

# RECLAMATION

*Managing Water in the West*

**Draft FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

## **Partial Assignment from Mercy Springs Water District and Fresno Slough Water District to Angiola Water District**

**FONSI-16-030**



U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Reclamation  
South-Central California Area Office

July 2018

## **Mission Statements**

The Department of the Interior protects and manages the Nation's natural resources and cultural heritage; provides scientific and other information about those resources; and honors its trust responsibilities or special commitments to American Indians, Alaska Natives, and affiliated island communities.

The mission of the Bureau of Reclamation is to manage, develop, and protect water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the American public.

**BUREAU OF RECLAMATION**  
**South-Central California Area Office, Fresno, California**

**FONSI-16-030**

**Partial Assignment from Mercy Springs  
Water District and Fresno Slough Water  
District to Angiola Water District**

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Environmental Compliance Branch Chief

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Approved by: Michael P. Jackson, P.E.  
Area Manager

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Date



# Introduction

In accordance with section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) has released this draft Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) which is supported by Reclamation's Environmental Assessment (EA)-16-030, *Partial Assignment from Mercy Springs Water District and Fresno Slough Water District to Angiola Water District*, hereby incorporated by reference, for public review. No final decision shall be made on the FONSI until public review has been completed and comments, if any, considered.

## Background

In 2012, Reclamation completed EA-12-021 which analyzed the annual transfer up to 1,300 acre-feet per year (AFY) of Mercy Springs Water District's (Mercy Springs) Central Valley Project (CVP) water and up to 4,000 AFY of Fresno Slough Water District's CVP water to Angiola Water District (Angiola) over a nine year period. EA-12-021 analyzed the direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of the proposed transfers on the following resources: air quality, biology, cultural resources, environmental justice, global climate change, Indian Sacred Sites, Indian Trust Assets, land use, socioeconomics, and water resources. Reclamation determined that the proposed annual transfers would not significantly affect the quality of the human environment and a FONSI was signed on August 23, 2012. FONSI/EA-12-021 is hereby incorporated by reference.

The Districts have since requested approval from Reclamation to assign a portion of their CVP water contract supplies to Angiola.

## Alternatives Considered

### No Action

Under the No Action alternative, Reclamation would not approve the partial assignment of CVP water from Fresno Slough and Mercy Springs to Angiola. The previously approved 9-year annual transfers of CVP water (up to 1,300 AFY of Mercy Springs and up to 4,000 AFY of Fresno Slough) would continue until it expires in 2021.

### Proposed Action

Reclamation proposes to issue a partial assignment of 1,300 AFY of Mercy Springs' CVP contract allocation and a full assignment of 4,000 AFY of Fresno Slough's CVP contract allocation to Angiola. The term of the assignments would be the same as the existing water service contracts, through February 28, 2030.

In turn, Reclamation would amend Mercy Springs' CVP water service contract to reflect Mercy Springs' CVP contract quantity to be 1,542 AFY. Reclamation would also amend Fresno Slough's CVP contract quantity to be 0 AFY. Fresno Slough would continue to retain their pre-1914 water rights water supply of 866 AFY pursuant to the terms of their CVP contract.

As a result of the proposed assignments, CVP water that is currently transferred to Angiola on an annual basis would be delivered to Angiola as scheduled delivery by Angiola rather than Mercy Springs or Fresno Slough. The assigned quantities would be used by Angiola to meet in-district demands and other uses consistent with the existing water service contracts and Reclamation approvals.

Because Angiola can only receive the water from the proposed assignments from the California Aqueduct through Tulare Lake Basin Water Storage District's existing turnouts, delivery of CVP water to Angiola would need to occur as operational exchanges between Reclamation and the California Department of Water Resources (DWR). Under the operational exchange, Mercy Springs' and Fresno Slough's CVP water would be conveyed from the federal share of San Luis Reservoir and made available to DWR. DWR would then deliver an equal amount of water to Angiola under Article 55 of Tulare Lake Basin's State Water Project (SWP) contract.

No new infrastructure, modifications of facilities, or ground disturbing activities would be needed for movement of this water. No native or untilled land (fallow for three years or more) would be cultivated with water involved with these actions.

## Findings

In accordance with NEPA, Reclamation has determined that the approval of the Proposed Action is not a major federal action that will significantly affect the quality of the human environment; consequently, an environmental impact statement is not required.

