



— BUREAU OF —  
RECLAMATION

# **Categorical Exclusion Revisions Substantiation Report**

## **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.

# **Categorical Exclusion Revisions Substantiation Report**

**April 2024**

Substantiation Report on the Results of the Bureau of Reclamation's Analysis of National Environmental Policy Act Records for Revisions to Seven Categorical Exclusions.

*prepared by*

**Mission Assurance and Protection Organization  
Environmental Compliance Division  
Bureau of Reclamation  
Department of the Interior**

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# Introduction

The Bureau of Reclamation proposes to revise seven existing categorical exclusions (CE) which address three general categories of actions: water-related contracts, use authorizations, and financial assistance. The proposed revisions clarify and expand each CE's potential use with current and future Reclamation projects, programs, and authorizations, allowing for more consistent interpretation and more efficient review of appropriate actions. Reclamation has over 40 years of successful and appropriate implementation of the existing CEs and is not aware of any litigation history involving the CEs, or the types of activities covered by the proposed revisions to the CEs. The proposed revisions focus the CEs' application using impact-based constraints (i.e., amount, timing, duration, frequency, localization of effects), rather than by specific type of contract, authority, or program authorization.

In developing the proposed CE revisions, Reclamation followed the Council on Environmental Quality's (CEQ) guidance titled "Establishing, Applying, and Revising Categorical Exclusions under the National Environmental Policy Act" dated November 23, 2010 (available at: [https://ceq.doe.gov/docs/ceq-regulations-and-guidance/NEPA\\_CE\\_Guidance\\_Nov232010.pdf](https://ceq.doe.gov/docs/ceq-regulations-and-guidance/NEPA_CE_Guidance_Nov232010.pdf))

The CEQ 2010 guidance states "When agencies acquire new responsibilities through legislative or administrative restructuring, they should propose new categorical exclusions after they, or other agencies, gain sufficient experience with the new activities to make a reasoned determination that any resulting environmental impacts are not significant."

CEQ also encouraged agencies to "consider broadly defined criteria which characterize types of actions that, based on the agency's experience, do not cause significant environmental effects," "offer several examples of activities frequently performed by that agency's personnel which would normally fall in these categories," and advised that "the text of a proposed new or revised categorical exclusion should clearly define the eligible category of actions, as well as any physical, temporal, or environmental factors that would constrain its use."<sup>1</sup> As described in the *Federal Register* notice, Reclamation proposes to revise existing CE language to provide clarity for the 3 class of actions based on more than 40 years of agency experience implementing these CEs.

For actions that do not obviously lack significant environmental effects, agencies must gather sufficient information to support establishing a new or revised CE. The CEQ 2010 guidance identifies 4 methods agencies can use to gather and evaluate information to substantiate proposed new or revised categorical exclusions. The CEQ 2010 guidance states: "An agency can substantiate a categorical exclusion using the sources of information, described below, either alone or in combination... ." Reclamation utilized "*1. Previously Implemented Actions*" as the method to obtain useful substantiating information for evaluating effects of implemented actions

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<sup>1</sup> CEQ, "Guidance on Agency Implementation of NEPA Regulations," 48 Fed. Reg. 34263 (Jul. 28, 1983)



that were analyzed in previous environmental assessments (EAs) that consistently supported Findings of No Significant Impact (FONSIs).

This document summarizes Reclamation’s analysis and demonstrates that previously implemented actions for the classes of actions included the proposed CE revisions, do not result in significant effects on the human environment. Reclamation notes that the proposed revisions are for existing CEs (see Tables 1-3).

## Reclamation Proposed Categorical Exclusion Revisions

**Table 1—516 DM 14.5 Operation and Maintenance Activities (Water-related Contracts)**

Existing CE Language	Proposed Revised CE Language	Summary of Proposed Revisions
<p>D4. Approval, execution, and implementation of water service contracts for minor amounts of long-term water use or temporary or interim water use where the action does not lead to long-term changes and where the impacts are expected to be localized.</p>	<p>D.4. Approval, execution, administration, and implementation of water-related contracts and contract renewals, amendments, supplements, and assignments, and water transfers, exchanges, and replacements, for which one or more of the following apply: (a) for minor amounts of long-term water use, where impacts are expected to be localized, (b) for temporary or interim water use where the action does not lead to long term changes and where the impacts are expected to be localized, or (c) where the only result will be to implement an administrative or financial practice or change. A “water-related” contract is any legally binding agreement to which Reclamation becomes a party, pursuant to its authority under Federal law that (1) makes water available from or to the United</p>	<p>The proposed D.4. combines the existing language of D.4. and D.14. and adds a definition of water-related contract to provide clarity and consistency in application of the CE.</p>

Existing CE Language	Proposed Revised CE Language	Summary of Proposed Revisions
	States, (2) allows water to be stored, carried, or delivered in facilities Reclamation owns, manages, operates, or funds, or (3) establishes operation, maintenance, and replacement responsibilities for such facilities.	
D.14. Approval, renewal, transfer, and execution of an original, amendatory, or supplemental water service or repayment contract where the only result will be to implement an administrative or financial practice or change.	D.14. Reserved.	The existing D.14. is proposed to merge into the proposed D.4., and D.14. is reserved for future use.

**Table 2—516 DM 14.5 Operation and Maintenance Activities (Use Authorizations)**

Existing CE Language	Proposed Revised CE Language	Summary of Proposed Revisions
D8. Renewal of existing grazing, recreation management, or cabin site leases which do not increase the level of use or continue unsatisfactory environmental conditions.	D8. Issuance or renewal of use authorizations (as defined in 43 C.F.R. § 429.2, including crossing agreements which provide rights-of-way) that provide right-of-use of Reclamation land, facilities, or waterbodies where one or more of the following apply: (a) work is minor and impacts are expected to be localized; (b) the action does not lead to a major public or private action; (c) the only result of the authorization will be to implement an administrative or financial practice or change; or (d) the level of use or impacts to resources is not increased.	The proposed D8 combines the existing language of D8 and D10 and adds a reference to the regulations for use authorizations to clarify appropriate application of the CE and provide consistency in terminology.
D10. Issuance of permits, licenses, easements, and	D10. Reserved.	The existing D10 is proposed to merge into the proposed D8

crossing agreements which provide right-of-way over Bureau lands where the action does not allow for or lead to a major public or private action.		and D10 is reserved for future use.
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**Table 3—516 DM 14.5 Financial Assistance, Loans, and Funding Activities**

Existing CE Language	Proposed Revised CE Language	Summary of Proposed Revisions
E.1. Rehabilitation and Betterment Act loans, and contracts which involve repair, replacement, or modification of equipment in existing structures or minor repairs to existing dams, canals, laterals, drains, pipelines, and similar facilities.	E1. Financial assistance, cooperative agreements, grants, loans, contracts or other funding, where the underlying actions being funded (a) would be covered by another Reclamation CE if Reclamation were implementing the action itself, or (b) where the work to be done is confined to areas already impacted by farming or development activities, work is considered minor, and where the impacts are expected to be localized.	The proposed E1 combines the existing language of E1, E2, and E3 and adds clarity by listing the types of funding mechanisms, rather than funding authorities, as those change over time. The proposed E1 also adds reference to coverage under other existing Reclamation CEs to provide consistency and clarity for application of E1.
E2. Small Reclamation Projects Act grants and loans where the work to be done is confined to areas already impacted by farming or development activities, work is considered minor, and where the impacts are expected to be localized.	E2. Reserved.	The existing E2 is proposed to merge into the proposed E1, and E2 is reserved for future use.
E3. Distribution System Loans Act loans where the work to be done is confined to areas already impacted by farming or developing activities, work is considered minor, and where the impacts are expected to be localized.	E3. Reserved.	The existing E3 is proposed to merge into the proposed E1, and E3 is reserved for future use.

It is our intent, with this proposal to revise these CEs to improve clarity and consistency of interpretation. Since establishing the existing contracting and use authorization CEs in the late 1970s and early 1980s, Reclamation estimates it has prepared thousands of CE checklists documenting that these actions did not result in significant effects. In addition, since the early 1980s, Reclamation estimates it has prepared hundreds of EAs and FONSI for financial assistance actions similar to those actions that would be covered under the proposed E1 CE that were not included in the narrow definition of the specific authorities in the E1, E2, and E3 CEs. Further, Reclamation estimates that it has prepared hundreds more of additional EAs and FONSI for contracting and use authorization actions closely related to the D4, D8, D10, and D14 CEs that either did not meet strict interpretation of those CE definitions, or where a water-related contract or use authorization CE was not applied because of uncertainty surrounding the description of the proposal type, proposal activities, or impact-based constraints. The frequent use of these existing CEs, experience preparing EAs and FONSI for actions to be covered by the proposed CEs, and Reclamation's comprehensive review of how its existing CEs are applied in practice serve to validate Reclamation's preparation of these proposed CEs.

To further demonstrate the finding that actions under the proposed CEs would not normally result in significant effects to the human environment, Reclamation reviewed 71 EAs with FONSI that evaluate and disclose the effects associated with the class of actions addressed in the proposed CE revisions, including actions for which an EA was prepared because the existing CE did not encompass the changes proposed herein. This substantiation record is, therefore, intended to support those aspects of actions where the proposed CE revisions are described differently than before—enabling clarity and consistency of CE usage [www.usbr.gov/nepa](http://www.usbr.gov/nepa) documents and supports EAs with FONSI issued by Reclamation. The 71 EAs with FONSI that Reclamation identified for this substantiation record were completed between 2006 and 2022 and are representative EAs and FONSI with substantiating information for the proposed CE revisions to the Department of the Interior (DOI) Department Manual (516 DM 14.5) for water-related contracts, use authorizations, and financial assistance classes (see Tables 1-3).

The DOI's National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Implementing Regulations (43 CFR Part 46) requires that any normally categorically excluded action must be evaluated to determine whether it meets any of the extraordinary circumstances listed in 43 CFR 46.215 (see Appendix 1 for sample checklist). If the Bureau identifies any extraordinary circumstances, further analysis and environmental documentation must be prepared for the action.

Reclamation selected the 71 EAs with FONSI completed between 2006 and 2022 for review as representative EAs and FONSI with substantiating information for the proposed CE revisions for water-related contracts, use authorizations, and financial assistance. These EAs addressed proposed actions (a) that fell within the 3 general classes of actions addressed in the proposed CE revisions, (b) that represent current Reclamation authorizations and programs, (c) that include underlying actions covered by existing CEs within 516 DM 14.5, and (d) for which FONSI determination were reached.

These EAs and their FONSI can be accessed and reviewed at: <http://www.usbr.gov/nepa/>. Each of the three classes of actions and summaries of the 71 EAs with FONSI are discussed in greater detail by category.

# Water-Related Contracts

Reclamation evaluated 25 EAs with FONSI that are representative and support the determination that the proposed CE revisions would not result in significant impacts for water-related contracts and contract actions. Each of the EAs with FONSI evaluated and disclosed environmental effects associated with actions that were either purely administrative or were limited in ways consistent with extraordinary circumstances review for appropriate use of a CE listed in 43 CFR 46.215. The EAs analyzed both Reclamation and non-Reclamation project water supplies that utilize Reclamation's existing collection, storage, and delivery systems to deliver surface water and groundwater for agricultural and/or municipal uses. The 25 EAs analyzed contract actions for water service, excess capacity<sup>2</sup>, and water acquisition contracts.

Table 4 includes the water-related contract type, Reclamation Region and Project, underlying action, and resources evaluated in the Affected Environmental and Environmental Consequences sections of each EA. Appendix 2 provides additional information on the analyzed effects.

The proposed CE revisions would include the issuance of water-related contracts similar in nature to those analyzed in these EAs. The revised CE could be utilized for water-related contracts that are a) for minor amounts of long-term water use where impacts are expected to be localized; b) for temporary or interim water use where the action does not lead to long-term changes and where the impacts are expected to be localized; or c) where the only result will be to implement an administrative or financial practice or change; and must be water-related contracts d) for which no extraordinary circumstances apply that would require additional analysis in an EA. Water-related contracts that meet these criteria may be covered by the CE even if the water-related contract actions they are associated with differ somewhat from those in previously implemented water-related contract actions.

These representative EAs included analysis of a wide range of potentially impacted resources in multiple regions and all resulted in no significant impacts from these actions. No information indicates subsequent unanticipated significant effects leading to the need for an environmental impact statement (EIS) for future implementation. Additionally, Reclamation is not aware of any litigation history involving the existing CEs or the types of activities to be covered in the proposed revised CE for water-related contracts. Reclamation has over 40 years of successful and appropriate implementation of the existing CE for water use, and the proposed revisions to this CE will continue to be applied in an appropriate manner, as ensured by the extraordinary circumstances review listed in 43 CFR 46.215, which provides the applicable guardrails for potential significance following standard NEPA procedures. These procedures include safeguards against significant effects in the aggregate, as well, including ensuring actions are not

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<sup>2</sup> Reclamation Manual Directives and Standards PEC 05-10 define excess capacity as the diversion, storage, conveyance, or pumping capacity in Reclamation project facilities that is not needed to meet Reclamation's obligations for authorized project purposes. Excess capacity contracts are issued under the authority of the 1921 Warren Act, 1939 Reclamation Project Act, or any other applicable Reclamation law. The Reclamation Manual can be accessed at: <https://www.usbr.gov/recman/>

improperly segmented<sup>3</sup> and evaluating cumulative effects<sup>4</sup>. There may be cases in which a CE appears to apply but, because of particular circumstances such as controversy, action-specific environmental circumstances, or cumulative effects in relationship to other actions, NEPA analysis and documentation in an EA or EIS may be necessary. This is captured in extraordinary circumstances review as well as agency personnel review and approvals of each CE use.

**Table 4—Water-Related Contract Environmental Assessment/Finding of No Significant Impact Examples<sup>5</sup>**

#	Year	EA/FONSI Title	Region/Project	Contract Type	Underlying Action	Resources Evaluated
1	2011	Oro Loma Water District Partial Assignment of 4,000 acre-feet of Central Valley Project Water to Westlands Water District	California-Great Basin/Central Valley Project (CVP)	Water Service	Contract assignment to supplement Westlands Water District's reliance on ground water pumping. This assignment represents about 0.03% of Westland's annual CVP allocation and was considered a minor change.	AQ, BR, CC, CI, CR, EJ, ISS, ITA, LU, SE, WR
2	2016	Widren Water District's Water Quality, Supply, and Drainage Enhancement Pilot Project	California-Great Basin/CVP	Warren Act	One-year exchange agreement/contract to convey up to 1,000 acre-feet treated groundwater into CVP facilities. Exchange represents less than 1% of annual deliveries via the Delta-Mendota Canal. Up 50,000 acre-feet per year of groundwater introduced in the canal was previously analyzed	AQ, BR, CC, CI, CR, EJ, ISS, ITA, LU, WR

<sup>3</sup> The proposed regulations at 88 FR 49924 (July 31, 2023) acknowledge this is a longstanding NEPA principle.

<sup>4</sup> Including CEQ, Considering Cumulative Effects Under the National Environmental Policy Act (Jan. 1997), [https://ceq.doe.gov/publications/cumulative\\_effects.html](https://ceq.doe.gov/publications/cumulative_effects.html)

<sup>5</sup> Air Quality (AQ), Biological Resources (BR), Climate Change (CC), Cumulative Impacts (CI), Cultural Resources (CR), Environmental Justice (EJ), Indian Sacred Sites (ISS), Indian Trust Assets (ITA), Land Use (LU), Socioeconomics (SE), Wetlands (WL), Water Quality (WQ), Water Resources (WR), Water Rights (WRT). For further information on the effects analyzed, see Appendix 2. **Note:** Biological Resources also includes terrestrial and aquatic wildlife, vegetation, and sensitive, threatened, and endangered species; Land Use includes recreation.

#	Year	EA/FONSI Title	Region/ Project	Contract Type	Underlying Action	Resources Evaluated
					by a 2012 Reclamation EA.	
3	2016	Partial Assignment from Mercy Springs Water District and Fresno Slough Water District to Angiola Water District	California-Great Basin/ CVP	Water Service	Assignment of existing contracts to meet in-district demands and other uses consistent with existing contracts and approvals.	AQ, BR, CC, CI, CR, EJ, ISS, ITA, LU, WR
4	2017	Ivanhoe Irrigation District 5 Year Warren Act Agreement for up to 6,500 acre-feet of Kaweah River Water in the Friant-Kern Canal	California-Great Basin/ CVP	Warren Act	Temporary contract used existing facilities to convey non-project water to support existing crops with the district which represents 1% increase annual deliveries via the Friant-Kern Canal.	AQ, BR, CC, CI, CR, EJ, ISS, ITA, LU, WR
5	2017	Water Service Contract Renewal between the United States and the Town of Estes Park	Missouri Basin and Arkansas-Rio Grande-Texas Gulf/ Colorado-Big Thompson Project	Water Service and Other Excess Capacity	Contract replaces an existing water service contract with repayment and excess capacity contracts for municipal water delivery and exchanges.	AQ, BR, CC, CI, CR, EJ, ISS, ITA, LU, SE, VRN, WL, WR, WRT
6	2018	Fresno Irrigation District-Orange Cove Irrigation District-Table Mountain Rancheria Transfer	California-Great Basin/ CVP	Water Service	Contract allowed for a temporary transfer of 100 acre-feet of CVP water to non-CVP contractor for municipal use (less than 0.1% of annual deliveries).	AQ, BR, CC, CI, CR, EJ, ISS, ITA, LU, WR
7	2018	Contracts for Conveyance of Non-Project Water through Klamath Project Facilities	California-Great Basin/ Klamath Project	Other Excess Capacity	Contract allowed for temporary conveyance (5-years) of non-project through Klamath Project facilities for irrigation purposes within the Project's service area when there is excess capacity.	AQ, BR, CC, CI, CR, EJ, ISS, ITA, LU, SE, WR

#	Year	EA/FONSI Title	Region/ Project	Contract Type	Underlying Action	Resources Evaluated
8	2018	Water Acquisitions for National Wildlife Refuges	California-Great Basin/ Klamath Project	Acquisition	1-year contracts for purchase for up to 37,800 acre-feet from willing districts to protect and maintain migratory waterfowl and wetland-dependent wildlife.	AQ, BR, CC, CI, CR, EJ, ISS, ITA, LU, WR
9	2018	Sacramento Suburban Water District 5-Year Warren Act Contract	California-Great Basin/CVP	Warren Act	5-year contract allowed for conveyance of up to 14,500 acre-feet per year of non-CVP water during wet years through Folsom Reservoir, when space is available, for municipal and industrial uses within District's service area.	BR, CI, ITA, WR
10	2018	CVP Project Interim Renewal Contracts for Cities of Avenal, Coalinga, Huron, and California Department of Fish and Wildlife for Contract Years 2019-2021	California-Great Basin/CVP	Water Service	Contracts provides for continued use of CVP water for agricultural and/or M&I use under interim renewal contracts and does not change uses specified in the existing contracts.	AQ, BR, CC, CI, CR, EJ, ISS, ITA, SE, WR
11	2018	Final Programmatic Environmental Assessment for Pueblo Reservoir Temporary Excess Capacity Storage Contracting Program, and Site Specific Environmental Assessment for Donala Water and Sanitation District 40-Year Excess Capacity Storage and Conveyance Contract and Bureau of Land	Missouri Basin and Arkansas-Rio Grande-Texas Gulf/Fryingpan-Arkansas Project	Other Excess Capacity	Contracts provides for continuation of a temporary excess capacity contracting program and includes two long-term excess capacity contracts for agricultural and M&I uses. The long-term contracts represent less than 1% of excess capacity storage in Pueblo Reservoir.	BR, CC, CR, EJ, LU, SE, WQ, WR, WRT



#	Year	EA/FONSI Title	Region/ Project	Contract Type	Underlying Action	Resources Evaluated
		Management 40- Year Excess Capacity Storage Contract				
12	2018	Five-Year Warren Act Contracts for Conveyance of Groundwater in the Tehama-Colusa Canal-Contract Years 2018-2022	California- Great Basin/CVP	Warren Act	These temporary contracts allowed CVP contractors to introduce and convey groundwater to support downstream crops during low CVP water availability. The contracts represent about 25% of annual deliveries via the Tehama-Colusa Canal.	AQ, BR, CC, CI, CR, EJ, ISS, ITA, LU, SER, WQ, WR
13	2019	Kaweah River Warren Act Agreements 2019- 2023	California- Great Basin/CVP	Warren Act	Agreements allowed for the temporary conveyance of non-CVP water through CVP facilities for irrigation of existing lands. Contracted volumes represent less than 2% of annual deliveries via Friant-Kern Canal.	AQ, BR, CC, CI, CR, EJ, ISS, ITA, LU, SE, WQ, WR
14	2019	Widren Water District Pilot Project Extension	California- Great Basin/CVP	Warren Act	3-year temporary contract extension for continuance of exchange agreement and contract to convey treated groundwater into CVP facilities and represent less than 0.2% of annual deliveries via the Delta-Mendota Canal	AQ, BR, CC, CI, CR, EJ, ISS, ITA, LU, SE, WQ, WR
15	2019	Santa Clara Valley Water District Five Year Warren Act Contract	California- Great Basin/CVP	Warren Act	Temporary contract for conveyance of State Water Project and other non-CVP water supplies through CVP Facilities when excess capacity is available.	AQ, BR, CC, CI, CR, EJ, ISS, ITA, LU, SE, WR

#	Year	EA/FONSI Title	Region/ Project	Contract Type	Underlying Action	Resources Evaluated
16	2020	Transfer of CVP Project Water from the Santa Clara Valley Water District to the San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors Water Authority	California-Great Basin/CVP	Water Service	One-time transfer of SCVWD's CVP water to the Exchange Contractors for existing agricultural and M&I uses.	AQ, BR, CC, CI, CR, EJ, ISS, ITA, LU, SE, WR
17	2020	Five-Year Warren Act for Westlands Water District	California-Great Basin/CVP	Warren Act	Temporary contract authorizes continued introduction, conveyance, and storage of non-CVP Project pumped groundwater into CVP facilities.	AQ, BR, CC, CI, CR, EJ, ISS, ITA, LU, WQ, WR
18	2021	Klamath Project Internal Water Transfers (2021-2025)	California-Great Basin/Klamath Project	Water Service	Temporary transfers to optimizes use of limited Project water supplies by approving Project water transfers between contractors for existing irrigated lands within the Project delivery area.	AQ, BR, CC, CI, CR, EJ, ISS, ITA, WR
19	2021	Friant Division Groundwater Pump-in Program, Contract Years 2020-2022	California-Great Basin/CVP	Warren Act	Temporary contract provided for continuance of the Friant-Kern Canal Groundwater Pump-in Program that was started in 2014 for CVP and non-CVP contractors.	AQ, BR, CC, CI, CR, EJ, ISS, ITA, LU, WQ, WR
20	2021	Triview Metropolitan District Long-Term Excess Capacity Contract	Missouri Basin and Arkansas-Rio Grande-Texas Gulf/Fryingpan-Arkansas	Other Excess Capacity	Contract provides for conveyance and storage of non-project water using Project facilities to replace non-renewable Denver Basin groundwater supplies. Contract represents less than 1% of excess capacity storage in Pueblo Reservoir.	BR, CC, CI, CR, EJ, ISS, ITA, LU, SE, WL, WQ, WR, WRT

#	Year	EA/FONSI Title	Region/ Project	Contract Type	Underlying Action	Resources Evaluated
21	2022	Warren Contract for Conveyance and Storage of Groundwater from Mapes Ranch to Del Puerto Water District	California-Great Basin/CVP	Warren Act	One-year contract provides for conveyance and storage, via the Delta-Mendota Canal, of non-CVP of up to 10,000 acre-feet of groundwater well water using CVP facilities for irrigation, not to exceed one year.	AQ, BR, CC, CI, CR, EJ, ISS, ITA, WR
22	2022	Central Coast Water Authority Temporary Warren Act Contract	California Great Basin/ Cachuma Project	Warren Act	Contract provides for conveyance and storage of non-Project water through Project facilities for irrigation, for a period not to exceed 5-years.	AQ, BR, CC, CI, CR, EJ, ISS, ITA, WQ, WR
23	2022	Extension of Del Puerto Water District's Warren Act Contract for Conveyance of Groundwater from Mapes Ranch	California-Great Basin/CVP	Warren Act	1-year contract extension authorized continued conveyance and storage of 3,000 acre-feet remaining non-CVP water authorized in 2021.	AQ, BR, CC, CI, CR, EJ, ISS, ITA, WR
24	2022	Drought Adjustment for Widren Water District's Water Quality, Supply, and Drainage Enhancement Project	California-Great Basin/CVP	Warren Act	Amendment to the existing 1-contract that increases volume of treated groundwater conveyed and exchanged from 1,000 to 2,000 acre-feet.	AQ, BR, CC, CI, CR, EJ, ISS, ITA, LU, WQ, WR
25	2022	Widren Water District Pilot Project Second Extension	California-Great Basin/CVP	25	3-year contract extension provides continued conveyance of non-project water	AQ, BR, CC, CI, CR, EJ, ISS, ITA, LU, WQ, WR

## Use Authorizations

Reclamation evaluated 13 EAs with FONSI that are representative and support a determination that the proposed CE revisions would not result in significant impacts for use authorization actions. The 13 EAs with FONSI completed by Reclamation involve authorizations to utilize Reclamation facilities and/or associated lands and evaluated and disclosed the environmental

effects associated with actions. In addition, use authorizations consistently incorporate construction and other best management practices that are factored into the review for extraordinary circumstances and enable appropriate use of a CE listed in 43 CFR 46.215.

