

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Finding of No Significant Impact

Drag Boat Exhibitions/Competitions – East Park Reservoir – Orland Project

NCAO-17-10

Prepared by:



Date:

7/26/17

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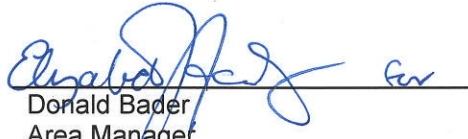


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Background

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 potential impacts of approving drag boat exhibitions/competitions at East Park Reservoir (EPR) in Colusa County, CA. The EA was prepared in coordination with Colusa County and the sponsor of the 2017 drag boat exhibition/competition.

Proposed Action

Reclamation's Proposed Action (Project) is to approve drag boat exhibition/competitions at EPR annually for a period of up to five years. The competitions will occur at the location of Serenity Cove on the reservoir's east side. Rattlesnake Point and land east of the cove will be used for ancillary activities, including a timing facility, parking and concession areas, and a staging area for rescue vehicles. The property on which the events would occur is owned by Reclamation and managed by Colusa County.

As a result of Reclamation's approval, approximately 35 to 50 boaters and less than 600 spectators are anticipated to visit EPR to participate in, and attend, respectively, the inaugural event to be held September 9 and 10, 2017. Participants and spectators of the event will use established camping, parking and shoreline access areas. On-water race activities will begin at 9 a.m. and end by 5 p.m. each day.

No permanent facilities will be constructed as a component of the Project. Ground disturbance associated with the Project will be limited to mowing in areas that are not sensitive with regard to protected species or cultural resources prior to the event to allow for overflow parking. Event-related activities, including preparation and cleanup, will occur over a period of approximately one week. The public will not be restricted from the area during on-water preparations.

Assuming the event is a success, as determined by post-race site inspection and public feedback, the event may be held annually for a period of five years. Successive years' events will be limited to the same action area with similar facilities, schedule, ancillary activities and preparations, and access routes.

Findings

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 EA found that any potential environmental impacts from the Proposed Action would be reduced or eliminated by the Best Management Practices that will be implemented in conjunction with the action. As a result, Reclamation has determined that implementing the Proposed Action is not a major Federal action that would significantly affect the quality of the human environment and therefore, does not require the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement. Reclamation's determination is supported by the EA which

describes the existing environmental resources in the Project area and evaluates the effects of the Proposed Action and No Action Alternative on those resources. The analysis provided in the EA is incorporated by reference and Reclamation's determination that the Proposed Action will not result in significant impacts is summarized in the following. References to sections of regulations, Executive Orders and agency policies defining "significant" are provided in parentheses, where applicable:

- 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 and 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 will have no effect on proposed or listed 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).