

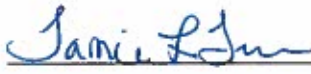
# RECLAMATION


*Managing Water in the West*

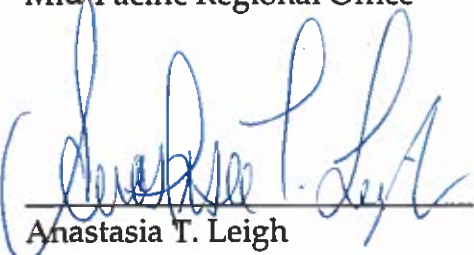
**Finding of No Significant Impact**

## **Carrizo Plain National Monument Land Acquisition Project**

**FONSI 18-13-MP**

Prepared by:  Date: 4/26/18  
Jamie LeFevre  
Natural Resource Specialist  
Mid-Pacific Regional Office

Concurred by:  Date: 4/27/18  
Daniel Strait  
Program Manager, CVPIA/ HRP  
Mid-Pacific Regional Office

Approved by:  Date: 4/27/2018  
Anastasia T. Leigh  
Regional Environmental Officer  
Mid-Pacific Regional Office

**April 2018**

## Background

Through an interagency agreement, the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) would provide funding from the Central Valley Project Improvement Act Habitat Restoration Program (HRP) to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) to acquire lands for the conservation of federally listed San Joaquin Valley upland species. The HRP helps mitigate past impacts of Reclamation's Central Valley Project (CVP) on threatened and endangered species, and helps minimize future impacts. The program also helps meet mitigation required of Reclamation by the California State Water Resources Control Board Decision 1641. Decision 1641 states that Reclamation shall provide compensation and habitat values that mitigate for actions associated with the delivery of CVP water to lands previously outside the authorized place of use. The HRP is a program through which Reclamation provides mitigation to meet Decision 1641 requirements.

The federally-listed as endangered San Joaquin kit fox (*Vulpes macrotis mutica*), giant kangaroo rat (*Dipodomys ingens*), blunt-nosed leopard lizard (*Gambelia sila*), San Joaquin woolly threads (*Lembertia condonii*), California jewelflower (*Caulanthus californica*), Kern mallow (*Eremalche kernensis*), and the federally-listed as threatened Kern primrose sphinx moth (*Euproserpines euterpe*) would benefit from acquisition and conservation of lands at the Carrizo Plain National Monument by BLM. The species' populations have declined as a direct result of the conversion of arid grasslands and scrublands to irrigated agriculture, in part due to the availability of CVP water.

## Alternatives Including the Proposed Action

### No Action

Under the No Action Alternative, Reclamation would not award funding from the HRP to BLM to purchase parcels in the Carrizo Plain.

### Proposed Action

Under the Proposed Action, Reclamation would provide \$732,930 from the HRP to BLM. Of those funds, \$450,065 would go towards the purchase of four parcels of land totaling 290 acres in the Carrizo Plain. After the parcels are acquired, BLM would incorporate them into the Carrizo Plain National Monument, inventory the properties for their resource and endangered species conservation values, and manage them to benefit CVP-impacted listed species consistent with the Carrizo Plain National Monument Resources Management Plan.

## 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 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 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 has no potential to 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 violate federal, state, tribal or local law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(10)).
6. 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)).
7. 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)).
8. 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)).
9. There is no potential for the effects to be considered highly controversial (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(4)).
10. The proposed action will not have significant cumulative impacts (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(7)).
11. The proposed action will not significantly affect listed or proposed threatened or endangered species (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(9)).
12. Implementing the proposed action will not disproportionately affect minorities or low-income populations and communities (EO 12898).