RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Environmental Assessment

2020-2022 American River Division 24-Month Interim Renewal Water Service Contract for the Placer County Water Agency

EA-19-11

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

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

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Mission Statements

The Department of the Interior conserves and manages the Nation's natural resources and cultural heritage for the benefit and enjoyment of the American people, provides scientific and other information about natural resources and natural hazards to address societal challenges and create opportunities for the American people, and honors the Nation's trust responsibilities or special commitments to American Indians, Alaska Natives, and affiliated island communities to help them prosper.

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.

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Abbreviations and Acronyms

AFY	Acre-feet per year
BA	Biological Assessment
BiOps	Biological Opinion
CDFW	California Department of Fish and Wildlife
CVP	Central Valley Project
CVPIA	Central Valley Project Improvement Act
CWP	Coldwater pool
EA	Environmental Assessment
EIS	Environmental Impact Statement
ITA	Indian Trust Assets
LTO	Long-term Operations
M&I	Municipal and Industrial
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NMFS	National Marine Fisheries Service
PCWA	Placer County Water Agency
PEIS	Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement
PG&E	Pacific Gas and Electric Company
Reclamation	Bureau of Reclamation
ROC	Re-initiation of Consultation
ROD	Record of Decision
RPAs	Reasonable and Prudent Alternatives
SWP	State Water Project
USFWS	U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service

Section 1
Introduction

In conformance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), as amended, the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) has prepared this Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate and disclose any potential environmental impacts associated with the implementation of a 24-month interim renewal (March 1, 2020 to February 28, 2022) Central Valley Project (CVP) water service contract with the Placer County Water Agency (PCWA).

Section 3404 (c)(1) of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act (CVPIA) stipulates that Reclamation must prepare appropriate environmental review for renewal of existing long-term water service contracts. In accordance with Section 3404 (c)(1), water contracts may be renewed for an interim period not to exceed three years and for successive interim periods not to exceed two years prior to execution of new long-term contracts. Because the existing PCWA interim contract will expire in February 2020, before long-term contracts can be executed, this action is needed to provide continued water delivery to this CVP contractor.

1.1 Background

On October 30, 1992, the President signed into law the Reclamation Projects Authorization and Adjustment Act of 1992 (Public Law 102-575) that included Title 34, Section 3404 (c)(1) of the CVPIA, which stipulates that Reclamation must prepare appropriate environmental review for renewal of existing long-term water service contracts.

Section 3409 of the CVPIA required that Reclamation prepare a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement (PEIS) before renewing long-term water service contracts. The PEIS, completed in October 1999 and hereby incorporated by reference, analyzed the implementation of all aspects of CVPIA, contract renewals being one of many programs addressed by this Act. CVPIA Section 3403(c) mandated that upon request, all CVP existing contracts be renewed.

Implementation of other sections of CVPIA mandated actions and programs that require modification of previous contract articles or new contract articles to be inserted into renewed contracts. These programs include water measurement requirements (Section 2405(b)), water pricing actions (Section 3405(d)), and water conservation (Section 3405(e)). The PEIS evaluated CVP-wide impacts of long-term contract renewals at a programmatic level. Upon completion of the CVP wide contract renewal negotiations, the local effects of long-term contract renewals at the division level were evaluated in environmental documents that tiered from the PEIS.

Environmental documentation covering the long-term renewal of American River Division water service contractors was completed in June 2005 (Reclamation 2005) and is hereby incorporated by reference. The NEPA documentation evaluated the environmental effects of renewing long-term water service contracts for the City of Roseville, PCWA, Sacramento County Water

Agency, San Juan Water District, Sacramento Municipal Utility District, El Dorado Irrigation District, and the East Bay Municipal Utility District. The Record of Decision (ROD) for the American River Division long-term water service contract renewals was signed on February 28, 2006 (one day prior to the beginning of a new contract year). Three of the eight American River Division contractors, San Juan Water District, El Dorado Irrigation District and the East Bay Municipal Utility District, were able to execute a long-term water service contract prior to the beginning of the new contract year in March 2006.

The remaining American River Division contractors, including PCWA, all had existing contracts in place that allowed for the continued delivery of water at that time and since, have entered into interim renewal water service contracts every two years. The interim renewal contracts (IRC) are agreed upon under the authority of the CVPIA to provide a bridge between the expiration of the original long-term water service contract and the execution of a new long-term water service contract. PCWA has four IRCs previously executed following the expiration of their long-term water service contract.

1.1.1 Placer County Water Agency

Created in 1957, PCWA is the primary water resource agency for Placer County, serving retail and wholesale water supply for irrigation, municipal and industrial (M&I) and hydroelectric purposes throughout Placer County's 1,500 square mile area.

PCWA has water rights for 120,000 acre-feet per year (AFY) from the Middle Fork American River, the Rubicon River and some tributaries. A portion of southwestern Placer County is currently served by PCWA's water rights water from the Middle Fork American River (via the Middle Fork Project). Additional unincorporated areas west of Roseville and Rocklin and areas near Sheridan could also be served by PCWA's water rights water from their Middle Fork Project. This area is primarily agricultural with lot sizes of at least 40 acre parcels (Reclamation 2005).

In 2002, PCWA amended its CVP water service contract with Reclamation, reducing the "up-to" contract quantity from 117,000 AFY to 35,000 AFY. Since 2002, PCWA has maintained a CVP water service contract with Reclamation for "up-to" 35,000 AFY, although no deliveries have been made to date. The CVP water will be used after PCWA demand for all of their water rights water develops and additional delivery infrastructure is constructed. Any action to provide the additional supporting infrastructure would be subject to independent analysis and review and is not part of the action considered in this document.

Water conservation in the PCWA water service area includes consideration of water meters, water conservation designs, landscape conservation measures, and use of recycled wastewater.

1.2 Project Description

The Proposed Action is for Reclamation to enter into the fifth 24-month interim renewal water service contract with PCWA to facilitate delivery of up to 35,000 AFY of CVP water for M&I uses in PCWA's water service area (Figure 2-2). The term of this IRC with PCWA would be

from March 1, 2020 through February 28, 2022. In the event a new long-term water service contract is executed, the IRC then-in-effect would be superseded by the long-term water service contract and analyzed under a separate process. PCWA will continue to plan to use/schedule the CVP water after PCWA's demand for all of their other water rights water is developed, and additional delivery infrastructure is constructed. There will be no changes to PCWA's CVP water service area, and no construction is required as part of the Proposed Action.

1.3 Purpose and Need

Reclamation needs to execute a fifth interim renewal water service contract with PCWA to use CVP water for M&I uses in PCWA's water service area for a 24-month period starting March 1, 2020, as requested by PCWA.

