

RECLAMATION

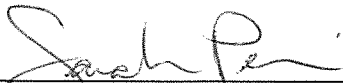
Managing Water in the West

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Weyand Canal Automation Project for the Solano Irrigation District

Central California Area Office, Folsom California
FONSI CCAO 18-05

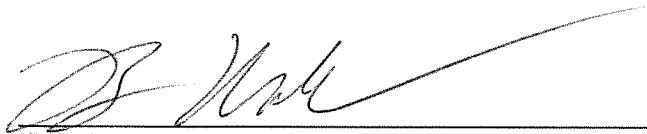
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Date: 11/6/18

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Background

The Environmental Assessment prepared in October 2018 examined the potential direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts to the affected environment associated with the Weyand Canal Automation Project (Project). The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), in cooperation with the Solano Irrigation District (District), proposes to demolish and reconstruct four existing reinforced concrete check structures for the removal of the existing weir boards and the installation of automated, Rubicon FlumeGates as part of the Weyand Canal Automation Project, located in an unincorporated area of Solano County, California. In addition, the District will modify 10 turnout and lateral structures, one spill structure, and integrate two pumped services. All Project-related activities will occur within the District's right-of-way when the canal is dewatered.

Alternatives Including Proposed Action

No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, Reclamation would not provide the necessary grant funding, and the District would need to secure an alternative funding mechanism or forego the Project.

Proposed Action

Under the Proposed Action, Reclamation would provide grant funding for the District to demolish and reconstruct four existing reinforced concrete check structures with modifications such that the new control structures can be mounted, saw-cut portions of existing concrete structure, the removal of the existing weir boards and the installation of automated Rubicon Flume Gates. In addition, the District will modify 10 turnout and lateral structures, one spill structure, and integrate two pumped services. All Project-related activities will occur within the District's ROW when the canal is dewatered during the non-irrigation season. The purpose of the Project is to install automated control structures to more efficiently distribute irrigation water to adjacent agricultural lands.

The District's proposed Action will complete the modernization of a 1950's vintage conveyance system into an efficient conveyance system equipped with industry-leading technology. The proposed Action will allow the District to better manage the approximate 31,000 acre-feet typically diverted into the Weyand Canal distribution system each water season. Incorporating automation of the Weyand Canal is anticipated to decrease the system's average annual operational spill volume of 960 acre-feet of agricultural water to a spill volume of less than 10 acre-feet.

The proposed Action will also allow growers to take water for farm-unique durations and, in turn, help facilitate on-farm efficiency improvements. The District estimates the automation of the Weyand Canal will allow the growers to make on-farm improvements, saving an additional 150 acre-feet of water per year. The Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) equipment being used to automate the Weyand Canal will improve the existing water measurement accuracy rating and would allow the District to better manage the water diverted into the Weyand Canal, thereby improving the overall system efficiency.

Construction of the proposed Action is anticipated to start as soon as October of 2018 and will last approximately 5 months. No utility relocations or land acquisitions are anticipated to be required by the proposed Action; however, temporary construction easements (TCEs) may be required for construction equipment staging and access to the Project site. Equipment access to the Project site is proposed on existing farm roads located throughout the Project area and on either side (east and west) of the Weyand Canal. Northern access will occur through Dixon Avenue West where it intersects with Weyand Canal and the middle-southern/southern portion of the Project site can be accessed via Batavia Road and other unnamed farm roads crossing east-west through Weyand Canal.

Findings

In accordance with NEPA, the Central California Area Office of Reclamation has found that 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 list describes why impacts from the Proposed Action are not significant:

1. Indian Trust Assets (ITA) - There are no known ITA's or treaty rights exercised by tribes, nor are there any reservations or trust lands located within or adjacent to the Proposed Action that will be affected. The Proposed Action does not have a potential to affect ITA. (512 DM 2 Policy Memorandum dated December 15, 1993)
2. Indian Sacred Sites - There are no identified Indian Sacred Sites within the action area and therefore this project will not inhibit use or access to any Indian Sacred Sites. (EO 13007 and 512 DM 3)
3. Environmental Justice - The Proposed Action will not have any disproportionately negative impact on low-income or minority individuals within the project area. Conditions under the Proposed Action will be identical to conditions under the No Action Alternative. (EO 12898)
4. Cultural Resources - The Proposed Action will not affect historic properties or cultural resources pursuant to the regulations at 36 CFR Part 800.3(a) (1). The Weyand Canal is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places as concurred by the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) on October 23, 2018. Pursuant to Section 106, Native American consultation was completed on October 22, 2018. No cultural resources were identified within the project area.
5. Biological Resources - The Proposed Action will not have any adverse effect on species either currently federally listed or proposed for listing as candidate, endangered, or threatened species, and will have no adverse effect on designated critical habitat (40 CFR 1508.27(b) (9)).

6. Public health and safety -The Proposed Action will not significantly affect public health and safety. (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(3))
7. Important natural resources - The Proposed Action will not significantly impact natural resources and unique geographic 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 (EO 11990); floodplains (EO 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant areas. (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(3) and 43 CFR 46.215(b))
8. Uncertain or unknown risks - The Proposed Action will not have effects on the human environment that are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks. (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(5))
9. Precedence - 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))
10. Highly controversial effects -There is no potential for the effects to be considered highly controversial. (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(6))
11. Cumulative effects -The Proposed Action will not have significant cumulative impacts. (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(7))
12. Facility operations -The Proposed Action would not result in changes to the operation or volume of Weyand Canal. Implementation of the Proposed Action does not change hydrology for the water sources included in the Proposed Action. Water delivery quantities and patterns will be the same as in the No Action Alternative.