

# RECLAMATION

*Managing Water in the West*

## FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

**Transfer of Base Supply Water and Central Valley Project Water by Glenn-Colusa  
Irrigation District to the Colusa Drain Mutual Water Company**

**FONSI 18-02-NCAO**

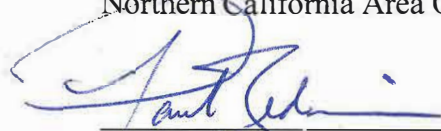
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**U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Reclamation  
Mid-Pacific Region**

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# **Introduction**

In conformance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended, the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate the potential for impacts related to Reclamation's consenting to the transfer of up to 45,000 acre-feet (AF) of water per year from Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District (GCID or District) to the Colusa Drain Mutual Water Company (CDMWC or Company) for a five-year term. Transfer requests would be fulfilled with a combination of Base Supply and Central Valley Project (CVP or Project) water, as defined in Contract No. 14-06-200-855A-R-1 (Contract 855A) between GCID and Reclamation. In accordance with the terms of GCID's Contract 855A, GCID must obtain Reclamation's written consent to such transfers. The EA addresses the potential environmental impacts of approval of these transfers occurring between June and September 30 during contract years 2018 through 2022.

Reclamation provided the public with an opportunity to comment on the draft EA from April 20 through April 27, 2018. No comments were received.

## **Alternatives Including Proposed Action**

### ***No Action Alternative***

The No Action Alternative would consist of Reclamation not consenting to GCID's transfer of Base Supply and Project Water to the Company via a new Transfer Agreement(s). The Company would continue to use return flow from the Drain as its principal water resource. In some of the months of the irrigation season, when its water rights are deemed deficient by the State, the Company would need to purchase Supplemental Supply from Reclamation under Contract W0693 to divert enough water from the Drain to meet its full irrigation needs.

### ***Proposed Action***

Reclamation proposes to consent to GCID's proposal to the annual transfer of up to 45,000 af of water, comprised of up to 30,000 af of Project Water and up to 15,000 af of Base Supply to the Company annually from June through September, commencing with contract year 2018 and continuing through contract year 2022. There would be no change in GCID's water management methods associated with the action.

Under the proposed Transfer Agreement(s), each year GCID would inform the Company of the amount of Base Supply and Project Water expected to be available for purchase by the Company on a monthly basis during the upcoming irrigation season. GCID would deliver transfer water through existing drainage locations to the Colusa Drain, pursuant to Contract 855A, and in accordance with water availability terms and conditions as identified in the Transfer Agreement between GCID and the Company.

The Proposed Action Alternative is subject to the following conditions:

- Transferred water, and runoff from Company lands, will comply with all Federal, state, local and tribal law, and requirements imposed for protection of the environment and Indian Trust Assets;
- The water would not be used to place untilled (within three years) or new lands into agricultural production, or to convert undeveloped land to other uses;
- The existing drainage facilities are adequate for the transferred water;
- The Proposed Action will not interfere with the normal CVP operations;
- The Proposed Action will not require the construction of any new water conveyance, pumping, diversion, recharge, storage or recovery facilities;
- The Company will be prohibited from selling, exchanging, or otherwise disposing of the transferred water, except to a water user within the Company's Service Area, without the prior written consent of Reclamation; and
- The proposal is subject to CEQA review.

## Findings

Water transfers have occurred under agreements approved by the Proposed Action for nearly 20 years. Implementation of the Proposed Action would allow the continued opportunity to provide a supplemental contractual mechanism by which surface water supply could be made available to the Company's Service Area to support continued farming practices on existing agricultural land at current levels.

Although subject to a different pricing structure, the supply obtained from Contract W0693 under the No Action Alternative would be the same amount, and of the same physical origin, as that which would be subject to the Transfer Agreements in the Proposed Action: irrigation return flows from GCID and other upstream districts. Further, no construction of new facilities or modification of existing facilities is necessary to support the transfer(s). Therefore, no change in land or water use and no associated new impacts to resources such as Endangered or Threatened species and habitat and cultural resources are anticipated to result from the Proposed Action. Effects from the action are anticipated to be purely financial in nature. These effects are not anticipated to be significant or far reaching and would be indiscernible from the effects of cropping decisions made annually independent of the action.

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 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 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).