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Section 2
Alternatives Including the Proposed Action

This EA considers two possible actions: the No Action Alternative and the Proposed Action. The No Action Alternative reflects future conditions over the 2-year period without the Proposed Action and serves as a basis of comparison for determining potential effects to the human environment.

2.1 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, Reclamation would not renew the IRC that is set to expire February 29, 2020. PCWA would not have a CVP water service contract and would not be able to receive delivery of up to 35,000 AFY of CVP water.

2.2 Proposed Action

The Proposed Action is for Reclamation to enter into a fifth IRC with PCWA to facilitate the delivery of up to 35,000 AFY of water. Pertinent components of the Proposed Action are as follows:

- Reclamation would continue to enter into 24-month CVP IRC with PCWA for up to 35,000 AFY.
- Water associated with this action would be delivered at the point of diversion for PCWA's CVP water (35,000 AFY) at Folsom Reservoir (Figure 2-1). The point of diversion is an approved CVP point of diversion. Any new points of diversion would require additional environmental analysis.
- The water service area for the proposed IRC has not changed from the current use or from that considered in the evaluation of long-term contract renewals conducted in 2005 (Reclamation 2005). The proposed contract quantity will remain the same as PCWA's existing water service contract.
- CVP water can be delivered under the IRC in quantities up to the contract total, although reduced quantities may be made available consistent with the M&I water shortage provisions in years when water supplies are limited. The terms and conditions of the PCWA interim renewal contract are included in the Proposed Action.
- In the event a new long-term water service contract is executed during this renewal time period, the IRC in-effect would be superseded by the long-term water service contract and analyzed under a separate process.

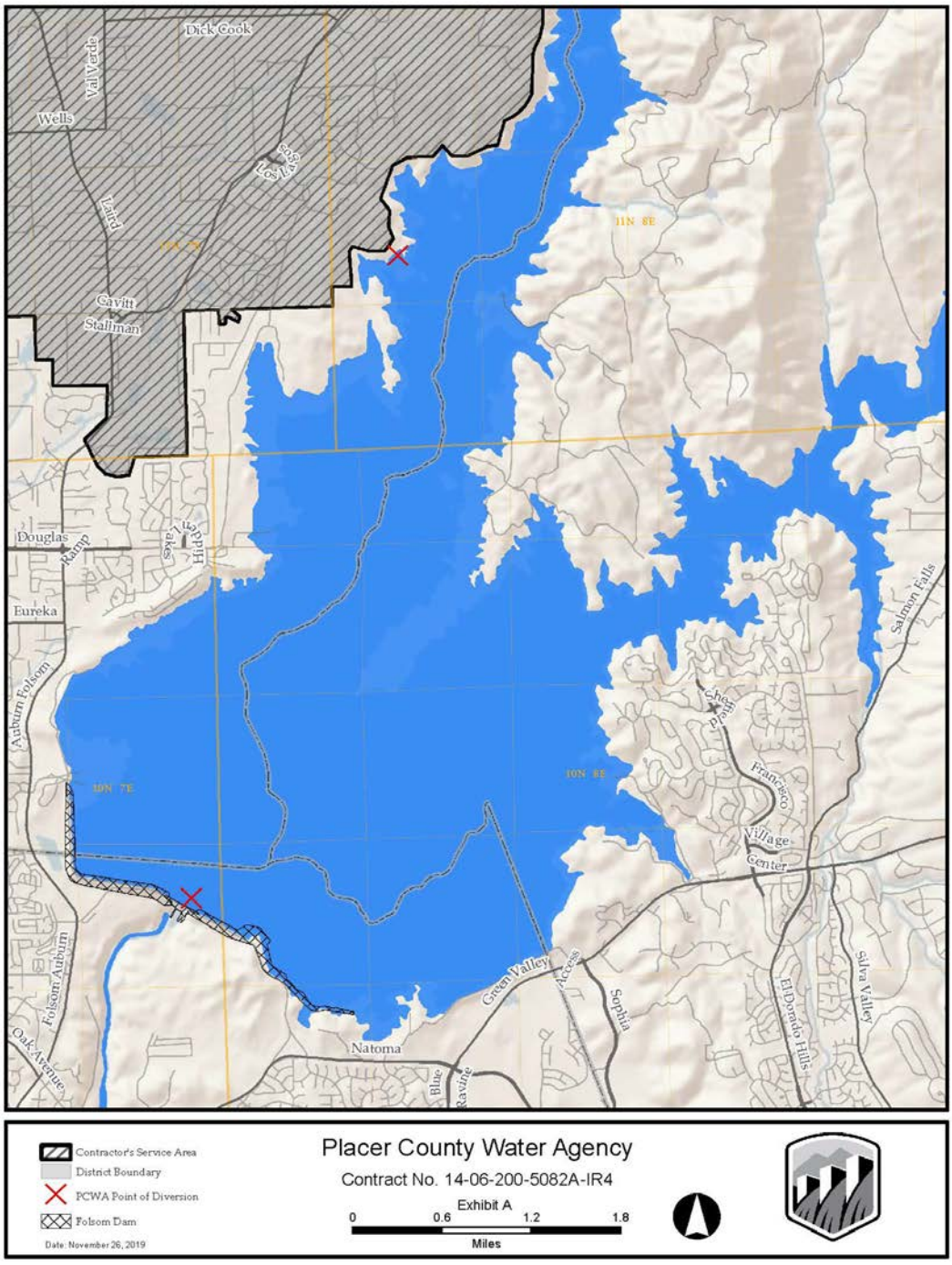

Figure 2-1. Map of PCWA's CVP Points of Diversion at Folsom Lake, California

2.2.1 Action Area

The Proposed Action encompasses PCWA's water service area and Folsom Reservoir, as shown in Figure 2-2. Currently, PCWA does not have the infrastructure to deliver water to its entire service area. The CVP water will be used after PCWA demand for all of their water rights water develops and additional delivery infrastructure is constructed. PCWA has maintained a CVP water service contract with Reclamation for "up-to" 35,000 AFY, although no deliveries have been made to date.

