the period of April 1 through October 31 of each year, without payment to the United States. The Settlement Contract defines a Critical Year, in which GCID's Contract Total, the sum of Base Supply and Project Water, is reduced. However, in non-Critical years, GCID may divert its full Contract Total for use in its service area. The terms of the Settlement Contract provide for GCID to transfer water to users outside its service area in years that it determines its available water supply to be surplus to its needs. Such transfers are subject to the written consent of Reclamation and require Reclamation's assessment of potential impacts to the human environment, pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA).

Landowners outside of the GCID service area have requested water from GCID to meet their irrigation needs. GCID proposes to fulfill some requests for water using its Base Supply, as it has done historically via transfers approved for a five-year term.

Reclamation proposes to consent to the temporary transfer of up to 20,000 acre-feet (af) of Base Supply, annually, from 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.

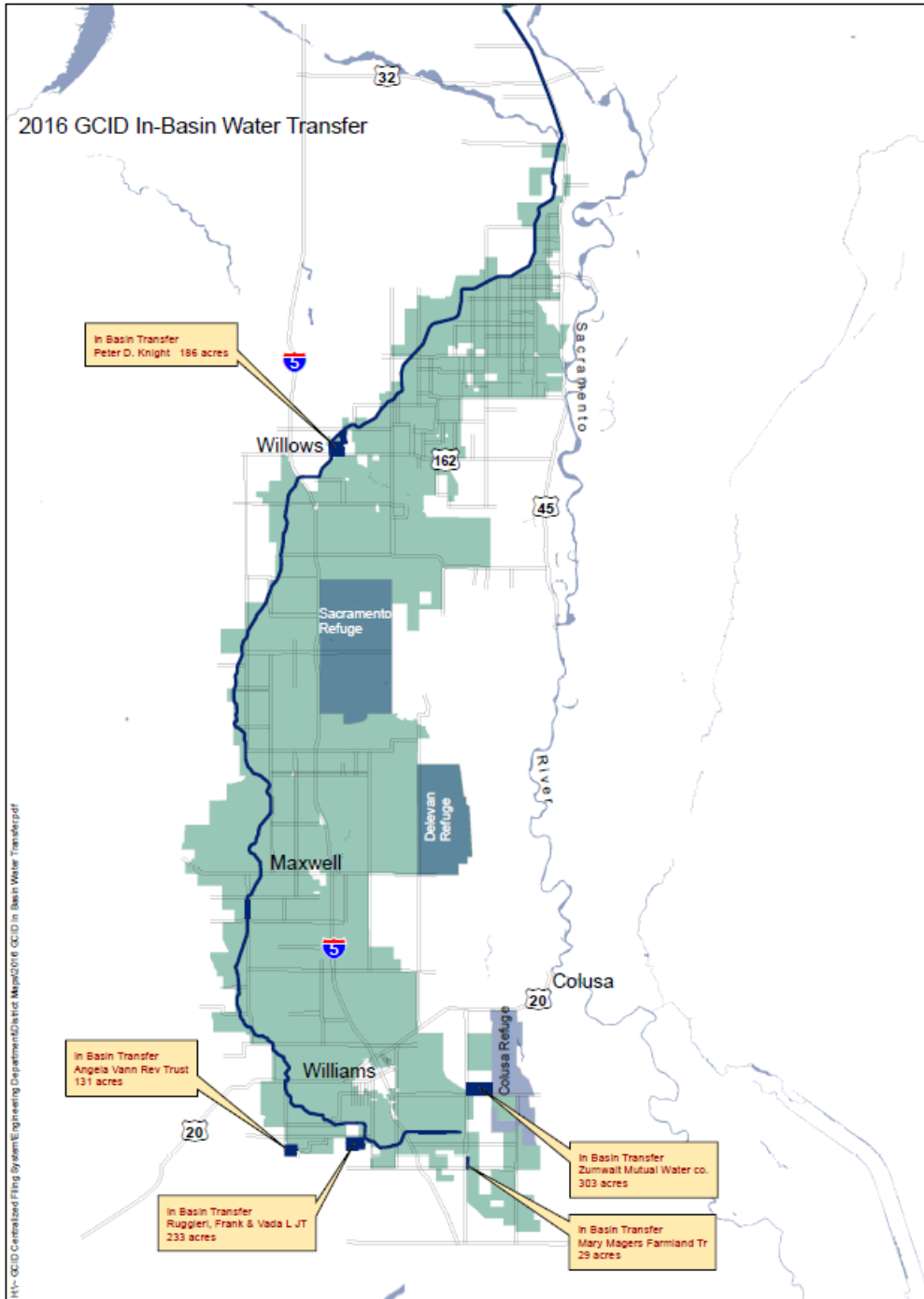
## **1.2 Purpose and Need for the Proposal**

