



— BUREAU OF —  
RECLAMATION

Finding of No Significant Impact

# Monterey One Water's Expanded Pure Water Monterey Groundwater Replenishment Project

FONSI CGB-EA-2023-002

Interior Region 10 • California-Great Basin

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## **Mission Statements**

The U.S. Department of the Interior protects and manages the Nation's natural resources and cultural heritage; provides scientific and other information about those resources; honors its trust responsibilities or special commitments to American Indians, Alaska Natives, and affiliated Island Communities.

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.

# 1 Background

The Bureau of Reclamation prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate and disclose potential environmental impacts associated with providing up to \$30 million through the Title XVI WaterSMART Grant Program to Monterey One Water (MOW) to help construct the Pure Water Monterey Project (Project). The Project expanded the advanced water purification facility capacity and increased recharge of the Seaside Groundwater Basin by an additional 2,250 acre-feet per year.

## No Action

Under the No Action Alternative, Reclamation would not award grant funding for a portion of the costs for MOW to construct the Project. The No Action Alternative assumes MOW would proceed with the Project whether or not Reclamation takes the Federal action of providing grant funding.

### 1.1 Proposed Action

Reclamation would provide up to \$30 million to construct the Project. Project components include:

- Additional treatment and pumping equipment for advanced water purification facility
- two recharge wells and associated monitoring wells
- pumps and pipeline infrastructure for treated water

## 2 Findings

Reclamation initiated consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) on June 16, 2023, notifying them of our finding of “no historic properties affected pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.4(d)(1).” Pursuant to the regulations at 36 CFR §800.4(d)(1)(i), SHPO has 30 days from receipt to review an agency finding. The SHPO has yet to respond to Reclamation’s finding of effect. If after 30 days the SHPO has not responded, the regulations state that “the agency official’s responsibilities under section 106 are fulfilled.” Because the SHPO has failed to comment on Reclamation’s finding within the period of time provided to them pursuant to the Section 106 regulations, Reclamation may move on to the next step of the Section 106 process. Reclamation concluded the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Section 106 process and found the proposed action would have no significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places. Should changes be made to this Project, additional NHPA Section 106 review, possibly including consultation with the SHPO, may be necessary. If cultural resources are discovered during Project implementation, additional NHPA Section 106 compliance may be necessary in accordance with 36 CFR § 800.13.

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), which is also providing funding to MOW, requested concurrence from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) that the Proposed Action may affect but is not likely to adversely affect listed terrestrial species. USFWS concurred on August 17, 2022.

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 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. The Draft EA was made available for public comment for 15 days on March 6, 2023. Reclamation received no comments.

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 (Executive Order 13007 – May 24, 1996, and 512 DM 3 – June 5, 1998).