In its review to determine acceptable use of the CE, Reclamation will determine if the requested use is compatible with authorized project purposes, is in the best interests of the public, and is consistent with appropriate resources management and environmental considerations for the area. Examples of activities that Reclamation often receives use authorization requests for include:

- special events,
- utility crossings,
- crossings on, over, or under Reclamation lands, surface of waters, and facilities inclusive of crossings where Reclamation holds a controlling easement interest,
- communication lines and sites,
- livestock grazing,
- farming, or other agricultural practices,
- commercial filming and photography,
- archeology and paleontology research and excavations,
- commercial or organized sporting events including guide services, commercial trapping, etc., and
- any other use deemed appropriate by Reclamation.

Issuance of a use authorization does not relieve the applicant of obtaining any other permits and authorizations that may be required for the proposed activity.

Table 5 includes the Reclamation region and project, or program; underlying action; and resources evaluated and discussed in the Affected Environmental and Environmental Consequences sections of each EA. Appendix 2 provides additional information on the analyzed effects.

The proposed CE revisions would address the issuance of use authorizations similar in nature to those analyzed in these EAs. The revised CE could only be used for issuance or renewal of use authorizations where: a) work is minor and impacts are expected to be localized, b) the action does not lead to a major public or private action, c) the only result will be to implement an administrative or financial practice or change, or d) the level of use for a renewal is not increased, and e) must be authorizations for which no extraordinary circumstances apply that would require additional analysis in an EA. Use authorizations that meet these criteria may be covered by the CE even if the actions they are associated with differ somewhat from those in previously implemented use authorizations.

These representative EAs included analysis of a wide range of potentially impacted resources in multiple regions and all resulted in no significant impacts from these actions. No information indicates subsequent unanticipated significant effects leading to the need for an EIS for future implementation. Additionally, Reclamation is not aware of any litigation history involving the existing CEs or the types of activities covered in the proposed revised CE for use authorizations. Reclamation has over 40 years of successful and appropriate implementation of the existing CEs

for use authorizations, and the proposed revisions to this CE will continue to be applied in an appropriate manner, as ensured by the extraordinary circumstances review listed in 43 CFR 46.215, which provides the applicable guardrails following standard NEPA procedures. These procedures include safeguards against significant effects in the aggregate, as well, including ensuring actions are not improperly segmented and evaluating cumulative effects. There may be cases in which a CE appears to apply but, because of particular circumstances such as controversy, action-specific environmental circumstances, or cumulative effects in relationship to other actions, NEPA analysis and documentation in an EA or EIS may be necessary. The extraordinary circumstances review as well as agency personnel review and approvals of each CE use captures this.

**Table 5—Use Authorization Environmental Assessment/Finding of No Significant Impact Examples<sup>6</sup>**

#	Year	EA/FONSI Title	Region/Project	Underlying Action	Resources Evaluated
26	2006	Indian Rock Estes Access Road Easement	Columbia-Pacific Northwest/Crooked River Project	Provides a 0.75-acre access easement across Reclamation lands to develop Phase II of a housing subdivision on adjacent private lands. Phase II developments on 74.9 acres are part of an existing housing development that did not require a Reclamation easement or approval.	AQ, BR, CI, CR, EJ, GS, ISS, ITA, LU, VRN, SE, WQ
27	2013	RD 773 Fabian Tract Spoils Reuse License	California-Great Basin/Central Valley Project (CVP)	Authorizes use of existing stockpiled dredged spoils from canal located on Reclamation lands to stabilize District's existing levee along the Fabian Bell Canal. The work occurred in previously disturbed areas at existing facilities.	AQ, BR, CC, CR, EJ, ISS, ITA, LU, SE, WR
28	2014	Land Use Authorization and License Amendment for PG&E's Proposed Gas	California-Great Basin/CVP	Authorizes installation, operation, and maintenance of a new 12-inch natural gas pipeline	AQ, BR, CC, CI, CR, EJ,

<sup>6</sup> Air Quality (AQ), Biological Resources (BR), Climate Change (CC), Cumulative Impacts (CI), Cultural Resources (CR), Environmental Justice (EJ), Geology and Soils (GS), Hazardous Materials/Waste, Indian Sacred Sites (ISS), Indian Trust Assets (ITA), Land Use (LU), Socioeconomics (SE), Visual Resources and Noise (VRN), Wetlands (WL), Water Quality (WQ), Water Resources (WR), Water Rights (WRT). **Note:** Biological Resources includes terrestrial and aquatic wildlife, vegetation, and sensitive, threatened, and endangered species; Land Use includes recreation, agriculture, and other land management activities. For further information on the effects analyzed, see Appendix 2.

#	Year	EA/FONSI Title	Region/ Project	Underlying Action	Resources Evaluated
		Pipeline Installation and Bayview Station Expansion near the San Luis (Volta) Wasteway		adjacent to an existing 6-inch diameter pipeline located within Reclamation's ROW and the 0.15-acre expansion of Pacific Gas and Electric's existing Bayview Station on Project lands. The work occurred in previously disturbed areas at existing facilities.	HZ, ISS, ITA, LU, SE, WR
29	2014	License Agreement between the Bureau of Reclamation and Delta County for the Construction of a Parking Area for the Purposes of Wildlife Viewing on Reclamation Property, Fruitgrowers Project, Delta County, Colorado	Upper Colorado Basin/ Fruitgrowers Project	Authorizes construction of a small (~0.15 acre) graveled parking area to accommodate on-going wildlife viewing and address increasing safety issues associated with current parking along an adjacent road. The work occurred in previously disturbed areas at existing facilities.	BR, CR, ISS, ITA
30	2016	Grazing Authorization for Retired Lands in Fresno County	California-Great Basin/ CVP	Authorizes managed grazing on up to 2,190 acres in the Tranquility Demonstration Project site to reduce fire hazards and spread of invasive plant species. The 10-year permit authorizes sheep and goats to graze in the spring and fall in assigned 120-acre sites further subdivided into 20-acre plots with portable fencing. Grazing time, duration, and numbers were based on vegetation conditions and responses.	AQ, BR, CC, CI, CR, EJ, ISS, ITA, LU, WR
31	2017	Rolle Airfield, San Luis, Arizona	Lower Colorado Basin/	Renews a contract and continue use of Project lands to operate and maintain an existing airport.	AQ, BR, CI, CR, EJ, GS, ITA, HZ, LU, SE, VRN, WR
32	2017	Use Authorization Application from Wyoming Department of Transportation, Alpine Bear Pit, Lincoln County, Wyoming & Bonneville County, Idaho	Columbia-Pacific Northwest/ Palisades Project	Authorizes access and removal of sediment and rock material on a 77-acre site within the existing Palisades Reservoir and authorizes construction, operation, maintenance, and termination of a material crushing operations on	AQ, BR, CC, CI, CR, EJ, ISS, LU, IT, SE, WQ

#	Year	EA/FONSI Title	Region/ Project	Underlying Action	Resources Evaluated
				Reclamation Project lands. Materials would be removed during periods the reservoir is low and when materials are exposed. The project area is bordered by an existing material extraction operation authorized under an existing Reclamation use authorization.	
33	2017	Drag Boat Exhibitions/Competitions- East Park Reservoir- Orland Project	California- Great Basin/	Approves use of Reclamation lands for boat exhibition/competitions for a 5-year period.	AQ, BR, CC, CI, CR, EJ, ISS, ITA, LU, VRN, WR
34	2018	Right of Use- Downgradient Study Area Activities	Lower Colorado Basin/Las Vegas Wash Unit CRBSCP Title II Program	Authorizes study activities (within to 60-acres of Reclamation lands) for ground water investigation including installing, developing and sampling groundwater monitoring wells; and full-scale geophysical investigation that includes verification borings, and access.	AQ, BR, CI, CR, ISS, ITA, EJ, GS, ITA, LU, VRN, SE, WL, WQ, WR
35	2018	License for Bakersfield Multi-Use Trail along the Friant-Kern Canal	California- Great Basin/CVP	Authorizes a perpetual land use authorization to the City of Bakersfield, CA for the construction and maintenance of 6-mile, 12-foot wide multi-use path for recreational purposes and would connect to an existing trail.	AQ, BR, CC, CI, CR, ISS, ITA, LU, WQ
36	2020	Fire Fuels Reduction by Goat Grazing at Auburn Recreation District Lands	California- Great Basin/CVP	Authorizes contracting of periodic grazing under a managing partner agreement to reduce fuels within 100-feet of fences adjacent to private property and residences.	BR, CI, CR, EJ, ISS, ITA, EJ, WR
37	2022	Orestimba Creek Recharge and Recovery Expansion Project	California- Great Basin/ CVP	Authorizes installation, operation, and maintenance of recharge facilities on Project lands augmentation for existing irrigated crops on non-project lands.	AQ, BR, CC, CI, CR, ISS, ITA, EJ, GS, HZ, LU, SE, VRN, WQ, WR

#	Year	EA/FONSI Title	Region/ Project	Underlying Action	Resources Evaluated
38	2022	Santa Clara Valley Water District's Pacheco/Santa Clara Conduit Right-of Way Acquisition Project	California-Great Basin/CVP	Authorizes the Water District to acquire easements from private landowners to formalize O&M access, as well as implement physical improvements to Project facilities.	AQ, BR, CC, CR, EJ, ISS, ITA, LU, VRN, WL, WR

## Financial Assistance

Reclamation evaluated 33 EAs with FONSI that support a determination that the proposed CE revisions would not result in significant impacts for financial assistance actions. The types of underlying actions analyzed in these EAs with FONSI include actions that other approved Reclamation CEs if Reclamation were implementing the underlying action would typically cover. Reclamation's actions provided funding to eligible applicants under existing Reclamation programs and authorities to implement underlying actions that the current list of Reclamation CEs in 516 DM 14.5 would otherwise address. These CEs include:

1. Research activities, such as nondestructive data collection and analysis, monitoring, modeling, laboratory testing, calibration, and testing of instruments or procedures and nonmanipulative field studies (516 DM 14.5(A)(3)).
2. Routine planning investigation activities where the impacts are expected to be localized, such a land classification surveys, topographic surveys, archaeological surveys, wildlife studies, economic studies, social studies, and other study activities during any planning, preconstruction, construction, or operation and maintenance phases (516 DM 14.5(B)(1)).
3. Special, status, concluding, or other planning reports that do not contain recommendations for action, but may or may not recommend further study (516 DM 14.5 (B)(2)).
4. Data collection studies that involve test excavations for cultural resources investigation or test pitting, drilling, or seismic investigations for geological exploration purposes where the impacts will be localized ((516 DM 14.5 (B)(3)).
5. Minor acquisition of land and or rights-of-way or easement ((516 DM 14.5 (C)(2)).
6. Minor construction activities associated with authorized projects which correct unsatisfactory environmental conditions, or which merely augment or supplement, or are enclosed within existing facilities ((516 DM 14.5 (C)(3)).
7. Maintenance, rehabilitation, and replacement of existing facilities which may involve a minor change in size, location, and/or operation ((516 DM 14.5 (D)(1)).
8. Administration and implementation of project repayment and water service contracts, including approval of organizational or other administrative changes in contracting entities brought about by inclusion or exclusion of lands in these contracts (516 DM 14.5(D)(3)).
9. Execution and administration of recordable contracts for disposal of excess lands (516 DM 14.5(D)(6)).



10. Conduct of programs of demonstration, educational, and technical assistance to water user organizations for improvement of project and on-farm irrigation water use and management ((516 DM 14.5 (D)(12)); and
11. Minor safety of dam construction activities where the work is confined to the dam, abutment areas, or appurtenant features, and where no major change in reservoir or downstream operations is anticipated as a result of the construction activities (516 DM (D)(17)).

Each EA with FONSI evaluated and disclosed the environmental effects of actions where:

1. The underlying action included and broadened the existing E1, E2, and E3 language – for example where the action improved existing irrigation and municipal water system efficiency, implemented or promoted water conservation, drought resiliency, habitat restoration and enhancement, or promoted tribal sovereignty;
2. Work was minor and impacts were expected to be localized.

These EAs with FONSIs consistently incorporate construction and other best management practices, where appropriate, that are factored into the review for extraordinary circumstances and enable appropriate use of a CE listed in 43 CFR 46.215.

Table 6 summarizes each EA\FONSI prepared for financial assistance actions and includes the Reclamation Region and Program that provides funding, the underlying action, and resources evaluated and discussed in the Affected Environmental and Environmental Consequences sections of each EA. Additional information on the effects analyzed is provided in Appendix 2.

The majority of the EAs with FONSIs in Table 6 were completed for financial assistance competitive projects funded through Reclamation's WaterSMART (Sustain and Manage America's Resources for Tomorrow) Program. WaterSMART provides financial assistance to water managers for projects that seek to conserve and use water more efficiently, implement renewable energy, investigate, and develop water marketing strategies, mitigate conflict risk in areas of a high risk or future water conflict, and accomplish other benefits that contribute to sustainability in the western United States. See <https://www.usbr.gov/watersmart/> for the various WaterSMART grants that Reclamation provides.

Table 6 also includes examples of EAs with FONSI for financial assistance for projects funded by the Klamath River Coho Restoration Grant, Native American Affairs Technical Assistance to Tribes, Central Valley Project Conservation, and Delta-Bay Restoration programs. While not meant to be a comprehensive list, these Reclamation programs provide examples of the various types of other financial assistance, cooperative agreements, grants, loans, contracts, or other funding opportunities that would benefit from the proposed CE revisions.

The proposed CE revisions would address financial assistance actions similar in nature to those analyzed in these EAs. The revised CE could only be used for financial assistance actions where the underlying actions being funded a) would be covered by another Reclamation CE if Reclamation were implementing the action itself, or b) where the work to be done is confined to areas already impacted by farming or development activities, work is considered minor, and

where the impacts are expected to be localized; and must be actions c) for which no extraordinary circumstances apply that would require additional analysis in an EA.

These representative EAs included analysis of a wide range of potentially impacted resources in multiple regions and all resulted in no significant impacts from these actions. No information indicates subsequent unanticipated significant effects leading to the need for an EIS for future implementation. Additionally, Reclamation is not aware of any litigation history involving the CEs or the activities covered by the proposed CE revision. Reclamation will apply the proposed revisions to this CE in an appropriate manner, as ensured by the extraordinary circumstances review listed in 43 CFR 46.215, which provides the applicable guardrails following standard NEPA procedures. These procedures include safeguards against significant effects in the aggregate, as well, including ensuring actions are not improperly segmented and evaluating cumulative effects. There may be cases in which a CE appears to apply but, because of particular circumstances such as controversy, action-specific environmental circumstances, or cumulative effects in relationship to other actions, NEPA analysis and documentation in an EA or EIS may be necessary. This is captured in extraordinary circumstances review as well as agency personnel review and approvals of each CE use.

**Table 6—Financial Assistance Environmental Assessment/Finding of No Significant Impact Examples<sup>7</sup>**

#	Year	EA/FONSI Title	Region/ Project	Underlying Action	Resources Evaluated
39	2016	Horsefly Irrigation District WaterSMART Grant: Dairy and Yonna Canals Piping Project	California-Great Basin/ WaterSMART	Provides funds to District for the installation of a pipe to address seepage and evaporation losses occurring in irrigation canals.	AQ, BR, CC, CI, CR, ISS, ITA, EJ, SE, VRN, WQ, WR
40	2016	Lower French Creek Off-Channel Habitat Development Project	California-Great Basin/ Klamath River Coho Restoration Grant	Provides funds through cooperative agreements with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to construct off-channel pond with coarse woody debris structures and associated riparian vegetation (ESA Conservation Measure). Purpose of project is to increase carrying capacity of juvenile	AQ, BR, CC, CI, CR, ISS, ITA, EJ, SE, VRN, WR

<sup>7</sup> Air Quality (AQ), Biological Resources (BR), Climate Change (CC), Cumulative Impacts (CI), Cultural Resources (CR), Environmental Justice (EJ), Geology and Soils (GS), Hazardous Materials/Waste, Indian Sacred Sites (ISS), Indian Trust Assets (ITA), Land Use (LU), Socioeconomics (SE), Visual Resources and Noise (VRN), Wetlands (WL), Water Quality (WQ), Water Resources (WR), Water Rights (WRT). **Note:** Biological Resources includes terrestrial and aquatic wildlife, vegetation, and sensitive, threatened, and endangered species; Land Use includes recreation, agriculture, and other land management activities. For further information on the effects analyzed, see Appendix 2

#	Year	EA/FONSI Title	Region/ Project	Underlying Action	Resources Evaluated
			Program (KRCRGP)	Southern Oregon-Northern California Coast coho salmon.	
41	2016	Shasta River Water Association WaterSMART Grant: Irrigation Water Measurement and Billing Accounting System	California- Great Basin/ WaterSMART	Provides funds to install concrete headgate structures and electronic flow measuring equipment within Association's canal system and implement a new conservation billing system. Conserved water provides benefits to anadromous fishes and watershed by improved flows and water quality.	AQ, BR, CC, CI, CR, ISS, ITA, EJ, SE, VRN, WR
42	2017	Horsefly Irrigation District WaterSMART Grand: Horsefly and Somers Canal Piping Project	California- Great Basin/ WaterSMART	Provides funds to pipe two sections of irrigation canals to address seepage and evaporation losses to conserve water and improve water quality.	AQ, BR, CC, CI, CR, ISS, ITA, EJ, SE, VRN, WQ, WR
43	2017	Quartz Valley Indian Reservation Wells Project	California- Great Basin/Native American Affairs Technical Assistance to Tribes Program	Provides funds to the Tribe to install three groundwater monitoring wells to increase the spatial resolution and understanding of watershed sub- basins. Also includes two new drinking water wells to meet tribal needs.	AQ, BR, CC, CI, CR, ISS, ITA, EJ, GS, HZ, LU, SE, VRN, WR
44	2017	Yuba City Irrigation Systems Upgrade Project	California- Great Basin/ WaterSMART	Provides funds to upgrade irrigation system to a weather-based irrigation controller system at the City's public parks and land management districts to reduce losses and conserve water.	AQ, BR, CC, CI, CR, ISS, ITA, EJ, GS, LU, VRN, WR
45	2017	North Kern Water Storage District Calloway Canal Lining and Water Delivery Improvements	California- Great Basin/ WaterSMART	Provides funding for concrete lining of an existing canal and water delivery improvements at District-owned wells and 14 new remote terminal units to conserve and manage groundwater supplies during drought.	AQ, BR, CC, CI, CR, BR, EJ, ISS, ITA, WR
46	2017	Loma Rica Hydroelectric Generating Facility	California- Great Basin/ WaterSMART	Provides funding to construct and operate a 1.4-megawatt hydroelectric facility adjacent to an existing reservoir and water treatment plant. The hydroelectric facility's footprint is 36- by 36-ft, includes approximately 120 feet of new pipeline, and	AQ, BR, CC, CI, CR, EJ, ISS, ITA, LU, VRN, WQ