The purpose of the proposed Federal action, consenting to a program of temporary transfers of Base Supply pursuant to the Settlement Contract, is to enable GCID to continue a program of temporary water transfers to agricultural lands contiguous to GCID. The intent of the program is to provide flexibility of operations for the recipients of the water, maintain the quantity of water across which GCID's costs of operation can be spread, and provide GCID some return for the costs of the conservation efforts that help provide the water to be supplied to the contiguous areas.

### 1.3 Scope

This Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared to examine the potential impacts of consenting to the transfer of up to 20,000 af Base Supply per year from the GCID to lands outside, but contiguous to, GCID's service area. The transfers would occur in years within contract years 2016-2020 during which GCID determines a portion of the water available to GCID to be surplus to its service area needs. The total annual volume to be transferred under the program would be based on GCID water availability and recipient needs. Transfers would occur monthly between April 1 and October 31. The available water could result from a number of sources, including GCID's water conservation and drain water recapture/recycling practices, changes in crop patterns to those with lower water use requirements, and fallowing within the GCID service area. The water involved would constitute approximately four percent of GCID's average annual Base Supply diversions from the Sacramento River in the last five years.

Lands to be served by the transfers in 2016 include the GCID service area and contiguous parcels, as identified in Figure 1.1. Any additional lands added to the program in the remaining four program years will also be contiguous to the GCID service area and subject to the same qualifying conditions outlined in Section 2.2 of this EA.



**Figure 1-1. Project Site Location**

## **Section 2 Alternatives Including Proposed Action**

### **2.1 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. The potential for the latter processes may be limited by the landowners' available irrigable acreage.

### **2.2 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, a five-year term. 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, which would be obtained from conservation and recapture measures to be implemented by GCID.

The points of diversion, purpose of use, and season of use for GCID's Base Supply would remain unchanged, although the place of use would change under the transfer program. Because GCID claims pre-1914 rights to divert, under which the Base Supply is being transferred, the change in the place of use for Base Supply is not subject to approval by the State Water Resources Control Board and is permitted under California law, provided there is no associated injury to other legal water users or the environment.

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. About 5,000 acres, or four percent of GCID's irrigable acreage, is unirrigated in any given year.

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.

The Base Supply transfers would 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

Any transfer of Base Supply that does not meet these conditions would require supplemental NEPA review and additional consent by Reclamation. The amount of water transfers would be determined, in part, by the amount of Base Supply available in any given year but would not exceed 20,000 af in any year.



## Section 3 Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences

This section identifies the potentially affected environmental resources and the environmental consequences that could result from the Proposed Action and the No Action Alternative.

### 3.1 Physical Resources

#### Land Use

Given the temporary nature of these transfers, the transfers would not influence decisions on long-term land uses. Substantial temporary land use changes would not occur because the water would be used solely for agriculture, either to reduce groundwater use or to convert from unirrigated farmland to irrigated farmland, in years in which water is available for transfer to such lands. No active fallowing or crop shifting would be undertaken to facilitate the transfers; any background fallowing or crop shifting that would occur would be due to fluctuations in commodity prices, the need for land leveling and other routine business practices that cannot be predicted in advance.

The areas subject to temporary irrigation under this proposal would be contiguous to the GCID service area and have similar cropping patterns and similar water demands per acre. An annual average of 1,727 af of Base Supply was transferred within the term (2009-2013) of the previously-approved program. It is expected that the acreage involved in any year would be limited to approximately 7,000 irrigable acres. In the past, the areas to which water has been transferred have included the following:

- Portions of the lands between GCID's eastern boundary and the Sacramento River;
- Portions of the roughly 20,000 acres between GCID and the Orland-Artois, Glide, and Kanawha Water Districts;
- Portions of the considerably smaller areas between the Tehama-Colusa and GCID Canals south of the Kanawha Water District and north of the southern boundaries of the Westside Water District, and;
- Portions of a relatively large area between GCID and the Colusa County Water District.