The following reasons are why the impacts from the proposed action are not significant:

- The proposed action will not significantly affect public health or safety (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(2)).
- The proposed action will not significantly affect natural resources and unique geographical characteristics such as proximity to 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)).
- There is no potential for the effects to be considered highly controversial (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(4)).

- 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)).
- The proposed action will not have cumulatively significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(7)).
- The proposed action will not significantly affect historic properties (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(8)).
- The proposed action will not significantly affect listed or proposed threatened or endangered species, or its habitat that has been determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(9)).
- The proposed action will not threaten a violation of 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 adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (EO 13007 and 512 DM 3).

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Draft Environmental Assessment

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EA-16-030



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# Section 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Background

In 2012, the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) completed an Environmental Assessment (EA-12-021) that analyzed the annual transfer up to 1,300 acre-feet per year (AFY) of Mercy Springs Water District's (Mercy Springs) Central Valley Project (CVP) water and up to 4,000 AFY of Fresno Slough Water District's CVP water to Angiola Water District (Angiola) over a nine year period (Reclamation 2012).

EA-12-021 analyzed the direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of the proposed transfers on the following resources: air quality, biology, cultural resources, environmental justice, global climate change, Indian Sacred Sites, Indian Trust Assets, land use, socioeconomics, and water resources. Reclamation determined that the proposed annual transfers would not significantly affect the quality of the human environment and a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) was signed on August 23, 2012. FONSI/EA-12-021 is hereby incorporated by reference.

The Districts have since requested approval from Reclamation to assign a portion of their CVP water contract supplies to Angiola (Figure 1).

## 1.2 Need for the Proposed Action

Angiola has a need to find alternative sources of water to fulfill demands and to reduce its reliance on groundwater pumping.

