

RECLAMATION


Managing Water in the West

Finding Of No Significant Impact

McCoy Lateral Rehabilitation and Atwater Drain Bypass Grant

FONSI 17-24-MP


Prepared by:



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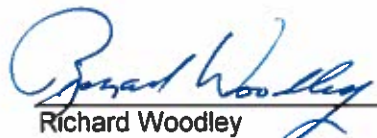
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1 Background

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 granting a CALFED Water Use Efficiency Grant to the Merced Irrigation District (MID) for its McCoy Lateral Rehabilitation and Atwater Drain Bypass Project (Proposed Action).

The district proposes to retrofit two facilities, the McCoy Lateral and the Atwater Drain Bypass. Both projects will improve district water conservation efforts by saving surface water deliveries from the Merced River which would otherwise be lost from seepage.

2 Alternatives Including the Proposed Action

2.1 No Action

Under the No Action Alternative, Reclamation would not award the district with CALFED grant funds of \$1,000,000. Although it is possible that the district may find alternate sources of funding for the project, for the purposes of this EA, the consequences of Reclamation not providing funding for the Proposed Action would result in no construction and no water savings of 2,561 AFY.

2.2 Proposed Action

The McCoy Lateral Rehabilitation involves the enlargement of the McCoy Lateral and replacement of a dilapidated lining along a portion of the lateral that has been identified as a restrictive segment of the system. The action area of the McCoy location begins at the McCoy Lateral intersection with Weir Avenue and continues downstream for approximately 7,334 feet, terminating at the head of the McCoy Lateral "F". This action will include lining and rehabilitating the heads of two sub-laterals, the McCoy Lateral "D" and "F". Increasing the freeboard by six inches will allow for an increased flow capacity, and replacement of the lining will significantly reduce water seepage. It is estimated that approximately 1,065 AFY will be conserved by reducing seepage from this action.

The Atwater Drain Bypass portion of the Proposed Action includes re-directing the spills of the 1900 and Tin Flume Laterals to a new booster pump station. These captured spills will be pumped through approximately 3,600 feet of new 36-inch pipeline to be installed underneath the

existing 1900 Lateral and within the existing district right-of-way. The trench for the pipeline will be approximately 7 feet deep with 3 feet of cover below existing grade and 12 feet wide. The area of disturbance is limited to the width of the existing lateral footprint which is approximately 38 feet wide and includes the trench, and equipment right of way. The new pipeline will discharge these captured spills to the head of the 1900 Lateral "A". The 1900 Lateral "A" will be extended south from its existing termination point for approximately 2,600 feet and then will turn easterly for approximately 1,050 linear feet, where it will discharge to the districts existing Deckert Lateral. The 1900 "A" extension will be constructed entirely within existing district right-of-way and consists of both open channel and pipeline sections. The Deckert Lateral currently ties into Black Rascal Creek, allowing for the conveyance of the captured operational discharges from the 1900 and Tin Flumes to Black Rascal Creek. It is estimated that approximately 1,496 AFY will be conserved from this part of the proposed action.

Reclamation's Proposed Action is to award the district with \$1,000,000 through the CALFED grant which will cover almost half of the \$2,033,070 needed for the action. The district estimated that water conservation from both projects will be 2,561 (1,065 + 1,496) AFY.

3 Findings

Based on the attached EA, Reclamation finds that the Proposed Action is not a major Federal action that will significantly affect the quality of the human environment. The EA describes the existing environmental resources in the area of the Proposed Action, and evaluates the effects of the No Action and Proposed Action alternatives on the resources in the vicinity of the Proposed Action. This EA was prepared in accordance with National Environmental Policy Act, Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR 1500-1508), and Department of the Interior Regulations (43 CFR Part 46). That analysis is provided in the attached EA, and the analysis in the EA is hereby incorporated by reference.

Following are the reasons why the impacts of 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. 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. There is no potential for the effects to be considered highly controversial (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(4)).
6. The proposed action will not have significant cumulative impacts (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(7)).
7. The proposed action will not adversely affect any districts, sites, highways, structures, or objects listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(8)). Pursuant to 54 USC § 306108, commonly known as Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, and its implementing regulations at 36 CFR Part 800, Reclamation notified the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) of a finding of no historic properties affected for the undertaking through correspondence on August 25, 2017. Through correspondence dated August 25, 2017, the SHPO responded with no objection to Reclamation's finding.
8. The proposed action would not adversely affect listed or proposed threatened or endangered species (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(9)).
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)).
10. The proposed action will not affect any Indian Trust Assets (512 DM 2, Policy Memorandum dated December 15, 1993). A records search was conducted on 10/03/2016 and found that the closest ITA to the Proposed Action was 3.34 miles northwest of the Proposed Action.
11. Implementing the proposed action will not disproportionately affect minorities or low-income populations and communities (EO 12898).
12. 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).