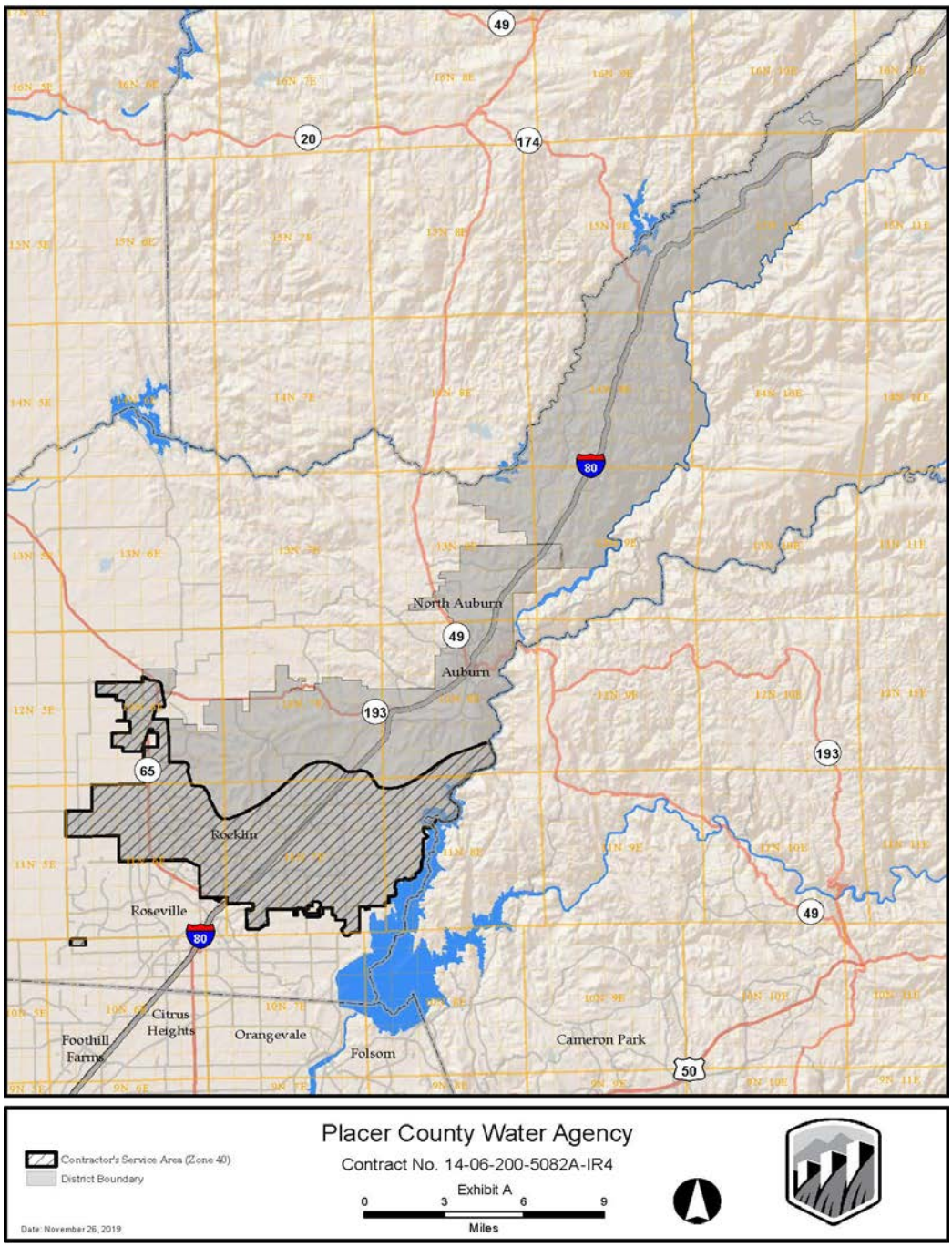

Figure 2-2. Map of PCWA's CVP Water Service Area

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Section 3
Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences

This EA identifies and describes the affected environment under current conditions and the environmental consequences that could result from the No Action Alternative and the Proposed Action to determine the potential direct, indirect, and cumulative effects to the resources listed below.

The analysis contained in the December 15, 2008 and June 4, 2009 Biological Opinions (BiOps), including their Reasonable and Prudent Alternatives (RPAs), from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) respectively, on the *Continued Long-term Operations (LTO) of the Central Valley Project (CVP) and State Water Project (SWP)* (USFWS 2008, NMFS 2009), and the ensuing 2016 LTO Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD) is incorporated by reference into this document. In addition, the analysis presented in the October 2019 Biological Assessment (BA) from Reclamation on the Continued LTO of the CVP and the SWP is incorporated by reference (Reclamation 2019).

3.1 Resources Not Analyzed in Detail

Reclamation formed an interdisciplinary team to identify any physical, biological, social, cultural or economic resources that might be affected by the alternatives. The analysis of these resources compares effects of the Proposed Action to the No Action Alternative. Reclamation considered and determined that the Proposed Action would not impact the following: Land Use, Cultural Resources, Global Climate, Indian Sacred Sites, Socio-Economic Resources, Environmental Justice, Indian Tribal Assets, and Air Quality.

3.1.1 Land Use

There would be no land use development or land conversion under either the No Action Alterative or the Proposed Action. Therefore, land use would not change under either of the alternatives.

3.1.2 Cultural Resources

Reclamation determined the Proposed Action constitutes a Federal undertaking that does not have the potential to cause effects to historic properties, should such properties be present, pursuant to the 36 CFR § 800.3(a)(1) (see Appendix A). Therefore, there is no potential to cause effects to historic properties under either the No Action Alternative or the Proposed Action. The Proposed Action would involve no changes to PCWA's CVP water service area, no changes in land use, no new construction, no modifications of existing facilities, and no new ground disturbing activities. Reclamation would continue to operate the CVP consistent with all

requirements as described in the 2016 LTO ROD and any subsequent ROD from the Re-initiation of Consultation (ROC). In addition, CVP water would be conveyed through existing facilities to existing users without any new construction or ground disturbances.

3.1.3 Global Climate

Neither the No Action Alternative nor the Proposed Action would affect the global climate. Water would move through existing facilities and use existing pumps. The quantity of the proposed delivery would not result in a substantial increase in greenhouse gas emissions. Consequently, neither the No Action Alternative nor the Proposed Action would have a contributing effect toward global climate change.

Continued changes in global climate are expected to have some effect on the snow pack of the area and the runoff regime. Water made available to CVP contractors is dependent on several factors, including but not limited to, hydrologic conditions, and instream flow, and water quality requirements in the CVP/State Water Project (SWP) system. Long-term climate change would not affect the proposed delivery in Contract Years 2020 through 2022.

3.1.4 Indian Sacred Sites

There would be no impacts to Indian Sacred Sites under either the No Action Alternative or the Proposed Action. Reclamation would continue to operate the CVP consistent with all requirements as described in the 2016 LTO ROD and any subsequent ROD from the ROC. Both alternatives would maintain existing land use practices, would not involve construction or ground disturbance on Indian Sacred Sites, and would not limit access to, and ceremonial use of, Indian Sacred Sites, or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites.

3.1.5 Socio-Economic Resources

There would be no impacts to socio-economic resources from the No Action Alternative. Allowing a transfer under the Proposed Action would not adversely affect the quality of the human environment.

3.1.6 Environmental Justice

There would be no impacts related to Environmental Justice under either the No Action Alternative or the Proposed Action. Neither alternative would cause dislocation; changes in employment; increase flood, drought, or disease; or disproportionately affect low-income and minority populations.