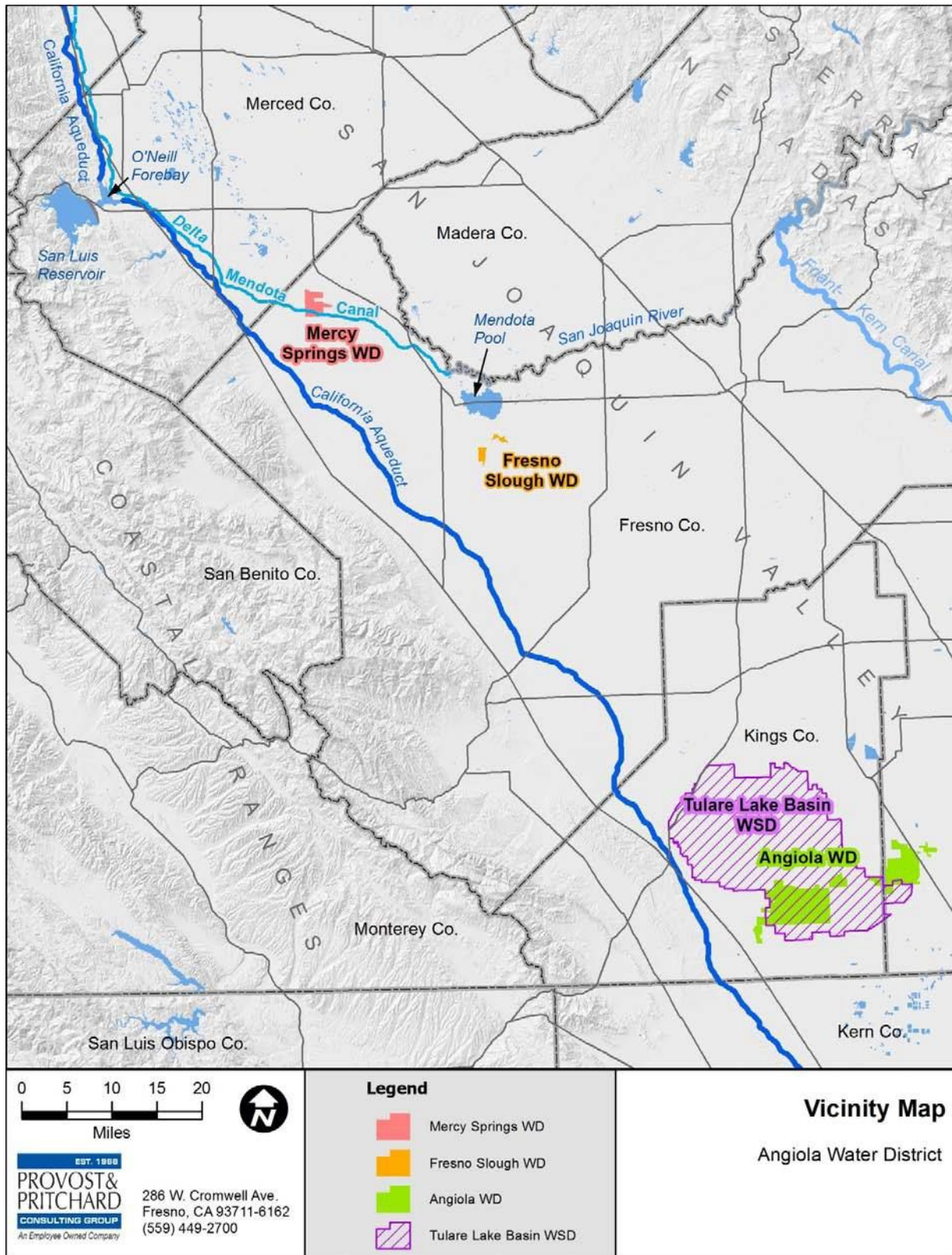


Figure 1 Proposed Action Area

## **Section 2 Alternatives Including the Proposed Action**

This EA considers two possible actions: the No Action Alternative and the Proposed Action. The No Action Alternative reflects future conditions without the Proposed Action and serves as a basis of comparison for determining potential effects to the human environment.

### **2.1 No Action Alternative**

Under the No Action alternative, Reclamation would not approve the partial assignment of CVP water from Fresno Slough and Mercy Springs to Angiola. The previously approved 9-year annual transfers of CVP water (up to 1,300 AFY of Mercy Springs and up to 4,000 AFY of Fresno Slough) would continue until it expires in 2021.

### **2.2 Proposed Action**

Reclamation proposes to issue a partial assignment of 1,300 AFY of Mercy Springs' CVP contract allocation and a full assignment of 4,000 AFY of Fresno Slough's CVP contract allocation to Angiola. The term of the assignments would be the same as the existing water service contracts, through February 28, 2030.

In turn, Reclamation would amend Mercy Springs' CVP water service contract to reflect Mercy Springs' CVP contract quantity to be 1,542 AFY. Reclamation would also amend Fresno Slough's CVP contract quantity to be 0 AFY. Fresno Slough would continue to retain their pre-1914 water rights water supply of 866 AFY pursuant to the terms of their CVP contract.

As a result of the proposed assignments, CVP water that is currently transferred to Angiola on an annual basis would be delivered to Angiola as scheduled delivery by Angiola rather than Mercy Springs or Fresno Slough. The assigned quantities would be used by Angiola to meet in-district demands and other uses consistent with the existing water service contracts and Reclamation approvals.

Because Angiola can only receive the water from the proposed assignments from the California Aqueduct through Tulare Lake Basin Water Storage District's existing turnouts, delivery of CVP water to Angiola would need to occur as operational exchanges between Reclamation and the California Department of Water Resources (DWR). Under the operational exchange, Mercy Springs' and Fresno Slough's CVP water would be conveyed from the federal share of San Luis Reservoir and made available to DWR. DWR would then deliver an equal amount of water to Angiola under Article 55 of Tulare Lake Basin's State Water Project (SWP) contract.

No new infrastructure, modifications of facilities, or ground disturbing activities would be needed for movement of this water. No native or untilled land (fallow for three years or more) would be cultivated with water involved with these actions.

## Section 3 Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences

This section identifies the potentially affected environment and the environmental consequences involved with the Proposed Action and the No Action Alternative, in addition to environmental trends and conditions that currently exist.

The affected environment covered in EA-12-021 is the same as the affected environment in this EA. As FONSI/EA-12-021 has been incorporated by reference, the affected environment in this EA will focus on updates to the previous affected environment as well as areas that were not previously covered, if applicable.

### 3.1 Resources Eliminated from Further Analysis

Reclamation analyzed the affected environment and determined that the Proposed Action did not have the potential to cause direct, indirect, or cumulative adverse effects to the resources listed in Table 1.