It is estimated that approximately 80 percent of the acreage to receive water under the water transfer program would be planted to rice. The remaining 20 percent would be planted to row crops. This forecasted distribution of rice to row crops is consistent with current agricultural land use. Given the anticipated lack of substantial change in agricultural practices, due to the temporary nature of the water transfer program, no adverse effects related to land use would be expected.

## **Surface Water**

Under the No Action Alternative, surface water would remain in the system at current volumes resulting in a deficit in the amount of water necessary to support existing agriculture contiguous to the GCID service area. Unless water is acquired from another willing seller, this deficit may be counter-acted by the farmers through increased consumption of groundwater (which may require treatment for the removal of contaminants such as naturally-occurring metals) to meet demands.

Under the Proposed Action, surface water would be redistributed from areas of surplus to areas of deficit, approaching a system-wide balance between resource needs and distribution and reducing the necessity for an appreciable increase in groundwater consumption.

Reclamation acknowledges that GCID can change its cropping patterns and/or increase the irrigated acreage within its district in any year over what has historically been done in the past. It is the underlying assumption in this document that there will be no net change in the total number of acres irrigated nor any increase in the amount of water used over what could have occurred within the district in any given year absent the water transfer program. By limiting the total number of acres which can be irrigated in any one year under the water transfer program to a historical maximum, it is assumed there will be no change in the amount of water diverted by GCID or in the amount of return flows from such diversion; whether GCID uses the water within the service area or uses the water to irrigate lands immediately outside or adjacent to the service area, which are eligible to receive water under the water transfer program, the depletion to the system will remain the same.

For purposes of the water transfer program, limiting the total irrigated acreage to no more than 126,918 acres should result in no injury to either other legal water users or environmental resources as the differences in return flows should be indistinguishable from what they would have been if the water transfer program had not been implemented.

Because GCID would be transferring water to lands used for crops similar to those grown in GCID's service area, and would be making the water available for transfer through a reduction in its consumptive use, there would be no change in the amount of water imported to the water basin during the summer. There would be essentially no change in the amount or the quality of the drainage water. Any changes in chemical loading would be modest given the extensive existing agricultural development of the area and the brevity of the Proposed Action.

No adverse impacts to physical resources are anticipated because of this transfer. The Base Supply to be transferred would discharge from Shasta Lake to the Sacramento River.

The transferred Base Supply would result in a minor increase in flow of the Sacramento River until being diverted at GCID's Pumping Plant, a screened facility, from which water would then flow into the Glenn-Colusa Canal to be diverted by the transferee(s). However, the influence on the flow of the Sacramento River would be small and essentially immeasurable regardless of when the Base Supply is transferred. The volume of water contemplated in the Proposed Action is compared to the volume projected to be released from Keswick Dam during the six-month window in which the majority of the transfers would occur, for the purposes of qualifying its potential for impacts: Assuming the transfer of the 20,000 AF of Base Supply contemplated in the Proposed Action occurred evenly over the six-month period of May through October, the average increase of flow in that reach of river would be about 55 cubic feet/second (cfs) from Keswick Dam. The average monthly flow from Keswick Dam during the same time period, based on the last five years, is approximately 9,420 cfs. Therefore, the Proposed Action would constitute an approximate 0.6 percent increase in flow. Although flows are anticipated to fluctuate, the change in flow would still be immeasurable in consideration of the typical stream gage accuracy of five percent.

No new facilities would be needed to distribute the water. The water would be applied to existing agricultural land, which would avoid any adverse effects on unique geological features such as wetlands, Wild and Scenic rivers, refuges, floodplains, rivers placed on the nationwide river inventory, or prime or unique farmlands.

### **Groundwater**

No increase would be expected to groundwater demand in any year. The Proposed Action would likely reduce groundwater use in those areas which receive the transferred water. Changes in the quality of groundwater due to increased use of fertilizers or pesticides may occur locally. However, the effects of this action would be negligible given the previously-mentioned agricultural development of the area, and the probability that much of this water would merely act as a substitute for groundwater, which could carry a larger contaminant load.

## **3.2 Biological Resources**

Reclamation researched online databases to determine the presence of species Federally-listed as Threatened or Endangered, as well as habitat designated as

critical to these species' survival, within the Project Area. The databases queried were:

- The US Fish and Wildlife (USFWS) Environmental Conservation Online System (ECOS) database via the Information for Planning and Conservation (IPaC) application, which reports RTE species occurrences, as well as the presence of formally-designated Critical Habitat for these species within the identified project area, and;
- California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB), a natural heritage program which relays occurrences of RTE species and species of concern, as reported by users.

