

# RECLAMATION

*Managing Water in the West*

**Draft FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

## **Fresno Irrigation District – Orange Cove Irrigation District – Table Mountain Rancheria Transfer**

**FONSI-18-050**



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

**October 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-18-050**

**Fresno Irrigation District – Orange Cove  
Irrigation District – Table Mountain  
Rancheria Transfer**

---

Prepared by: Kathleen Linder  
Natural Resources Specialist

---

Date

---

Concurred by: Rain L. Emerson  
Environmental Compliance Branch Chief

---

Date

---

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

---

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 the attached Environmental Assessment (EA)-18-050, *Fresno Irrigation District – Orange Cove Irrigation District – Table Mountain Rancheria Transfer*, hereby incorporated by reference. No final decision shall be made on the FONSI until public review has been completed and comments, if any, considered.

## Background

Fresno Irrigation District has requested a transfer between itself, Orange Cove Irrigation District and Table Mountain Rancheria. Fresno Irrigation District, a Friant Division Central Valley Project (CVP) contractor, would deliver up to 100 acre-feet of its non-project Kings River water under its Warren Act Agreement to Orange Cove Irrigation District, also a Friant Division CVP contractor. The non-project water would be delivered at the Friant-Kern Canal/Gould Canal Intertie from turnout 27.7 and delivered to Orange Cove Irrigation District's downstream turnouts. Orange Cove Irrigation District's turnouts are listed as delivery points on Fresno Irrigation District's Point of Delivery exhibit to its Warren Act Agreement.

In turn, Orange Cove Irrigation District will transfer up to 100 acre-feet of its 2018 Class 1 water project supply to Table Mountain Rancheria, a non-CVP entity in the Friant Division Consolidated Place of Use. This project water would be taken directly by Table Mountain Rancheria from Millerton Reservoir via the Fresno County Service Area #34 pipeline.

## Alternatives Considered

### No Action

Under the No Action Alternative, Reclamation would not approve the transfer of CVP water to a non-CVP contractor. Table Mountain Rancheria would continue to be limited by the amount of water resources available. Fresno Irrigation District's and Orange Cove Irrigation District's water supplies would remain unchanged.

### Proposed Action

Reclamation proposes to approve the one-time transfer of up to 100 acre feet of CVP water from Orange Cove Irrigation District to Table Mountain Rancheria for municipal purposes. This transfer would occur within existing facilities and will not require any construction activities.

In order for Orange Cove Irrigation District to make its CVP water available, Fresno Irrigation District would transfer a like amount of its non-Project Kings River water to Orange Cove Irrigation District pursuant to its existing Warren Act Agreement (Agreement No. 15-WC-20-

4747). The non-Project water would be delivered at the Friant-Kern Canal/Gould Canal Intertie from turnout 27.7 and delivered to Orange Cove ID's downstream turnouts.

Orange Cove Irrigation District would then transfer up to 100 acre feet of its 2018 Class 1 water project supply to Table Mountain Rancheria, a non-CVP entity in the Friant Division Consolidated Place of Use. This Project water would be taken directly by Table Mountain Rancheria from Millerton Reservoir via the Fresno County Service Area #34 pipeline.

### **Environmental Commitments**

For the purposes of this transfer, Fresno Irrigation District, Orange Cove Irrigation District, and Table Mountain Rancheria shall implement the environmental protection measures listed in Table 1 of EA-18-050 to avoid environmental consequences associated with the Proposed Action. Environmental consequences for resource areas assume the measures specified would be fully implemented.

### **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)).
- 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).

# RECLAMATION

*Managing Water in the West*

Draft Environmental Assessment

## **Fresno Irrigation District – Orange Cove Irrigation District – Table Mountain Rancheria Transfer**

EA-18-050



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

October 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.