3.1.7 Indian Trust Assets

There would be no impacts to Indian Trust Assets (ITA) under the No Action Alternative or the Proposed Action (see Appendix B - Indian Trust Assets Compliance Memo). Both alternatives would maintain existing land use practices at existing locations; not involve any construction on lands; or not have impacts to water, hunting, fishing, or ceremonial rights.

3.1.8 Air Quality

Neither the No Action Alternative nor the Proposed Action would result in changes to air quality. There would be no new facility required for the proposed delivery; water would move through existing facilities using existing pumps. The limited quantity of the proposed water transfer

would not result in a substantial increase in emissions. Since no impacts to air quality would occur, a determination of general conformity under the Clean Air Act is not required.

3.2 Water Resources

3.2.1 Affected Environment

Folsom Reservoir

Folsom Reservoir is the principal reservoir on the American River, with a maximum storage capacity of approximately 977,000 AF. Reclamation operates Folsom Dam and Reservoir for the purposes of flood control, meeting water right obligations, CVP water service contract obligations, providing downstream releases for the Lower American River, and helping to meet Delta water quality standards. The El Dorado Irrigation District, City of Roseville, San Juan Water District, Sacramento Suburban Water District, California State Prison, and the City of Folsom are the main entities that divert water from Folsom Reservoir.

Lower American River

The Lower American River consists of the 23-mile stretch of river from Nimbus Dam to the confluence of the American and Sacramento rivers in the City of Sacramento. Average Lower American River annual flows downstream of Folsom Dam at Fair Oaks are approximately 2,650,000 AF (Reclamation 2004).

PCWA's CVP Service Area

In 2002, PCWA amended its CVP water service contract with Reclamation reducing the contract quantity from 117,000 AFY to 35,000 AFY. PCWA will divert CVP water after PCWA's water rights water is used. PCWA's CVP water will be diverted at Folsom Reservoir.

PCWA will deliver water only to the areas within their CVP authorized place of use (Figure 2-2). PCWA's American River Pumping Plant upstream of Folsom Reservoir is not currently an authorized point of diversion of CVP water under the water right used by Reclamation for CVP operations.

3.2.2 Environmental Consequences

No Action Alternative

Implementation of the No Action Alternative would mean the existing IRC with PCWA would expire on February 28, 2020 and PCWA would not have a contractual mechanism for the delivery of up to 35,000 AFY to their CVP service area from their existing point of diversion at Folsom Reservoir.

PCWA has access to additional surface water supplies, for use within their service area. It is reasonable to assume that PCWA would still have adequate supplies to meet their demands under the No Action Alternative.

Proposed Action

Under the Proposed Action, Reclamation would execute a fifth IRC for a two-year period (March 1, 2019 through February 28, 2021) to provide a contractual mechanism for the delivery of CVP supplies from Folsom Reservoir.

Folsom Reservoir and Lower American River

The 2016 LTO EIS included analysis to evaluate potential impacts to Folsom Reservoir operations and Reclamation's management of the coldwater pool (CWP) with implementation of PCWA's CVP water service contract. This analysis indicates that the Proposed Action would not change CWP volume and therefore, would not have any additional effect on Reclamation's ability to meet downstream fisheries requirements (Reclamation 2016).

Because the implementation of PCWA's CVP water service contract, including IRCs, was found not to affect Folsom Reservoir operations, it is reasonable to conclude that implementation of the Proposed Action would not result in any new effects to the Lower American River or Reclamation's operation of Folsom Reservoir or management of the CWP.

Future conditions of the American River were included in the analysis presented in the 2019 BA from Reclamation on the Continued LTO of the CVP and the SWP (Reclamation 2019). Future conditions of the American River assume specific delivery specifications for all CVP, SWP, and water right contract amounts, including PCWA's CVP contract amount of 35,000 AFY, based on the conditions estimated to occur through 2030.

Further, PCWA's CVP water service contract quantity was included in the impact analysis presented in the 2008/2009 BiOps from the USFWS and the NMFS, respectively, on the Continued LTO of the CVP and the SWP. In addition, this action is also in accordance with Section 3404(c) of the CVPIA; in which the Final PEIS and Programmatic CVPIA BiOps were released in October 1999 and November 2000, respectively. The PEIS addressed the implementation of the CVPIA and the continued operation and maintenance of the CVP (incremental and cumulative effects).

The impact assessments for the PEIS and the 2008/2009 BiOps, including the full deliveries, were able to adequately identify and address the hydrologic, operational, and system-wide cumulative impacts expected under future conditions.

PCWA's CVP Service Area

The Proposed Action does not require changes to PCWA's CVP service area, the construction of new facilities, the installation of any new structures, or the modification of existing facilities, although it is recognized that these types of actions are likely to occur in the future. Each of these future actions would be subject to independent environmental review. CVP water service contract amount and water supply reliability will be identical to existing conditions under the Proposed Action.

Implementation of the Proposed Action would not alter CVP reservoir storage and operations, surface water elevations, release patterns from CVP facilities, or the maximum volume of water to be delivered to PCWA. PCWA's current Water Needs Assessment developed in 2017 for the

2020 IRC has been completed and indicates an unmet demand of 53,877 acre-feet of M&I water for the year 2050.

3.3 Biological Resources

3.3.1 Affected Environment

The affected biological resources environment includes terrestrial and aquatic resources located within PCWA's CVP water service area in Placer County, Folsom Reservoir and the Lower American River.

Official lists of Federally-listed Candidate, Threatened, and Endangered species that may occur in or near the Action Area were generated on September 20, 2019 through the Information for Planning and Conservation (IPaC) database (USFWS 2019a). The lists represent species that may occur in affected areas of El Dorado, Placer, and Sacramento counties and were used to determine the effects of the No Action Alternative and the Proposed Action (Table 3-1). Information obtained from the IPaC reports was refined using habitat information obtained from species occurrences documented in the California Natural Diversity Database (California Department of Fish and Wildlife 2019). The Environmental Conservation Online System (ECOS) was used to verify the statuses of listed threatened and endangered species generated in the IPaC results (USFWS 2019b). Information obtained from NMFS West Cost Region was used to determine the potential for Federally-listed anadromous fish species to occur in the Action Area and presence of designated critical habitat (NMFS 2019).

Terrestrial and Riparian Resources

PCWA's CVP Service Area

PCWA's water service area encompasses a wide diversity of vegetation community zones. Conifer forest and montane hardwood habitat predominate in the higher elevation areas in the eastern portion of the service area. Lower elevation areas in the western portion of the service area support annual grassland, blue oak woodland, and agricultural fields. Valley foothill riparian habitats exist along larger rivers and streams such as the North Fork American River. Based on the United States Geological Survey Gap Analysis Program data, the PCWA water service area contained 9,760 acres of annual grasslands, 25,630 acres of blue oak woodland, 30,600 acres of cropland, 20,570 acres of conifer forest, four acres of chaparral, and 20,875 acres on montane hardwood.