IPaC was queried using free-hand yet conservative outlines of the affected GCID service area and contiguous parcels. The CNDDDB was queried by county for the two counties in which a portion of the Project Area lies: Glenn and Colusa Counties. Results of the CNDDDB query were refined to the project vicinity using the associated BIOS mapping application.

Reclamation's queries identified 22 species listed or proposed for listing as Federally-Threatened or Endangered with the potential to inhabit the Project Area (Table 3.1). Sixteen (16) of these species were mapped by BIOS within the vicinity of the project; of those 16 species, six (6) were identified as having final Critical Habitat within the Project Area: spring and winter run chinook salmon, Central Valley steelhead, green sturgeon, vernal pool tadpole shrimp, and yellow-billed cuckoo. (See bold font in Table 3-1 below.)

**Table 3-1. Federally listed species that occur in affected portions of Glenn and Colusa Counties. Source: the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) and the U. S. Fish and Wildlife (USFWS) websites.**

Species	Federal ESA Status <sup>1</sup>	# of BIOS Reportings	Summary Basis for ESA Determination	
			Effect <sup>2</sup>	Rationale
<b>AMPHIBIANS</b>				
California red-legged frog ( <i>Rana draytonii</i> )	T	NR <sup>3</sup>	NE	No mapped reportings in BIOS or Critical Habitat in Project area. Species believed to be extirpated from Sacramento River Valley floor. No construction, demolition, grading or clearing activities, land use changes or conversion of wetland or riparian habitat associated with Proposed Action.

Species	Federal ESA Status <sup>1</sup>	# of BIOS Reportings	Summary Basis for ESA Determination	
			Effect <sup>2</sup>	Rationale
California tiger salamander ( <i>Ambystoma californiense</i> )	T	NR	NE	No mapped reportings in BIOS or Critical Habitat in Project area. No construction, demolition, grading or clearing activities, land use changes or conversion of wetland or riparian habitat associated with Proposed Action.
<b>BIRDS</b>				
Northern spotted owl ( <i>Strix occidentalis caurina</i> )	T	NR	NE	No mapped reportings in BIOS or Critical Habitat in Project area. No construction, demolition, grading or clearing activities, land use changes or conversion of forest habitat associated with Proposed Action.
<b>Western yellow-billed cuckoo</b> ( <i>Coccyzus americanus occidentalis</i> )	T, X	35	NE	No construction, demolition, grading or clearing activities, land use changes or conversion of habitat associated with Proposed Action.
<b>FISH</b>				
<b>chinook salmon - Sacramento River winter-run</b> ( <i>Oncorhynchus tshawytscha</i> )	E, X	NR	NE	No mapped BIOS reportings in Project area. No construction or demolition, activities, land use changes or conversion of riparian habitat associated with Proposed Action. No significant effect to flow of any waterway or cold-water resource within the species' range from the Proposed Action. Any potential effect would be small and positive.
<b>chinook salmon - Central Valley spring-run</b> ( <i>Oncorhynchus tshawytscha</i> )	T, X	NR	NE	No mapped BIOS reportings in Project area. No construction or demolition, activities, land use changes or conversion of riparian habitat associated with Proposed Action. No significant effect to flow of any waterway or cold-water resource within the species' range from the Proposed Action. Any potential effect would be small and positive.
<b>Central Valley steelhead</b> ( <i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i> )	T, X	4	NE	No construction or demolition, activities, land use changes or conversion of riparian habitat associated with Proposed Action. No significant effect to flow of any waterway or cold-water resource within

