

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

FOR THE

2007 RENEWAL OF INTERIM WATER SERVICE CONTRACTS

CENTRAL VALLEY PROJECT
CALIFORNIA

Recommended:  2/13/2007
Environmental Specialist Date
Mid-Pacific Regional Office

Approved:  2/13/07
ACTING Regional Environmental Officer Date
Mid-Pacific Regional Office

Approved:  2-14-07
ACTING Regional Resources Manager Date
Mid-Pacific Regional Office

FONSI No. 07-02-MP

Bureau of Reclamation
Mid-Pacific Region
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The Mid-Pacific Regional Office of the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) has found that an environmental impact statement is not required for the execution of up to 15 interim renewal water service contracts for a one-year period from March 1, 2007 through February 29, 2008 (see attached table). The Final Supplemental Environmental Assessment (EA) titled 2006 Renewal of Interim Water Service Contracts March 1, 2006 through February 29, 2008 is incorporated by reference into this Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI), and supports this FONSI.

Section 3404(c)(1) of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act (CVPIA) stipulates that Reclamation must prepare appropriate environmental review for renewal of existing long-term water service contracts. In accordance with Section 3404(c)(1), water contracts may be renewed for an interim period not to exceed three years and for successive interim periods not to exceed two years prior to execution of new long-term contracts. Because these 15 existing interim contracts will expire in February 2007, before long-term contracts can be executed, this action is needed to provide continued water delivery to these Central Valley Project (CVP) interim contractors.

Reclamation initially prepared an EA in December 1994 to evaluate potential impacts of interim renewal of 67 water service contracts from December 1994 through February 1998. The 67 contracts considered in the 1994 EA were reduced to 54 through consolidation, termination, or assignment. A FONSI for that action was issued in December 1994.

Reclamation completed supplemental EAs in February 1998, February 2000, February 2001, February 2002, and February 2004 to evaluate potential impacts from interim renewal contracts for an additional two years from March 1998 through February 2000, an additional one-year from March 2000 to February 2001, an additional two years from March 2002 to February 2004, and an additional two years from March 2004 to February 2006. FONSIs for the 1998, 2000, and 2001, 2002, 2004, and 2006 interim contracts renewals were approved.

The proposed action is the execution of 15 interim renewal contracts (IRCs) between the United States and contractors for one year. With the exception of revisions to Articles 1 and 2, the terms and conditions of the Existing Interim Renewal Contract are incorporated by reference into the proposed interim renewal contract.

Reclamation's finding that implementation of the proposed action will result in no significant impact to the quality of the human environment is supported by the following factors:

1. Surface water – No interim renewal contract will change contract water quantities from the quantities in the existing contracts, and none will cause any increased water use. Therefore, there will be no effect on surface water supplies or quality. For the same reason, renewal of interim contracts will not result in any growth-inducing impacts that will increase water demand during the up to two-year period of this renewal.

2. Land use – The interim renewal of contracts will not provide for additional water supplies that could act as an incentive for conversion of native habitat for increased acreage of agricultural production, municipal and industrial development, or other activities. Use of contract water for agricultural/irrigation use or municipal/industrial (M&I) under the proposed interim contracts will not change from the purpose of use specified in the existing contracts, however, the amount and types of crops planted will vary according to the annual water allocation and farming practices, and a small quantity of irrigation use may be changed to M&I purposes where the existing contract and governing laws and regulations allow. Likewise, these interim renewals will not change contract terms or conditions governing the allocation of project water during a drought emergency, so would not provide additional water reliability. Given the one-year period of these interim renewals, there will be no net effect on land use.

3. Biological resources – The amount and timing of storage at CVP reservoirs and flows in rivers and streams that convey CVP water during the one-year contract period are expected to be similar to the amount and timing of storage and flows under historic CVP operations and will conform with all existing biological opinions and with regulatory requirements. Renewal of the interim contracts will not cause changes in existing programs to protect biological resources, and programs will continue to be implemented to ensure that no significant impacts to biological resources will occur.