Table 1 Resources Eliminated from Further Analysis

Resource	Reason Eliminated
Air Quality	The Proposed Action does not include construction of new facilities or modification to existing facilities. While pumping would be necessary to deliver CVP water, no additional electrical production beyond baseline conditions would occur. No impacts to air quality would occur and a determination of general conformity under the Clean Air Act is not required.
Cultural Resources	The Proposed Action would facilitate the flow of water through existing facilities to existing users. As no construction or modification of facilities would be needed in order to complete the Proposed Action, Reclamation has determined that these activities have no potential to cause effects to historic properties pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800.3(a)(1). See Appendix A for Reclamation's determination.
Environmental Justice	The Proposed Action would not cause dislocation, changes in employment, or increase flood, drought, or disease nor would it disproportionately impact economically disadvantaged or minority populations. The Proposed Action may support and maintain jobs that low-income and disadvantaged populations rely upon through increased irrigation water supply reliability. Therefore, there may be a slight beneficial impact to minority or disadvantaged populations as a result of the Proposed Action
Global Climate	<p>Recently, the U.S. Global Research Program (USGRP) concluded in its Climate Science Special Report (2017) that "Many lines of evidence demonstrate that it is <i>extremely likely</i> that human influence has been the dominant cause of the observed warming since the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century." The USGRP also concludes that "Global climate is projected to continue to change over this century and beyond. The magnitude of climate change beyond the next few decades will depend primarily on the amount of greenhouse (heat trapping) gases emitted globally and on the remaining uncertainty in the sensitivity of the Earth's climate to those emissions (<i>very high confidence</i>)."</p> <p>Reclamation developed a global climate model in 2016 for the Sacramento and San Joaquin Basins. The model predicts increased temperatures, increased precipitation, increased runoff, and reduced snowpack at higher latitudes during the 21<sup>st</sup> century.</p>



Resource	Reason Eliminated
	The Proposed Action does not include construction of new facilities or modification to existing facilities. While pumping would be necessary to deliver CVP water, no additional electrical production beyond baseline conditions would occur. In addition, the generating power plant that produces electricity for the electric pumps operates under permits that are regulated for greenhouse gas emissions. As such, there would be no additional impacts to global climate change. Global climate change is expected to have some effect on the snow pack of the Sierra Nevada and the runoff regime. It is anticipated that climate change would result in more short-duration high-rainfall events and less snowpack runoff in the winter and early spring months by 2030 compared to recent historical conditions (Reclamation 2016, pg 16-26). However, the effects of this are long-term and are not expected to impact CVP operations within the two-year window of this action. Further, CVP water allocations are made dependent on hydrologic conditions and environmental requirements. Since Reclamation operations and allocations are flexible, any changes in hydrologic conditions due to global climate change would be addressed within Reclamation's operation flexibility.
Indian Sacred Sites	The Proposed Action would not limit access to ceremonial use of Indian Sacred Sites on federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites. Therefore, there would be no impacts to Indian Sacred Sites as a result of the Proposed Action.
Indian Trust Assets	The Proposed Action would not impact Indian Trust Assets as there are none in the Proposed Action area.
Land Use	The Proposed Action would not change historic land and water management practices. The assigned water would move through existing facilities for existing agricultural purposes. The water would not be used to place untilled or new lands into production, or to convert undeveloped land to other uses.
Socioeconomics	The Proposed Action would have beneficial impacts on socioeconomic resources as the exchanged water would be used for existing purposes.

## 3.2 Biological Resources

### 3.2.1 Affected Environment

The affected environment is the same as previously described in Section 3.2 of EA-12-021.

Reclamation requested an official species list from the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) for the Proposed Action Area on June 7, 2018 via the Service's website, <http://ecos.fws.gov/ipac>, (Consultation Code: 08ESMF00-2016-SLI-2144). The California Department of Fish and Wildlife's California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) was also queried for records of protected species in or near the Proposed Action Area (CNDDDB 2018). The information collected above, in addition to information within Reclamation's files, was combined to determine the likelihood of protected species occurrence within the Proposed Action Area and this information is summarized below in Table 2.

Table 2 Federally Protected Species in the Proposed Action Area

Species	Status <sup>1</sup>	Effects <sup>2</sup>	Summary basis for ESA determination <sup>3</sup>
<b>INVERTEBRATES</b>			
Conservancy fairy shrimp ( <i>Branchinecta conservatio</i> )	E, X	NE	<b>Absent.</b> This species does not occur within the Action Area, and there is no designated critical habitat for this species within the Action Area.