Species	Federal ESA Status <sup>1</sup>	# of BIOS Reportings	Summary Basis for ESA Determination	
			Effect <sup>2</sup>	Rationale
				the species' range from the Proposed Action. Any potential effect would be small and positive.
Delta smelt ( <i>Hypomesus transpacificus</i> )	T	NR	NE	No mapped reportings in BIOS or Critical Habitat in Project area; Project location is outside of historical range for species. No construction, demolition, grading or clearing activities, land use changes or conversion of riparian habitat associated with Proposed Action. Any potential effect would be small and positive.
<b>green sturgeon</b> ( <i>Acipenser medirostris</i> )	T, X	1	NE	No construction, demolition, grading or clearing activities, land use changes or conversion of riparian habitat associated with Proposed Action. Any potential effect would be small and positive.
<b>CRUSTACEANS</b>				
Conservancy fairy shrimp ( <i>Branchinecta conservatio</i> )	E	1	NE	No Critical Habitat in Project area. No construction, demolition, grading or clearing activities, land use changes or conversion of habitat associated with Proposed Action.
vernal pool fairy shrimp ( <i>Branchinecta lynchi</i> )	T	5	NE	No Critical Habitat in Project area. Vernal pool habitat would not be affected by Proposed Action. No construction, demolition, grading or clearing activities, land use changes or conversion of habitat associated with Proposed Action.
<b>vernal pool tadpole shrimp</b> ( <i>Lepidurus packardii</i> )	E, X	9	NE	No Critical Habitat in Project area. Vernal pool habitat would not be affected by Proposed Action. No construction, demolition, grading or clearing activities, land use changes or conversion of habitat associated with Proposed Action.

<b>FLOWERING PLANTS</b>				
Colusa grass ( <i>Neostapfia colusana</i> )	T	1	NE	No Critical Habitat in Project area. No construction, demolition, grading or clearing activities, land use changes or conversion of habitat associated with Proposed Action
Greene's tuctoria ( <i>Tuctoria greenei</i> )	E	1	NE	No Critical Habitat in Project area. No construction, demolition, grading or clearing activities, land use changes or conversion of habitat associated with Proposed Action.
hairy orcutt grass ( <i>Orcuttia pilosa</i> )	E	6	NE	No Critical Habitat in Project area. No construction, demolition, grading or clearing activities, land use changes or conversion of habitat associated with Proposed Action.
Hoover's spurge ( <i>Chamaesyce hooveri</i> )	T	4	NE	No Critical Habitat in Project area. No construction, demolition, grading or clearing activities, land use changes or conversion of habitat associated with Proposed Action.
Keck's checker mallow ( <i>Sidalcea keckii</i> )	E	3	NE	No Critical Habitat in Project area. No construction, demolition, grading or clearing activities, land use changes or conversion of habitat associated with Proposed Action.
palmate-bracted salty bird's-beak ( <i>Chloropyron palmatum</i> )	E	12	NE	No Critical Habitat in Project area. No construction, demolition, grading or clearing activities, land use changes or conversion of habitat associated with Proposed Action.
slender Orcutt grass ( <i>Orcuttia tenuis</i> )	T, X	NR	NE	No mapped BIOS reportings or Critical Habitat in Project area. No construction, demolition, grading or clearing activities, land use changes or conversion of habitat associated with Proposed Action.
<b>REPTILES</b>				
giant garter snake ( <i>Thamnophis gigas</i> )	T	65	NE	No Critical Habitat in Project area. No construction, demolition, grading or clearing activities, land use changes or conversion of habitat associated with the Proposed Action.

<b>INSECTS</b>				
Valley elderberry longhorn beetle ( <i>Desmocerus californicus dimorphus</i> )	T	27	NE	No Critical Habitat in Project area. No construction, demolition, grading or clearing activities, land use changes or conversion of habitat associated with Proposed Action.
<b>MAMMALS</b>				
West Coast fisher ( <i>Pekania pennanti</i> )	PT	4	NE	No Critical Habitat in Project area. No construction, demolition, grading or clearing activities, land use changes or conversion of habitat associated with Proposed Action.
1. T = Threatened, PT = Proposed Threatened, E = Endangered, X = Critical Habitat 2. NE = No Effect 3. NR = Not Reported				

In addition to the species listed in Table 3.1 above, the USFWS IPaC Trust Resource Reports identified 22 species of birds protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act or the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act as located within the Project Area. There would be no reduction in the supply of water made available to Delevan National Wildlife Refuge or other wetlands in the action area wherein migratory birds may overwinter from the Proposed Action. Therefore, the Proposed Action is not anticipated to have an effect on these species.

### **Fisheries**

No effect on fisheries in the Sacramento River would occur as a result of the Proposed Action; the diversion point and volume diverted would not change.

Because GCID would only transfer water made available through an increase in its conservation of water, there would be no change in the amount or timing of diversions from the Sacramento River as a result of this action. The Endangered winter-run Chinook salmon, and the Threatened spring-run Chinook salmon, steelhead, and green sturgeon would not be adversely affected.