Folsom Reservoir

The shorelines of Folsom Reservoir support primarily upland oak woodland and perennial grasses vegetation communities. The reservoir draw-down zones are devoid of vegetation, except for willow shrubs that have established in areas not subject to fluctuations in water elevations. Upland habitats associated with Folsom Reservoir include non/native grasslands, blue oak-pine and mixed oak woodlands (EDWPA 2010). Special-status plant species potentially occurring in the vicinity of the Folsom Reservoir include Jepson's onion (Allium jepsonii), big-scale

balsamroot (Balsamorhiza macrolepis var. macrolepis), Parry's horkelia (Horkelia parryi) and Hartweg's golden sunburst (Pseudobahia bahifolia).

Special-status terrestrial wildlife species potentially occurring in the vicinity of the Folsom Reservoir shorelines include valley elderberry longhorn beetle (Desmocerus californicus dimorphus), California red-legged frog (Rana draytonii), western pond turtle (Actinemys marmorata), Swainson's hawk (Buteo swainsoni) and bald eagle (Haliaeetus leucocephalus).

Lower American River

The river channel morphology and riparian plant and animal communities along the Lower American River have been highly impacted by human activities over the past century. Currently, a large portion of the lower American River is characterized by riparian forests dominated by Fremont cottonwood and willows. In addition, backwater ponds and lagoons are present, resulting from both natural gravel deposits and artificial dredging (Sands, et. al., 1985).

Special-status terrestrial wildlife species potentially occurring in the vicinity of the Lower American River include valley elderberry longhorn beetle, western pond turtle, bald eagle, Swainson's hawk, bank swallow (Riparia riparia), yellow-billed cuckoo (Coccyzus americanus), and western burrowing owl (Athene cunicularia).

Fisheries and Aquatic Resources

Aquatic resources potentially affected by the Proposed Action are associated with streams and lakes in Folsom Reservoir, Lake Natoma, and the lower American River.

Folsom Reservoir

Folsom Reservoir has a maximum storage capacity of approximately 977,000 AF and a maximum depth of approximately 266 feet (streambed elevation at the main dam is about 200 feet). The reservoir water temperatures are influenced by season snow melts when cold water enters the lake and by seasonal warm air moving into the area from Bay Delta/Sacramento region. As a result of these two predominant weather patterns, a defined seasonal thermal stratification occurs within Folsom Reservoir between spring and the beginning of winter (April and November).

Folsom Reservoir supports a "two-story" fishery ecosystem from April through November, with warm water species using the warm surface and middle layer of the reservoir and cold water species using the deeper, colder layer/portion of the reservoir. Data collected to show this seasonal phenomena is tracked by the Reclamation's Central Valley Operations office.

Although Folsom Reservoir does not host special-status fish species within the reservoir, Folsom's CWP is a key component to the livelihood of fall-run Chinook salmon and Central Valley steelhead found downstream in the lower American River. Seasonal water releases from the reservoir's CWP provide thermal conditions in the Lower American River that support annual in-river production of these salmonid species. However, Folsom Reservoir's CWP volume generally is not large enough to facilitate cold water releases down the lower American River during the warmest months (July through September) to provide optimal thermal conditions for

over-summering juvenile steelhead rearing or in the fall months for fall-run Chinook salmon immigration, spawning, and embryo incubation. Consequently, management of the reservoir's CWP on an annual basis is essential to providing suitable thermal regimes for fall-run Chinook salmon and steelhead, within the constraints of the reservoirs cold water availability.

Lower American River

The lower American River currently provides spawning and rearing habitat for fall-run Chinook salmon and steelhead (Oncorhynchus mykiss) below Nimbus Dam. Much of the fall-run Chinook in the Central Valley are believed to be of hatchery origin (CHSRG 2012, 15). Results from steelhead spawning surveys conducted on the lower American River water year 2019 indicate that the population is dominated by hatchery-reared salmonids (CFS 2019, 37).

Special-status fish species within the lower American River include Central Valley steelhead, spring-run Chinook salmon, and fall-run/late-fall-run Chinook salmon. Central Valley steelhead are listed as a threatened species under the Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) and the lower American River is designated as critical habitat. The lower 10 miles of the Lower American River has been designated as critical habitat for spring-run Chinook salmon because of the potential for non-natal rearing. Fall-run/late fall-run Chinook salmon is a Federal species of special concern, and late fall-run Chinook salmon is considered a State species of special concern. Chinook salmon also is a federally managed fish species under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

Lake Natoma

Lake Natoma serves as a regulating afterbay for Folsom Reservoir. This area of water can rise and fall up to four feet a day due to releases from Folsom Dam and is important for regulating river flows on the lower sections of the Lower American River. Lake Natoma supports many of the same species of fish found in Folsom Reservoir (i.e., rainbow trout, bass, sunfish, and catfish). Some recruitment of warm water and coldwater fishes likely originates from Folsom Reservoir. In addition, California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) stocks catchable-size rainbow trout into Lake Natoma annually. Lake Natoma’s limited primary and secondary production and daily elevation fluctuations are believed to reduce the size and annual production of many of its fish populations, relative to Folsom Reservoir.

Table 3-1. Federal Status Species Potentially Found in the Proposed Action Area

Common Name	Scientific Name	Status	Effects	Potential for Occurrence in Action Area
Amphibians / Reptiles				
California red-legged frog	*Rana draytonii*	T, X	NE	**Possible.** Designated Critical Habitat is outside the action area.
California tiger salamander	*Ambystoma californiense*	T, X	NE	**Absent.** Designated Critical Habitat is outside the action area.
giant garter snake	*Thamnophis gigas*	T	NE	**Possible.** Habitat consists of rice fields or managed marshes with emergent wetland vegetation for cover and foraging, grassy banks for basking and upland burrows for refuge in inactive season. No Critical Habitat established.