#	Year	EA/FONSI Title	Region/ Project	Underlying Action	Resources Evaluated
				connects to an adjacent existing 12-kV service line.	
47	2017	Tocquerville Secondary Water System Smart Meter Installation Project	Lower Colorado Basin/ WaterSMART	Provides funds to purchase and install advanced metering infrastructure meters, associated hardware and software for secondary water system to converse and improve management of District's water supplies.	BR, CC, CI, CR, EJ, ISS, ITA, VRN, WL, WQ
48	2017	Washington County Water Conservancy District WaterSMART Small-Scale Water Efficiency Project	Lower Colorado Basin/ WaterSMART	Provides fund for a water efficiency technical assistance program for commercial properties and irrigation system upgrades to conserve water in the Virgin River and Lower Colorado River system. The FONSI tiers to and incorporates by reference a prior EA.	AQ, BR, CI, EJ, ISS, ITA, VRN, WL, WQ
49	2018	City of Sanger Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition System Upgrade Project	California-Great Basin/ WaterSMART	Provides funds to conduct Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system upgrades to improve system accuracy, reliability, and efficiency to reduce water losses and provide energy savings.	BR, CI, EJ, ISS, ITA
50	2018	Shafter-Wasco Irrigation District Recovery and Return Improvements to District's Spreading Grounds for Drought Resiliency Project	California-Great Basin/ WaterSMART	Provides funds for construction of 2 wells and associated pipelines to connect to District facilities to balance and conserve surface water and declining groundwater levels. The EA is tiered to a prior programmatic EA.	AQ, BR, CC, CI, CR, EJ, ISS, ITA, LU, MR, SE, VRN, WQ, WR
51	2018	Shafter-Wasco Irrigation District Recovery and Return Improvements to District's Spreading Grounds for Drought Resiliency Project	California-Great Basin/ WaterSMART	Provides funds for construction of 2 wells and associated pipelines to connect to District facilities to balance and conserve surface water and declining groundwater levels. The EA is tiered to a prior programmatic EA.	AQ, BR, CC, CI, CR, EJ, ISS, ITA, LU, MR, SE, VRN, WQ, WR
52	2018	Southern Nevada Water Authority WaterSMART	Lower Colorado Basin/ WaterSMART	Provides funds for rebates to residential, commercial, and institutional water users to convert turf lawns to water efficient	BR, CI, CR, EJ, ISS, ITA, GS, VRN, WL, WQ

#	Year	EA/FONSI Title	Region/ Project	Underlying Action	Resources Evaluated
		Grant-Landscape Rebate Program		landscaping to conserve and extend existing water supplies during periods of continued drought.	
53	2019	El Camino Irrigation District-Pump 1 Conveyance Efficiency Upgrade Project	California-Great Basin/ WaterSMART	Provides funds to upgrade an aged concrete pipeline to PVC pipe to conserve irrigation water, increase groundwater storage, reduce seasonal groundwater fluctuations, and increase energy use efficiency through reduced pumping.	AQ, BR, CI, CC, CR, EJ, ISS, ITA, LU, WR
54	2019	Middle Klamath Coho Habitat Enhancement Planning and Design Team Support	California-Great Basin/ KRCRP	Provides funds for planning and design efforts to enhance off-channel coho refuge habitats along the Middle Klamath River corridor.	BR, CI, CR, EJ, ISS, ITA, LU, VRN, WR
55	2019	Day Ranch Conservation Project	California-Great Basin/ Central Valley Project Conservation Program	Provides funds to a conservancy to purchase a 356-acre conservation easement on a working cattle ranch and development of a management plan to preserve habitat in perpetuity for 9 ESA listed species.	BR, CI, CR, EJ, ISS, ITA, LU
56	2019	Horse Creek Habitat Restoration Project	California-Great Basin/ KRCRGP	Provides funds to develop designs for fisheries habitat restoration per conservation measures identified in the 2019 biological opinion for continued operations of the Klamath Project.	AQ, BR, CI, CR, EJ, ISS, ITA, LU, VRN, WR
57	2019	McMullin Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency Groundwater Credit and Surface Water Marketing Strategy Project	California-Great Basin/ WaterSMART	Provides funds to develop and coordinate a groundwater marketing and credit program for unused landowner groundwater allocations.	BR, CC, CR, EJ, ISS, ITA, WR
58	2019	Natomas Central Mutual Water Company: Cottonwood Check Structure Project	California-Great Basin/ Delta-Bay Restoration Program-CALFED Water Use	Provides funds to replace a check structure and gate to maintain constant upstream water level to improve irrigation management and provide greater flexibility in meeting early spring water demand.	AQ, BR, CC, CI CR, EJ, ISS, ITA

#	Year	EA/FONSI Title	Region/ Project	Underlying Action	Resources Evaluated
			Efficiency Grant		
59	2019	North Kern Water Storage District Supervisory Control and Acquisition System Automation and Evapotranspiration Improvements	California-Great Basin/ WaterSMART	Provides funds to install and implement a SCADA system and process evapotranspiration and surface renewal station data to improve water supply efficiency.	AQ, BR, CC, CI, CR, EJ, ISS, ITA, SE, WR
60	2019	Round Valley Indian Tribes-Mill Creek Streamflow and Riparian Corridor Restoration Project	California-Great Basin/ WaterSMART	Provides funding to the Tribe to restore a riparian corridor by establishing ~30,000 trees and shrubs and providing supplemental watering (by installing a drip system) to decrease the adjacent creek's water temperatures and increase water retention and aquifer recharge to improve Tribal water supplies.	AQ, BR, CC, CI, CR, EJ, LU, ISS, ITA
61	2019	Lindmore Irrigation District 93.2E Plant Modernization	California-Great Basin/ WaterSMART	Provides funds to install variable flow devices and SCADA system at a District pumping plant to improve delivery efficiency, reduce water and energy losses, and conserve water.	AQ, BR, CC, CI, CR, EJ, ISS, ITA, WR
62	2019	Washington County Water Conservancy District 2019-2020 WaterSMART Small-Scale Water Efficiency Project	Lower Colorado Basin/ WaterSMART	Provides funds for a District-managed water efficiency technical assistance program for commercial properties and rebates for irrigation system upgrades. The EA incorporates by reference a 2017 EA.	AQ, BR, CI, CR, EJ, GS, ISS, ITA, VRN, WL, WQ
63	2019	Arvin-Edison Water Storage District Groundwater Well Metering Project	California-Great Basin/ Agricultural Water Use Efficiency	Provides funds for purchase and installation of flow meters in District service area to develop a groundwater sustainability plan.	AQ, BR, CI, CR, EJ, ISS, ITA, WR
64	2019	Carpenter Valley Recreational Improvements Project	California-Great Basin/ DOI Desert Terminal Lakes Program	Provides funds for a sub-grant to improve public recreational access at the existing 604-acre Truckee Donner Land Trust's Carpenter Valley property to concentrate use into designated areas to reduce ongoing impacts to sensitive resources from unauthorized disperse recreation. The work includes trail improvements, and	AQ, BR, CI, CR, EJ, GS, ISS, ITA, LU, VRN, WL, WR

#	Year	EA/FONSI Title	Region/ Project	Underlying Action	Resources Evaluated
				installation of a vault restroom, a wildlife viewing platform, 4 picnic tables, additional fencing and interpretive signage occurred in previously disturbed areas within the property.	
65	2019	Development of a Smart Water Grid at Blue Lake Rancheria	California-Great Basin/ WaterSMART	Provides funds to develop a smart water grid, SCADA system with web-based capabilities and construct a water tank to promote self-sufficiency and drought resiliency.	AQ, BR, CC, CI, CR, EJ, ISS, ITA, WR
66	2019	Distribution Systems Improvement Project-Reclamation District 108	California-Great Basin/ Bay-Delta Restoration Program-CALFED Water Use Efficiency Grant	Provide funds to replace and automate manual water control gates and irrigation pipelines to conserve water and power. The EA incorporates a CEQA analysis by reference.	AQ, BR, CC, CI, CR, EJ, GS, HZ, ISS, ITA, LU, SEVRN, WQ, WR
67	2019	Maybell Canal Water Conservation Project	Upper Colorado Basin/ WaterSMART	Provides funds to install a total of 1,300 feet of polymer liner in two segments in the existing canal to eliminate seepage and conserve water.	AQ, BR, CI, CR, EJ, GS, HZ, ISS, ITA, LU, SE, VRN, WQ, WR
68	2019	Hobble Creek Piping Project, Utah County, Utah	Upper Colorado Basin/ WaterSMART	Provides funds to replace a portion of the ditch system with a pressurized pipeline to minimize seepage and evaporations loss, reduce maintenance costs, meet additional water demands, and reduce drought-related impacts.	BR, CI, CR, EJ, GS, HZ, ISS, ITA, LU, SE, VRN, WQ, WR
69	2019	Northeast Colorado Walker Recharge Project, Central Colorado Water Conservancy District	Missouri Basin and Arkansas-Rio Grande-Texas Gulf/ WaterSMART	Provides funds to design and construct the first phase of recharge project which uses an existing ditch and construct two pipelines, a recharge pond, and 4 to 6 alluvial wells to conjunctively manage surface and groundwater supplies for irrigation.	BR, CI, CR, EJ, ISS, ITA, LU, WQ, WR, WRT,
70	2020	Lower Colorado Region WaterSMART Grants Program	Lower Colorado Basin/ WaterSMART	Provides funds for water conservation and efficiency grants, small-scale water efficiency projects, cooperative watershed management-implementation projects, resiliency	AQ, BR, CI, CR, EJ, GS, ISS, ITA, VRN, WL, WQ

#	Year	EA/FONSI Title	Region/ Project	Underlying Action	Resources Evaluated
				project, and Water Conservation Field Services in Reclamation's Lower Colorado Region. The EA provides a programmatic level assessment.	
71	2022	Reclaimed Water Distribution Cheney Purple Pipe Project	Columbia-Pacific Northwest/ WaterSMART	Provides funds to upgrade a wastewater treatment and reclamation facility for reclaimed water for irrigated turf grass and landscape at city parks, athletic fields, and school grounds to address a declining aquifer and summer irrigation demands.	AQ, BR, CC, CI, CR, EJ, ISS, ITA, GS, LU, SE, VRN, WL, WQ, WR, WRT



# **Appendix 1—Sample Categorical Exclusion Checklist**

See following page.

**CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION CHECKLIST**

Reclamation Office Name & Control Number:

Project (drop-down menu):

**Prepared By:**

<b>NATURE OF ACTION: (Purpose and Need, Proposed Action, Project Description, and Activities):</b>
--

**Date:**

**Applicant/Proposing Agency:**

<b>PROJECT TITLE:</b>
<b>EXCLUSION CATEGORY[516 DM 2.3 A(2)]</b>

Reclamation Region Name - Area Office Name, Categorical Exclusion Checklist, DATE

EVALUATION OF CRITERIA FOR CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION		No	Yes	Uncertain
1.	This action or group of actions would have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. (40 CFR 1502.3)			
2.	This action or group of actions would have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources. (NEPA Section 102(2)(E) and 43 CFR 46.215)			

EVALUATION OF EXCEPTIONS TO ACTIONS WITHIN CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION		No	Yes	Uncertain
1.	This action would have significant adverse effects on public health or safety. (43 CFR 46.215(a))			
2.	This action would have an adverse effect on unique geographical features such as: wetlands, Wild or Scenic Rivers, or Scenic Rivers, refuges, floodplains, rivers placed on the Nationwide River Inventory, or prime or unique farmlands. (43 CFR 46.215 (b))			
3.	This action would have highly uncertain environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risk. (43 CFR 46.215(d))			
4.	This action would establish a precedent for future actions. (43 CFR 46.215 (e))			
5.	This action would have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant effects. (43 CFR 46.215 (f))			
6.	This action would affect properties listed, or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. (43 CFR 46.215 (g))			
7.	This action would adversely affect a species listed, or proposed to be listed, as endangered or threatened. (43 CFR 46.215 (h)).			
8.	This action would violate federal, state, local or tribal law or requirements imposed for protection of the environment. (43 CFR 46.215 (i))			
9.	This action would affect Indian trust assets. (S.O. 3175; 1993 Reclamation Policy Memorandum)			
10.	This action would not accommodate access to or allow ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites by Indian religious practitioners to the extent practicable. Neither will it avoid adversely affect, to any practicable extent, the physical integrity of such sacred sites. (E.O. 13007, 43 CFR 46.215 (k))			
11.	This action will disproportionately affect minority or low-income populations (E.O. 12898, 43 CFR 46.215 (j)).			
12.	This action would contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act, E.O. 13112, and 43 CFR 46.215 (l)).			

**NEPA ACTION TAKEN:**

- CE Checklist - The proposed action meets the criteria, as defined in 43 CFR 46.215, and qualifies as a categorical exclusion. The action will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment. It is excluded from documentation in an Environmental Assessment (EA) or Environmental Impact Statement (EIS).  
 The proposed action does not meet the criteria for a categorical exclusion. Further environmental review and analysis is required. The following environmental document should be prepared:  
EA   
EIS

Reclamation Region Name - Area Office Name, Categorical Exclusion Checklist, DATE

**PROPOSED ACTION (analytical conclusions), ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITMENTS AND/OR REMARKS:**

**PROJECT DESIGN FEATURES, MITIGATION, AND BEST MANAGEMENT PRACTICE (BMPs)**

**APPROVED:**

**Date:**

**Area Office Name, Manager**

Reclamation Region Name - Area Office Name, Categorical Exclusion Checklist, DATE

# Appendix 2—Summary of Impacts Evaluated in the Substantiating EAs/FONSIs

## Water-Related Contract EAs/FONSIs

### 1. Oro Loma Water District Partial Assignment of 4,000 acre-feet of Central Valley Project (CVP Water to Westlands Water District (2011))

*Description: Contract assignment to supplement Westlands Water District's reliance on ground water pumping. This assignment represents about 0.03 percent of Westland's annual CVP allocation and was considered a minor change.*

The FONSI disclosed potential impacts based on the EA; all were considered not significant. Impacts are summarized as follows:

- Water Resources: The Proposed Action will not affect CVP operations and will not change existing diversion points from the Delta under Reclamation's water rights permits. The Proposed Action will not interfere with Reclamation's obligations to deliver water to other contractors, wetland habitat areas, or for other environmental purposes. The Proposed Action will not impact implementation of the South Of Delta Accelerated Water Transfer Program. There will be no change in the point of diversion for the assigned water, and there will be no increase in diversions from the Delta as a result. The assignment of 4,000 acre-feet of Oro Loma's supply will not change the environmental baseline of delivery of this water to Westlands as it has been occurring historically.
- Land Use: There will be no impacts to land use within Oro Loma or Westlands as conditions will be similar to existing conditions. No native habitat, untilled lands or lands fallow for 3 or more years will be brought into production with this water as this water will be used to maintain existing crops within Westlands.
- Biological Resources: Water will be conveyed in existing facilities to established agricultural lands similar to what has been done for the last 5 years during annual transfers between Westlands and Oro Loma. No native lands or lands fallowed and untilled for 3 or more years will be disturbed as this water will be used on existing farmed lands. No changes will be made to the points of diversions or CVP operations, and the water to be transferred will continue to be conveyed as previously conveyed under the annual transfers. Consequently, there will be no effect to listed or proposed fish species or their critical habitat; there will be no effect to Essential Fish Habitat; the Proposed Action also will not affect migratory birds, imperiled species, unique habitats, or species and habitats protected by federal or state law. Reclamation has determined that the Proposed Action will have no effect on federally listed or proposed threatened or endangered species, or their critical habitat.
- Cultural Resources: The Proposed Action will result in no impacts to cultural resources.
- Indian Sacred Sites: The Proposed Action involves the conveyance of water through existing facilities to established agricultural lands. Neither restriction of access to nor adverse effects to the physical integrity of any Sacred Sites will occur. As such, there will

be no direct, indirect, or cumulative impacts to Indian Sacred Sites as a result of the Proposed Action.

- Indian Trust Assets: There will be no impact to Indian Trust Assets as there are none in the Proposed Action area.
- Environmental Justice: The Proposed Action may support and maintain jobs that low-income and disadvantaged populations rely upon through increased irrigation water supply reliability. Therefore, there may be a slight beneficial impact to minority or disadvantaged populations as a result of the Proposed Action.
- Socioeconomic Resources: Under the Proposed Action, the status quo of agriculture will be maintained. The assignment will allow more productive and labor-intensive land to remain in production, thereby potentially improving socioeconomic conditions in the region.
- Air Quality: Delivery of this water will require no modification of existing facilities or construction of new facilities. In addition, water will be moved either via gravity or electric pumps which will not produce emissions that impact air quality. Therefore, a conformity analysis is not required and there will be no impact to air quality as a result of the Proposed Action.
- Global Climate Change: Electric pumps produce carbon dioxide that could potentially contribute to greenhouse gases. However, water under the Proposed Action is water that will be delivered from the existing facilities with or without the Proposed Action and is therefore part of the existing conditions. There will be no additional impacts to greenhouse gases as a result of the Proposed Action.
- Cumulative Impacts: As there will be no impact to water diverted from the Delta, points of diversions, or CVP operations and this water will continue to be conveyed as it has been previously under the annual transfers, there will be no cumulative impacts as a result of the Proposed Action. No cumulative impacts to land use are anticipated. There will be no significant cumulative impacts to biological resources as a result of the Proposed Action. As there will be no impacts to cultural resources, Indian Sacred Sites, or Indian Trust Assets as a result of Reclamation's Proposed Action, no cumulative impacts will occur. The Proposed Action, when added to other existing and proposed actions, will have a slight beneficial contribution to cumulative impacts for minority or disadvantaged populations as it will help support and maintain jobs that low-income and disadvantaged populations rely upon due to increased irrigation water supply reliability. Over the long term, the Proposed Action will have slight beneficial impacts to socioeconomic resources within Westlands' as the assigned water will increase the amount of Westlands' CVP water supply. There will be no cumulative impacts to air quality as there will be no emissions that impact air quality or construction activities that will produce emissions that could cumulatively impact air quality.

## **2. Widren Water District's Water Quality, Supply, and Drainage Enhancement Pilot Project (2016)**

*Description: A 1-year exchange agreement/contract to convey up to 1,000 acre-feet treated groundwater into CVP facilities. Exchange represents less than 1 percent of annual deliveries via the Delta-Mendota Canal. Up 50,000 acre-feet per year of groundwater introduced in the canal was previously analyzed by a 2012 Reclamation EA.*

The FONSI disclosed potential impacts based on the EA; all were considered not significant. Impacts are summarized as follows:

- Resources Eliminated from Detailed Analysis: Reclamation analyzed the affected environment and determined that the Proposed Action does not have the potential to cause direct, indirect, or cumulative adverse effects to the following resources: air quality, environmental justice, global climate change, Indian Sacred Sites, or Indian Trust Assets.
- Biological Resources: There would be no changes in Delta pumping, and water would only be used to support existing land uses. The trench lines would result in temporary disturbance of land that could potentially be used by the San Joaquin kit fox and Western burrowing owl. The measures included in the EA would prevent any take of owls, and any impacts to kit foxes. Water pumped into the Delta-Mendota Canal would be of a quality that would not present an issue for species living in habitat that also receives water conveyed through the Delta Mendota Canal (such as the Mendota Wildlife Area, which is used by the giant garter snake). Mercury levels would be so low as to be undetectable, and selenium levels in the water would remain well below two parts per billion. Critical habitat in the Proposed Action Area would not be subject to land use change as a result of the Proposed Action. The San Joaquin kit fox and any migrating birds could continue to use the Proposed Action Area as under the No Action alternative. With the environmental commitments listed in the EA and based upon the nature of this Action, Reclamation has determined there would be No Effect to proposed or Endangered Species Act (ESA)-listed species or critical habitat, and no take of birds protected under the MBTA.
- Cultural Resources: The proposed action of connecting a new pipeline to an existing Delta-Mendota Canal turnout would not alter any physical characteristics of the canal or its berm. Since there would be no alterations to the Delta-Mendota Canal, the CVP would also be unaffected. Reclamation determined that there would be no adverse effects to historic properties, and no cultural resources would be affected.
- Land Use: No untilled land (fallow for 3 years or more) would be brought into production. The Proposed Action would only occur for 1 year and would not be used for development. Under the Proposed Action, up to 337 acres of dry farmland within Widren Water District could receive blended effluent for salt-tolerant crops. This land would most likely receive blended effluent from Widren Water District's reverse osmosis (RO) Treatment Plant regardless of whether the project was implemented or not, to improve drainage impacted lands within Widren Water District. Therefore, no land use changes would occur.
- Water Resources: Under the Proposed Action, Widren Water District would pump up to 1,200 acre-feet of groundwater to be treated by their proposed RO Treatment Plant over a one-year Pilot Project. There would be no construction or modification to the Delta-Mendota Canal and the capacity of the facility would remain the same. The Proposed Action would not interfere with the normal operations of the Delta-Mendota Canal, nor would it impede CVP obligations to deliver water to its contractors. Therefore, there would be no impact to water quality or operations of CVP facilities. The total quantity of groundwater that would be pumped into the Delta-Mendota Canal under the Proposed Action would be limited to 1,000 acre-feet over the 1-year period. Widren Water District

would pump from above the Corcoran Clay, which has the potential to lower a perched saline water table, thus improving local water quality and the otherwise drainage impaired lands in this area. No effluent or RO treatment backflush water would leave Widren Water District. Therefore, there would be no impact to local water supplies.

- Cumulative Impacts: There would be no cumulative impacts as a result of implementing the Proposed Action to biological resources, cultural resources, land use, existing facilities or other contractors, or local drainage.

### **3. Partial Assignment from Mercy Springs Water District and Fresno Slough Water District to Angiola Water District (2016)**

*Description: Assignment of existing contracts to meet in-district demands and other uses consistent with existing contracts and approvals.*

The FONSI disclosed potential impacts based on the EA; all were considered not significant. Impacts are summarized as follows:

- Overall: The proposed action will not significantly affect natural resources and unique geographical characteristics such as proximity to 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.
- Public Health/Safety: The proposed action will not significantly affect public health or safety.
- Cumulative Impacts: The proposed action will not have cumulatively significant impacts.
- Cultural Resources: The proposed action will not significantly affect historic properties. The proposed action will not limit access to, and ceremonial use of, Indian Sacred Sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or adversely affect the physical integrity of such Sacred Sites.
- Indian Trust Assets: The proposed action will not affect any Indian Trust Assets.
- Biological Resources: The proposed action will not significantly affect ESA-listed or proposed threatened or endangered species, or its critical habitat.
- Environmental Justice: Implementing the proposed action will not disproportionately affect minorities or low-income populations and communities (EO 12898).

### **4. Ivanhoe Irrigation District 5 Year Warren Act Agreement for up to 6,500 acre-feet of Kaweah River Water in the Friant-Kern Canal (2017)**

*Description: Temporary contract used existing facilities to convey non-project water to support existing crops with the district which represents 1 percent increase annual deliveries via the Friant-Kern Canal.*

The FONSI disclosed potential impacts based on the EA; all were considered not significant. Impacts are summarized as follows:

- Overall: The proposed action will not significantly affect natural resources and unique geographical characteristics such as proximity to 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 (EO 11990); flood plains (EO 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.

- Public Health/Safety: The proposed action will not significantly affect public health or safety.
- Cumulative Impacts: The proposed action will not have cumulatively significant impacts.
- Cultural Resources: The proposed action will not significantly affect historic properties. The proposed action will not limit access to, and ceremonial use of, Indian Sacred Sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or adversely affect the physical integrity of such Sacred Sites.
- Indian Trust Assets: The proposed action will not affect any Indian Trust Assets.
- Biological Resources: The proposed action will not significantly affect ESA-listed or proposed threatened or endangered species, or its critical habitat.
- Environmental Justice: Implementing the proposed action will not disproportionately affect minorities or low-income populations and communities (EO 12898).

