

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Finding of No Significant Impact

Madera Irrigation District Lateral 24.2-17.0 Pipeline and Canal Automation Projects

16-26-MP

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 Date: 5/26/17


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Background

In accordance with Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended, the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) to analyze impacts of providing two WaterSMART grants to Madera Irrigation District (district) to construct a pipeline to replace the open Lateral 24.0-17.0 and to install new gates and automation hardware at thirteen gate locations in the district.

Proposed Action

Reclamation's proposed actions are to award the district with \$580,900 to complete the pipeline project and \$292,261 for the gate replacements and automation systems at select locations. This funding will cover 49% of the project costs. As a result of funding the project, the district will replace an open channel, Lateral 24.0-17.0, with a 36-inch pipeline, including appurtenant structures, install a SCADA operating system, and a solar-powered automated slip meter. The district will also replace the canal gates at 12 locations around the district and the flume gate on Dry Creek. A SCADA operating system will be installed to operate the replaced slip gates and the new flume gate at each location.

Findings

In accordance with NEPA, Reclamation has determined that the approval of the proposed action is not a major federal action that will significantly affect the quality of the human environment, and therefore does not require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement. The attached EA describes the existing environmental resources in the project area and evaluates the effects of the Action and No Action on the resources. The EA was prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR 1500-1508), and Department of the Interior Regulations (43 CFR Part 46). The analysis provided in the attached EA is incorporated by reference.

The following are the reasons why the impacts from the proposed action are not significant:

1. † The proposed action will not significantly affect public health or safety (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(2))
2. † 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)).
3. † 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)).

4. Ò 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)).
5. Ò There is no potential for the effects to be considered highly controversial (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(4)).
6. Ò The proposed action will not have significant cumulative impacts (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(7)).
7. Ò The proposed action has no potential to affect historic properties (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(8)). This determination was made on May 11, 2017, after consulting with the State Historic Preservation Officer and local tribes.
8. Ò The proposed action will have no effect on proposed or listed threatened or endangered species (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(9)).
9. Ò 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)).
10. Ò The proposed action will not affect any Indian Trust Assets (512 DM 2, Policy Memorandum dated December 15, 1993).
11. Ò Implementing the proposed action will not disproportionately affect minorities or low-income populations and communities (EO 12898).
12. Ò 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).