

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Finding of No Significant Impact

City of Hayward Recycled Water Project

FONSI 15-25-MP

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Background

The City of Hayward (City) proposes to reuse wastewater by constructing a new recycled water facility at the City's Water Pollution Control Facility and installing recycled water pipelines and customer connections to deliver recycled water to their customers. The City needs a reliable, affordable, and sustainable source of water for non-potable applications to alleviate the demands on limited potable water supplies. Use of recycled wastewater would help to conserve potable water resources in the densely-populated San Francisco Bay Area.

Reclamation's Water Reclamation and Reuse Program, as authorized by the Reclamation Wastewater and Groundwater Study and Facilities Act of 1992, or Title XVI of Public Law 102-575 (Title XVI) provides a mechanism for Federal participation and cost-sharing in approved water reuse projects. The City proposed recycled water facility is eligible to compete for Title XVI Water Reclamation and Reuse grant money for partial reimbursement of construction costs.

Alternatives Including the Proposed Action

No Action

Under the No-Action Alternative, Reclamation would not award Title XVI funding to the City to construct a recycled water facility and distribution system. The City would either need to raise additional money from other public or private sources or increase customer water rates to continue with the project as described. However, if funding cannot be secured, the City would meet increased demands through more aggressive conservation measures or procure additional water supplies to meet the increased demands.

Proposed Action

Under the Proposed Action, Reclamation would award a Title XVI grant to partially fund the City to construct a recycled water facility and a distribution system. The City would provide the remaining funds to complete the project. The Proposed Action includes the construction of tertiary treatment facilities designed to treat a peak flow of 0.5 million gallons per day, the installation of a one-million-gallon storage tank and pump station, and distribution pipelines to connect to customers. The Proposed Action would deliver an estimated 290 acre-feet per year of recycled water to 24 to 40 customers within the City. Most of the recycled water customers would utilize the recycled water for irrigation but some customers would use the recycled water for industrial uses.

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 are 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 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).