## **5. Water Service Contract Renewal between the United States and the Town of Estes Park (2017)**

*Description: Contract replaces an existing water service contract with repayment and excess capacity contracts for municipal water delivery and exchanges.*

The FONSI disclosed potential impacts based on the EA; all were considered not significant and found to result in negligible to minor effects. Impacts are summarized as follows:

- Water Resources: No changes in flows under current operations. Minor decreases in stream flow in Big Thompson River between Big Thompson Intake and Lake Estes during exchanges. Largest predicted streamflow decreases (5.8 percent to 7.2 percent from a 0.7 cubic feet per second (cfs) diversion at Big Thompson Intake) would occur in March prior to spring runoff.
- Water Rights: All exchanges would be subject to water right decrees and administered by the State of Colorado.
- Fish and Wildlife Resources: No effect under current operations. Negligible effects to fisheries resources from decreased streamflow in Big Thompson River above Lake Estes during exchanges. Big Thompson Intake would use a fish friendly design to allow fish passage and minimize fish entrainment. No effect to fisheries resources downstream of Lake Estes. Minor, temporary displacement of local wildlife during construction of Big Thompson Intake, Glacier Creek Water Treatment Plant (GCWTP) expansion, and GCWTP Pipeline. No long-term effects predicted.
- Threatened and Endangered Species: No effect and there are no new depletions from either Colorado or Platte River basins associated with the Proposed Action.
- Water Quality: No changes in water quality under current operations. Additional flexibility at GCWTP may result in taste improvements to water delivered at the tap.
- Waters of the United States (WOTUS): No effect to WOTUS under current operations. Minor discharges associated with construction of the Big Thompson Intake. All permanent discharges associated with construction activities result in loss of less than

1/10th acre of WOTUS. Temporary impacts to lower and upper wet areas during construction of GCWTP Pipeline. Compliance with NWP 12 would help minimize impacts to a negligible level. Implementation of BMPs associated with NPDES.

- **Land Use and Recreation:** No changes in land use under current operations. Minor temporary impacts to local land uses during construction activities associated with Big Thompson Intake, GCWTP expansion, and GCWTP Pipeline. Temporary YMCA trail closures along Glacier Creek during construction may be required during construction activities for public safety.
- **Visual Resources and Noise:** No impacts to visual resource or increased noise under current operations. Minor temporary construction related impacts associated with Big Thompson Intake GCWTP expansion and GCWTP Pipeline. Revegetation of pipeline alignment and associated construction areas would minimize any long-term effects on visual resources.
- **Air Quality:** No impacts to air quality under current operations. Implementation of construction Best Management Practices and dust abatement during construction would minimize any temporary impacts.
- **Socioeconomics:** Proposed Action intended to assist Estes Park and the Estes Valley in meeting the current and future water service needs of the community.
- **Hydropower:** No additional effects under current operations. Potential to increase power generation by 0.2 percent during Contract Water exchanges.
- **Historic Resources:** No effect to cultural resources under current operations. Cultural resource inventories would be conducted prior to any ground disturbing activities associated with Big Thompson Intake, GCWTP expansion and GCWTP Pipeline. Any historic resources eligible for National Register of Historic Places identified during the inventories would be avoided. Any impacts to historic resources would be mitigated as identified during the Section 106 process with the Colorado State Historic Preservation Officer.
- **Indian Trust Assets:** No Indian Trust Assets have been identified that could be affected by the Proposed Action.
- **Environmental Justice:** No effect.
- **Cumulative Impacts:** For Hydropower, potential to increase power generation by 0.4 percent with Contract Water, Colorado-Big Thompson Project, and Windy Gap Project exchanges. For Visual Resources and Noise, minor temporary impacts associated with GCWTP expansion. Use of non-reflective materials painted with natural color tones would minimize any potential visual impacts associated with construction and operation of new water treatment facilities at GCWTP. For Water Resources, negligible decreases in stream flow predicted when exchanges of Colorado-Big Thompson Project and Windy Gap Project water between Big Thompson and Lake Estes occur.

## **6. Fresno Irrigation District—Orange Cove Irrigation—Table Mountain Rancheria Transfer (2018)**

*Description: Contract allowed for a temporary transfer of 100 acre-feet of CVP water to non-CVP contractor for municipal use (less than 0.1 percent of annual deliveries).*

The FONSI disclosed potential impacts based on the EA; all were considered not significant. Impacts are summarized as follows:

- Overall: The proposed action will not significantly affect natural resources and unique geographical characteristics such as proximity to 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 (EO 11990); flood plains (EO 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.
- Public Health and Safety: The proposed action will not significantly affect public health or safety.
- Cumulative Impacts: The proposed action will not have cumulatively significant impacts.
- Cultural Resources: The proposed action will not significantly affect historic properties. The proposed action will not limit access to, and ceremonial use of, Indian Sacred Sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or adversely affect the physical integrity of such Sacred Sites.
- Indian Trust Assets: The proposed action will not affect any Indian Trust Assets.
- Biological Resources: The proposed action will not significantly affect listed or proposed threatened or endangered species, or its critical habitat.
- Environmental Justice: Implementing the proposed action will not disproportionately affect minorities or low-income populations and communities.

## **7. Contracts for Conveyance of Non-Project Water through Klamath Project Facilities (2018)**

*Description: Contract allowed for temporary conveyance (5-years) of non-project through Klamath Project facilities for irrigation purposes within the Project's service area when there is excess capacity.*

The FONSI disclosed potential impacts based on the EA; all were considered not significant. Impacts are summarized as follows:

- Indian Trust Assets: Given, that the Proposed Action Alternative is largely administrative in nature and includes the issuance of contracts for conveyance of privately pumped, state authorized, non-Project water, the Proposed Action Alternative will not have any impacts to Indian hunting or fishing resources or water rights.
- Indian Sacred Sites: Given that the Proposed Action Alternative would not affect and/or prohibit access to and ceremonial use of Indian Sacred Sites no impacts to Indian Sacred Sites will occur.
- Environmental Justice: Reclamation has not identified adverse human health or environmental effects or disproportionate impacts on economically disadvantaged or minority populations as a result of implementing the Proposed Action Alternative.
- Cultural Resources: The Proposed Action Alternative has no potential to cause effects on historic properties. The Proposed Action Alternative is limited to the use of existing facilities to convey water and does not involve new ground disturbing activities. As such, conditions under the Proposed Action Alternative would remain the same as existing condition, resulting in no impacts to cultural resources.
- Global Climate Change and Greenhouse Gases: No new construction or facilities are proposed; however, pumping, from equipment of various sizes at various locations, would be required to transport non-Project water. Emissions as a result of pumping would

be within the typical range for the equipment involved and are part of baseline conditions, and is not anticipated to substantially fluctuate beyond what has historically occurred since 2001. Overall impacts to climate change and greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions are expected to be insignificant due to the size and scope of the pumping equipment, small changes from current conditions, duration of use that is limited to the irrigation season, and compliance with pollution related regulations established by local and state agencies.

- Water Resources: Implementation of the Proposed Action Alternative could have a potential to affect groundwater and surface water resources as the action involves extraction of groundwater to be conveyed via Klamath Project facilities. Reclamation has determined, however, that no significant acute and cumulative impacts to groundwater and surface water resources will occur as the Proposed Action Alternative includes water quality and quantity monitoring protocols to mitigate such impacts. The Proposed Action could increase groundwater use within the Project's service area; however, Reclamation intends to coordinate with the States of Oregon and California and rely upon their technical expertise in making impact determinations with respect to potential third-party impacts and any other groundwater impacts within the Project service area which would include curtailment of conveyance within Project facilities. Due to Reclamation's obligation to operate in compliance with state water law, all districts and individuals utilizing excess capacity contracts in Oregon and California, will be required to provide information to Reclamation demonstrating that the proposed use of groundwater is consistent with state law and limitations. Reclamation will also regularly coordinate with, and potentially provide support to, the states to ensure state limitations related to groundwater extraction are monitored and enforced. Surface water quality within Project canals could be impacted when groundwater is introduced and mixes with Project water, thereby changing its composition and potentially impacting downstream users. To reduce the potential for non-Project water degrading or contributing to poor water quality entering and being conveyed through Project facilities, minimum water quality standards and assurances, would be evaluated and monitored by Reclamation. Water sources not meeting minimum standards may not be allowed to convey non-Project water until Reclamation determines that the non-Project water source will not negatively contribute to the overall water quality.
- Biological Resources: The Proposed Action is not expected to have an effect on these species or their habitats as the Proposed Action is administrative in nature and there would be no change in land use patterns of cultivated or fallowed fields that have some value to ESA listed species or to birds protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA). Additionally, water quality assurance would ensure that inputs of non-Project water do not degrade existing Project water quality. There would be no direct or indirect impact to Federally listed species or their critical habitat or other biological resources as a result of implementing the Proposed Action.
- Socioeconomics: There would be a reduced potential for involuntary irrigation curtailments due to limited surface water supplies. Non-Project water conveyed under the Proposed Action Alternative could provide water users with flexibility to optimize privately owned and state authorized existing water supplies and independently respond to drought. As a result, the Proposed Action Alternative could result in a reduction in the number of temporarily idled agricultural lands, thereby helping to stabilize and possibly

increase land yields and agricultural revenues, especially in years of limited Project water supplies. Non-Project water conveyed through Federal facilities under the Proposed Action could increase the overall water available for Project water users while potentially reducing the need for and level of resource intensive drought mitigation measures or more expensive water supply alternatives.

## **8. Water Acquisitions for National Wildlife Refuges (2018)**

*Description: 1-year contracts for purchase for up to 37,800 acre-feet from willing districts to protect and maintain migratory waterfowl and wetland-dependent wildlife.*

The FONSI disclosed potential impacts based on the EA; all were considered not significant. Impacts are summarized as follows:

- Overall: The proposed action will not significantly affect natural resources and unique geographical characteristics such as proximity to 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 (EO 11990); flood plains (EO 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.
- Public Health and Safety: The proposed action will not significantly affect public health or safety.
- Cumulative Impacts: The proposed action will not have cumulatively significant impacts.
- Cultural Resources: The proposed action will not significantly affect historic properties. The proposed action will not limit access to, and ceremonial use of, Indian Sacred Sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or adversely affect the physical integrity of such Sacred Sites.
- Indian Trust Assets: The proposed action will not affect any Indian Trust Assets.
- Biological Resources: The proposed action will not significantly affect listed or proposed threatened or endangered species, or its critical habitat.
- Environmental Justice: Implementing the proposed action will not disproportionately affect minorities or low-income populations and communities.

## **9. Sacramento Suburban Water District 5-Year Warren Act Contract (2018)**

*Description: 5-year contract allowed for conveyance of up to 14,500 acre-feet per year of non-CVP water during wet years through Folsom Reservoir, when space is available, for municipal and industrial uses within District's service area.*

The FONSI disclosed potential impacts based on the EA; all were considered not significant. Impacts are summarized as follows:

- Overall: The proposed action will not significantly affect natural resources and unique geographical characteristics such as proximity to 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 (EO 11990); flood plains (EO 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.

- Public Health and Safety: The proposed action will not significantly affect public health or safety.
- Cumulative Impacts: The proposed action will not have cumulatively significant impacts.
- Cultural Resources: The proposed action will not significantly affect historic properties because no ground disturbing activities or construction activities are included or will result from the execution of a 5-year Warren Act Contract. The proposed action will not limit access to, and ceremonial use of, Indian Sacred Sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or adversely affect the physical integrity of such Sacred Sites.
- Indian Trust Assets: The proposed action will not affect any Indian Trust Assets.
- Biological Resources: There will be no effect on terrestrial and riparian species-status species within the 5-year WAC service area. Modeling analysis for implementation of the District's long-term WAC (November 2017) found there was no effect to Folsom Reservoir operations or cold pool management. Therefore, there are no effects to operation of Folsom Reservoir based on flows or management of the cold water pool and downstream fisheries requirements for Central Valley steelhead, and fall/spring-run Chinook salmon as a result of the 5-year WAC.
- Environmental Justice: Implementing the proposed action will not disproportionately affect minorities or low-income populations and communities.

## **10. CVP Project Interim Renewal Contracts for Cities of Avenal, Coalinga, Huron, and California Department of Fish and Wildlife for Contract Years 2019-2021(2018)**

*Description: Contracts provides for continued use of CVP water for agricultural and/or municipal and industrial (M&I) use under interim renewal contracts and does not change uses specified in the existing contracts.*

The FONSI disclosed potential impacts based on the EA; all were considered not significant. Impacts are summarized as follows:

- Overall: The proposed action will not significantly affect natural resources and unique geographical characteristics such as proximity to 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 (EO 11990); flood plains (EO 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.
- Public Health and Safety: The proposed action will not significantly affect public health or safety.
- Cumulative Impacts: The proposed action will not have cumulatively significant impacts.
- Cultural Resources: The proposed action will not significantly affect historic properties. The proposed action will not limit access to, and ceremonial use of, Indian Sacred Sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or adversely affect the physical integrity of such Sacred Sites.
- Indian Trust Assets: The proposed action will not affect any Indian Trust Assets.
- Biological Resources: The proposed action will not significantly affect listed or proposed threatened or endangered species, or its critical habitat.

- Environmental Justice: Implementing the proposed action will not disproportionately affect minorities or low-income populations and communities.

## **11. Final Programmatic Environmental Assessment for Pueblo Reservoir Temporary Excess Capacity Storage Program, and Site-Specific Environmental Assessment for Donala Water and Sanitation District 40-Year Excess Capacity Storage and Conveyance Contract and Bureau of Land Management 40-Year Excess Capacity Storage Contract (2018)**

*Description: Contracts provides for continuation of a temporary excess capacity contracting program and includes two long-term excess capacity contracts for agricultural and M&I uses. The long-term contracts represent less than 1 percent of excess capacity storage in Pueblo Reservoir.*

The FONSI disclosed potential impacts based on the EA; all were considered not significant. Impacts are summarized as follows:

- Surface Waters Resources—Rivers and Streams: Negligible increases in annual streamflow (Catlin, La Junta, and John Martin stream gage locations); negligible decreases in annual streamflow (Twin Lakes, Portland, Above Pueblo Combined Flow, Moffat, Avondale, and Coolidge stream gage locations). Negligible changes at all modeled streamflow except Lake Creek below Twin Lakes with 2.8-6.8 percent decrease, and Above Pueblo with 0.3 cfs decrease. 1 cfs to 3 cfs increase in winter flows in Grape Creek with release from DeWeese Reservoir.
- Surface Waters Resources—Reservoirs: All reservoir elevation changes would be negligible, except Pueblo Reservoir's average End of Month elevation increases by up to 1.66 feet.
- Groundwater Resources: Entities relying on groundwater could use excess capacity storage when available to meet some augmentation requirements for out-of-priority pumping. Donala would continue to use its Willow Creek Ranch water rights to reduce dependency on non-renewable groundwater resources. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM) would continue to store a portion of the water from the BLM's Park Well water right in Pueblo Reservoir and exchange it to DeWeese Reservoir to augment winter flows in Grape Creek below DeWeese Reservoir and its confluence with the Arkansas River.
- Water Rights: Complies with Colorado Water law as administered by Colorado Division of Water Resources and no adverse effects to senior water rights.
- Water Quality: Negligible changes in water quality.
- Aquatic Life and Recreation: Upper Arkansas River Flow Management Program—decrease of 7.1 cfs and increase of 0.2 cfs mean flow in July 1st to August 15th flows, and November 16 to April 30 flows increase by 0.2 cfs. Reservoir Recreation Increase in Pueblo mean surface area by 89 acres. Minimum surface area increases by 132 acres, minimally. Increased in End of Month elevations generally benefit recreation and aquatic resources.
- Historic Properties: No effects to Historic Properties.

- Threatened, Endangered, and Candidate Species: No effects to listed species but requires Upper Colorado River Endangered Fish Recovery Program Agreements for historic Colorado River Basin imports if not previously executed.
- Socioeconomic Resources: Potential Fry-Ark Project revenues, including between of \$1.1 and \$1.8 million per year under the Temporary Program.
- Environmental Justice: Additional Fry-Ark Revenues to support Fry-Ark Project repayment, operation & maintenance (O&M) and Arkansas Valley Conduit.
- Indian Trust Assets: None identified.

## **12. Five-Year Warren Act Contracts for Conveyance of Groundwater in the Tehama Colusa Canal-Contract Years 2018-2022 (2018)**

*Description: These temporary contracts allowed CVP contractors to introduce and convey groundwater to support downstream crops during low CVP water availability. The contracts represent about 25 percent of annual deliveries via the Tehama-Colusa Canal.*

The FONSI disclosed potential impacts based on the EA; all were considered not significant. Impacts are summarized as follows:

- Overall: The proposed action will not significantly affect natural resources and unique geographical characteristics such as proximity to 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 (EO 11990); flood plains (EO 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.
- Public Health and Safety: The proposed action will not significantly affect public health or safety.
- Cumulative Impacts: The proposed action will not have cumulatively significant impacts.
- Cultural Resources: The proposed action will not significantly affect historic properties. The proposed action will not limit access to, and ceremonial use of, Indian Sacred Sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or adversely affect the physical integrity of such Sacred Sites.
- Indian Trust Assets: The proposed action will not affect any Indian Trust Assets.
- Biological Resources: The proposed action will not significantly affect listed or proposed threatened or endangered species.
- Environmental Justice: Implementing the proposed action will not disproportionately affect minorities or low-income populations and communities.

## **13. Kaweah River Warren Act Agreements 2019-2023 (2019)**

*Description: Agreements allowed for the temporary conveyance of non-CVP water through CVP facilities for irrigation of existing lands. Contracted volumes represent less than 2 percent of annual deliveries via Friant-Kern Canal.*

The FONSI disclosed potential impacts based on the EA; all were considered not significant. Impacts are summarized as follows:



- Overall: The proposed action will not significantly affect natural resources and unique geographical characteristics such as proximity to 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 (EO 11990); flood plains (EO 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.
- Public Health and Safety: The proposed action will not significantly affect public health or safety.
- Cumulative Impacts: The proposed action will not have cumulatively significant impacts.
- Cultural Resources: The proposed action will not significantly affect historic properties. The proposed action will not limit access to, and ceremonial use of, Indian Sacred Sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or adversely affect the physical integrity of such Sacred Sites.
- Indian Trust Assets: The proposed action will not affect any Indian Trust Assets.
- Biological Resources: The proposed action will not significantly affect listed or proposed threatened or endangered species or its critical habitat.
- Environmental Justice: Implementing the proposed action will not disproportionately affect minorities or low-income populations and communities.

#### **14. Wildren Water District Pilot Project Extension (2019)**

*Description: 3-year temporary contract extension for continuance of exchange agreement and contract to convey treated groundwater into CVP facilities and represent less than 0.2 percent of annual deliveries via the Delta-Mendota Canal.*

The FONSI disclosed potential impacts based on the EA; all were considered not significant. Impacts are summarized as follows:

- Overall: The proposed action will not significantly affect natural resources and unique geographical characteristics such as proximity to 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 (EO 11990); flood plains (EO 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.
- Public Health and Safety: The proposed action will not significantly affect public health or safety.
- Cumulative Impacts: The proposed action will not have cumulatively significant impacts.
- Cultural Resources: The proposed action will not significantly affect historic properties. The proposed action will not limit access to, and ceremonial use of, Indian Sacred Sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or adversely affect the physical integrity of such Sacred Sites.
- Indian Trust Assets: The proposed action will not affect any Indian Trust Assets.
- Biological Resources: The proposed action will not significantly affect listed or proposed threatened or endangered species or its critical habitat.
- Environmental Justice: Implementing the proposed action will not disproportionately affect minorities or low-income populations and communities.

## **15. Santa Clara Valley Water District Five Year Warren Act Contract (2019)**

*Description: 3-year temporary contract extension for continuance of exchange agreement and contract to convey treated groundwater into CVP facilities and represent less than 0.2 percent of annual deliveries via the Delta-Mendota Canal.*

The FONSI disclosed potential impacts based on the EA; all were considered not significant. Impacts are summarized as follows:

- **Overall:** The proposed action will not significantly affect natural resources and unique geographical characteristics such as proximity to 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 (EO 11990); flood plains (EO 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.
- **Public Health and Safety:** The proposed action will not significantly affect public health or safety.
- **Cumulative Impacts:** The proposed action will not have cumulatively significant impacts.
- **Cultural Resources:** The proposed action will not significantly affect historic properties. The proposed action will not limit access to, and ceremonial use of, Indian Sacred Sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or adversely affect the physical integrity of such Sacred Sites.
- **Indian Trust Assets:** The proposed action will not affect any Indian Trust Assets.
- **Biological Resources:** The proposed action will not significantly affect listed or proposed threatened or endangered species or its critical habitat.
- **Environmental Justice:** Implementing the proposed action will not disproportionately affect minorities or low-income populations and communities.

## **16. Transfer of CVP Project Water from the Santa Clara Valley Water District to the San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors Water Authority (2020)**

*Description: One-time transfer of SCVWD's CVP water to the Exchange Contractors for existing agricultural and M&I uses.*

The FONSI disclosed potential impacts based on the EA; all were considered not significant. Impacts are summarized as follows:

- **Overall:** The proposed action will not significantly affect natural resources and unique geographical characteristics such as proximity to 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 (EO 11990); flood plains (EO 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.
- **Public Health and Safety:** The proposed action will not significantly affect public health or safety.
- **Cumulative Impacts:** The proposed action will not have cumulatively significant impacts.
- **Cultural Resources:** The proposed action will not significantly affect historic properties. The proposed action will not limit access to, and ceremonial use of, Indian Sacred Sites

on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or adversely affect the physical integrity of such Sacred Sites.

- Indian Trust Assets: The proposed action will not affect any Indian Trust Assets.
- Biological Resources: The proposed action will not significantly affect listed or proposed threatened or endangered species or its critical habitat.
- Environmental Justice: Implementing the proposed action will not disproportionately affect minorities or low-income populations and communities.

## **17. Five-Year Warren Act for Westlands Water District (2020)**

*Description: Temporary contract authorizes continued introduction, conveyance, and storage of non-CVP Project pumped groundwater into CVP facilities.*

The FONSI disclosed potential impacts based on the EA; all were considered not significant.

The EA analyzed the potential direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts of Reclamation's Proposed Action (the issuance of a 5-year Warren Act contract and land use authorizations[s] for up to a 25-year period) on the following resources: water resources, land use, biological resources, socioeconomics, environmental justice, cultural resources, Indian Trust Assets, Indian Sacred Sites, air quality, and global climate.

