

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Finding of No Significant Impact

Big Valley Rancheria Well Project

FONSI 18-28-MP

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U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation

1 Background

The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate and disclose potential environmental impacts associated with providing funds to the Big Valley Band of Pomo Indians (Tribe) for the Big Valley Rancheria Drinking Water Facility Improvements project. The Tribe is a federally recognized tribe with approximately 350 acres of land located in Lake County, California, approximately 2 miles south of Lakeport on Clear Lake. The Big Valley Rancheria Water Treatment System requires a backup well to enhance water supply and reliability of the treated water delivered to the Tribal housing subdivision, the Konocti Vista Casino resort, a hotel, a marina, convenience store and a full-service RV Park, as well as fire suppression. The lack of a backup well creates a serious vulnerability for the Tribe to provide a continuous supply of water. In 2008, the existing well was out of service due to corrosion issues and the Tribe had to truck in water from outside sources.

Reclamation is providing \$100,000 to the Tribe for construction of the well.

The EA was available for public review on September 17, 2018 2017. The review period ended on October 2, 2018. No comments were received on the EA.

2 Alternatives Including the Proposed Action

2.1 No Action

Under No Action, Reclamation would not award a grant to the Tribe to help construct a drinking water well on Tribal property.

2.2 Proposed Action

Under No Action, Reclamation would award a grant to the Tribe to help construct a drinking water well on Tribal property. The project would entail drilling a new well, installing an electrical system for the well pump, and installing a pipeline to connect well to an existing supply line. All work would be performed on land owned by the Tribe.

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 necessary. The EA describes the existing environmental

resources in the area of the Proposed Action, and evaluates the effects of the No Action and Proposed Action alternatives on the resources near the proposed well site, the groundwater and monitoring wells, and the remote terminal unit locations. This 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). Effects on environmental resources were examined and found to be absent or minor. That analysis 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)).
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)). 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 determined that no historic properties would be affected and therefore, the proposed action will result in no significant impacts to cultural resources.
8. The proposed action will not affect listed or proposed threatened or endangered species (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(9)).
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).