



— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION

Finding of No Significant Impact: Use of Reclamation Facilities for City of Fernley Municipal Water

Newlands Project, Nevada

Interior Region 10: California-Great Basin



Mission Statements

The Department of the Interior (DOI) 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.

Cover Photo: Location of future City of Fernley turnout structure on the Truckee Canal, (Reclamation/Selena Werdon).

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Newlands Project, Nevada
Interior Region 10: California-Great Basin
FONSI CGB-EA-2020-031
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Background

The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate and disclose potential environmental impacts associated with authorizing the City of Fernley (Fernley) to use federal facilities associated with the Newlands Project to divert and convey municipal water, including Fernley Municipal Credit Water (FMCW), from the Truckee Canal to the City of Fernley Water Treatment Plant (Plant) in Lyon County, Nevada. The EA was prepared in compliance with the 2009 *Agreement Between the City of Fernley and the United States Regarding Settlement of Claims and Protests Over the Use of Federal Reclamation Facilities*.

Alternatives Including the Proposed Action

No Action Alternative

Under No Action, Reclamation would not authorize Fernley's use of federal facilities associated with the Newlands Project for the Proposed Action.

Proposed Action

Reclamation would authorize the use of federal facilities associated with the Newlands Project in perpetuity by Fernley for diversion and conveyance of municipal water, including FMCW, to the Plant during the Newlands Project irrigation season. Fernley's construction activities would occur on the Truckee Canal and the TC-1 and TC-1-1 lateral canals. Activities would include installing a Truckee Canal turnout structure, 1,115-foot pipeline, flowmeter, and flowmeter vault. The turnout structure, flowmeter, and vault would be incorporated into the federal facilities for the Newlands Project.

Turnout construction was originally planned to occur outside of the irrigation season (November to March) or during periods when the Truckee Canal was shut down for maintenance or other reasons. Reclamation's modeling of water conditions and Truckee Canal operations since the draft EA was released indicate it is unlikely there will be extended periods within the next year when the Truckee Canal will not be in operation. As a result, Fernley may need to install a temporary coffer dam within the Truckee Canal prism to dewater the work site and allow safe and timely construction of the turnout. Water pumped from the work site would be piped and returned to the Truckee Canal just downstream of the coffer dam.

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 Proposed Action area and evaluates the effects from implementing the No Action and Proposed Action alternatives. The EA was prepared in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act, Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR 1500–1508), and Department of the Interior Regulations (43 CFR Part 46) and is hereby incorporated by reference. Reclamation considered potential short-term and long-term effects of the Proposed Action, both beneficial and adverse. Following are the reasons why the impacts of the Proposed Action are not significant, with respect to the affected environment and degree of effects of the action (40 CFR 1501.3(b)):

1. The Proposed Action will not significantly affect public health or safety (40 CFR 1501.3(b)(2)(iii)).
2. The Proposed Action will not violate federal, state, tribal, or local law protecting the environment (40 CFR 1501.3(b)(2)(iv)).
3. The Proposed Action will not affect any Indian Trust Assets (512 DM 2, Policy Memorandum – July 2, 1993).
4. Implementing the Proposed Action will not disproportionately affect minorities or low-income populations and communities (EO 12898 – February 11, 1994).
5. 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 – May 24, 1996 and 512 DM 3 – June 5, 1998).