- Received public comment that additional alternatives should be considered but did not indicate what those alternatives should be. In accordance with the Department of the Interior's NEPA regulations (43 CFR Part 46.310), EAs are not required to develop alternatives unless there are issues related to unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources.
- Received public comment that stated the draft EA did not provide enough water quality data from prior years for study, and that the proposed constraints would not be protective enough to prevent adverse impacts downstream. The measures and requirements described in the EA have been determined to be protective of water quality for water supplies in the San Luis Canal. Additional data on water quality was added to the EA showing discharges were in compliance with water quality criteria.
- Received public comment that remarked effects to downstream fish and wildlife have not been analyzed with respect to the concentration of selenium in discharged waters. Reclamation's water quality requirements defined in the Water Quality Monitoring Plan and restated in the EA have been agreed upon to be protective of game fish species and other wildlife considerations, and water supplies will be protected from further degradation by avoiding mixing with waters in the Mendota Pool, as water will not be pumped into Lateral 7 when water is flowing into the Mendota Wildlife Area.
- Received public comment that asserted the draft EA did not provide protective measures that avoid subsidence along the San Luis Canal and surrounding lands. The requirements and constraints of the Proposed Action were determined to be protective of groundwater overdraft and in compliance with the Westside Subbasin Groundwater Sustainability Plan 2020 management strategies. Additionally, the Proposed Action shut off triggers and resumption triggers were developed to avoid contribution of the participating wells to overdrafting groundwater levels and increasing rates of subsidence.

Impacts are summarized as follows:

- Overall: The proposed action will not significantly affect natural resources and unique geographical characteristics such as proximity to 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 (EO 11990); flood plains (EO 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.
- Public Health and Safety: The proposed action will not significantly affect public health or safety.
- Cumulative Impacts: The proposed action will not have cumulatively significant impacts.
- Cultural Resources: The proposed action will not significantly affect historic properties. The proposed action will not limit access to, and ceremonial use of, Indian Sacred Sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or adversely affect the physical integrity of such Sacred Sites.
- Indian Trust Assets: The proposed action will not affect any Indian Trust Assets.
- Biological Resources: The proposed action will not significantly affect listed or proposed threatened or endangered species or its critical habitat.
- Environmental Justice: Implementing the proposed action will not disproportionately affect minorities or low-income populations and communities.

## **18. Klamath Project Internal Water Transfers (2021-2025) (2021)**

*Description: Temporary transfers to optimizes use of limited Project water supplies by approving Project water transfers between contractors for existing irrigated lands within the Project delivery area.*

The FONSI disclosed potential impacts based on the EA; all were considered not significant. Impacts are summarized as follows:

- Water Resources: No impacts to waters of the United States or other water resources are expected to occur as the Proposed Action is administrative in nature, does not involve in-water activities, and is in accordance with Reclamation historic and routine operations for delivery of available water supplies through Reclamation facilities within the Project.
- Biological Resources: The Proposed Action is not expected to have an effect on listed threatened or endangered species or their designated critical habitats as the Proposed Action is administrative in nature and does not change land status or historic water delivery services within or around the Project. However, for any water transfers that may involve lands within the Tulelake or Lower Klamath National Wildlife Refuges, Reclamation will coordinate with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) to ensure the Proposed Action has no effect on refuge fish and wildlife, migrating birds protected under the MBTA and that transfers are consistent with the 2020 BiOp.
- Cultural Resources: Reclamation determined that the Proposed Action is the type of undertaking that does not have the potential to cause effects on historic properties, should such properties be present, pursuant to Title 54 U.S.C § 306108. As such, Reclamation has no further obligations under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). 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.

- Public Health and Safety: The Proposed Action will not significantly affect public health or safety.
- Indian Trust Assets: The Proposed Action will not affect any Indian Trust Assets.
- Environmental Justice: Implementing the Proposed Action will not disproportionately affect minorities or low-income populations and communities.

## **19. Friant Division Groundwater Pump-in Program, Contract Years 2020-2022 (2021)**

*Description: Temporary contract provided for continuance of the Friant-Kern Canal Groundwater Pump-in Program that was started in 2014 for CVP and non-CVP contractors.*

The FONSI disclosed potential impacts based on the EA; all were considered not significant.

- Received public comment that limited or no water quality data was provided in the draft EA and annual water quality monitoring was lax. The EA affirmed that if testing from any individual well indicates that its water does not meet these standards, it would not be allowed to introduce groundwater into the Friant-Kern Canal until water quality concerns are addressed. Wells that do not meet the required thresholds will not be allowed to participate. Monitoring would be done on a weekly basis to monitor nitrates and electrical conductivity within the canal to ensure levels do not exceed criteria.
- Received public comment that expressed concerns about reliance on the 2008 policy and drinking water standards used not being protective of irrigation uses. The EA clarified that water quality criteria are agricultural suitability standards that are designed to protect irrigation uses.
- Received public comment that there is no basis to assume impacts from the previous pump-in program would be the same as the current proposal and that the current proposal would authorize four times the amount of water introduced under the Proposed Action. Based on feedback received, Reclamation reduced the overall program and annual amounts for the final EA to be closer to what was done during the previous drought.
- Received public comment that expressed concerns regarding subsidence impacts and recommended that Reclamation limit wells within 1-mile of the Friant-Kern Canal. Reclamation acknowledged these concerns and based on feedback received, reduced the overall program from 50,000 acre-feet per year to a total of 12,000 acre-feet over the 2-year period with no more than 6,500 acre-feet cumulatively pumped by the participants in a given year.
- Received public comment that expressed concerns with potential impacts to the American River, Yuba River, Sacramento River and Shasta Dam operations resulting from discharging this groundwater and potentially substituting or exchanging it with water exported from the Delta Estuary. The EA clarified that no changes in Delta pumping would occur and there would be no impacts to the Delta Estuary, American River, Yuba River, Sacramento River, or Shasta Dam operations.
- Received and addressed other public comments in the EA including comments related to inclusion of key documents, connection of NEPA requirements with CEQA analysis,

groundwater recipient locations compared to introduction point, compliance with CWA and California Porter Cologne Act, and water quality standards.

Impacts are summarized as follows:

- Public Health and Safety: The proposed action will not significantly affect public health or safety.
- Cultural Resources: The proposed action has no potential to cause effects to historic properties. The proposed action will not limit access to, and ceremonial use of, Indian Sacred Sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or adversely affect the physical integrity of such Sacred Sites.
- Indian Trust Assets: The proposed action will not affect any Indian Trust Assets.
- Biological Resources: Based on specific environmental commitments, there would be No Effect to listed species or designated critical habitat under the ESA and no take of birds protected under the MBTA.
- Environmental Justice: Implementing the proposed action will not disproportionately affect minorities or low-income populations and communities.

## **20. Triview Metropolitan District Long-Term Excess Capacity Contract (2021)**

*Description: Contract provides for conveyance and storage of non-project water using Project facilities to replace non-renewable Denver Basin groundwater supplies. Contract represents less than 1 percent of excess capacity storage in Pueblo Reservoir.*

The FONSI disclosed potential impacts based on the EA; all were considered not significant. Impacts are summarized as follows:

- Overall: There are no impacts anticipated for the following resources: air quality and noise; wilderness and wild and scenic rivers; geology, soils, and minerals; prime and unique farmland; public safety; and paleontological resources, water rights, environmental justice, socioeconomics, and cultural resources.
- Biological Resources: The Proposed Action will also have no effect to threatened and endangered species or designated critical habitats for species listed under the ESA.
- Climate: There are no construction activities associated with the Proposed Action; therefore, there will be no effect on greenhouse gas emissions from construction activities. Long-term contributions of greenhouse gas emissions would include energy needs of pumping plants and water treatment plant operations, not anticipated to exceed the CEQ's threshold of 25,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide.
- Cumulative Impacts: Decreases in streamflow resulting from climate change will result in reduced yields associated with Triview's changed water rights and smaller increases in flow above and below Pueblo Reservoir during the direct diversion season. Smaller decreases in flows can be expected below Pueblo as a result of reductions in exchange potential. The net impact of decreased streamflow would be a reduction in the frequency and magnitude of storage and conveyance through Pueblo Reservoir, especially in modeled wet and average years. Conversely, increases in streamflow resulting from climate change will result in increased yields associated with changed water rights and larger increases in flow above and below Pueblo during the direct diversion season.

Increased streamflow below Pueblo would result in increased exchange potential, providing both more opportunities for exchanges and higher exchange rates. The net impact of increased streamflow would be an increase in the frequency and magnitude of storage and conveyance through Pueblo Reservoir.

- Hydrology-Surface Water Resources: Negligible to minor effect.
- Water Rights: No effect.
- Aquatic Resources: Negligible effect.
- Water Quality: Negligible effect.
- Wildlife, Vegetation, and Floodplain, Wetlands, and Riparian Zones: Negligible effect.
- Threatened and Endangered Species: No effect.
- Special Status Species: Negligible effect.
- Land Use and Recreation: Negligible effect.
- Environmental Justice: No effect.
- Socioeconomics: No effect.
- Cultural Resources: No effect.

## **21. Warren Contract for Conveyance and Storage of Groundwater from Mapes Ranch to Del Puerto Water District (2022)**

*Description: One-year contract provides for conveyance and storage, via the Delta-Mendota Canal, of non-CVP of up to 10,000 acre-feet of groundwater well water using CVP facilities for irrigation, not to exceed 1 year.*

The FONSI disclosed potential impacts based on the EA; all were considered not significant. Impacts are summarized as follows:

- Public Health and Safety: The proposed action will not significantly affect public health or safety.
- Cultural Resources: The proposed action has no potential to cause effects to historic properties. The proposed action will not limit access to, and ceremonial use of, Indian Sacred Sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or adversely affect the physical integrity of such Sacred Sites.
- Indian Trust Assets: The proposed action will not affect any Indian Trust Assets.
- Biological Resources: Based on the nature of the Proposed Action and implementation of environmental commitments, there would be No Effect to listed species or designated critical habitat under the ESA and no take of birds protected under the MBTA.
- Environmental Justice: Implementing the proposed action will not disproportionately affect minorities or low-income populations and communities.
- Climate: The Proposed Action does not include construction of new facilities or modification to existing facilities. While pumping would be necessary to introduce and convey groundwater to the Delta-Mendota Canal, no additional electrical production beyond baseline conditions would occur. In addition, the generating power plant that produces electricity for the electric pumps operates under permits that are regulated for greenhouse gas emissions. As such, there would be no additional impacts to global climate change by extending the term of the Warren Act contract for an additional 8 months.

- Other: There would be no impact to air quality, no change in surface water, groundwater, and water quality impacts, no effect to CVP or State Water Project operations and would not change existing diversion points, and no cumulative impacts to any of the resources described in the EA.

## **22. Central Coast Water Authority Temporary Warren Act Contract (2022)**

*Description: Contract provides for conveyance and storage of non-Project water through Project facilities for irrigation, for a period not to exceed 5 years.*

The FONSI disclosed potential impacts based on the EA; all were considered not significant.

- Public comment letter includes 2 primary assertions (1) Reclamation did not notify the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District of release of the EA or provide the biological evaluation as part of the release for public review, and (2) that the Draft EA Proposed Action included additional restrictions on the mixing of Central Coast Water Authority water with Water Right 89-18 water rights releases that are contrary to the 2002 Settlement Agreement, 2000 BiOp, Water Right 2019-0148, and Reclamation's water rights permits. Since release of the Draft EA, the Proposed Action has been revised in coordination and cooperation with SYRWCD and the Cachuma Project local interests, all of whom provided helpful information to address some of the concerns expressed by SYRWCD in their comment letter. The Proposed Action was also revised in coordination with National Marine Fisheries Service to address concerns expressed during informal consultation regarding the timing of *Oncorhynchus mykiss* olfactory imprinting in the Lower Santa Ynez River.

Impacts are summarized as follows:

- Public Health and Safety: The proposed action will not significantly affect public health or safety.
- Cultural Resources: The proposed action has no potential to cause effects to historic properties. The proposed action will not limit access to, and ceremonial use of, Indian Sacred Sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or adversely affect the physical integrity of such Sacred Sites.
- Indian Trust Assets: The proposed action will not affect any Indian Trust Assets.
- Environmental Justice: Implementing the proposed action will not disproportionately affect minorities or low-income populations and communities.
- Climate: The Proposed Action does not include construction of new facilities or modification to existing facilities that would impact greenhouse gas emissions. Pumping to deliver CCWA water to Lake Cachuma would be similar to what has been done in the past and is part of baseline conditions and would not result in emissions that would impact climate change. Cachuma Project operations and allocations are flexible, any changes in hydrologic conditions due to global climate change would be addressed within Reclamation's operational flexibility.
- Water Resources: The introduction, storage and conveyance of CCWA water would not increase or change operations in the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta. There would be no change in district boundaries or growth associated with use of this water. The



Proposed Action would be beneficial to water supplies within the Action area, would not adversely impact Cachuma Project operations, and would have no adverse impacts to water quality or beneficial uses in the Lower Santa Ynez River.

- Other: There would be no impact to air quality, no impacts to ESA listed species, and no cumulative impacts to any of the resources described in the EA.

### **23. Extension of Del Puerto Water District's Warren Act Contract for Conveyance of Groundwater from Mapes Ranch (2022)**

*Description: 1-year contract extension authorized continued conveyance and storage of 3,000 acre-feet remaining non-CVP water authorized in 2021.*

The FONSI disclosed potential impacts based on the EA; all were considered not significant. Impacts are summarized as follows:

- Public Health and Safety: The proposed action will not significantly affect public health or safety.
- Cultural Resources: The proposed action has no potential to cause effects to historic properties. The proposed action will not limit access to, and ceremonial use of, Indian Sacred Sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or adversely affect the physical integrity of such Sacred Sites.
- Indian Trust Assets: The proposed action will not affect any Indian Trust Assets.
- Environmental Justice: Implementing the proposed action will not disproportionately affect minorities or low-income populations and communities.
- Biological Resources: there would be No Effect to proposed or listed species or designated critical habitat under the ESA and no take of birds protected under the MBTA.
- Climate: The Proposed Action does not include construction of new facilities or modification to existing facilities. While pumping would be necessary to introduce and convey groundwater to the DMC, no additional electrical production beyond baseline conditions would occur. In addition, the generating power plant that produces electricity for the electric pumps operates under permits that are regulated for greenhouse gas emissions. As such, there would be no additional impacts to global climate change by extending the term of the Warren Act contract for an additional 8 months.
- Water Resources: The additional 8 months would not have any additional impacts to water resources; surface water, groundwater, and water quality impacts would be unchanged. The Proposed Action would not affect CVP or State Water Project operations and would not change existing diversion points from the Delta and would not interfere with Reclamation's obligations to deliver water to other contractors, wetland habitat areas, or for other environmental purposes. Transfers would utilize existing facilities and no new infrastructure, modifications of facilities, or ground disturbing activities would be needed for movement of this water. No native or untilled land (fallow for 3 years or more) would be cultivated with water involved in the Proposed Action.
- Other: There would be no impact to air quality, and no cumulative impacts to any of the resources described in the EA.

## **24. Drought Adjustment for Widren Water District's Water Quality, Supply, and Drainage Enhancement Project (2022)**

*Description: Amendment to the existing contract that increases volume of treated groundwater conveyed and exchanged from 1,000 to 2,000 acre-feet.*

The FONSI disclosed potential impacts based on the EA; all were considered not significant. Impacts are summarized as follows:

- Public Health and Safety: The proposed action will not significantly affect public health or safety.
- Cultural Resources: The proposed action has no potential to cause effects to historic properties. The proposed action will not limit access to, and ceremonial use of, Indian Sacred Sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or adversely affect the physical integrity of such Sacred Sites.
- Indian Trust Assets: The proposed action will not affect any Indian Trust Assets.
- Environmental Justice: Implementing the proposed action will not disproportionately affect minorities or low-income populations and communities.
- Biological Resources: there would be “no effect” to proposed or listed species or designated critical habitat under the ESA and no take of birds protected under the MBTA. The Proposed Action would not result in land use change or involve any construction or change in natural stream habitat. Treated water introduced into the Delta-Mendota Canal that would discharge into Mendota Pool and picked up by Westlands through Lateral 7 are well below constituents of concern, including selenium concentrations and salinity, and would not present an issue for species living in habitat that could receive water.
- Climate: The Proposed Action does not include construction of new facilities or modification to existing facilities. Although there would be an increase in groundwater pumping, the electrical production for this is addressed by the permits for the generating power plant which regulate greenhouse gas emissions. As such, there would be no additional impacts to global climate change.
- Land Use: The non-Project water would be delivered to landowners in Westlands for existing agricultural purposes. There would be no land use change.
- Water Resources: Subsidence monitoring for the Pilot Project found that the source well does not substantially increase subsidence above the regional rate. Although the Proposed Action would potentially double the amount of pumped groundwater (from 1,200 to up to 2,400 acre-feet), Widren would pump from above the Corcoran Clay, which has the potential to lower a perched saline water table (San Joaquin Valley Drainage Program 1990), thus improving local water quality and the otherwise drainage impaired lands within the district boundaries. The Pilot Project requires subsidence monitoring to ensure that the groundwater pumping does not increase subsidence rates above baseline regional rates. The additional RO-treated water released from the DMC into the Mendota Pool would provide supplemental water supplies benefitting overall water supplies in the district, and there would be no adverse impacts to downstream beneficial uses.
- Air Quality: There would be no additional impacts to air quality as a result of the Proposed Action.

## 25. Widren Water District Pilot Project Second Extension (2022)

*Description: 3-year contract extension provides continued conveyance of non-project water*

The FONSI disclosed potential impacts based on the EA; all were considered not significant. Impacts are summarized as follows:

- Public Health and Safety: The Proposed Action will not significantly affect public health or safety.
- Biological Resources: There would be “no effect” to proposed or listed species or designated critical habitat under the ESA, and no take of birds protected under the MBTA and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act.
- Cultural Resources: The Proposed Action has no potential to cause effects to historic properties. 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.
- Indian Trust Assets: The Proposed Action will not affect any Indian Trust Assets.
- Environmental Justice: Implementing the Proposed Action will not disproportionately affect minorities or low-income populations and communities.
- Air Quality: No new construction or new facilities would be needed under the Proposed Action to convey water. Some pumping would be required to move water under the Proposed Action, but power usage would be within the typical range for the facilities involved and are a part of the baseline condition. In addition, delivery of water to the participating districts would be from existing facilities with or without the Proposed Action and is therefore part of the existing conditions. As there would be no change from existing conditions, no additional impacts to air quality would occur.
- Climate: The Proposed Action does not include construction of new facilities or modification to existing facilities. While pumping would be necessary to deliver water, no additional electrical production beyond baseline conditions would occur. In addition, the generating power plant that produces electricity for the electric pumps operates under permits that are regulated for greenhouse gas emissions. As such, there would be no additional impacts to global climate change.
- Land Use: Under the Proposed Action, up to 337 acres of dry farmland within Widren would continue to receive blended effluent for irrigation of salt tolerant crops. This land would receive blended effluent from Widren’s RO Treatment Plant regardless of whether the Proposed Action was implemented or not, as part of their ongoing drainage improvement activities.
- Water Resources: Under the Proposed Action, Widren would annually pump up to 1,200 acre-feet of groundwater to be treated by their proposed EO Treatment Plant over a 3-year pilot project. Reclamation would allow up to 1,000 acre-feet of the non-Project water to be introduced, conveyed, and/or stored in CVP facilities, when excess capacity is available. This would allow the treated water to be delivered to participating South-of-Delta CVP Contractors for existing agricultural purposes. There would be no impact to water quality or operations of CVP facilities. Widren would pump from above the Corcoran Clay, which has the potential to lower a perched saline water table, thus improving local water quality and the otherwise drainage impaired lands within the district boundaries. No effluent or RO treatment backflush water would leave Widren.

Therefore, there would be no impact to out-of-district water supplies. It is anticipated that subsidence rates would continue to be similar to baseline conditions and groundwater levels would recover as occurred under the previous Pilot Project. Monitoring would continue for subsidence and groundwater level recovery to confirm this expectation.

## Use Authorization EAs/FONSIs

### 26. Indian Rock Estes Access Road Easement (2006)

*Description: Provides a 0.75-acre access easement across Reclamation lands to develop Phase II of a housing subdivision on adjacent private lands. Phase II developments on 74.9 acres are part of an existing housing development that did not require a Reclamation easement or approval.*

The FONSI disclosed potential impacts based on the EA; all were considered not significant.

- Received public comment expressing concern about the subdivision becoming a staging area for recreational activities that could threaten wintering deer and sensitive raptor nesting sites. Environmental commitments in the EA were added to address this concern, including cooperation and communication requirements.

Impacts are summarized as follows:

- Overall: Analysis showed that construction activities associated with the Grant Access Easement Alternative, which would grant the requested access with an easement across Federal lands to allow development and construction of a housing subdivision, are expected to have only short-term and minor adverse impacts on the resources analyzed. Long-term environmental consequences are expected to be avoided by following the environmental commitments that are part of the access easement.
- Water Quality: Water quality would not be affected under the proposed action.
- Soils: All roads, trails, and new or upgraded facilities shall employ designs that will not contribute to short- or long-term soil loss during and following construction and revegetation. Recommended measures to protect cryptobiotic soils and to restore areas temporarily impacted by construction activities are included in the EA.
- Noise: Highway traffic noise is a major contributor to overall transportation noise and is of the most concern within the Prineville Reservoir area. Crook County has imposed noise regulations at the Prineville Reservoir Recreation Area for the comfort and convenience of recreationists.
- Air Quality: Construction activities associated with this alternative are expected to have only short-term and minor adverse impacts on local air quality. Longer-term effects on regional air quality from increased road traffic would be insignificant. Rules and regulations currently adopted by the State of Oregon designed to reduce adverse emissions from the burning of wood stoves should result in insignificant adverse effects on local and regional air quality.
- Vegetation: The maximum area of disturbance would be 74.9 acres within the housing development and 0.73 acre within the easement during construction. Several juniper trees

and other plants would be removed; 272 acres within the property would remain undeveloped and preserved as open space, helping to retain local juniper woodland community. The ordinance criteria for Indian Rock Estates would require native landscaping around homes. Disturbed areas along the access road would also be revegetated with species native to the site. Routine equipment cleaning and prohibiting contaminated soils from entering the project area, would be implemented to reduce the spread of noxious weeds and other undesirable plant species.

