

# RECLAMATION


*Managing Water in the West*

## Finding of No Significant Impact

# Eastern Ciervo-Panoche Natural Area Habitat Protection Project (Martin Property)

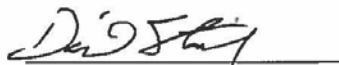
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U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Reclamation  
Mid-Pacific Region

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# 1 Background

Reclamation will provide funding to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to help purchase 1,387.12 acres, contained in four parcels of the Martin property, within the eastern portion of the Ciervo-Panoche Natural Area (CPNA). Reclamation would provide \$542,926 from the Central Valley Project Improvement Act Habitat Restoration Program (HRP) and \$80,000 from the Central Valley Project Conservation Program (CVPCP) to BLM. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) would contribute \$222,074 of HRP funds toward the purchase. BLM prioritized the property based on the property's connectivity with existing protected lands; the habitat on the property is important to the conservation of federally endangered San Joaquin Valley upland species whose populations have been impacted by Reclamation's Central Valley Project (CVP) operations.

The environmental assessment (EA) was available for public review on April 2, 2018. The review period ended on April 16, 2018. No comments were received on the EA.

## 2 Alternatives Including the Proposed Action

### 2.1 No Action

Reclamation would not provide a total of \$622,926 to BLM to help purchase 1,387.12 acres in the eastern CPNA. BLM would have to obtain the funds from other public and/or private sources. If the funding cannot be secured, BLM would not be able to purchase the Martin property.

### 2.2 Proposed Action

Reclamation would provide a total of \$622,926 to BLM to help purchase four parcels of land totaling 1,387.12 acres of the Martin property in the eastern CPNA.

After acquisition of the parcels, BLM would manage the lands consistent with the management goals and objectives of the Panoche-Coalinga Area of Critical Environmental Concern (PCACEC) which would include the Martin property. BLM's goals and objectives for the PCACEC are to manage the lands for the protection of special status species and to promote scientific research and education.

### 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 and preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. The EA describes the existing environmental resources in the area of the Proposed Action, and evaluates the impacts of the No Action and Proposed Action alternatives. 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). Effects on several environmental resources were examined and found to be absent or minor. 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)). Reclamation determined that the proposed action is the type of activity that does not have the potential to cause effects on historic properties pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.3(a)(1).
8. The proposed action will not significantly 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 Indian Trust Assets (512 DM 2, Policy Memorandum dated December 15, 1993).

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).