

RECLAMATION


Managing Water in the West

Finding of No Significant Impact

Stony Gorge Reservoir - Skippers Point Boat Launch Facility Project

NCAO-17-08

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Background

In accordance with section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, the Northern California Area Office of the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), has determined that constructing the recreational facilities at Stony Gorge Reservoir (Project) is not a major Federal action that will significantly affect the quality of the human environment; an environmental impact statement is not required. The purpose of the Project is to improve the recreational experience and meet current American with Disabilities Act (ADA) regulations at Stony Gorge Reservoir. This Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) is supported by Reclamation's Environmental Assessment (EA) Number EA-17-08, *Stony Gorge Reservoir - Skippers Point Boat Launch Facility Project*, and is hereby incorporated by reference.

Reclamation provided the public with an opportunity to comment on the draft EA and FONSI from August 31, 2017 through September 11, 2017. One park user provided his comments. The commenter noted the orientation of the launch (northeast to southwest) with regard to the direction of prevailing winds (north-south) at Stony Gorge and suggested a north-south orientation for the launch in order to assist with launches or returns at times of high winds. The commenter's concern was passed on to Reclamation's engineering team. However, it should be noted that the primary consideration in siting the launch in its proposed location was minimizing the effect of low water on launches; the proposed location remained in-water following drawdown in recent drought years. Other considerations in siting the launch included maximizing the use of previously-disturbed areas and minimizing the need for grading to accommodate the launch facility's ADA features.

Changes to the draft EA were editorial, explanatory and/or non-substantive in nature.

Proposed Action

Reclamation's Proposed Action (Project) is to construct a new boat launch facility at Skippers Point along the east side of Reclamation's Stony Gorge Reservoir, Glenn County, CA, and repair the existing boat ramp for continued use as a launch for non-motorized crafts. The Project will be completed with grant funding from the California State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways.

The Project includes replacement of the existing boat ramp with a single-lane boat ramp, ADA-compliant dock, paved parking and access road, sidewalk, rock slope protection, solar light and associated amenities. The paved areas will accommodate approximately 19 vehicle and trailer parking stalls. One of the stalls will be ADA-compliant and provide closer, more accommodating access to the boat ramp from the parking area. The sidewalk will be ADA-compliant and connect the dock to a new, ADA-compliant two-unit vault restroom and the ADA parking. Additional project amenities will include an information kiosk; directional signage; animal-resistant trash receptacles, and a project credit sign. (The vault restroom will be supplied through Reclamation's budget, without use of the Boating and Waterways grant funds.)

Pre-construction site preparations will include removal of up to 10 trees, grubbing and rough grading. Surficial sediment removal and/or in-water grading and placement of aggregate base material will be necessary to assure an adequate base to support the ramp. Any soil or sediment removed from the construction area will be spread on Reclamation land near the park entrance. Sediment and erosion control BMPs will be in place during, and the disposal area will be re-seeded following, material placement.

Construction would begin in September 2018, following typical seasonal reservoir drawdown, and would take approximately two months to complete.

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 and permitting conditions 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).