- Fish and Wildlife & Threatened and Endangered Species: Increase in recreational use of the area by humans, increase in pets from residents in the area, increased noise and outdoor lighting, roads, and vehicle traffic would consequently increase disturbance and mortalities to wildlife. However, more housing and roads and, thus, greater use by humans, would occur on private property in the area regardless of this project, and the Indian Rock Estates Homeowner's Declaration of Covenants, Conditions, and Restrictions contains restrictions and requirements that limit impacts and provide benefits to wildlife. Although the loss of 76 acres of habitat would displace species that use it, the proportion of acres within the proposed project area would be small compared to the number of acres of available juniper woodlands in the area. There would be 272 acres of open space preserved within the property to provide wildlife corridors. Of the special status species (as of this 2006 EA), the bald eagle is the only one known to occupy the local area of the project. No other Federally listed species would likely be affected by the proposed project due to the lack of suitable habitat or because the species is not known to occur within the project area. The proposed project would have no effect on bald eagles.
- Economics: Crook County would potentially incur a gross increase in property assessment values of approximately \$2.4 million, thus increasing the county's total property tax base. This gross increase would be less than 1 percent of the 2005-06 real estate property value of \$1,610,485,110 and less than 1 percent of the County's total Real Property assessment of \$1,103,686,790. It is anticipated that the annual tax assessments associated with this development would meet the costs of additional county services (e.g., law enforcement and fire protection) that may need to be provided. On the basis of the assumptions and data collected for this analysis, it does not appear there would be any significant economic impacts from approving the easement for an access road to the property to be developed.
- Recreation: The primary effect on the region's recreational resources of granting the easement to allow development/construction of a housing subdivision would be to increase the demand for and number of persons participating in recreational activities within the area. Activities with the greatest participation rates within the region include nature and wildlife observation, fishing from a boat, and hunting. It can be anticipated that residents of a new subdivision would most likely participate in these already popular activities. In light of the limited number of new residents, these effects would be insignificant. Off-highway vehicle (OHV) use in the area could also be expected to increase with the addition of a subdivision within the area. As a result, BLM and Reclamation recreation managers may need to devote additional resources to OHV management and monitoring. Note that Reclamation lands within the area are closed to OHV use. Increased residential traffic may negatively affect recreational traffic accessing Prineville State Park, and there may be an increased risk of traffic accidents involving both recreationists and residents. To address these issues, the Crook County Roadmaster

indicated that a left- hand turn lane on Juniper Canyon Road will be needed for access to the proposed project area.

- Visual Resources: In 2003, Reclamation completed the Prineville Reservoir Resource Management Plan, which addresses the potential for impacts to visual resources on Reclamation land at Prineville Reservoir. Additionally, the Resource Management Plan adopts BLM's Visual Resource Management contrast rating method to assess proposed projects for impacts to visual resources. Construction of the easement to access the private land residential development would result in a visible road cut through the natural appearing terrain. However, techniques can be employed to reduce the visual impact of the road to the level where the construction would be subordinate to the surrounding landscape and would not attract the attention of the casual observer. Primarily, the road should be designed to blend with topographic forms and existing vegetation patterns. Additionally, topographic features and vegetation should be used to screen the proposed roadway. The use of naturally occurring vegetation to re-vegetate areas disturbed by road construction activities would also help to minimize the visual intrusion of the proposed action; these were addressed in the EA along with other mitigation measures to reduce impact.
- Cultural Resources: The State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) responded to Reclamation and concurred that the proposed action will have no effect on historic properties and that no further archeological investigations are needed. No Sacred Sites were identified in the area, and there are no impacts or possible effects that the easement may impose on this particular category of cultural resources.
- Indian Trust Assets: No Indian Trust Assets would be affected by the Grant Access Easement Alternative because none are located in or affected by the proposed access road.
- Environmental Justice: No disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects have been identified. Thus, there would not be any adverse environmental justice impacts if the easement were granted.
- Cumulative Effects: Indian Rock Estates alone is probably not large enough to have major impacts on deer winter range; however, it is just one of many subdivisions being established in the area. The result of cumulative residential developments is the continued fragmentation of wildlife habitat, which negatively affects deer. The cumulative effect of bringing more people and recreation into the area through an increasing number of housing developments would be greater disturbance of the nesting bald eagles. Greater disturbance, in turn, could negatively affect the pairs' nest productivity. Although recreational activity is fairly heavy below the nest site, the eagles generally use the State Wildlife Area upstream to perch and forage. In 2004, the young were observed following their parents upriver soon after fledging (Raven Research, 2005). These cumulative effects are inevitable as private lands in the area continue to be developed; however, the State Wildlife Area would continue to protect and provide habitat for bald eagles. Reclamation has determined that the proposed project would have no effect on bald eagles.

## 27. RD 773 Fabian Tract Spoils Reuse License (2013)

*Description: Authorizes use of existing stockpiled dredged spoils from canal located on Reclamation lands to stabilize District's existing levee along the Fabian Bell Canal. The work occurred in previously disturbed areas at existing facilities.*

The FONSI disclosed potential impacts based on the EA; all were considered not significant. Impacts are summarized as follows:

- Water Resources: The direct impacts from the release of contaminants from dredged spoils may result in oxidation and acidification, but are expected to be minimal. The dredging project's potential for leaching contaminants from the sediments appears to be low based on the levels of the various constituents measured and the properties of the sediments.
- Land Use: The Proposed Action would occur in an agricultural area, is limited to the District right-of-way, and would not impact prime farmland, unique farmland, or farmland of statewide importance nor would it conflict with existing agricultural zoning or Williamson Act contracts. As such, there would be no direct or cumulative impacts to land use from the Proposed Action.
- Biological Resources: There would be no effect to listed species under the ESA and no take of species protected by the MBTA. This determination is largely reliant on lack of potential habitat associated with levee roads, ongoing operations and maintenance activities and agricultural practices, and the implementation of all environmental protection measures. In addition, the District would coordinate closely with the Reclamation Biologist to ensure there are no impacts to endangered or sensitive species.
- Cultural Resources: No adverse effect to historic properties is expected. There would be no direct or cumulative adverse impacts to Indian Sacred Sites or changes to access to Indian Sacred Sites resulting from the Proposed Action as none are present within the Proposed Action area.
- Indian Trust Assets: There are no Indian Trust Assets within the Proposed Action area and therefore the proposed action does not have a potential to affect Indian Trust Assets.
- Socioeconomic Resources & Environmental Justice: The Proposed Action would have no adverse direct or cumulative impacts on socioeconomic resources.
- Air Quality: The Proposed Action would result in a temporary increase in emissions during the construction phase. The Proposed Action is consistent with the general plan and the general plan is consistent with the regional air quality plan in that there is no increase in vehicle miles traveled over baseline, emissions do not exceed state or national standards, and there would be no toxic pollutant or odor emissions. As such there are no significant direct or cumulative impacts.
- Global Climate: The Proposed Action would not result in a substantial change in GHG emissions, and there would be no significant direct or cumulative impacts to the global climate.
- Cumulative Impacts: Cumulative impacts to water resources are limited to the release of contaminants from materials used in levee reinforcement, and are expected to be minimal. Cumulative impacts to biological resources would be minimal with the Proposed Action as the levee reinforcement does not have a significant adverse impact on habitat and

impacts to listed species are avoided with incorporation of the environmental protection measures.

## **28. Land Use Authorization and License Amendment for Pacific Gas & Electric Company's Proposed Gas Pipeline Installation and Bayview Station Expansion near the San Luis (Volta) Wasteway (2014)**

*Description: Authorizes installation, operation, and maintenance of a new 12-inch natural gas pipeline adjacent to an existing 6-inch diameter pipeline located within Reclamation's right-of-way (ROW) and the 0.15-acre expansion of Pacific Gas and Electric's existing Bayview Station on Project lands. The work occurred in previously disturbed areas at existing facilities.*

The FONSI disclosed potential impacts based on the EA; all were considered not significant. Impacts are summarized as follows:

- Water Resources: Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E) will install the pipeline beneath the Outside Canal and north of the San Luis Wasteway. As installation will not affect the integrity or water quality in either structure, no impacts to water resources will occur as a result of the Proposed Action.
- Land Use: Building expansion and pipeline installation will be consistent with existing land use allowed within Reclamation ROW. All excavations will be buried and recompacted to pre-project grade.
- Biological Resources: Any potential effects to Federally listed species due to routine O&M or minor construction activities within the San Joaquin Valley will be addressed by PG&E through its involvement in the Habitat Conservation Plan, under Section 10 of the Endangered Species Act. There are no effects beyond those already addressed by the Habitat Conservation Plan and no additional effects from the Federal action of providing access to our ROW, hence, no consultation is required under ESA. Birds protected under the MBTA will not be taken.
- Cultural Resources: SHPO concurred with the finding that no historic properties would be affected. The Proposed Action will not limit access to or ceremonial use of Indian Sacred Sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such Sacred Sites.
- Indian Trust Assets: The Proposed Action will not impact Indian Trust Assets as there are none in the Proposed Action area.
- Socioeconomics & Environmental Justice: The Proposed Action will have a beneficial effect to socioeconomics due to growth in the companies and the potential increase in employment opportunities for the area. The Proposed Action will not cause dislocation, changes in employment, or increase flood, drought, or disease nor will it disproportionately impact economically disadvantaged or minority populations.
- Hazardous Materials: Hazardous materials will be used during the construction phase of the project. The generation of hazardous waste should be minimal. Potential hazardous wastes may include incidental spills from fuels and hydraulic fluids; however, PG&E will implement best management practices and spill prevention procedures to minimize any potential adverse impacts.



- Air Quality: Measures requested by the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District in order to ensure air quality impacts are minimized are anticipated to reduce air impacts below de minimis levels.
- Global Climate and Energy Use: Construction emissions will be temporary and will occur only during a short period of time which will not impact global climate change trends.
- Cumulative Impacts: As there will be no direct or indirect adverse impacts to water resources, land use, cultural resources or historic properties, Indian Trust Assets, Indian Sacred Sites, socioeconomic resources, minority or disadvantaged populations, or global climate change, no cumulative impacts will occur. Potential impacts to biological resources will not contribute to adverse cumulative impacts to wildlife resources. PG&E will comply with all measures required by the San Joaquin Air Pollution Control District in order to prevent cumulative impacts to air quality.

### **29. License Agreement between the Bureau of Reclamation and Delta County for the Construction of a Parking Area for the Purposes of Wildlife Viewing on Reclamation Property, Fruitgrowers Project, Delta County, Colorado (2014)**

*Description: Authorizes construction of a small (approximately 0.15 acre) graveled parking area to accommodate on-going wildlife viewing and address increasing safety issues associated with current parking along an adjacent road. The work occurred in previously disturbed areas at existing facilities.*

The FONSI disclosed potential impacts based on the EA; all were considered not significant. Impacts are summarized as follows:

- Overall: Based on the analysis of environmental impacts, coordination with the Colorado SHPO and other State, Federal, and local agencies, and a review of comments received, Reclamation concludes that implementation of a License Agreement for a parking area at Fruitgrowers reservoir will not result in significant impacts on the quality of the human environment or the natural resources in the project area.
- Biological and Cultural Resources: The proposed action will have no effect on threatened and endangered species and cultural resources.
- Wildlife Resources: Wildlife may avoid the area during construction. However, these impacts would be short in duration. The operation and maintenance of the parking area is predicted to result in no new impacts to wildlife resources. Public use will be monitored and additional management controls implemented if determined appropriate.
- Vegetation Resources: The proposed action will result in the conversion of up to .75 acres of vegetation dominated by Russian knapweed to a parking lot. No other vegetation resources will be permanently affected.
- Public Safety: The proposed action will result in increased public safety by allowing adequate safe parking off of North Road.

### **30. Grazing Authorization for Retired Lands in Fresno County (2016)**

*Description: Authorizes managed grazing on up to 2,190 acres in the Tranquility Demonstration Project site to reduce fire hazards and spread of invasive plant species. The 10-year permit authorizes sheep and goats to graze in the spring and fall in assigned 120-acre sites further*

*subdivided into 20-acre plots with portable fencing. Grazing time, duration, and numbers were based on vegetation conditions and responses.*

The FONSI disclosed potential impacts based on the EA; all were considered not significant. Impacts are summarized as follows:

- Overall: Reclamation analyzed the affected environment and determined that the Proposed Action does not have the potential to cause direct, indirect, or cumulative adverse effects to the following resources: air quality, environmental justice, global climate, Indian Sacred Sites, Indian Trust Assets, or water resources.
- Land Use: Livestock would be permitted to graze on the property; the grazing would provide benefits in terms of weed control and fire suppression.
- Biological Resources: Reclamation proposes to issue a land use authorization to allow managed grazing on 2,190 acres of land in Fresno County that were retired from agricultural production under the Land Retirement Demonstration Project. Reclamation developed a Grazing Management Plan for the 2,190 acres of retired lands currently proposed to be grazed, with Service approval of the plan. Section 7 coverage for the effects of the Proposed Action was provided in the 1999 Biological Opinion (1-1-99-F-0125) for the Land Retirement Demonstration Project. Even with Biological Opinion coverage, there was still determined to be no significant impact.
- Cultural Resources: Reclamation has made the determination under NHPA of no historic properties affected for the proposed project. Should the Proposed Action be implemented, the resulting activity will have no impact on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places.
- Cumulative Impacts: The Proposed Action will not result in cumulative negative impacts to land use, biological resources, or cultural resources. Controlling invasive weeds and reducing a fuel source for wildfires provides a benefit.

### **31. Rolle Airfield, San Luis, Arizona (2017)**

*Description: Renews a contract and continue use of Project lands to operate and maintain an existing airport.*

The FONSI disclosed potential impacts based on the EA; all were considered not significant. Impacts are summarized as follows:

- Landscape: The Proposed Action would have minimal impact on the aesthetics to the existing landscape setting.
- Air Quality: Air quality would be temporarily affected from vehicle and heavy equipment operation during development of the Proposed Projects; however, effects would be minimal and temporary causing no significant impact to air quality in the area. Increased aircraft operations will have minimal impact on air quality in the area.
- Biological Resources: Vegetation and wildlife could be directly or indirectly impacted by construction activities and development associated with the Proposed Action but are expected to be minimal as the effects are localized to the project area and have no significant impact to biological resources, given measures to be implemented. The Proposed Projects may have minimal short-term and indirect effects on local soil

composition and result in soil erosion; measure implemented will minimize those effects. The projects will have no significant impact on the geology and soils within the study area.

- Hazardous and Solid Waste: Will be disposed of properly in accordance with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration and proper handling and storage will occur. Work will stop immediately if any previously unidentified or suspect hazardous materials are encountered during construction.
- Water Resources: Minimal to no impact to water resources are expected, both on and off the project site. Potential contamination to surface and groundwater due to spills could occur; however, proper disposal and handling of hazardous materials would be followed to prevent any contamination.
- Land Use: It is anticipated there would be minimal to no long-term direct or indirect adverse effects on existing or planned land use. Land surrounding the airport would not be adversely affected.
- Noise: The Proposed Projects would not significantly impact the existing noise levels in the project area and the surrounding environment. Temporary noise level increases due to construction equipment would be minimal, and forecasted noise levels due to air traffic at the airport are not significant enough to warrant a noise analysis as stated in Federal Aviation Administration Order 1050.1F.
- Indian Trust Assets, Socioeconomic, & Environmental Justice: There would be no impacts to Indian Trust Assets, socioeconomic, or Environmental Justice resources.
- Cumulative Impacts: Cumulative impacts that may occur would be analyzed as part of the environmental clearance process associated with implementation of the projects through 20-year development plan.

### **32. Use Authorization Application from Wyoming Department of Transportation, Alpine Bear Pit, Lincoln County, Wyoming & Bonneville County, Idaho (2017)**

*Description: Authorizes access and removal of sediment and rock material on a 77-acre site within the existing Palisades Reservoir and authorizes construction, operation, maintenance, and termination of a material crushing operations on Reclamation Project lands. Materials would be removed during periods the reservoir is low and when materials are exposed. The project area is bordered by an existing material extraction operation authorized under an existing Reclamation use authorization.*

The FONSI disclosed potential impacts based on the EA; all were considered not significant. Impacts are summarized as follows:

- Overall: The Proposed Action would not cause any short-term impact to any threatened and endangered species, cultural and historic resources, Indian Sacred Sites, Indian Trust Assets, water quality, air quality, socioeconomics, environmental justice, and climate change. There would also be no additional long-term adverse effect on the above-mentioned resources.
- Biological Resources: Stipulations contained in any subsequently issued authorization would reduce the risk of introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious and non-native, invasive species. A portion of the shoreline and riparian vegetation (approximately 1 acre or slightly more) would be destroyed and considered a permanent

loss. Due to the small size of the proposed operation, this loss should not decrease the overall riparian habitat community around the reservoir. This loss may affect species using the area and displace them for a short time period.

- Recreation: Material extraction and crushing activities would limit public access via the undeveloped access site to the reservoir and result in the reduction of existing overall reservoir access. The active material extraction and crushing areas would be fenced off from the public for safety and health purposes. The authorized activities could result in temporary or permanent closure and loss of the site. Displaced users of this site would move to the developed boat launches; other camping areas; and other recreational areas located around the reservoir.
- Cumulative Impacts: It has been determined through the evaluation of each resource that threatened and endangered species, cultural resources, Indian Sacred Sites, Indian Trust Assets, water quality, air quality and environmental justice will not be affected by cumulative impacts. While the development of this small project area individually does not in itself represent a significant impact to the biological resources in the area, the cumulative impact of a larger trend of continued expansion of development along the U.S. Highway 89 corridor represents a permanent impact to habitat connectivity and ecological function in the area. This impact is minor in terms of spatial scale, as foreseeable development will likely be constrained close to the highway corridor by the surrounding foothills to one side of the highway and the reservoir footprint to the other. However, the permanent nature of the surface disturbance and wildlife displacement that such general development represents a pattern of cumulative impacts that is not discountable.

### **33. Drag Boat Exhibitions/Competitions—East Park Reservoir—Orland Project (2017)**

*Description: Approves use of Reclamation lands for boat exhibition/competitions for a 5-year period.*

The FONSI disclosed potential impacts based on the EA; all were considered not significant. Impacts are summarized as follows:

- Overall: 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 and Scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (EO 11990); flood plains (EO 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.
- Public Health and Safety: The Proposed Action will not significantly affect public health or safety.
- Cultural Resources: The Proposed Action has no potential to affect historic properties. 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.
- Indian Trust Assets: The Proposed Action will not affect any Indian Trust Assets.

- Biological Resources: The Proposed Action will have no effect on proposed or listed threatened or endangered species.
- Environmental Justice: Implementing the Proposed Action will not disproportionately affect minorities or low-income populations and communities.
- Cumulative Impacts: The Proposed Action will not have significant cumulative impacts.

### **34. Right of Use—Downgradient Study Area Activities (2018)**

*Description: Authorizes study activities (within to 60-acres of Reclamation lands) for ground water investigation including installing, developing and sampling groundwater monitoring wells; and full-scale geophysical investigation that includes verification borings and access.*

The FONSI disclosed potential impacts based on the EA; all were considered not significant. Impacts are summarized as follows:

- Environmental Justice: There will not be disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on minority and low-income populations.
- Floodplains and Wetlands: The Proposed Action is located within the floodplain of the Las Vegas Wash, which also contains wetlands. The only structures located within the floodplain will be wells and soil borings that will not impede the overall function of the floodplain. Implementation of the Proposed Action will also avoid disturbance to wetlands. The Proposed Action will result in beneficial effects associated with identifying subsurface pathways through which perchlorate-impacted groundwater is entering the Las Vegas Wash. Therefore, no adverse impacts to these resources will occur.
- Human Health: The Proposed Action will have beneficial human health impacts as it will monitor and collect data to identify subsurface pathways through which perchlorate-impacted groundwater is entering the Las Vegas Wash. The results will inform appropriate remediation. Therefore, no adverse impacts to human health will occur.
- Indian Trust Assets: There are no known Indian Trust Assets or treaty rights exercised by tribes in the Proposed Action area so no adverse impacts to Indian Trust Assets will occur.
- Noise: Sonic drilling required for these activities may potentially occur within approximately 125 feet north of existing residences. Homes are considered noise-sensitive land uses; however, noise generated by sonic drilling will be temporary and intermittent. In addition, sonic drilling will occur during daylight hours, within the schedule dictated by the local City of Henderson noise ordinance (Title 8 Chapter 8.84 Section 30). Therefore, Proposed Action activities will not result in permanent changes to existing noise levels or the ambient noise environment of the study area.
- Soil & Geology and Soils: Potential short-term impacts to geology and soils were identified from construction activities, but these will be minimized by measures incorporated into the Project design. Minimal soil disturbance will occur during the full-scale GI survey. The maximum disturbance footprint per well will be approximately 100 feet by 100 feet (excluding access route) for the drill rig during drilling of the soil borings and wells. Once completed, soil borings will be backfilled, and the surface will be completed to match the existing surface. Disturbance of surface soil conditions on the proposed access routes will be minimal. Therefore, Proposed Action activities will not adversely affect surface soil conditions or stability.

- Surface and Groundwater Quality and Quantity: The final locations of soil borings and new well installations shall be determined in consultation with the Southern Nevada Water Authority to assure that such activities will not interfere with the Las Vegas Wash or its tributaries. No other water bodies are located in the vicinity of Proposed Action activities. Due to the small area that will be disturbed and the fact that the wells will not contribute to surface water, there will be no adverse effect to surface water quality or quantity as the result of this Proposed Action.
- Socio-economic: Proposed Action activities will not result in adverse socio-economic impacts. The Proposed Action will have a beneficial socio-economic impact to the residents of the City of Henderson and Clark County, will enhance the opportunities for remediation, which will improve the local groundwater quality and environment.
- Traffic Control: Under the Proposed Action, signs will be posted alerting recreational users of temporary roadway or bike path crossings that need to occur for well installation. Flagmen will be used to safely direct traffic during delivery or removal of large pieces of equipment. No adverse effects to traffic will occur.
- Air Quality: Short-term air quality impacts are possible, but the Proposed Action will not violate air quality standards or negatively contribute to existing or projected air quality conditions.
- Biological Resources: The Proposed Action was designed to minimize biological impacts by utilizing previously disturbed habitat including existing roads. Minimal vegetation disturbance will occur. Project environmental commitments will minimize the chance for introduction and spread of invasive species and potential impacts to biological resources. The USFWS concurred that the project will not likely adversely affect ESA species or critical habitat.
- Cultural Resources/Traditional Cultural Properties/Sacred Sites: The Proposed Action was designed to minimize direct effects to historic properties by avoidance. Measures to address the management, avoidance, and treatment of historic properties are described in the EA. No adverse indirect or cumulative impacts were identified. No Traditional Cultural Properties (TCP) or Sacred Sites have been identified in the Proposed Action area.
- Recreation: The proposed monitoring wells and boring locations on Reclamation-managed lands will be located directly adjacent or within close proximity to the Clark County Wetlands Park loop trail. Clark County will be notified prior to drilling activities and will implement route detours in order to ensure the safety of the trail users. Trail closure is not anticipated during the installation of the monitoring wells, GI, and drilling of soil borings. No substantial long-term adverse impacts to recreation are anticipated.
- Visual Resources: There is potential for localized, short-term impacts to visual resources during construction activities.
- Cumulative Impacts: No cumulative impacts will occur for visual resources, geology and soils, historic properties or cultural resources, biological resources, air quality, traffic control, socioeconomic, surface or groundwater, noise, Indian Trust Assets, human health, floodplains and wetlands, or environmental justice. No substantial long-term adverse impacts to recreation are anticipated.