# Contents

**Section 1 Introduction .....1**  
 1.1 Need for the Proposed Action..... 1  
**Section 2 Alternatives Including the Proposed Action .....3**  
 2.1 No Action Alternative..... 3  
 2.2 Proposed Action..... 3  
 2.2.1 Environmental Commitments .....3  
**Section 3 Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences .....5**  
 3.1 Resources Eliminated from Further Analysis ..... 5  
 3.2 Biological Resources ..... 7  
 3.2.1 Affected Environment.....7  
 3.2.2 Environmental Consequences .....9  
 3.1 Water Resources ..... 11  
 3.3.1 Affected Environment.....11  
 3.3.2 Environmental Consequences .....12  
**Section 4 Consultation and Coordination.....13**  
 4.1 Public Review Period..... 13  
 4.2 List of Agencies and Persons Consulted..... 13  
**Section 5 References .....15**

Figure 1 Water Transfer Action Area ..... 1

Table 1 Environmental Commitments ..... 4  
 Table 2 Resources Eliminated from Further Analysis ..... 5  
 Table 3 Federally Listed Threatened and Endangered Species in Fresno and Tulare Counties..... 7

Appendix A Bureau of Reclamation Cultural Resources Determination



# Section 1 Introduction

## 1.1 Need for the Proposed Action

Pursuant to the Central Valley Improvement Act, Reclamation is required to facilitate transfers of CVP water from willing sellers to willing buyers. Table Mountain Rancheria (Table Mountain) currently does not have enough available water supplies to meet its needs. Table Mountain would like to find additional reliable, efficient, and timely ways to receive available water supplies for existing purposes at the Rancheria. Outside of a small water supply of non-project groundwater, Table Mountain has no other means to acquire water for its needs. The purpose of the Proposed Action is to provide a mechanism for Table Mountain to obtain additional water while they are working on a more permanent solution to this problem. Through the Proposed Action, Reclamation will allow the transfer of water between Fresno Irrigation District (Fresno ID), Orange Cove Irrigation District (Orange Cove ID), and Table Mountain (Figure 1).