Fishes				
delta smelt	*Hypomesus transpacificus*	T, X	NE	**Absent.** Designated Critical Habitat is outside the action area.
Central Valley Steelhead distinct population segment	*Oncorhynchus mykiss*	T, X	NE	**Absent.** This DPS spawns, rears, and migrates in the Lower American River downstream of Nimbus Dam and critical habitat is designated in the Lower American River from its confluence with the Sacramento River upstream to Nimbus Dam.
Central Valley Spring-run Chinook salmon evolutionarily significant unit	*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*	T, X	NE	**Absent.** This ESU occasionally rears in the Lower American River downstream of Nimbus Dam and critical habitat is designated in the Lower American River from its confluence with the Sacramento River upstream to the Watt Avenue bridge.
Sacramento River Winter-run Chinook salmon evolutionarily significant unit	*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*	E, X	NE	**Absent.** This ESU occasionally rears in the Lower American River downstream of Nimbus Dam but no critical habitat is designated in the Lower American River.
Central Valley fall-/ late fall-run Chinook salmon evolutionarily significant unit	*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*	Unlisted species of concern	NE	**Absent.** This ESU spawns, rears, and migrates in the Lower American River downstream of Nimbus Dam and the Lower American River from its confluence with the Sacramento River upstream to Nimbus Dam is designated as essential fish habitat for Chinook salmon under the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.
Green Sturgeon Southern distinct population segment	*Acipenser medirostris*	T, X	NE	**Absent.** This DPS has not been observed in the Lower American River but critical habitat is designated in the Lower American River from its confluence with the Sacramento River upstream to the Highway 160 bridge.
Insects				
valley elderberry longhorn beetle	*Desmocerus californicus dimorphus*	T, X	NE	**Present.** Habitat consists of riparian habitat only in the vicinity of their host plant, the elderberry.
Common Name	**Scientific Name**	**Status**	**Effects**	**Potential for Occurrence in Action Area**
Crustaceans				
conservancy fairy shrimp	*Branchinecta conservatio*	E, X	NE	**Absent.** Designated Critical Habitat is outside the action area.
vernal pool fairy shrimp	*Branchinecta lynchi*	T, X	NE	**Present.** Habitat consists of vernal pools and occasionally other freshwater aquatic habitats including ditches, road ruts, and other natural and artificial temporary water bodies.
vernal pool tadpole shrimp	*Lepidurus packardi*	E, X	NE	Present. Habitat consists of vernal pools and other freshwater aquatic habitats including ponds, reservoirs, ditches, road ruts, and other natural and artificial temporary water bodies.
Flowering Plants				
El Dorado bedstraw	*Galium californicum ssp. Sierra*	E	NE	**Absent.** Designated Critical Habitat is outside the action area.
Layne's butterweed	*Senecio layneae*	T	NE	**Absent.** Designated Critical Habitat is outside the action area.
pine hill ceanothus	*Ceanothus roderickii*	E	NE	**Absent.** Designated Critical Habitat is outside the action area.

pine hill flannelbush	*Fremontodendron californicum ssp.*	E	NE	**Absent.** Designated Critical Habitat is outside the action area.
Sacramento orcutt grass	*Orcuttia viscida*	E, X	NE	**Present.** Habitat consists of bottoms of vernal pools in eastern Sacramento County. Designated Critical Habitat intersects portions of the action area.
Slender Orcutt Grass	*Orcuttia tenuis*	T, X	NE	**Absent.** Designated Critical Habitat is outside the action area.
Stebbin's morning-glory	*Calystegia stebbinsii*	E	NE	**Absent.** Designated Critical Habitat is outside the action area.
Birds				
Least Bell's Vireo	*Vireo bellii pusillus*	E, X	NE	**Absent.** Designated Critical Habitat is outside the action area.

Key:
NE = No Effect
E = Endangered - Listed as being in danger of extinction
N/A = Not Applicable
T = Threatened - Listed as likely to become endangered in the foreseeable future
X = Critical Habitat is designated for this species

3.3.2 Environmental Consequences

No Action Alternative

Although PCWA currently does not divert CVP water to their water service area as per their CVP contract, this EA assumes full delivery of PCWA's CVP water as the basis for the Action Alternative environmental analysis. Under the No Action Alternative, PCWA will not have a contractual mechanism for delivery of CVP water within its water delivery area. Reclamation's decision to implement the No Action Alternative would mean that the current IRC with PCWA would expire on February 28, 2020. PCWA would not be able to divert 35,000 AFY of CVP water from their existing point of diversion at Folsom Reservoir.

The No Action Alternative assume the operations of the CVP remain consistent with all requirements as described in the 2008/2009 BiOps from the USFWS and NMFS, respectively, on the Continued LTO of the CVP and SWP. This includes continued implementation of the RPAs contained in the 2008/2009 BiOps from the USFWS and NMFS, respectively, on the Effects of the Coordinated Operations of the CVP and SWP.

Actions would continue to be taken to protect sensitive species in the Lower American River including formulation of an annual water temperature management plan for steelhead, the Flow Management Standard for the lower American River, use of CVPIA Section 3406 (b)(2) water supplies to supplement flows in the Lower American River, flow and temperature requirements, and examinations of potential improvements to fish passage and structural temperature control options.

Proposed Action

PCWA's CVP Service Area, Folsom Reservoir, Lower American River, Lake Natoma

The Proposed Action assumes full delivery of PCWA's 35,000 AFY of CVP water from Folsom Reservoir. The 2020 IRC would provide for the delivery of CVP water in the same quantity to the same lands for the same M&I uses as would be provided under the existing 24-month IRC. There would be no change from conditions under the existing IRC. Reclamation would continue to operate the CVP consistent with the 2008/09 BiOps, and water deliveries would be made through existing CVP facilities.

The Proposed Action does not require the construction of any new facilities, the installation of any new structures, or the modification of existing facilities. PCWA would continue to have a CVP contract with Reclamation to deliver water for beneficial use within the authorized place of use for CVP water from the American River. The potential effects to biological resources on the LTO of the CVP and SWP occurring within the action area of this Proposed Action have been analyzed in Chapter 9 of the 2016 LTO EIS. The impact analysis considered changes in the ecological attributes that affect fish and aquatic resources related to changes in CVP and SWP operations, including: changes in reservoir storage volumes, elevations, and water temperatures in primary storage reservoirs. Potential changes in reservoir storage, elevation and temperature could affect downstream fisheries by changing flow and temperature regimes.

The 2016 LTO EIS used modeling data to compare future average monthly hydrologic conditions between alternatives, such as reservoir elevation, storage and temperatures, to understand the potential impacts to aquatic resources within the CVP and SWP. This information was compared between each alternative to consider an environmentally preferable alternative to influence positive instream conditions for ESA-listed aquatic species, and to meet downstream water needs. Reclamation concluded that the environmentally preferable alternative would be to operate the CVP consistent with the 2008/2009 BiOps and their associated RPAs.

The analysis contained in Chapter 9 of the 2016 LTO EIS assumed delivery to all existing CVP contracts, including this Proposed Action, in respect to the potential effects on aquatic resources; these results are contained in Table 9.5 (pp. 9-424-9-426) of the LTO EIS (Reclamation 2016). Implementation of the Proposed Action would not change biological resources within the Action Area; therefore, the biological resources analysis on the LTO of the CVP and SWP contained in Chapter 9 of the 2016 LTO EIS, which was conducted upon adoption of the 2008/2009 BiOps, including their RPAs, is incorporated by reference into this document. This action is also in accordance with Section 3404(c) of the CVPIA; in which the Final PEIS and Programmatic CVPIA BiOps were released in October 1999 and November 2000, respectively.

