

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Shafter-Wasco Irrigation District Recovery and Return Improvements to District's Spreading Grounds for Drought Resiliency Project

FONSI 18-29-MP

Prepared by:



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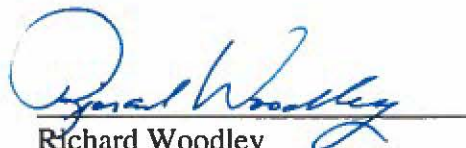
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Date: Aug 23, 2018

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Date: 8-27-18

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Background

In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended, the Bureau of Reclamation prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) for the Kimberlina Groundwater Recharge Basin and Banking Project in September 2016. The EA was prepared to examine the potential direct, indirect, and cumulative effects associated with providing funding to the Shafter-Wasco Irrigation District through the San Joaquin River Restoration Program for the construction of the Kimberlina spreading grounds facility with three wells for added recovery capacity. Reclamation issued a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI-16-06-SJRRP) on this proposed action in 2016. Under modifications to the Kimberlina Groundwater Recharge Basin and Banking Project due to the wet construction season, well pads were raised at the project site, but the recovery wells and associated connection pipelines were not constructed.

Shafter-Wasco Irrigation District now proposes the Recovery and Return Improvements to District's Spreading Grounds for Drought Resiliency project, which would make stored groundwater recoverable from the Kimberlina spreading grounds through the construction and connection of two recovery wells, as described in the 2016 environmental documents. Reclamation proposes to provide a 2018 WaterSMART Drought Resiliency grant in the amount of \$300,000 to the Shafter-Wasco Irrigation District to partially fund the construction of the wells and associated connection pipelines (Proposed Action).

Alternatives Including the Proposed Action

No Action: Reclamation would not award Shafter-Wasco Irrigation District with a grant to conduct the project. Shafter-Wasco Irrigation District would not be able to complete the project activities and the project areas would remain under current conditions.

Proposed Action: Reclamation would provide \$300,000 to Shafter-Wasco Irrigation District to partially fund the construction of two wells and associated pipelines to connect the wells to the District's mainline at the Kimberlina spreading grounds. Project activities would include drilling two deep (approximately 1,000 feet) groundwater recovery wells with truck-mounted equipment using an approximately 18-inch-diameter casing and installing 15-inch-diameter pipelines in trenches measuring approximately 2.5-feet wide by 5.5-feet deep that connect the wells to the mainline on Kimberlina Road.

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. The EA describes the existing environmental resources at the location of the Proposed Action and evaluates the effects of the activities funded by the Proposed Action. The EA was prepared in accordance with National Environmental Policy Act, Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR 1500-1508), and Department of the Interior Regulations (43 CFR Part 46) and 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 adverse 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). 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, in consultation with the California State Historic Preservation Officer, determined the undertaking would have no adverse effect on historic properties.
8. The Proposed Action is not likely to adversely affect listed or proposed threatened or endangered species (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(9)).
9. The Proposed Action will not violate Federal, State, local law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(10)).
10. The Proposed Action will not affect any 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).