### **35. License for Bakersfield Multi-Use Train Along the Friant-Kern Canal (2018)**

*Description: Authorizes a perpetual land use authorization to the City of Bakersfield, CA for the construction and maintenance of 6-mile, 12-foot wide multi-use path for recreational purposes and would connect to an existing trail.*

The FONSI disclosed potential impacts based on the EA; all were considered not significant. Impacts are summarized as follows:

- **Overall:** 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 and Scenic Rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (EO 11990); flood plains (EO 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.
- **Public Health and Safety:** The Proposed Action will not significantly affect public health or safety.
- **Cultural Resources:** The Proposed Action will not significantly affect historic properties. 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.
- **Indian Trust Assets:** The Proposed Action will not affect any Indian Trust Assets.
- **Biological Resources:** The proposed action will not significantly affect listed or proposed threatened or endangered species, or its habitat that has been determined to be critical under the ESA.
- **Environmental Justice:** Implementing the Proposed Action will not disproportionately affect minorities or low-income populations and communities.
- **Cumulative Impacts:** The Proposed Action will not have cumulatively significant impacts.

### **36. Fire Fuels Reduction by Goat Grazing at Auburn Recreation District Lands (2020)**

*Description: Authorizes contracting of periodic grazing under a managing partner agreement to reduce fuels within 100-feet of fences adjacent to private property and residences.*

The FONSI disclosed potential impacts based on the EA; all were considered not significant. Impacts are summarized as follows:

- **Overall:** 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 and Scenic Rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (EO 11990); flood plains (EO 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.
- **Public Health and Safety:** The Proposed Action will not significantly affect public health or safety.

- Cultural Resources: 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 NHPA. Reclamation determined the undertaking has no potential to cause effects to historic properties. 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.
- Indian Trust Assets: The Proposed Action will not affect any Indian Trust Assets.
- Biological Resources: The Proposed Action will not negatively affect listed or proposed threatened or endangered species.
- Environmental Justice: Implementing the Proposed Action will not disproportionately affect minorities or low-income populations and communities.
- Cumulative Impacts: The Proposed Action will not have significant cumulative impacts.

### **37. Orestimba Creek Recharge and Recovery Expansion Project (2022)**

*Description: Authorizes installation, operation, and maintenance of recharge facilities on Project lands augmentation for existing irrigated crops on non-project lands.*

The FONSI disclosed potential impacts based on the EA; all were considered not significant. Impacts are summarized as follows:

- Biological Resources: With the implementation of the environmental commitments included in the EA, there would be “no effect” to proposed or listed species or designated critical habitat under the ESA and no take of birds protected under the MBTA and the Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act.
- Cultural Resources: The SHPO had no objections to Reclamation’s finding of “no adverse effects to historic properties.” 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.
- Public Health and Safety: The Proposed Action will not significantly affect public health or safety.
- Indian Trust Assets: The Proposed Action will not affect any Indian Trust Assets.
- Environmental Justice: Implementing the Proposed Action will not disproportionately affect minorities or low-income populations and communities.

### **38. Santa Clara Valley Water District’s Pacheco/Santa Clara Conduit Right-of-Way Acquisition Project (2022)**

*Description: Authorizes the Water District to acquire easements from private landowners to formalize O&M access, as well as implement physical improvements to Project facilities.*

The FONSI disclosed potential impacts based on the EA; all were considered not significant. Impacts are summarized as follows:

- Biological Resources: Project activities located within Santa Clara County are covered under the Santa Clara Valley Habitat Plan. Reclamation consulted with the USFWS on the proposed activities located within San Benito County. On September 9, 2022,



Reclamation received a biological opinion/concurrence letter from the USFWS Ventura Office. On September 15, 2022, the USFWS Sacramento Office acknowledged that the biological opinion/concurrence letter also covered the impacts in Santa Clara County. The biological opinion is included as Appendix B in the Final EA. Even with Biological Opinion coverage, there still was determined to be no significant impact.

- Cultural Resources: SHPO expressed no objection on the determination of no historic properties affected for the proposed undertaking. 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.
- Public Health and Safety: The Proposed Action will not significantly affect public health or safety.
- Indian Trust Assets: The Proposed Action will not affect any Indian Trust Assets.
- Environmental Justice: Implementing the Proposed Action will not disproportionately affect minorities or low-income populations and communities.

## Financial Assistance EAs/FONSIs

### 39. Horsefly Irrigation District WaterSMART Grant: Dairy and Yonna Canals Piping Project (2016)

*Description: Provides funds to District for the installation of pipe to address seepage and evaporation losses occurring in irrigation canals.*

The FONSI disclosed potential impacts based on the EA; all were considered not significant. Impacts are summarized as follows:

- Indian Trust Assets: The nearest Indian Trust Asset is approximately 10.6 miles west of the nearest project site. Based on this fact, it is reasonable to assume that the Proposed Action Alternative will not have a potential to affect Indian Trust Assets.
- Cultural Resources: The lack of historic properties within the Area of Potential Effect results in a finding of no historic properties affected. Should cultural resources be identified during project construction, activities shall cease, and Reclamation shall be notified to discuss any such discovery and determine how to proceed. There are no identified Indian Sacred Sites within the action areas of the proposed project and therefore this project would not inhibit use or access to any Indian Sacred Sites.
- Environmental Justice: No significant changes in agricultural communities or practices would result from the Proposed Action Alternative. Accordingly, the Proposed Action would not have any significant or disproportionately negative impact on low-income or minority individuals within the project area.
- Climate Change and Green House Gases: The Proposed Action Alternative would result in insignificant impacts to climate change or increases in greenhouse gases due to the size and scope of the project, the small change from current conditions, and the duration of the project that is limited to the project construction period.
- Noise: Construction activities that would temporarily exaggerate the inherent noise in and nearby the rural environment in the project area. Construction noise would be minimized

by limiting the construction work hours between 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. Monday through Sunday. Noise impacts resulting from the Proposed Action Alternative would be temporary and insignificant.

- **Socioeconomics:** The Proposed Action would create a short-term demand for construction related products and services that would support local vendors and may create short term employment opportunities. In general, the project would have an insignificant impact on socioeconomic conditions in the project region.
- **Water Resources:** Under the Proposed Action Alternative, impacts to surface water quality would be negligible and temporary as the Proposed Action Alternative construction activities would take place during the non-irrigation season when no water is present in the Horsefly Irrigation District (HID) water conveyance system. Additionally, implementation of the project has the potential to conserve approximately 720 acre-feet annually as evaporation and seepage from the open canals would be eliminated. As a result, the Proposed Action Alternative would not result in significant impacts to water quality, and it is anticipated to increase the quantity of water available in the Lost River system and the Klamath Project.
- **Biological Resources:** Construction activities would have no effect on ESA species or their habitats as the construction would occur in the previously disturbed context of HID's irrigation delivery system during the non-irrigation season when the conveyances are dry. After completion, the project would likely improve habitat for aquatic species within Lost River as conserved water would remain in the River for instream benefits. This decision is based on analysis of current information on the potential effects of the action, known existing populations, and habitat requirements for the species.
- **Air Quality:** Construction activities would generate short-term and localized fugitive dust and fuel emissions from motorized equipment that could affect air quality. Due to the scope of this project, it is anticipated that construction activities will have an insignificant effect to air quality within the project area.

#### **40. Lower French Creek Off-Channel Habitat Development Project (2016)**

*Description: Provides funds through cooperative agreements with the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation to construct off-channel pond with coarse woody debris structures and associated riparian vegetation (ESA Conservation Measure). Purpose of project is to increase carrying capacity of juvenile Southern Oregon-Northern California Coast coho salmon.*

The FONSI disclosed potential impacts based on the EA; all were considered not significant. Impacts are summarized as follows:

- **Indian Trust Assets:** The nearest ITA is a public domain allotment approximately 2.86 miles northwest of the project site. The proposed action will not have any impacts on Indian Trust Assets.
- **Cultural Resources:** Under an existing Programmatic Agreement with SHPO, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and USFWS, this undertaking has minimal potential to affect historic properties. There are no identified Indian Sacred Sites within the action areas of the proposed project and therefore this project would not inhibit use or access to any Indian Sacred Sites.

- Environmental Justice: No significant changes in agricultural communities or practices would result from the Proposed Action Alternative. Accordingly, the Proposed Action would not have any significant or disproportionately negative impact on low-income or minority individuals within the project area.
- Climate Change and Green House Gases: Potentially minor and temporary impacts to climate change or GHG could result from the use of excavators, dump trucks, front-end loaders, and other motorized equipment for intermediate periods over the course of construction. Any impacts to climate change or increases in GHG would be expected to be insignificant due to the size and scope of the project, small change from current conditions, duration of use that is limited to the project construction, and compliance with pollution related laws and regulations. Furthermore, Siskiyou Resource Conservation District would comply with applicable Federal, State, or local air pollution laws and regulations.
- Noise: The additional temporary noise associated with construction is expected to have only a minor impact. There would be no long-term increases to the ambient noise levels from the implementation of the Proposed Action
- Socioeconomics: The Proposed Action would create a short-term demand for construction related products and services that would support local vendors and may create short term employment opportunities. In general, the project would have an insignificant impact on socioeconomic conditions in the project region.
- Water Resources: Potential water quality impacts including temporary increases in turbidity and contribution of sediment instream would be negligible, localized and temporary in nature and only persist during construction activities. Furthermore, several project design features and best management practices have been incorporated into the proposed action to reduce instream work and direct water quality impacts, as well as long term erosion control concerns. The activities associated with the proposed project are not expected to have an effect on the quantity of the surface water resource. Therefore, no significant impacts to surface water resources would occur as a result of the Proposed Action.
- Biological Resources: the proposed construction activities would have no effect on ESA terrestrial species or their habitats and is not likely to adversely affect coho salmon and its critical habitat.
- Air Quality: Emissions associated with the construction of the Proposed Action would have minor effects on air quality, but they would be temporary and localized in nature. The Proposed Action would have no significant cumulative impact on air quality.

#### **41. Shasta River Water Association WaterSMART Grant: Irrigation Water Measurement and Billing Accounting System (2016)**

*Description: Provides funds to install concrete headgate structures and electronic flow measuring equipment within Association's canal system and implement a new conservation billing system. Conserved water provides benefits to anadromous fishes and watershed by improved flows and water quality.*

The FONSI disclosed potential impacts based on the EA; all were considered not significant. Impacts are summarized as follows:

- Overall: Impacts to the following resources were considered and found to be minor or absent: Indian Trust Assets, Indian Sacred Sites, environmental justice, climate change and GHG, noise, and socioeconomics.
- Water Resources: Upon completion of the project, water quantity and water measuring practices would be improved. Shasta River Water Association (SRWA) would experience an estimated water savings of 1,560 acre-feet annually, and conserved water would remain in the Shasta River for instream benefits and downstream users which meets the intent of the project. Construction activities include minimal disturbances to the ground surface from earthwork that includes installation of concrete structures and headgates within the SRWA ditch system. Materials used during construction could contain chemicals that are potentially harmful to water resources; additionally, oil and other petroleum products used to maintain and operate construction equipment could pose potential threats to water quality. Impacts to water quality are expected to be minor, however, as the project activities would occur during the non-irrigation season when no water is present within the ditch system. A small amount of turbidity within the ditches may occur during periods of rain in which rainwater would accumulate and pass through the ditch system. Standard management practices would be included in the proposed project to avoid or minimize the release of sediments, pollutants, and chemicals into the environment during construction.
- Biological Resources: SRWA would experience an estimated water savings of 1,560 acre-feet annually, and conserved water would remain in the Shasta River for instream benefits. The Proposed Action would have no effect on ESA species or their habitats as construction would occur in the previously disturbed context of SRWA's irrigation delivery system during the non-irrigation system when the ditches are dry. A positive effect upon wildlife, particularly aquatic species, would be realized upon project completion as conserved water would remain within the Shasta River and would improve habitat for fish. This decision is based on analysis of current information on the potential effects of the action, known existing populations, and habitat requirements for the species.
- Cultural Resources: After consultation with the SHPO, Reclamation received concurrence on a finding of no adverse effect to historic properties. Should cultural resources be identified during construction, the project shall be halted, and Reclamation shall be contacted to discuss any such discovery and determine how to proceed.
- Air Quality: The Proposed Action would not conflict with or obstruct the implementation of the air quality management plan of Siskiyou County. Emissions would be associated with construction but would be temporary. Post-construction activities along the ditch system (i.e., operation and maintenance) would not contribute significantly to criteria pollutant emissions relative to past operation.
- Cumulative Impacts: Although the Proposed Action would possibly have minor negative effects on water quality, the resulting impacts would be temporary and localized. Therefore, it has been determined that the Proposed Action would have no significant cumulative impacts to water quality. Water quantity would be improved upon project completion, and comparable projects from nearby irrigation districts would supplement this goal. Long term impacts resulting from the Proposed Action would include improved habitat for wildlife within the Shasta River and adjacent riparian environments. Furthermore, similar proposed activities from neighboring irrigation districts would

augment the goals of this Proposed Action for the resource. Emissions associated with construction would have temporary minor effects on air quality. Considering long-term operation, air quality impacts would be reduced as the need for ditch maintenance actions on new/improved facilities would be decreased. Therefore, the Proposed Action would have no significant cumulative impact on air quality.

#### **42. Horsefly Irrigation District WaterSMART Grand: Horsefly Somers Canal Piping Project (2017)**

*Description: Provides funds to pipe two sections of irrigation canals to address seepage and evaporation losses to conserve water and improve water quality.*

The FONSI disclosed potential impacts based on the EA; all were considered not significant. Impacts are summarized as follows:

- Indian Trust Assets: There are no Indian reservations, Rancherias, or allotments in the project areas. The nearest Indian Trust Asset is approximately 16.5 miles west of the nearest project site. The Proposed Action will not have a potential to affect Indian Trust Assets.
- Cultural Resources: The lack of historic properties within the APE results in a finding of no historic properties affected, and SHPO concurred. There are no identified Indian Sacred Sites within the action areas of the proposed project and therefore this project would not inhibit use or access to any Indian Sacred Sites.
- Environmental Justice: No significant changes in agricultural communities or practices would result from the Proposed Action Alternative. Accordingly, the Proposed Action would not have any significant or disproportionately negative impact on low-income or minority individuals within the project area.
- Climate Change and Green House Gases: Implementation of the Proposed Action would result in insignificant impacts to climate change or increases in greenhouse gases due to the size and scope of the project, the small change from current conditions, and the duration of the project that is limited to the project construction period.
- Noise: Construction activities would temporarily exaggerate the inherent noise in and nearby the rural environment in the project area. Construction noise would be minimized by limiting the construction work hours between 7:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m. Monday through Sunday. Noise impacts resulting from the Proposed Action would be temporary and insignificant.
- Socioeconomics: The Proposed Action would create a short-term demand for construction related products and services that would support local vendors and may create short term employment opportunities. In general, the project would have an insignificant impact on socioeconomic conditions in the project region.
- Water Resources: Under the Proposed Action, impacts to surface water quality would be negligible and temporary as the construction activities would take place during the non-irrigation season when no water is present in the HID water conveyance system. Additionally, implementation of the project has the potential to conserve approximately 720 acre-feet annually as evaporation and seepage from the open canals would be eliminated. As a result, the Proposed Action would not result in significant impacts to

water quality, and it is anticipated to increase the quantity of water available in the Lost River system and the Klamath Project.

- **Biological Resources:** The proposed construction activities would have no effect on ESA species or their habitats as the construction would occur in the previously disturbed context of HID's irrigation delivery system during the non-irrigation season when the conveyances are dry. After completion, the project would likely improve habitat for aquatic species within Lost River as conserved water would remain in the River for instream benefits. This decision is based on analysis of current information on the potential effects of the action, known existing populations, and habitat requirements for the species.
- **Air Quality:** Construction activities would generate short-term and localized fugitive dust and fuel emissions from motorized equipment that could affect air quality. Due to the scope of this project, it is anticipated that construction activities will have an insignificant effect to air quality within the project area.

#### **43. Quartz Valley Indian Reservation Wells Project (2017)**

*Description: Provides funds to the Tribe to install three groundwater monitoring wells to increase the spatial resolution and understanding of watershed sub-basins. Also includes two new drinking water wells to meet tribal needs.*

The FONSI disclosed potential impacts based on the EA; all were considered not significant. Impacts are summarized as follows:

- **Overall:** 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 and Scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (EO 11990); flood plains (EO 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.
- **Public Health and Safety:** The Proposed Action will not significantly affect public health or safety.
- **Cultural Resources:** The Proposed Action has no potential to affect historic properties. 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.
- **Indian Trust Assets:** The Proposed Action will not affect any Indian Trust Assets.
- **Biological Resources:** The Proposed Action will not affect listed or proposed threatened or endangered species.
- **Environmental Justice:** Implementing the Proposed Action will not disproportionately affect minorities or low-income populations and communities.
- **Cumulative Impacts:** The Proposed Action will not have significant cumulative impacts.

#### **44. Yuba City Irrigation Systems Upgrade Project (2017)**

*Description: Provides funds to upgrade irrigation system to a weather-based irrigation controller system at the City's public parks and land management districts to reduce losses and conserve water.*

The FONSI disclosed potential impacts based on the EA; all were considered not significant. Impacts are summarized as follows:

- Overall: 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 and Scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (EO 11990); flood plains (EO 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.
- Public Health and Safety: The Proposed Action will not significantly affect public health or safety.
- Cultural Resources: The Proposed Action has no potential to affect historic properties. 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.
- Indian Trust Assets: The Proposed Action will not affect any Indian Trust Assets.
- Biological Resources: The Proposed Action will have no effect on proposed or listed threatened or endangered species.
- Environmental Justice: Implementing the Proposed Action will not disproportionately affect minorities or low-income populations and communities.
- Cumulative Impacts: The Proposed Action will not have significant cumulative impacts.

#### **45. North Kern Water Storage District Calloway Canal Lining and Water Delivery Improvements (2017)**

*Description: Provides funding for concrete lining of a canal and water delivery improvements at District-owned wells and 14 new remote terminal units to conserve and manage groundwater supplies during drought.*

The FONSI disclosed potential impacts based on the EA; all were considered not significant. Impacts are summarized as follows:

- Overall: Impacts on the following resources were considered and found to be minor or non-existing: Indian Trust Assets, Indian Sacred Sites, environmental justice.
- Water Resources: Under the Proposed Action, the District would conserve approximately 2,737 acre-feet per year. The Calloway Canal Lining of 1.1 miles would eliminate the water lost through seepage, an estimated 1,111 acre-feet per year, into the contaminated section of the groundwater basin. The intertie linking the Cross Valley Canal and the Calloway Canal allows the use of the Calloway Canal to Lerdo Canal Intertie 8-1 Lateral Pumping Plant, a more efficient means of water conveyance. Implementation of the WDI Project is expected to reduce groundwater pumping by 2.5 percent in a dry year, an estimated 1,666 acre-feet per year. The equipment would provide automated real-time monitoring of well pumping and reduce time and labor spent on manually controlling their wells.
- Cultural Resources: The Proposed Action involves the type of activity that has the potential to affect significant cultural resources (i.e., historic properties); however, there

are no known historic properties in the project Area of Potential Effect. No historic properties are affected by the current undertaking.

- **Biological Resources:** Lining of the Callaway Canal could cause negative impacts to prey abundance or reduce the number of potential San Joaquin kit fox den sites through habitat modification. The District would pay fees associated with disturbing 7.4 acres of potential habitat for the San Joaquin kit fox and comply with the terms of the Bakersfield Habitat Conservation Plan (BHCP) Incidental Take Permit. The District will provide the BHCP with a Biological Clearance Survey within 30 days of construction start date. If pre-construction surveys identify kit fox in the Callaway Canal Project area, North Kern is required to notify the USFWS and California Department of Fish and Wildlife more than 5 business days prior to ground disturbance. The Water Deliver Improvements (WDI) sites do not support habitat for any of the Federally listed species. However, undisturbed habitat that could support transient species occurs within 500 feet of 18 well locations in the WDI Project area. Pre-construction surveys would be conducted for the 18 sites listed in Table 3 within 14 days of start of construction. Although there is low potential for listed plant species to occur in the Project Area due to its high level of disturbance, botanical surveys would be conducted in the appropriate blooming period for the Kern Mallow and San Joaquin wooly threads. The District would follow conservation measures described in Section 2.2.1 of the EA prior to and during construction for those transient species that may occur in the Project area. Therefore, impacts from the WDI Project to Federally listed species are not expected.
- **Air Quality:** Short-term air quality impacts would be associated with construction and would generally arise from dust generation and operation of construction equipment. The primary concern for construction of the proposed Project is PM10 emissions from fugitive dust. The District would utilize water trucks during construction to contain fugitive dust. Particulate matter would be maintained to insignificant levels.
- **Cumulative Effects:** The Proposed Action would not result in a cumulatively considerable or a significant cumulative impact.

#### **46. Loma Rica Hydroelectric Generating Facility (2017)**

*Description: Provides funding to construct and operate a 1.4-megawatt hydroelectric facility adjacent to an existing reservoir and water treatment plant. The hydroelectric facility's footprint is 36- by 36-ft, includes approximately 120 feet of new pipeline, and connects to an adjacent existing 12-kV service line.*

The FONSI disclosed potential impacts based on the EA; all were considered not significant. Impacts are summarized as follows:

- **Overall:** 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 and Scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (EO 11990); flood plains (EO 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.
- **Public Health and Safety:** The Proposed Action will not significantly affect public health or safety.



- Cultural Resources: 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 NHPA, Reclamation determined the undertaking has no potential to cause effects on historic properties and therefore, will result in no significant impacts to cultural resources. 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.
- Indian Trust Assets: The Proposed Action will not affect any Indian Trust Assets.
- Biological Resources: The Proposed Action will not affect listed or proposed threatened or endangered species.
- Environmental Justice: Implementing the Proposed Action will not disproportionately affect minorities or low-income populations and communities.
- Cumulative Impacts: The Proposed Action will not have significant cumulative impacts.

