

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Finding of No Significant Impact

Pressure Reducing Valve SCADA Upgrades Project – South Tahoe Public Utilities District

FONSI 18-07-MP

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1 Background

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) to analyze impacts of granting a CALFED Water Use Efficiency Grant (CALFED grant) to the South Tahoe Public Utilities District (STPUD) for its Pressure Reducing Valve SCADA Upgrades Project. The Proposed Action will improve district operational efficiency by improving remote monitoring equipment at district pressure zones.

2 Alternatives Including the Proposed Action

2.1 No Action

For the No Action Alternative, Reclamation would not award STPUD CALFED grant funds to implement the Proposed Action. Although the STPUD may obtain alternative funds for the Proposed Action, the consequences of Reclamation not providing funding for the Proposed Action would result in no construction.

2.2 Proposed Action

Under the Proposed Action, Reclamation would award a CALFED grant to STPUD. STPUD would use the CALFED grant funding to install monitoring equipment at each PRV station within the STPUD service area (Figure 1). Each PRV station will involve:

- Installation of a digital flow meter;
- Installation of a digital suction and discharge pressure gauge;
- Installation of off-grid power supply and storage (may vary each site);
- Modification or replacement of existing vault structure, piping and valves to accommodate new instruments; and
- Integration of data, status and alarm signals into the existing SCADA system.

For PRV stations that do not require a vault replacement, the Proposed Action would include installation of a foundation for the control panel, and installation of an electrical conduit run from the existing PRV vault to the new control panel. The foundation is expected to disturb approximately 30 square feet and require 3 cubic yards of earth moving. For the longest anticipated conduit run of 180 feet, there will be 360 square feet of earth disturbance and 40 cubic yards of earth removed. All work will be constrained to the existing pavement and compacted shoulder right-of-way.

PRV stations that require a vault replacement will include the above work plus excavation for a new vault along with excavation for new piping and valves to connect the new vault with the existing water distribution system, and demolition of the old system. Excavation for construction of the new vault is expected to disturb 120 square feet, and move approximately 35 cubic yards

of earth. The same amount of disturbance is expected for demolition of the existing vault. The longest anticipated water main to be replaced will be 240 feet and will disturb approximately 720 square feet and move approximately 80 cubic yards of earth. All work will be constrained to the existing pavement and compacted shoulder right-of-way.

3 Findings

Based on the attached EA, 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. This 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). Analysis of the effects of the proposed action is provided in the attached EA, and the analysis in the EA 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 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)).
3. 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)).
4. 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)).
5. There is no potential for the effects to be considered highly controversial (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(4)).
6. The Proposed Action will not have significant cumulative impacts (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(7)).
7. 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)). Through correspondence dated June 12, 2018, the SHPO responded with no objection to Reclamation's finding of no historic properties pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.4(d)(1).
8. The Proposed Action would not adversely affect listed or proposed threatened or endangered

species (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(9)). Reclamation determined that the action would have no effect on endangered species.

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)).

10. The Proposed Action will not affect Indian Trust Assets (512 DM 2, Policy Memorandum dated December 15, 1993).

11. Implementing the Proposed Action will not disproportionately affect minorities or low-income populations and communities (EO 12898).

12. 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).