In addition, as part of the essential fish habitat conservation consultation, NMFS analyzed the effects of the Proposed Action of fall-run Chinook salmon in the lower American River. In general, NMFS identified the primary factors potentially limiting fall-run production within the lower American River as high water temperatures, reduced flow magnitude, and flow fluctuations. NMFS identified RPAs to alleviate the effects of Folsom Reservoir operations on fall-run Chinook salmon in the lower American River. The Proposed Action was addressed in the consultation and is subject to the NMFS biological opinion.

Reclamation is currently operating the CVP system to meet all regulatory requirements, downstream water needs and environmental requirements. Under the Proposed Action, Reclamation would continue to implement all current regulatory actions. The Proposed Action would not alter CVP operations, water storage or release patterns from CVP facilities, or the maximum volume of water to be delivered to the American River Division.

3.4 Cumulative Impacts

The analysis in the 2001 Final CVPIA Programmatic EIS addressed cumulative impacts by relying on models that attempted to predict impacts to the CVP as well as other projects placing demands on the CVP and State Water Project (SWP) systems through the year 2020. The CVPIA Programmatic EIS analyzed the cumulative effects of operating the CVP with the assumption that all CVP contract allocations were fully used, which includes the Proposed Action, renewal of the PCWA interim contract. Reclamation further concluded that implementation of the CVPIA Programmatic EIS preferred alternative would improve fish and wildlife habitats but would reduce water supply reliability to CVP water service contractors. The CVPIA Programmatic EIS included an analysis of cumulative effects with a full contract delivery assumption for a future condition that included this Proposed Action, renewal of the IRC. In addition, the 2016 EIS analyzed potential impacts from the SWP and CVP through the year 2030.

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Section 4
Consultation and Coordination

There was no consultation or coordination with other federal agencies for this action.

4.1 Public Review Period

Reclamation is providing the public with an opportunity to comment on the EA for a 30-day period estimated to start on December 10, 2019.

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Section 5
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Appendix A: Cultural Resources Compliance Memo

Cultural Resources Compliance
Division of Environmental Affairs
Cultural Resources Branch (MP-153)

MP-153 Tracking Number: 19-CCAO-146

Project Name: 2020-2022 American River Division 24-Month Interim Renewal Water Service Contract for the Placer County Water Agency (PCWA)

NEPA Document: EA-19-11

NEPA Contact: Spencer Marshall, Natural Resource Specialist

MP 153 Cultural Resources Reviewer: Melissa Ivie, Regional Cultural Resources Officer

Date: June 3, 2019

Reclamation proposes to enter into a 24-month interim renewal water service contract with PCWA, to facilitate delivery of up to 35,000 AFY of CVP water for municipal and industrial (M&I) uses in PCWA's water service area. The term of this interim renewal contract with PCWA would be from March 1, 2020 through February 28, 2022. The proposed action would involve no changes to PCWA's CVP water service area, no changes in land use, no new construction, no modifications of existing facilities, and no new ground disturbing activities. Any request by a CVP contractor to change its existing water service area would be a separate federal action with Reclamation and NEPA environmental analysis documentation would be required to be completed to address any land mapping inclusion or exclusion. In the event a new long-term water service contract is executed, the interim renewal contract then-in-effect would be superseded by the long-term water service contract and analyzed under a separate process.

Reclamation determined the currently proposed action constitutes a Federal undertaking that does not have the potential to cause effects to historic properties, should such properties be present, pursuant to the 36 CFR § 800.3(a)(1). Reclamation has no further obligations under 54 U.S.C. § 306108, commonly knowns as Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. The proposed action will result in no impacts to cultural resources. This document conveys the completion of the NHPA Section 106 process and cultural resources review for this undertaking. Please retain a copy in the administrative record for this action.

Should there be any changes to the proposed action, additional NHPA Section 106 review, possibly including consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer, may be necessary.

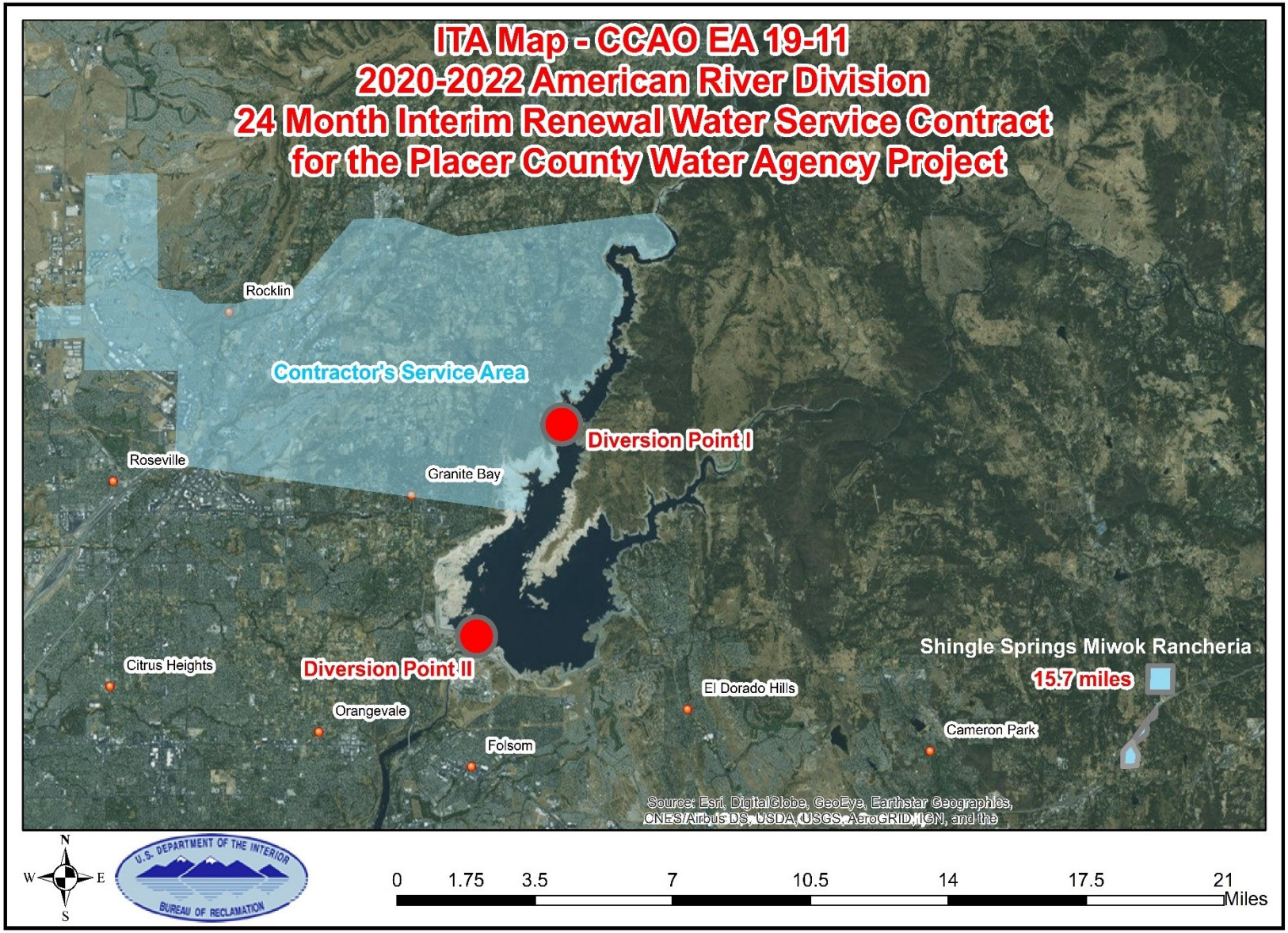
Appendix B: Indian Trust Assets Compliance Memo