Species	Status <sup>1</sup>	Effects <sup>2</sup>	Summary basis for ESA determination <sup>3</sup>
Vernal pool fairy shrimp ( <i>Branchinecta lynchi</i> )	T, X	NE	<b>Possible.</b> There are CNDDDB records of this species near the Angiola Water District. There is no designated critical habitat for this species in the Action Area. No vernal pool habitat would be altered by the Proposed Action, so there would be <i>No Effect</i> to this species.
Vernal pool tadpole shrimp ( <i>Lepidurus packardii</i> )	E, X	NE	<b>Absent.</b> This species does not occur within the Action Area, and there is no designated critical habitat for this species within the Action Area.
Valley elderberry longhorn beetle ( <i>Desmocerus californicus dimorphus</i> )	T, X	NE	<b>Absent.</b> This species does not occur within the Action Area, and there is no designated critical habitat for this species within the Action Area.
<b>FISH</b>			
Delta smelt ( <i>Hypomesus transpacificus</i> )	T, X	NE	<b>Absent.</b> No natural waterways within the species' range would be affected by the Proposed Action.
Northern California DPS steelhead ( <i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i> )	T	NE	<b>Absent.</b> No natural waterways within the species' range would be affected by the Proposed Action.
Central Valley steelhead ( <i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i> )	T, NMFS	NE	<b>Absent.</b> No natural waterways within the species' range would be affected by the Proposed Action.
<b>AMPHIBIANS</b>			
California tiger salamander Central California DPS ( <i>Ambystoma californiense</i> )	T, X	NE	<b>Absent.</b> This species does not occur within the Action Area, and there is no designated critical habitat for this species within the Action Area.
California red-legged frog ( <i>Rana aurora draytonii</i> )	T, X	NE	<b>Absent.</b> This species does not occur within the Action Area, and there is no designated critical habitat for this species within the Action Area.
<b>REPTILES</b>			
Blunt-nosed leopard lizard ( <i>Gambelia sila</i> )	E	NE	<b>Possible.</b> There are multiple CNDDDB records of this species near the Angiola Water District. The Proposed Action would not alter or convert any areas of suitable habitat which may be occupied by this species, and would not involve any ground disturbance or construction. There would be <i>No Effect</i> to this species.
giant garter snake ( <i>Thamnophis gigas</i> )	T	NE	<b>Possible.</b> There are CNDDDB records of this species near Mercy Springs and Fresno Slough. The Proposed Action would not alter or convert any areas of suitable habitat which may be occupied by this species, and would not involve any ground disturbance or construction. There would be <i>No Effect</i> to this species.
<b>BIRDS</b>			

Species	Status <sup>1</sup>	Effects <sup>2</sup>	Summary basis for ESA determination <sup>3</sup>
California condor ( <i>Gymnogyps californianus</i> )	E, X	NE	<b>Absent.</b> This species does not occur within the Action Area, and there is no designated critical habitat for this species within the Action Area.
Western snowy plover ( <i>Charadrius nivosus</i> ssp. <i>nivosus</i> )	T, X	NE	<b>Possible.</b> There are CNDDDB records of this species near the Angiola Water District. There is no designated critical habitat for this species in the Action Area. The Proposed Action would not alter or convert any areas of suitable habitat which may be occupied by this species, and would not involve any ground disturbance or construction. There would be <i>No Effect</i> to this species.
Burrowing owl ( <i>Athene cunicularia</i> )	MBTA	NT	<b>Possible.</b> There are CNDDDB records of this species in the Action Area. The Proposed Action would not alter or convert any areas of suitable habitat which may be occupied by this species, and would not involve any ground disturbance or construction. There would be <i>No Take</i> of this species.
Swainson's hawk ( <i>Buteo swainsoni</i> )	MBTA	NT	<b>Possible.</b> There are CNDDDB records of this species in the Action Area. The Proposed Action would not alter or convert any areas of suitable habitat which may be occupied by this species, and would not involve any construction. There would be <i>No Take</i> of this species.
<b>MAMMALS</b>			
Giant kangaroo rat ( <i>Dipodomys ingens</i> )	E	NE	<b>Absent.</b> This species does not occur within the Action Area.
Fresno kangaroo rat ( <i>Dipodomys nitratooides exilis</i> )	E, X	NE	<b>Absent.</b> This species does not occur within the Action Area, and there is no designated critical habitat for this species within the Action Area.
Tipton kangaroo rat ( <i>Dipodomys nitratooides nitratooides</i> )	E	NE	<b>Possible.</b> There are CNDDDB records of this species in the Action Area. The Proposed Action would not alter or convert any areas of suitable habitat which may be occupied by this species, and would not involve any ground disturbance or construction. There would be <i>No Effect</i> to this species.
San Joaquin kit fox ( <i>Vulpes macrotis mutica</i> )	E	NE	<b>Possible.</b> There are several CNDDDB records of this species near the Action Area. The Proposed Action would not alter or convert any areas of suitable habitat which may be occupied by this species, and would not involve any ground disturbance or construction. There would be <i>No Effect</i> to this species.
<b>PLANTS</b>			
California jewelflower ( <i>Caulanthus californicus</i> )	E	NE	<b>Absent.</b> This species does not occur within the Action Area.

