

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Finding of No Significant Impact

Stockton East Water District - Groundwater Recharge Basin, Southeast Recharge Basin

FONSI 17-34-MP

Prepared by:



Jamie LeFevre
Natural Resource Specialist
Mid-Pacific Regional Office

Date:

4/11/18

Concurred by:

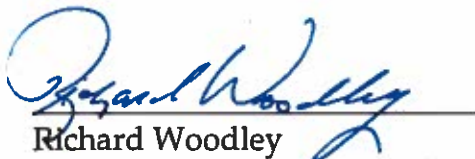


Thomas Hawes
Water Conservation Specialist
Mid-Pacific Regional Office

Date:

4/12/2018

Approved by:



Richard Woodley
Chief, Resources Division
Mid-Pacific Regional Office

Date:

4/12/18

April 2018

Background

The Stockton East Water District (SEWD) purchased a 230-acre parcel north of their existing water treatment plant facility and created the North Site Groundwater Recharge Basins Program. SEWD's goal is to expand their recharge capacity by developing additional groundwater recharge basins on the property. Due to funding restrictions, SEWD is developing the property in four phases. Phase 1 includes design and construction of a 73-acre spreading basin on the northwest corner of the property.

The project would provide groundwater as a backup water supply when surface water is not available. Excess surface water from normal and wet years would be stored in the constructed basin to recharge the groundwater. The water would later be extracted and treated for municipal (potable) supplies in dry years.

Alternatives Including the Proposed Action

No Action

Under the No Action Alternative, Reclamation would not provide \$300,000 from the Drought Response Program to SEWD for the development of a groundwater recharge basin.

Proposed Action

Under the Proposed Action, Reclamation would provide \$300,000 through the Drought Response Program to SEWD for the development of a groundwater recharge basin. In normal to wet years, the new recharge basin would allow storage of between 5,500 and 6,500 acre-feet per year in excess surface water that could be made available during drought.

Findings

Based on the attached environmental assessment, 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 environmental assessment was prepared in accordance with NEPA, Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR 1500-1508), and Department of the Interior Regulations (43 CFR Part 46); the attached environmental assessment 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 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 determined the undertaking would not affect historic properties.

3. The proposed action will not affect any Indian Trust Assets (512 DM 2, Policy Memorandum dated December 15, 1993).
4. 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).
5. 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)).
6. 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)).
7. 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)).
8. There is no potential for the effects to be considered highly controversial (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(4)).
9. The proposed action will not have significant cumulative impacts (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(7)).
10. The proposed action will not significantly affect listed or proposed threatened or endangered species (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(9)).
11. Implementing the proposed action will not disproportionately affect minorities or low-income populations and communities (EO 12898).