The amount of water diverted by GCID and the diversion point would be in Compliance with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) biological opinion for the Reclamation CVP - Operations Criteria and Plan then in effect.

### **Wildlife and Vegetation**

Reclamation has determined that neither Federally Threatened nor Endangered plant species would be affected. Water would only be used on fields which have been recently cultivated. There would be no fallowing or crop shifting as a direct



result of the program. Water transfer requests received by GCID to date for 2016 are limited to that from the Zumwalt Mutual Water Company (Figure 1-1). This 303-acre property would be planted to rice. Over the five-year term of the program, GCID anticipates the acreage planted to rice (80%) would remain unchanged in GCID's service area as a whole from what it would have been absent the Proposed Action. Therefore, species which use rice fields, such as the GGS, would not be affected. The only plants and animals affected would be species adapted to use of transitory upland habitats: species which are dependent on frequent disturbance of sites for their persistence. No impacts are expected on species of more stable environments, including the riparian zones within and along the drains and ditches used to convey the water, because existing facilities would be used.

Given the criterion that the place of use must have been cultivated within the preceding three consecutive years, no adverse effects would be expected on Federally-listed or Candidate species found in vernal pools, such as the various species of plants and fairy shrimp, which are dependent on habitats that are destroyed or severely impacted by cultivation and recover slowly. Such recently cultivated lands would not have habitat for these listed species and would not be subject to impact from the Proposed Action. Similar rationale applies to listed species of birds that might forage in the action area. While the amount, timing, and type of plant cover might change, particularly if previously unirrigated lands were to be irrigated, or if the amount of water applied were to change, the herbivorous species available as food for these birds would essentially remain unchanged. The relative abundance of prey species and the type of species present might shift in any given field but can be expected to be unaffected within the area as a whole, if the criterion of recent cultivation is met, because the species tolerant of cultivation consist of small vertebrates and large invertebrates able to exploit herbaceous vegetation whether the field is irrigated or not. This criterion of recent, prior cultivation, therefore, prevents shifts in foraging conditions on scales that would affect listed species of birds.

The use of existing conveyance facilities, built on previously-disturbed lands would preclude impacts of land use changes to Federally-listed amphibians and reptiles, such as the GGS. No changes in the distribution of irrigated lands are anticipated beyond the normal year-to-year fallowing of occasional parcels. Thus, the nature and scale of land use would not change so there would be no effect on the GGS. Guidelines for water transfers previously developed by the Service, GCID, and the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California to protect the GGS would be followed.

Although Federally-listed species and associated Critical Habitat were reported in the Project Area, Reclamation has determined that the Proposed Action would have no measurable effect on reported species or designated Critical Habitat because conditions of approval maintain existing land use practices. These conditions include: (1) Transfer Water would be for irrigation purposes for lands

irrigated within the previous 3 years and not lead to land conversion; and (2) transfer water would be conveyed through existing facilities with no new construction or modification to facilities.

The transfer of Base Supply is unlikely to have an impact on the ability to meet temperature criteria established for the protection of species in the Sacramento River because the water would be transferred below the temperature compliance point.

### **3.3 Cultural Resources**

The Proposed Action will not produce any ground disturbance, or result in the construction of new facilities, modification of existing facilities, or changes in land use. This is the type of undertaking that does not have the potential to cause effects to historic properties, should such properties be present, pursuant to the NHPA Section 106 regulations 36 CFR § 800.3(a)(1). Reclamation has therefore determined that neither the Proposed Action nor the No Action Alternative have the potential to cause effects to historic properties, assuming such historic properties were present, pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.3(a)(1) (See Attachment 1).

### **3.4 Socio-Economic Resources**

The Proposed Action would not adversely affect the quality of human environment or public health or safety or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources under any of the alternatives, because they essentially maintain present conditions. Given the criteria for approval of a proposal under this EA, the Proposed Action would not increase the amount of water or the amount of irrigated land available within the Sacramento Valley; it would merely facilitate efficient use of the resources already in use and help prevent crop losses. Minor shifts in the location of water use would occur, but would be too small to noticeably affect regional economics. Modest increases in local income may result from the Proposed Action, although the effects would probably be negligible for most residents.

### **3.5 Environmental Justice**

The Proposed Action would not disproportionately affect minority or low-income populations and communities. The intent of the Proposed Action is to provide water to areas of greatest need. Modest increases in seasonal labor might result from changes in cropping patterns but the changes would be modest on a regional scale and would be temporary. Diversions from the Sacramento River would continue to be used on lands supporting the communities where it is now used.