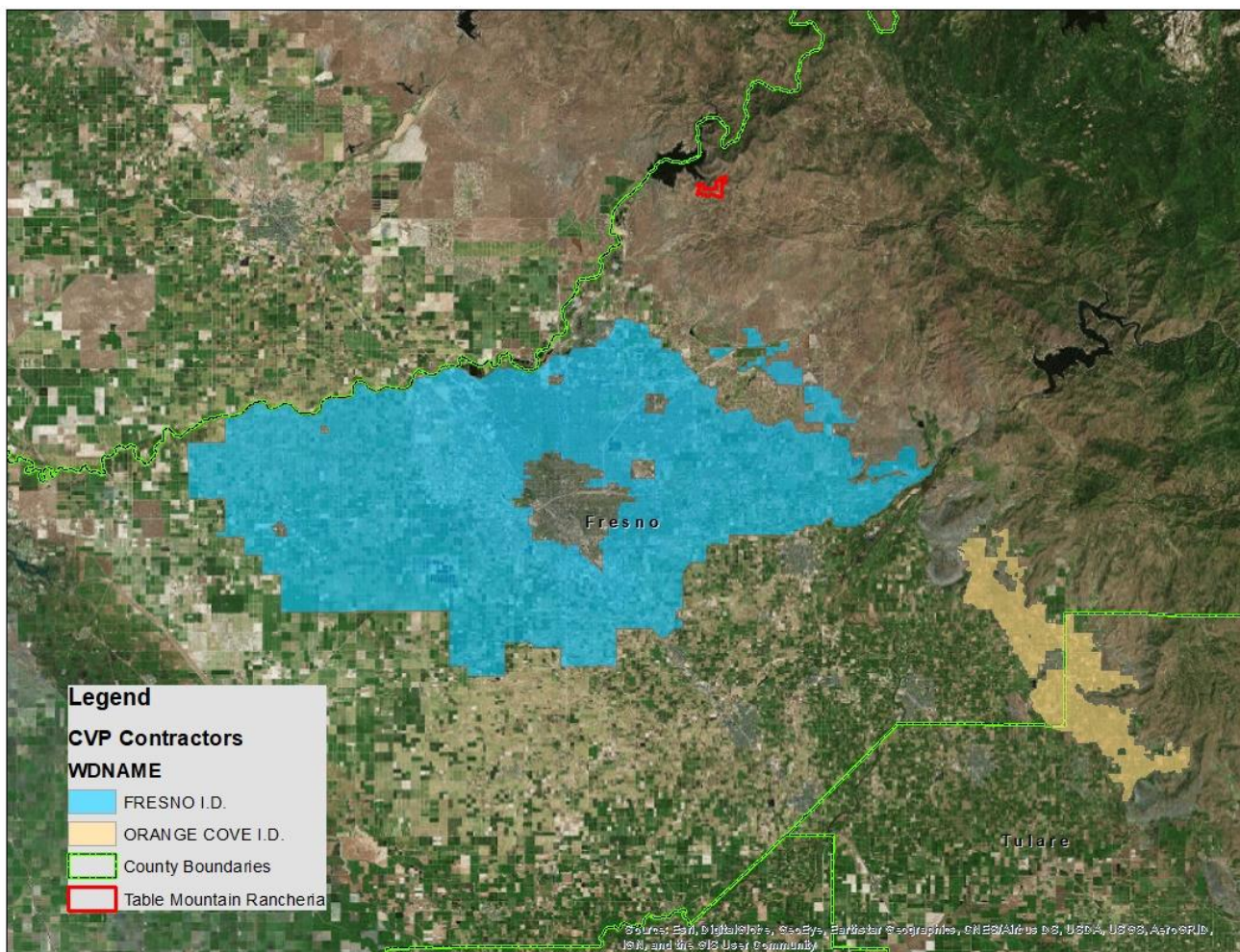


Figure 1 Water Transfer Action Area

THIS PAGE LEFT INTENTIONALLY BLANK.

## Section 2 Alternatives Including the Proposed Action

This Environmental Assessment 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

Reclamation would not approve the transfer of CVP water to a non-CVP contractor. Table Mountain would continue to be limited by the amount of water resources available. Fresno ID and Orange Cove ID water supplies would remain unchanged.

### 2.2 Proposed Action

Reclamation proposes to approve the one-time transfer of up to 100 acre feet of CVP water from Orange Cove ID to Table Mountain for municipal purposes. This transfer would occur within existing facilities and will not require any construction activities.

In order for Orange Cove ID to make its CVP water available, Fresno ID would transfer a like amount of its non-Project Kings River water to Orange Cove ID pursuant to its existing Warren Act Agreement (Agreement No. 15-WC-20-4747). The non-Project water would be delivered at the Friant-Kern Canal/Gould Canal Intertie from turnout 27.7 and delivered to Orange Cove ID's downstream turnouts.

Orange Cove ID would then transfer up to 100 acre feet of its 2018 Class 1 water project supply<sup>1</sup> to Table Mountain, a non-CVP entity in the Friant Division Consolidated Place of Use. This project water would be taken directly by Table Mountain from Millerton Reservoir via the Fresno County Service Area #34 pipeline.

#### 2.2.1 Environmental Commitments

For the purposes of this transfer, Fresno ID, Orange Cove ID, and Table Mountain must implement the following environmental protection measures to avoid environmental consequences associated with the Proposed Action (Table 1).

---

<sup>1</sup> Class 1 water is considered as the first 800,000 AF supply of CVP water stored in Millerton Lake, which would be available for delivery from the Friant-Kern Canal and/or Madera Canals as a dependable water supply during each Contract Year. Class 2 water is considered as the next approximate 1,400,000 AF supply of non-storable CVP water which becomes available in addition to the Class 1 supply and, due to the uncertainty of its availability, is considered to be undependable in character and is furnished only if and when it can be made available as determined by Reclamation per Contract Year.

Table 1 Environmental Commitments

<b>Resources</b>	<b>Protection Measure</b>
Biological Resources	No native lands or untilled lands that have been fallow for three consecutive years or more may be cultivated with the waters described in the Proposed Action.
Biological Resources	The Proposed Action cannot alter the flow regime of natural waterways or natural watercourses such as rivers, streams, creeks, ponds, pools, wetlands, etc., so as to have a detrimental effect on fish or wildlife or their habitats.
Biological Resources	The Proposed Action shall not change the land use patterns of the cultivated or fallowed fields that do have some value to listed species or birds protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA).

Environmental consequences for resource areas assume the measures specified would be fully implemented.

## 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.

### 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 2.

Table 2 Resources Eliminated from Further Analysis

Resource	Reason Eliminated
Air Quality	No new construction or new facilities would be needed under the Proposed Action to approve the transfer of water between Fresno ID, Orange Cove ID and Table Mountain. There would be no change from existing conditions, a conformity analysis is not required and there would be no impact to air quality as a result of the Proposed Action.
Land Use	No land use change would occur. The Proposed Action involves only the conveyance of water through existing facilities.
Cultural Resources	There would be no impacts to cultural resources as a result of implementing the Proposed Action as it would facilitate the flow of water through existing facilities to existing users. No new construction or ground disturbing activities would occur as part of 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.
Global Climate Change	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 diesel generators that produce electricity for the pumps operate 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 2016b, pg 16-26). However, the effects of this are long-term and are not expected to impact CVP operations within the one-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.