4. Threatened and endangered species – Reclamation has completed consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service on these interim renewal actions. The result of that ESA Section 7 consultation, along with implementation of all applicable requirements, ensure that renewal of interim contracts will not result in any significant effect to threatened or endangered species. Reclamation has determined that these interim renewal actions will have no effect upon listed salmonid and sturgeon species. Additionally, Reclamation has determined that these interim renewal actions will have no effects to designated salmonid critical habitat.

5. Cultural resources and Indian Sacred Sites - The proposed action will not cause activities that could affect cultural resources, National Register listed or eligible historic properties, or Indian Sacred Sites; such as permanent changes in reservoir elevations, development of native habitat for agricultural or M&I use, or the construction of any new facilities. No impacts to cultural resources or Indian Sacred Sites are expected.

6. Recreation resources – The proposed action will not cause changes in historic CVP operations that determine reservoir storage or the amount or timing of water deliveries. Therefore, no impacts to recreational resources are anticipated.

7. Environmental Justice – The proposed action will not cause changes in historical water supplies or CVP operations and, as a result, no changes in population, economics, or other indicators of social well being will result from the contract renewal. The proposed action will support continued agricultural production and therefore will not cause changes to employment of minority and low-income populations. The proposed action will not result in a disproportionately high or adverse health or environmental effect on minority populations or low-income populations. There are no environmental justice implications from the proposed action.

8. Indian Trust Assets – Continued delivery of project water to the existing contracts will not affect any Indian Trust Assets because existing rights will not be affected, no physical changes to existing facilities are proposed, and no new facilities are proposed.

9. Economic resources – The renewal of interim CVP contracts will not cause changes from existing contracts in deliveries or pricing of CVP water, CVP facilities operations, CVP power generation and use, or recreation use, and will therefore not cause economic impacts.

Information about the Supplemental EA prepared for the proposed action or this FONSI may be obtained from Bob Eckart, Bureau of Reclamation, at (916) 978-5051.

Central Valley Project 2007 Interim Renewal Contractors, IRC contract quantities, and the 2007 contract number

CVP Contractor	Contract Quantity (A/F)	2007 IRC Contract No.
<u>Delta-Mendota Canal Unit:</u>		
Broadview Water District	27,000	14-06-200-8092-IR9
Tracy, City of <i>(assignment final 27 Feb 04)</i>	5,000	14-06-200-4305A-IR10-B <i>(partial assign. From Banta Carbona ID)</i>
Tracy, City of <i>(assignment final 27 Feb 04)</i>	2,500	7-07-20-W0045-IR10-B <i>(partial assign. From The West Side ID)</i>
<u>WEST SAN JOAQUIN DIVISION</u>		
<u>San Luis Unit:</u>		
Westlands Water District (District #1)* <i>(assignment final 9 Nov 04)</i>	2,500	7-07-20-W0055-IR9 <i>(assign. From Centinella WD)</i>
Westlands Water District (District #1) * <i>(assignment final 27 May 05)</i>	2,990	14-06-200-8018-IR9 <i>(assign. From Widren WD)</i>
Westlands Water District (District # 2) <i>(assignment final 1 Mar 03)</i>	4,198	14-06-200-3365A-IR10-C <i>(partial assign from Mercy Springs WD)</i>
<u>Miscellaneous</u>		
Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency, Westlands Water District (District # 1), Santa Clara Valley Water District <i>(3-way assignment final 14 May 99)</i>	6,260	14-06-200-3365A-IR9-B <i>(3-way partial assign from Mercy Springs WD)</i>
<u>Cross Valley Canal Contractors:</u>		
Fresno, County of	3,000	14-06-200-8292A-IR11
Hills Valley Irrigation District	3,346	14-06-200-8466A-IR11
Kern-Tulare Water District	40,000	14-06-200-8601A-IR11
Lower Tule River Irrigation District	31,102	14-06-200-8237A-IR11
Pixley Irrigation District	31,102	14-06-200-8238A-IR11
Rag Gulch Water District	13,300	14-06-200-8367A-IR11
Tri-Valley Water District	1,142	14-06-200-8565A-IR11
Tulare, County of	<u>5,308</u>	14-06-200-8293A-IR11
	178,748	
* These interim contracts were not assigned to Westlands WD at the time the 2004 Supplemental EA was prepared.		