Species	Status <sup>1</sup>	Effects <sup>2</sup>	Summary basis for ESA determination <sup>3</sup>
Kern mallow ( <i>Eremalche kernensis</i> )	E	NE	<b>Absent.</b> This species does not occur within the Action Area.
Palmate-bracted bird's-beak ( <i>Cordylanthus palmatus</i> )	E	NE	<b>Absent.</b> This species does not occur within the Action Area.
San Joaquin woolly-threads ( <i>Monolopia congdonii</i> )	E	NE	<b>Absent.</b> This species does not occur within the Action Area.

1 Status = Status of federally protected species

E: Listed as Endangered

NMFS: Species under the Jurisdiction of the National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration Fisheries Service

MBTA: Migratory birds protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act

T: Listed as Threatened

X: Critical Habitat designated for this species

2 Effects = ESA Effect determination

NE: No Effect anticipated from the Proposed Action to federally listed species or designated critical habitat

NT: No Take anticipated from the Proposed Action to migratory birds

3 Definition of Occurrence Indicators

Possible: Species recorded in area and habitat suboptimal.

Absent: Species not recorded in study area and suitable habitat absent.

### 3.2.2 Environmental Consequences

#### **No Action**

Under the No Action Alternative, CVP water would continue to be transferred to Angiola when available for use on existing agricultural crops as previously approved for the nine-year annual transfers (through 2021).

#### **Proposed Action**

Under the Proposed Action, 1,300 AF of Mercy Springs CVP water and 4,000 AF of Fresno Slough's CVP water would be assigned to Angiola through February 28, 2030. The water involved with the Proposed Action would be conveyed through existing facilities and would be used on lands that are currently in agricultural production. The Proposed Action would not involve any ground disturbing activities or construction or modification of existing facilities. The water associated with the Proposed Action would not be used to convert natural lands, or lands that have been fallowed or untilled for three or more years. The land use patterns of cultivated or fallowed fields which have some value to listed species or birds protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act would also remain unchanged. Based on the nature of the Proposed Action, and with the implementation of the provided avoidance measures, Reclamation has determined that the Proposed Action would have No Effect to proposed or listed species or critical habitat under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. §1531 et seq.), and there would be No Take of birds protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. §703 et seq.).

#### **Cumulative Impacts**

Because the Proposed Action would not result in any direct or indirect impacts to federally listed species or critical habitat, it would not contribute cumulatively to any impacts on these resources.

## **3.3 Water Resources**

### **3.3.1 Affected Environment**

The affected environment is the same as previously described in Section 3.3 of EA-12-021.

### **3.3.2 Environmental Consequences**

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

Under the No Action alternative, Angiola would continue to be able to receive transferred water from Mercy Springs and Fresno Slough when CVP water is available for transfer through the previously approved nine-year transfer period.

#### ***Proposed Action***

The Proposed Action would not affect CVP operations and would not change existing diversion points from the Delta under Reclamation's water rights permits. The Proposed Action would not interfere with Reclamation's obligations to deliver water to other contractors, wetland habitat areas, or for other environmental purposes.

There would be no change in the point of diversion for the assigned water as the point of diversion in the Delta (Jones Pumping Plant) would be the same. In addition, as the water is already part of the baseline conditions for diversion from the Delta, there would be no increase in diversions from the Delta as a result of this assignment. Conveyance of the assigned water would be done through the California Aqueduct rather than the Delta-Mendota Canal which has been done previously when the water was annually transferred to Angiola.

CVP and SWP facilities would not be impacted as the conveyance of the assigned water will be scheduled and approved by Reclamation and DWR in advance.