THIS PAGE LEFT INTENTIONALLY BLANK.

## 3.2 Biological Resources

### 3.2.1 Affected Environment

The Proposed Action consists of the service areas of Fresno ID, Orange Cover ID, and Table Mountain.

Fresno ID and Table Mountain are wholly within Fresno County, CA. Orange Cove ID is partially within Fresno County and partially within Tulare County, CA.

Reclamation requested an official species list for Fresno County from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) on October 17, 2018 (Consultation Code 08ESMF00-2019-E-00361) by accessing their database: <https://ecos.fws.gov/ipac/> (USFWS 2018). Reclamation requested another official species list for Tulare County (Consultation Code 08ESMF00-2019-E-0036400361). Reclamation further queried the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) for records of protected species within Fresno and Tulare Counties (CNDDDB 2018). The three sources, in addition to other information within Reclamation's files were combined to create the following list (Table 3).

Table 3 Federally Listed Threatened and Endangered Species in Fresno and Tulare Counties

Species	Status <sup>1</sup>	Effects <sup>2</sup>
<b>Mammals</b>		
Fresno Kangaroo Rat ( <i>Dipodomys nitratooides exilis</i> )	E, X	NE
Giant Kangaroo Rat ( <i>Dipodomys ingens</i> )	E, X	NE
Tipton Kangaroo Rat ( <i>Dipodomys nitratooides nitratooides</i> )	E	NE
San Joaquin Kit Fox ( <i>Vulpes macrotis mutica</i> )	E	NE
Sierra Nevada Bighorn Sheep ( <i>Ovis canadensis sierra</i> )	E, X	NE
<b>Birds</b>		
California Condor ( <i>Gymnogyps californianus</i> )	E, X	NE
Least Bell's Vireo ( <i>Vireo bellii pusillus</i> )	E, X	NE
Southwestern Willow Flycatcher ( <i>Empidonax trailii extimus</i> )	E, X	NE
Western Snowy Plover ( <i>Charadrius nivosus nivosus</i> )	E, X	NE
Yellow-billed Cuckoo ( <i>Coccyzus americanus</i> )	T	NE
<b>Reptiles</b>		
Blunt-nosed leopard lizard ( <i>Gambelia silus</i> )	E	NE
Giant garter snake ( <i>Thamnophis gigas</i> )	T	NE

Species	Status <sup>1</sup>	Effects <sup>2</sup>
<b>Amphibians</b>		
California Tiger Salamander ( <i>Ambystoma californiense</i> )	T, X	NE
California Red-legged Frog ( <i>Rana draytonii</i> )	T, X	NE
Mountain Yellow-legged Frog ( <i>Rana muscosa</i> )	E, X	NE
Sierra Nevada Yellow-legged Frog ( <i>Rana sierrae</i> )	E, X	NE
Yosemite Toad ( <i>Anaxyrus canorus</i> )	T, X	NE
<b>Fish</b>		
Delta smelt ( <i>Hypomesus transpacificus</i> )	T, X	NE
Little Kern Golden Trout ( <i>Oncorhynchus aquabonita whitei</i> )	T, X	NE
Lahontan Cutthroat Trout ( <i>Oncorhynchus clarkia hensawi</i> )	T	NE
Owens Tui Chub ( <i>Gila bicolor ssp. snyderi</i> )	E, X	NE
Paiute Cutthroat Trout ( <i>Oncorhynchus clarkii seleniris</i> )	T	NE
<b>Invertebrates</b>		
Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle ( <i>Desmocerus californicus dimorphus</i> )	T, X	NE
Conservancy fairy Shrimp ( <i>Branchinecta conservatio</i> )	E, X	NE
Vernal Pool Fairy Shrimp ( <i>Branchinecta lynchi</i> )	T, X	NE
Vernal Pool Tadpole Shrimp ( <i>Lepidurus packardii</i> )	E, X	NE
<b>Plants</b>		
Fleshy Owl's-clover ( <i>Castilleja campestris spp. succulent</i> )	E	NE
California Jewelflower ( <i>Caulanthus californicus</i> )	E	NE
Greene's Tuctoria ( <i>Tuctoria greenei</i> )	E, X	NE
Hoover's Spurge ( <i>Chamaesyce hooveri</i> )	T, X	NE
Keck's Checker-mallow ( <i>Sidalcea keckii</i> )	T, X	NE
Mariposa Pussypaws ( <i>Calyptidium pulchellum</i> )ft	T	NE
Palmate-bracted Bird's Beak ( <i>Cordylanthus palmatus</i> )	E	NE
San Benito Evening-primrose ( <i>Camissonia benitensis</i> )	T	NE
Kern Mallow ( <i>Eremalche kernensis</i> )	E	NE
San Joaquin Adobe Sunburst ( <i>Pseudobahia peirsonii</i> )	T	NE
Hartweg's Golden Sunburst ( <i>Pseudobahia bahiifolia</i> )	T	NE
San Joaquin Orcutt Grass ( <i>Orcuttia inaequalis</i> )	T, X	NE