ITA Determination: EA

The closest ITA to the proposed 2020-2022 American River Division 24-Month Interim Renewal Water Service Contract for the Placer County Water Agency activity is the Shingle Springs Miwok Rancheria about 15.7 miles to the southeast (United Auburn Indian Community is 15.8 miles to the north) (See attached images).

Based on the nature of the planned work it does not appear to be in an area that will impact Indian hunting or fishing resources or water rights nor is the proposed activity on actual Indian lands. It is reasonable to assume that the proposed action will not have any impacts on ITAs.

William DeGrush	William DeGrush	10/17/2019
Signature	Printed Name of Approver	Date


ITA Map - CCAO EA 19-11
2020-2022 American River Division
24 Month Interim Renewal Water Service Contract
for the Placer County Water Agency Project
Rocklin
Contractor's Service Area
Diversion Point I
Roseville
Granite Bay
Diversion Point II
Citrus Heights
Orangevale
Folsom
El Dorado Hills
Cameron Park
Shingle Springs Miwok Rancheria
15.7 miles
Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the
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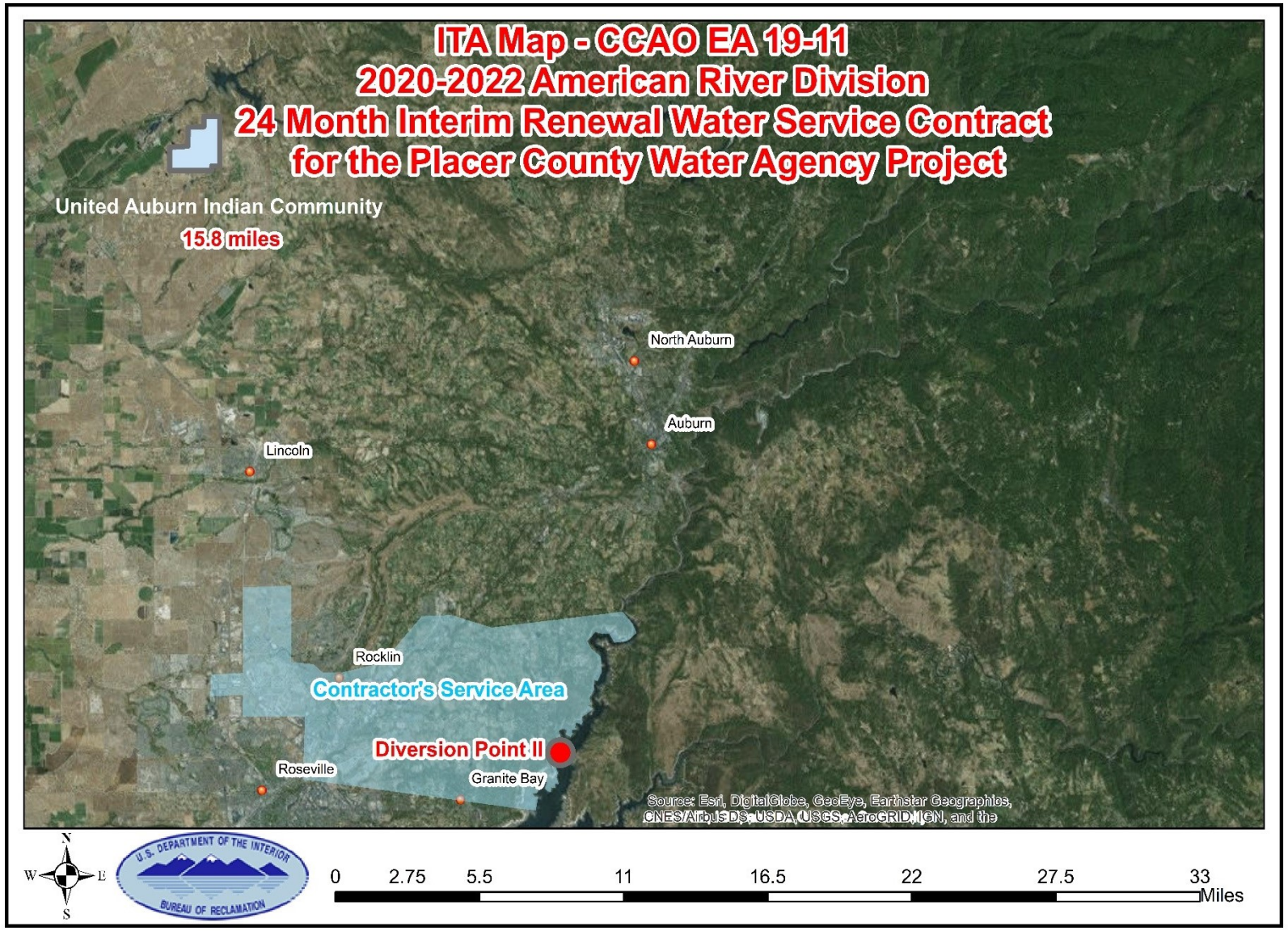
ITA Map - CCAO EA 19-11
2020-2022 American River Division
24 Month Interim Renewal Water Service Contract
for the Placer County Water Agency Project
United Auburn Indian Community
15.8 miles
North Auburn
Auburn
Lincoln
Rocklin
Contractor's Service Area
Diversion Point II
Roseville
Granite Bay
Source: Esri, DigitalGlobe, GeoEye, Earthstar Geographics, CNES/Airbus DS, USDA, USGS, AeroGRID, IGN, and the
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