#### ***Cumulative Impacts***

Reclamation has reviewed existing or foreseeable projects in the same geographic area that could affect or could be affected by the Proposed Action. As in the past, hydrological conditions and other factors are likely to result in fluctuating water supplies which drive requests for water service actions. Water districts provide water to their customers based on available water supplies and timing, while attempting to minimize costs. Farmers irrigate and grow crops based on these conditions and factors, and a myriad of water service actions are approved and executed each year to facilitate water needs. It is likely that over the course of the Proposed Action, districts will request various water service actions, such as transfers, exchanges, and Warren Act contracts (conveyance of non-CVP water in CVP facilities). As each water service transaction involving Reclamation undergoes environmental review prior to approval.

The Proposed Action and other similar projects would not hinder the normal operations of the CVP or SWP as exchanges would be coordinated by Reclamation and DWR in advance. In addition, there would be no effect on Reclamation's obligation to deliver water to its contractors or to local fish and wildlife habitat as the supplies exchanged would be one-for-one exchanges from existing supplies between DWR and Reclamation. Since the Proposed Action would not involve construction or modification of facilities, nor interfere with CVP or SWP operations, there would be no cumulative impacts to water supplies, existing facilities, or other contractors.

## **Section 4 Consultation and Coordination**

### **4.1 Public Review Period**

Reclamation intends to provide the public with an opportunity to comment on the Draft FONSI and EA during a 30-day public review period.

### **4.2 List of Agencies and Persons Consulted**

Reclamation has consulted with the following regarding the Proposed Action:

- Angiola Water District
- California Department of Water Resources
- Fresno Slough Water District
- Mercy Springs Water District

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## Section 5 References

Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation). 2012. *Mercy Springs Water District and Fresno Slough Water District Multi-Year Transfers to Angiola Water District* (EA-12-021) Mid-Pacific Region South-Central California Area Office. Fresno, California.

Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation). 2016. Record of Decision and Environmental Impact Statement for the Coordinated Long-Term Operation of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project. Mid-Pacific Region Bay-Delta Office. Sacramento, CA

California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB). 2018. California Department of Fish and Game's Natural Diversity Database. Accessed: May 2018.

U.S. Global Research Program (USGRP). 2017. Executive summary. In: Climate Science Special Report: Fourth National Climate Assessment, Volume I [Wuebbles, D.J., D.W. Fahey, K.A. Hibbard, D.J. Dokken, B.C. Stewart, and T.K. Maycock (eds.)]. U.S. Global Change Research Program, Washington, DC. pp. 12-34. Website: <https://science2017.globalchange.gov/chapter/executive-summary/>.



# **Appendix A: Cultural Resources Determination**

**CULTURAL RESOURCES COMPLIANCE**  
**Division of Environmental Affairs**  
**Cultural Resources Branch (MP-153)**

**MP-153 Tracking Number:** 17-SCAO-056

**Project Name:** Contract Assignment from Mercy Springs Water District and Fresno Slough Water District to Angiola Water District

**NEPA Document:** EA-16-030

**NEPA Contact:** Stacy Holt, Natural Resources Specialist

**MP-153 Cultural Resources Reviewer:** Scott Williams, Archaeologist



**Date:** December 29, 2016

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Reclamation proposes to approve a partial assignment of 1,300 AFY of Mercy Springs' CVP water and a full assignment of 4,000 AFY of Fresno Slough's CVP water to Angiola through February 28, 2030. Reclamation would then amend Mercy Spring's existing CVP water service contract to reflect the revised quantity to be 1,542 AFY. Reclamation would amend Fresno Sough's existing CVP water service contract to 0 AFY. Because Angiola can only receive the proposed assignments from the California Aqueduct (through Tulare Lake Basin's existing turnouts), delivery of the partial assignment would need to occur as operational exchanges between Reclamation and DWR. Under this operational exchange, Mercy Springs' and Fresno Sloughs' CVP water would be moved from the federal share of San Luis Reservoir and made available to DWR. DWR would then deliver an equal amount of water to Angiola under Article 55 of Tulare Lake Basin's State Water Project contract. No construction or modification of facilities is needed for delivery of this water.

Reclamation has 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). As such, Reclamation has no further obligations under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (54 U.S.C. § 306108). Based on analysis of the project activities, I concur that the proposed action would have no significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

This document conveys the completion of the cultural resources review and Section 106 process for this undertaking. Please retain a copy with the administrative record for this action. Should the proposed action change, additional review under Section 106, possibly including consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer, may be required.