<b>Species</b>	<b>Status<sup>1</sup></b>	<b>Effects<sup>2</sup></b>
Hairy Orcutt Grass ( <i>Orcuttia pilosa</i> )	E, X	NE
San Joaquin Woolly-threads ( <i>Monolopia congdonii</i> )	E	NE
Springville Clarkia ( <i>Clarkia springvillensis</i> )	T	NE

1 Status = Status of federally protected species protected under the ESA.

E: Listed as Endangered

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

### 3.2.2 Environmental Consequences

#### **No Action**

Under the No Action Alternative, there would be no impact to Federally listed species or migratory birds as current water deliveries in existing facilities would continue. There would be no construction or land disturbing actions.

#### **Proposed Action**

Introduction, conveyance, and storage of non-CVP water is dependent on available capacity and operational constraints. The Proposed Action would not interfere with the normal operations of federal facilities nor would it impede any CVP obligations to deliver water to other contractors or to local fish and wildlife habitat.

The water delivered to Table Mountain under the Proposed Action would be used for existing municipal purposes and would not be used to place untilled lands into production or to convert undeveloped land to other uses. No construction or modification of facilities would be required to deliver the water to Table Mountain. With the implementation of the environmental commitments included in Section 2.2.1, Reclamation has determined that there would be 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 No Take of birds protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. §703 et seq.).

#### **Cumulative Impacts**

As the Proposed Action would have no direct or indirect impacts on Federally listed species or critical habitat, or migratory birds, it would not contribute cumulatively to any impacts to these resources.

THIS PAGE LEFT INTENTIONALLY BLANK.

## 3.1 Water Resources

### 3.3.1 Affected Environment

The Action Area includes currently existing water supplies and infrastructure in the Fresno ID, Orange Cove ID, and Table Mountain.

#### ***Fresno Irrigation District***

The Fresno Irrigation District (Fresno ID) was formed in 1920 under the California Irrigation Districts Act, as the successor to the privately-owned Fresno Canal and Land Company. Fresno ID purchased all of the rights and property of the company. The assets of the company consisted of over 600 miles of canals and distribution works which were constructed between the years 1850 and 1880, as well as water rights on the Kings River.

Fresno ID is located entirely within Fresno County and has a water entitlement for approximately 26-percent of the average runoff of the Kings River, its main supply. Fresno ID originally entered into a long-term contract with Reclamation in 1964. In 2001, Fresno ID entered into a long-term renewal contract with Reclamation for 75,000 acre feet per year of Friant Division Class 2 water<sup>2</sup>, but does not have a contract with Reclamation for Friant Division Class 1 water.

Fresno ID delivers the water to its customers through 680 miles of canals and pipelines. The District also has a long-term Cooperative Agreement with the City of Fresno for their water utilization and conveyance. Total irrigated area in the District exceeds 150,000 acres, mainly consisting of grapes, citrus, and almonds.

#### ***Orange Cove Irrigation District***

Orange Cove ID is an agricultural district, 14 miles long and 3 miles wide, located in Fresno and Tulare Counties. Orange Cove ID is about 30 miles southeast of Fresno and 20 miles north of Visalia. The district has 28,000 acres, of which approximately 26,788 are irrigated. Orange Cove ID was formed in 1937, and in 1949, Orange Cove ID entered into a long-term contract with Reclamation for 31,800 acre feet per year. The contract amount was amended in 1989 to 39,200 acre feet per year of Class 1 water.