### **3.6 Indian Trust Assets**

No Indian lands, public domain allotments, or other resources that could be considered ITAs are affected by the Proposed Action or No Action Alternative. The nearest Indian Trust Asset (ITA) to the Project Area is that of the Cachil DeHe Band of Wintun Indians of the Colusa Indian Community, located approximately 2.5 miles east of Delevan Wildlife Refuge, along the eastern corridor of the GCID service area. The Proposed Action utilizes existing facilities and does not involve excavation, construction or demolition activities that could impact ITAs or associated resources. Therefore, neither the Cachil DeHe Band of Wintun Indians ITA, nor other ITAs located in the vicinity of the Project Area would be affected by the Proposed Action. (See Attachment 2.) Further, the transaction would be between a willing buyer and seller and would comply with any laws or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment, which includes those imposed by tribal authorities, as well as those imposed by the State of California and Federal government.

### **3.7 Indian Sacred Sites**

Sacred sites are defined in Executive Order 13007 (May 24, 1996) as "any specific, discrete, narrowly delineated location on Federal land that is identified by an Indian tribe, or Indian individual determined to be an appropriately authoritative representative of an Indian religion, as sacred by virtue of its established religious significance to, or ceremonial use by, an Indian religion; provided that the tribe or appropriately authoritative representative of an Indian religion has informed the agency of the existence of such a site." The Proposed Action would not adversely impact any Federal lands and therefore would not affect any Indian sacred sites (EO 13007 and 512 DM 3).

### **3.8 Cumulative Impacts**

There are no known past, present, or reasonably foreseeable actions that would cumulatively result in significant impacts to the human environment when taking into consideration the actions analyzed in this EA.

## **Section 4 Consultation and Coordination**

### **4.1 Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. 1521 et seq.)**

Reclamation determined that the Proposed Action would have no effect on Federally-proposed or listed Threatened and Endangered species or their proposed or designated Critical Habitat. Therefore, no consultation was required under Section 7 of the ESA.

Attachment 1.

**CULTURAL RESOURCES COMPLIANCE**  
**Division of Environmental Affairs**  
**Cultural Resources Branch (MP-153)**

**MP-153 Tracking Number:** 16-NCAO-106

**Project Name:** 2016-2020 Water Transfers by the Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District

**NEPA Document:** EA-16-03-NCAO

**NEPA Contact:** Megan Simon, Natural Resource Specialist

**MP 153 Cultural Resources Reviewer:** Scott Williams, Archaeologist 

**Date:** April 8, 2016

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Reclamation proposes to approve the transfer of Base Supply water pursuant to GCID Settlement Contract No. 14-06-200-855A-R-1 to support the irrigation needs of agricultural water users within the Sacramento Valley. This is the type of undertaking that does not have the potential to cause effects to historic properties, should such properties be present, pursuant to the NHPA Section 106 regulations codified at 36 CFR § 800.3(a)(1). Reclamation has no further obligations under NHPA Section 106, pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.3(a)(1).

The Proposed Action is approval of the transfer of up to 20,000 af of Base Supply annually from GCID's service area to contiguous irrigable lands from April 1, 2016 through October 31, 2020 for a five-year term. 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, which would be obtained from conservation and recapture measures to be implemented by GCID. The Proposed Action will not produce any ground disturbance, or result in the construction of new facilities, modification of existing facilities, or changes in land use.

This document is intended to convey the completion of the NHPA Section 106 process for this undertaking. Please retain a copy in the administrative record for this action. Should changes be made to this project, additional NHPA Section 106 review, possibly including consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer, may be necessary. Thank you for providing the opportunity to comment.

Attachment 2.



Simon, Megan <msimon@usbr.gov>

**ITA Review - 2016-2020 Water Transfers - GCID to Contiguous Parcels**

1 message

Simon, Megan <msimon@usbr.gov>  
To: Paul Zedonis <pzedonis@usbr.gov>

Wed, Mar 30, 2016 at 3:51 PM

I have examined the proposal for the 2016-2020 Water Transfers by the Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District to Contiguous Parcels and have determined that the action area is at least 2 miles from the closest Indian Trust Asset. I have determined that there is no likelihood that the project will adversely impact Indian Trust Assets.

*Megan K. Simon*  
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