

# RECLAMATION

*Managing Water in the West*

## Finding Of No Significant Impact

### Sutter National Wildlife Refuge Reclamation District No. 1004 Refuge Level 2 Water Conveyance Pilot Project - Extension for Year 3

FONSI 19-13-MP

Prepared by:



Date: 6/26/19

Tatiana Carrillo  
Natural Resource Specialist  
Mid-Pacific Regional Office

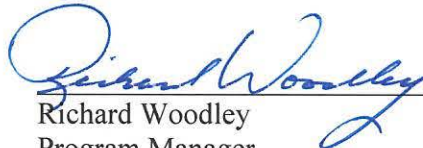
Recommended by:



Date: 6/26/2019

Sonya Nechanicky  
Project Manager  
Refuge Water Conveyance Program  
Mid-Pacific Regional Office

Approved by:



Date: 6/27/2019

Richard Woodley  
Program Manager  
Division of Resources Management  
Mid-Pacific Region

# 1 Background

The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) proposes to extend the existing conveyance agreement (Contract No. 17-WC-20-5119) with Reclamation District 1004 (RD 1004) for the annual conveyance of up to 14,354 acre-feet of water for the Sutter National Wildlife Refuge (SNWR) (Proposed Action). The Proposed Action would convey Level 2 (L2) Refuge Water provided from Central Valley Project (CVP) yield from the Sacramento River through RD 1004's conveyance system to Butte Creek continuing to either or both of two (2) Points of Delivery (PoD) on the SNWR boundary. The Proposed Action is being extended for a third year so as to yield sufficient data for Reclamation to determine if this conveyance alternative would be an efficient and reliable method for long-term conveyance of Central Valley Project Improvement Act (CVPIA) refuge water supplies to the SNWR. The maximum average scheduled conveyance of water would add up to 75 cubic feet per second into the delivery system during the annual delivery period.

## 1.1 No Action

Under the No Action Alternative, Reclamation would not extend the agreement with RD 1004 and SNWR would continue its normal water operations without the potential temporary benefit of L2 water conveyed from the Sacramento River. Reclamation and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) would continue to pursue other alternatives to provide reliable conveyance of L2 and L4 water to the SNWR.

## 1.2 Proposed Action

As a result of Reclamation extending the agreement with RD 1004, up to 12,000 acre-feet per year of CVPIA L2 water would be delivered to either or both of the specified PoD on the SNWR. Reclamation would also provide CVP water to cover conveyance losses through RD 1004's system, currently estimated at 12%; and conveyance losses through Butte Creek currently estimated at 5%. Therefore, the total annual diversion through RD 1004 would be up to 14,354 acre-feet. Under the current Proposed Action, Reclamation would extend the existing two-year conveyance agreement with RD 1004 for an additional year to convey water from the Sacramento River diverted at the Princeton Pumping Plant through 15.3 miles of RD 1004's conveyance system of earthen canals to the Dredger Cut PoD. This water would continue from Dredger Cut on to Butte Creek and then travel approximately 27 miles to the SNWR PoD located on the East Borrow Ditch (EBD). The Proposed Action includes continued streamflow and water quality monitoring as per the original plans revised to address this proposed additional third conveyance year and any adaptive management changes identified during conveyance years one and two (Appendices A and C). Results of the monitoring data analyses will allow Reclamation to identify the validity of using the proposed conveyance method to deliver full Level 4 (L4) (combination of L2 and IL4) water to the SNWR.

## 2 Findings

Based on the attached Environmental Assessment (EA), Reclamation finds that the Proposed Action is not a major Federal action that will significantly affect the quality of the human environment. 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 these resources. 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). The EA is attached, 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)). 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 the undertaking has no potential to cause effects on historic properties and therefore, will result in no significant impacts to cultural resources.
8. The Proposed Action will not significantly 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 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).