Groundwater resources are limited under Orange Cove ID, with the exception of an area immediately east of Smith Mountain and the area in the vicinity of Navelencia. Orange Cove ID does not operate any groundwater wells or recharge facilities, but some individual property owners do pump groundwater to make up deficiencies in their water supply. In years when water supplies are plentiful, Orange Cove ID may transfer unused water out of the district for storage and banking.

#### ***Table Mountain Rancheria***

The Table Mountain is a federally recognized tribe of Native American people from the Chukchansi band of Yokuts and the Monache tribe, located in Fresno County, California. Table

---

<sup>2</sup> Class 2 water is water which can be made available for delivery from Millerton Lake and the Friant-Kern Canals in addition to the supply of Class 1 water.

Mountain has a five-year Warren Act Contract for the conveyance and storage of up to 600 acre feet of non-Central Valley Project (CVP) groundwater annually. More realistically, however, the annual average total is closer to between 192-204 acre feet so as to not draw down neighboring wells. Outside of this limited water supply, Table Mountain has no other water available to it. The transfer parties are shown in Figure 1.

### **3.3.2 Environmental Consequences**

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

Under the No Action Alternative, Reclamation would not approve the transfer of CVP water to a non-CVP contractor. Table Mountain would continue to be limited by the amount of water resources available. Fresno ID and Orange Cove ID water supplies would remain unchanged.

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

Introduction, conveyance, and storage of non-CVP water is dependent on available capacity and operational constraints; therefore, the Proposed Action would not interfere with the normal operations of federal facilities nor would it impede any CVP obligations to deliver water to other contractors or to local fish and wildlife habitat.

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

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 more districts will request exchanges, transfers, and Warren Act Contracts (conveyance of non-CVP water in CVP facilities) due to hydrologic conditions. 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 Reclamation's obligation to deliver water to its contractors or to local fish and wildlife habitat. Since the Proposed Action would not involve construction or modification of facilities, there would be no cumulative impacts to 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 Finding of No Significant Impact and Draft Environmental Assessment during a 15-day public review period.

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

- Fresno County Irrigation District
- Orange Cove Irrigation District
- Table Mountain Rancheria



THIS PAGE LEFT INTENTIONALLY BLANK.

## Section 5 References

California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB). 2018. Government version. Updated October 2018.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2018. Official Species List, Information for Planning and Conservation (IPaC) for Fresno County. Consultation Code: 08ESMF00-2019-E-00361.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2018. Official Species List, Information for Planning and Conservation (IPaC) for Tulare County. Consultation Code: 08ESMF00-2019-E-00364.

# Attachment A: Cultural Resources Determination

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

**MP-153 Tracking Number:** 19-SCAO-013

**Project Name:** Fresno Irrigation District (FID) to Orange Cove Irrigation District (OCID) to Table Mountain Rancheria (TMR) Water Transfer

**NEPA Document:** EA-18-050

**NEPA Contact:** Kat Linder, Natural Resources Specialist

**MP 153 Cultural Resources Reviewer:** BranDee Bruce, Architectural Historian

**Date:** October 17, 2018

---

Reclamation proposes to approve the one-time transfer of up to 100 acre-feet (af) of Central Valley Project (CVP) water from OCID to TMR for municipal and industrial purposes. As approving agency for the transfer of CVP water to a non-CVP contractor, Reclamation would provide OCID with a transfer approval letter allowing the transfer of 100 af of OCID's Class 1 project water supply to TMR. Infrastructure to transfer the water is already in place and the proposed activity will not result in any construction or ground disturbance.

Reclamation determined the proposed action constitutes a Federal undertaking, as defined at 36 CFR § 800.16(y), that has no potential to cause effects to historic properties pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.3(a)(1). As such, Reclamation has no further obligations under Title 54 U.S.C. § 306108, commonly known as Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). I have reviewed the EA-18-050 titled "*Fresno Irrigation District – Orange Cove Irrigation District – Table Mountain Rancheria Transfer*" and the proposed action will not have significant impacts on properties listed or eligible for listing in the in the National Register of Historic Places.

This document conveys the completion of the cultural resources review and NHPA Section 106 process for this undertaking. Please retain a copy of this document in the administrative record for the proposed action. Should changes be made to the proposed action, additional NHPA Section 106 review, possibly including consultation with the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer or State Historic Preservation Officer, may be necessary.