#### **47. Tocquerville Secondary Water System Smart Meter Installation Project (2017)**

*Description: Provides funds to purchase and install advanced metering infrastructure meters, associated hardware and software for secondary water system to converse and improve management of District's water supplies.*

The FONSI disclosed potential impacts based on the EA; all were considered not significant. Impacts are summarized as follows:

- Overall: All Advanced Metering Infrastructure meter installations would be within existing, below ground level, water valve boxes or valve locations in a previously disturbed residential setting. All radio antenna systems would be installed on existing structures, accessed by existing roads, and would be visually unobtrusive. No Toquerville Irrigation Company features would be impacted. There would be no direct, indirect or cumulative impacts to Indian Trust Assets, visual resources, floodplains, wetlands, water quality, environmental justice, cultural resources including traditional cultural properties, Indian Sacred Sites, or biological resources including threatened and endangered species.
- Noise, Air Quality, and Soils: Minor, insignificant impacts were identified. Equipment used for installation may generate some noise, but any noise would be from light equipment and would not exceed acceptable levels for a residential setting. Trucks and other equipment used to access the valve boxes would generate some emissions, but this would be a temporary, minor release that would not exceed air quality standards or contribute measurably to global emissions of GHG. Some soil disturbance of previously disturbed soils would occur when valve boxes are accessed, this would not impact soil productivity or lead to erosion.
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions, Water Resources, Energy Use, and Economics: Beneficial impacts were identified. A reduction in pumping as a result of lower water use would save energy and have an overall beneficial impact relative to GHGs. A 40 percent reduction in Toquerville Secondary Water System water use and resulting reduction in pumping would result in nearly 715,000 fewer kWh being consumed each year which would also result in a reduction of carbon emissions. A reduction in pumping would also have a beneficial economic impact, as costs for natural gas and maintenance of the pump

system may be reduced. There would be a beneficial impact to water resources if 884 acre-feet of water are saved annually. This high-quality spring water would be available for drinking water or other primary uses.

- Cumulative Impacts: Due to the minor nature of these impacts, cumulative impacts related to noise, air quality, or soils are not anticipated.

#### **48. Washington County Water Conservancy District WaterSMART Small Scale Water Efficiency Project (2017)**

*Description: Provides fund for a water efficiency technical assistance program for commercial properties and irrigation system upgrades to conserve water in the Virgin River and Lower Colorado River system. The FONSI tiers to and incorporates by reference a prior EA.*

The FONSI disclosed potential impacts based on the EA; all were considered not significant. Impacts are summarized as follows:

- Overall: The WaterSMART irrigation upgrades would be associated with existing irrigation systems in previously disturbed areas. A very small amount of ground disturbance may be needed to access sprinkler heads or insert moisture sensors. No new vehicle access routes or excavation of irrigation lines are anticipated. The Water Efficient Technical Assistance Program activities would take place within existing commercial, industrial, or institutional buildings or facilities and would involve replacement of equipment or retrofitting of plumbing. There would be no direct, indirect or cumulative impacts to Indian Trust Assets, visual resources, floodplains, wetlands, water quality, environmental justice, cultural resources including traditional cultural properties, Indian Sacred Sites, or biological resources including threatened and endangered species.
- Noise, Air Quality, and Soils: Minor, insignificant, temporary, impacts were identified. There may be minor, inconsequential impacts to soils from installation of irrigation system upgrades. There also may be minor, inconsequential air quality and noise impacts from vehicles delivering new equipment or parts to commercial, industrial, or institutional buildings. All of these impacts would be temporary, occurring only while irrigation system upgrades or new equipment delivery or installation is taking place.
- Water Resources: Beneficial impacts related to overall water savings in the Virgin River Watershed and Colorado River system were identified. The 34.6 acre-feet per year of water savings would not have a measurable impact to water quantity but would contribute towards overall goals of water savings from the Virgin River watershed and water conservation within the Colorado River Basin.

#### **49. City of Sanger Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition System Upgrade Project (2018)**

*Description: Provides funds to conduct Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system upgrades to improve system accuracy, reliability, and efficiency to reduce water losses and provide energy savings.*

The FONSI disclosed potential impacts based on the EA; all were considered not significant. Impacts are summarized as follows:

- Overall: There would be no effect to the following: Indian Trust Assets, Indian Sacred Sites, environmental justice.
- Biological Resources: The proposed action includes the replacement of flow meters and communications equipment and the installation of Programmable Logic Controllers and does not require any construction or physical modification outside of existing developed facilities. As such, the project would have no effect on species in the project area.
- Traffic and O&M: The installation and use of the new equipment would neither increase nor decrease current traffic, nor operations and maintenance activities at the well facilities.
- Water Resources: The proposed action would increase water management efficiency by providing real time data acquisition and timelier implementation of water management decisions. Having an accurate measurement of the flow level at each well would allow the City of Sanger to isolate and reduce water losses.
- Environment, Cultural Resources, and Protected Species: The City of Sanger does not anticipate any negative impacts to the surrounding environment, cultural resources, protected or endangered species.
- Energy Efficiency and Economics: Eliminating these substantial water losses would increase the efficiency and sustainability of the system, reducing the potential for groundwater over-drafting. The same quantities can be provided to consumers by pumping less water, conserving electricity, reducing wear on pumps and other equipment, and benefitting ratepayers by decreasing operation costs and therefore allowing a lower municipality utility charge. The City estimates that if just half of the present water losses are eliminated, over 80 million gallons of water per year (5 percent × 5,000 acre-feet × 325,851 gallons per acre-foot) would be conserved. Energy efficiency would also be improved, as less electricity would be required to pump these smaller quantities of water.
- Cumulative Effects: Because there would be no adverse effects associated with the Project, there are no cumulative effects to consider.

## **50. Shafter-Wasco Irrigation District Recovery and Return Improvements to District's Spreading Grounds for Drought Resiliency Project (2018)**

*Description: Provides funds for construction of 2 wells and associated pipelines to connect to District facilities to balance and conserve surface water and declining groundwater levels. The EA is tiered to a prior programmatic EA.*

The FONSI disclosed potential impacts based on the EA; all were considered not significant. Impacts are summarized as follows:

- Overall: 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 and Scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (EO 11990); flood plains (EO 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.
- Public Health and Safety: The Proposed Action will not significantly affect public health or safety.

- Cultural Resources: 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 NHPA, Reclamation, in consultation with the California SHPO, determined the undertaking would have no adverse effect on historic properties. 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.
- Indian Trust Assets: The Proposed Action will not affect any Indian Trust Assets.
- Biological Resources: The Proposed Action is not likely to adversely affect listed or proposed threatened or endangered species.
- Environmental Justice: Implementing the Proposed Action will not disproportionately affect minorities or low-income populations and communities.
- Cumulative Impacts: The Proposed Action will not have significant adverse cumulative impacts.

### **51. Kern County Water Agency Improvement District No. 4 Cross Valley Canal Extension-Pool No. 8 Lining Project (2018)**

*Description: Provides funding to concrete line in a remaining portion of an earthen canal to reduce seepage losses to improve water deliveries, conserve water, and reduce groundwater pumping needed during dry periods.*

The FONSI disclosed potential impacts based on the EA; all were considered not significant. Impacts are summarized as follows:

- Overall: 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 and Scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (EO 11990); flood plains (EO 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.
- Public Health and Safety: The Proposed Action will not significantly affect public health or safety.
- Cultural Resources: 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 NHPA, Reclamation determined the undertaking would not affect historic properties. 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.
- Indian Trust Assets: The Proposed Action will not affect any Indian Trust Assets.
- Biological Resources: The Proposed Action will not significantly affect listed or proposed threatened or endangered species.
- Environmental Justice: Implementing the Proposed Action will not disproportionately affect minorities or low-income populations and communities.
- Cumulative Impacts: The Proposed Action will not have significant cumulative impacts.

## **52. Southern Nevada Water Authority WaterSMART Grant-Landscape Rebate Program (2018)**

*Description: Provides funds for rebates to residential, commercial, and institutional water users to convert turf lawns to water efficient landscaping to conserve and extend existing water supplies during periods of continued drought.*

The FONSI disclosed potential impacts based on the EA; all were considered not significant. Impacts are summarized as follows:

- Overall: All Water Smart Landscapes Rebate Program activities take place on previously disturbed private lawns in urban settings. A small amount of ground disturbance would be needed to remove turf and install plants. No new vehicle access routes are anticipated. Due to the limited amount of ground disturbance which would occur in previously disturbed areas and the limited scope of the action, there will be no direct, indirect or cumulative impacts to Indian Trust Assets, visual resources, floodplains, wetlands, soils, water quality, environmental justice, cultural resources including traditional cultural properties, Indian Sacred Sites, or biological resources including threatened and endangered species.
- Noise and Air Quality: Minor, insignificant, temporary negative impacts were identified from vehicles delivering plants or other materials to residential, commercial, or institutional property. These impacts would be temporary, occurring only while the landscape conversion is taking place.
- Water Resources: Beneficial impacts are anticipated. The water savings projected as a result of the Program would create a beneficial impact to water resources.

## **53. El Camino Irrigation District-Pump 1 Conveyance Efficiency Upgrade Project (2019)**

*Description: Provides funds to upgrade an aged concrete pipeline to PVC pipe to conserve irrigation water, increase groundwater storage, reduce seasonal groundwater fluctuations, and increase energy use efficiency through reduced pumping.*

The FONSI disclosed potential impacts based on the EA; all were considered not significant. Impacts are summarized as follows:

- Overall: 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 and Scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (EO 11990); flood plains (EO 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.
- Public Health and Safety: The Proposed Action will not significantly affect public health or safety.
- Cultural Resources: The Proposed Action will not have significant effects on historic properties. 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.

- Indian Trust Assets: The Proposed Action will not affect any Indian Trust Assets.
- Biological Resources: The Proposed Action will have no effect on proposed or listed threatened or endangered species.
- Environmental Justice: Implementing the Proposed Action will not disproportionately affect minorities or low-income populations and communities.
- Cumulative Impacts: The Proposed Action will not have significant cumulative impacts.

#### **54. Middle Klamath Coho Habitat Enhancement Planning and Design Team Support (2019)**

*Description: Provides funds for planning and design efforts to enhance off-channel coho refuge habitats along the Middle Klamath River corridor.*

The FONSI disclosed potential impacts based on the EA; all were considered not significant. Impacts are summarized as follows:

- Water Resources: No construction or in-water work would occur. Under the Proposed Action, it is anticipated that the only potential disturbance to any of the sites visited would be light and occasional foot traffic and impacts to water resources due to this site surveillance would be absent or negligible. Future projects related to these planning efforts would be analyzed under NEPA after planning designs are completed and future funding is secured.
- Biological Resources: Implementation of the Proposed Action Alternative would result in temporary and negligible impacts to vegetation from approximately 20 on-foot, nonground disturbing site surveys. No permanent disruption or changes to existing vegetation would occur. There would be no impacts to any listed plant or animal species or their critical habitat. Local wildlife and birds are already conditioned and accustomed to traffic and hiking in the area. Any disturbance to wildlife from site access was determined to be negligible. There would be no affect to ESA species or its critical habitat; the proposed planning activity is anticipated to contribute to efforts of restoring coho salmon habitat along the Klamath River.
- Cultural Resources: Reclamation determined that this is the type of action that does not have the potential to cause effects on historic properties, The Proposed Action Alternative is administrative in nature. Per Executive Order 13007 (May 24, 1996), the Proposed Action Alternative would not affect access to or use of Indian Sacred Sites.
- Indian Trust Resources: The nearest Indian Trust Asset to the proposed activity is about .52 miles away, and the proposed action will not have any impacts on Indian Trust Assets.
- Other Resources Considered: Since the project is primarily administrative in nature with no ground-disturbing activities and since most of the project area is very near a highway and already frequented by tourists, it was determined that there would be no or negligible/immeasurable impacts to the following resources as compared to the No Action Alternative (existing conditions): socioeconomics, noise, air quality, environmental justice, land use, recreation, and traffic.
- Cumulative Effects: Due to the administrative (design/planning) nature of the Proposed Action Alternative, no cumulative effects will occur.

## **55. Day Ranch Conservation Project (2019)**

*Description: Provides funds to a conservancy to purchase a 356-acre conservation easement on a working cattle ranch and development of a management plan to preserve habitat in perpetuity for 9 ESA listed species.*

The FONSI disclosed potential impacts based on the EA; all were considered not significant. Impacts are summarized as follows:

- **Overall:** 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 and Scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (EO 11990); flood plains (EO 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.
- **Public Health and Safety:** The Proposed Action will not significantly affect public health or safety.
- **Cultural Resources:** 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 NHPA, Reclamation determined the undertaking has no potential to cause effects to historic properties. 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.
- **Indian Trust Assets:** The Proposed Action will not affect any Indian Trust Assets.
- **Biological Resources:** The Proposed Action will not negatively affect listed or proposed threatened or endangered species.
- **Environmental Justice:** Implementing the Proposed Action will not disproportionately affect minorities or low-income populations and communities.
- **Cumulative Impacts:** The Proposed Action will not have significant cumulative impacts.

## **56. Horse Creek Habitat Restoration Project (2019)**

*Description: Provides funds to develop designs for fisheries habitat restoration per conservation measures identified in the 2019 biological opinion for continued operations of the Klamath Project.*

The FONSI disclosed potential impacts based on the EA; all were considered not significant. Impacts are summarized as follows:

- **Cultural Resources:** Reclamation determined that this is the type of action that does not have the potential to cause effects on historic properties. The Proposed Action Alternative is administrative in nature and is also not located on Federal lands and therefore would not affect access to or use of Indian Sacred Sites.
- **Indian Trust Resources:** The nearest Indian Trust Asset to the proposed activity is about 4.39 miles to the southwest of the Project site. The Proposed Action will not have any impact on Indian Trust Assets.

- Environmental Justice: Reclamation has not identified any adverse human health or environmental effects on any population that may result from implementing the Proposed Action Alternative which is administrative in nature.
- Air Quality: The project area is not in a non-attainment designation. Emissions emitted as a result of implementing the Proposed Action would be immeasurable and negligible due to the size and scope of the project. The Proposed Action would not conflict with or obstruct the implementation of the air quality management plan of Siskiyou County.
- Recreation: Due to the administrative nature of the Proposed Action and that the Project is entirely on private land which is not open to recreational use by the public. Therefore, no impacts to recreational use are anticipated from implementing the Proposed Action Alternative.
- Noise and Traffic: There would not be any quantifiable increases to the ambient noise levels or traffic from the approximate 20 site visits to the Project site locations needed for reconnaissance for the design/administration tasks associated with the Proposed Action.
- Water Resources: Due to the administrative nature of the Proposed Action Alternative to only design habitat restoration elements of Horse Creek, no construction or in-water work would occur. Approximately 20 proposed site visits would occur by Mid-Klamath Watershed Council (MKWC) or their partners. Under the Proposed Action, it is anticipated that the only potential disturbance to Horse Creek would be light and occasional foot traffic by MKWC or their partners as they evaluate the Proposed Action site location. Impacts to water resources due to this site surveillance would be short-term, and negligible.
- Biological Resources: The Proposed Action would result in temporary and negligible impacts to vegetation from approximately 20 on-foot, nonground disturbing site surveys. No permanent disruption or changes to existing vegetation would occur. Temporary and negligible impacts to wildlife would result as MKWC and its partners may temporarily displace wildlife while conducting approximately 20 non-ground disturbing site surveys. No permanent disturbances would occur under the Proposed Action. Additionally, for Threatened or Endangered Species, this Project is for planning and is administrative in nature. It is anticipated to contribute to restoring coho salmon habitat in the Klamath River. This Project is a planning and design project, and would have no impact on Essential Fish Habitat.
- Cumulative Impacts: Due to the administrative (design/planning) nature of the Proposed Action Alternative, no cumulative effects will occur.

### **57. McMullin Area Groundwater Sustainability Agency Groundwater Credit Surface Water Marketing Strategy Project (2019)**

*Description: Provides funds to develop and coordinate a groundwater marketing and credit program for unused landowner groundwater allocations.*

The FONSI disclosed potential impacts based on the EA; all were considered not significant. Impacts are summarized as follows:

- Overall: 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 and Scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole



or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (EO 11990); flood plains (EO 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.

- Public Health and Safety: The Proposed Action will not significantly affect public health or safety.
- Cultural Resources: The proposed action will not significantly affect historic properties. 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.
- Indian Trust Assets: The Proposed Action will not affect any Indian Trust Assets.
- Biological Resources: The proposed action will not significantly affect listed or proposed threatened or endangered species, or its habitat that has been determined to be critical under the ESA.
- Environmental Justice: Implementing the Proposed Action will not disproportionately affect minorities or low-income populations and communities.
- Cumulative Impacts: The Proposed Action will not have cumulatively significant impacts.

## **58. Natomas Central Mutual Water Company: Cottonwood Check Structure Project (2019)**

*Description: Provides funds to replace a check structure and gate to maintain constant upstream water level to improve irrigation management and provide greater flexibility in meeting early spring water demand.*

The FONSI disclosed potential impacts based on the EA; all were considered not significant. Impacts are summarized as follows:

- Overall: 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 and Scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (EO 11990); flood plains (EO 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.
- Public Health and Safety: The Proposed Action will not significantly affect public health or safety.
- Cultural Resources: 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 NHPA, Reclamation determined that no historic properties would be affected and therefore, the proposed action will result in no significant impacts to cultural resources. 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.
- Indian Trust Assets: The Proposed Action will not affect Indian Trust Assets.
- Biological Resources: The proposed action will not affect listed or proposed threatened or endangered species.

- Environmental Justice: Implementing the Proposed Action will not disproportionately affect minorities or low-income populations and communities.
- Cumulative Impacts: The Proposed Action will not have significant cumulative impacts.

### **59. North Kern Water Storage District Supervisory Control and Acquisition System Automation and Evapotranspiration Improvements (2019)**

*Description: Provides funds to install and implement a SCADA system and process evapotranspiration and surface renewal station data to improve water supply efficiency.*

The FONSI disclosed potential impacts based on the EA; all were considered not significant. Impacts are summarized as follows:

- Overall: 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 and Scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (EO 11990); flood plains (EO 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.
- Public Health and Safety: The Proposed Action will not significantly affect public health or safety.
- Cultural Resources: The proposed action will not significantly affect historic properties. 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.
- Indian Trust Assets: The Proposed Action will not affect any Indian Trust Assets.
- Biological Resources: The proposed action will not significantly affect listed or proposed threatened or endangered species, or its habitat that has been determined to be critical under the ESA.
- Environmental Justice: Implementing the Proposed Action will not disproportionately affect minorities or low-income populations and communities.
- Cumulative Impacts: The Proposed Action will not have cumulatively significant impacts.

### **60. Round Valley Indian Tribes-Mill Creek Streamflow and Riparian Corridor Restoration Project (2019)**

*Description: Provides funding to the Tribe to restore a riparian corridor by establishing approximately 30,000 trees and shrubs and providing supplemental watering (by installing a drip system) to decrease the adjacent creek's water temperatures and increase water retention and aquifer recharge to improve Tribal water supplies.*

The FONSI disclosed potential impacts based on the EA; all were considered not significant. Impacts are summarized as follows:

- Overall: 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 and Scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole

or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (EO 11990); flood plains (EO 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.

- Public Health and Safety: The Proposed Action will not significantly affect public health or safety.
- Cultural Resources: The proposed action will have no effect on any districts, sites, highways, structures, or objects listed, 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 NHPA, Reclamation reached a determination of no historic properties affected; consequently, the proposed action will have no impact upon cultural resources. 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.
- Indian Trust Assets: The Proposed Action will not affect Indian Trust Assets.
- Biological Resources: The Proposed Action will not affect listed or proposed threatened or endangered species.
- Environmental Justice: Implementing the Proposed Action will not disproportionately affect minorities or low-income populations and communities.
- Cumulative Impacts: The Proposed Action will not have significant cumulative impacts.

## **61. Lindmore Irrigation District 93.2E Plant Modernization (2019)**

*Description: Provides funds to install variable flow devices and SCADA system at a District pumping plant to improve delivery efficiency, reduce water and energy losses, and conserve water.*

The FONSI disclosed potential impacts based on the EA; all were considered not significant. Impacts are summarized as follows:

- Overall: 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 and Scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (EO 11990); flood plains (EO 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.
- Public Health and Safety: The Proposed Action will not significantly affect public health or safety.
- Cultural Resources: The proposed action will not significantly affect historic properties. 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.
- Indian Trust Assets: The Proposed Action will not affect any Indian Trust Assets.
- Biological Resources: The proposed action will not significantly affect listed or proposed threatened or endangered species, or its habitat that has been determined to be critical under the ESA.
- Environmental Justice: Implementing the Proposed Action will not disproportionately affect minorities or low-income populations and communities.

- Cumulative Impacts: The Proposed Action will not have cumulatively significant impacts.

## **62. Washington County Water Conservancy District 2019-2020 WaterSMART Small-Scale Water Efficiency Project (2019)**

*Description: Provides funds for a District-managed water efficiency technical assistance program for commercial properties and rebates for irrigation system upgrades. The EA incorporates by reference a 2017 EA.*

The FONSI and EA disclosed potential impacts; all were considered not significant. Impacts are summarized as follows:

- Overall: There would be no direct, indirect, or cumulative impacts to Indian Trust Assets, visual resources, floodplains, wetlands, water quality, environmental justice, cultural resources including traditional cultural properties, Indian Sacred Sites, or biological resources including threatened and endangered species.
- Noise, Air Quality, and Soils: Minor, insignificant, temporary, impacts were identified.
- Water Resources: Beneficial impacts related to overall water savings in the Virgin River Watershed and Colorado River system were identified.

## **63. Arvin-Edison Water Storage District Groundwater Well Metering Project (2019)**

*Description: Provides funds for purchase and installation of flow meters in District service area to develop a groundwater sustainability plan.*

The FONSI disclosed potential impacts based on the EA; all were considered not significant. Impacts are summarized as follows:

- Overall: 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 and Scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (EO 11990); flood plains (EO 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.
- Public Health and Safety: The Proposed Action will not significantly affect public health or safety.
- Cultural Resources: 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 NHPA, Reclamation determined the undertaking would not affect historic properties. 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.
- Indian Trust Assets: The Proposed Action will not affect any Indian Trust Assets.
- Biological Resources: The Proposed Action will not significantly affect listed or proposed threatened or endangered species.

- Environmental Justice: Implementing the Proposed Action will not disproportionately affect minorities or low-income populations and communities.
- Cumulative Impacts: The Proposed Action will not have significant cumulative impacts.

#### **64. Carpenter Valley Recreational Improvements Project (2019)**

*Description: Provides funds for a sub-grant to improve public recreational access at the existing 604-acre Truckee Donner Land Trust's Carpenter Valley property to concentrate use into designated areas to reduce ongoing impacts to sensitive resources from unauthorized disperse recreation. The work includes trail improvements, and installation of a vault restroom, a wildlife viewing platform, four picnic tables, additional fencing and interpretive signage occurred in previously disturbed areas within the property.*

The FONSI disclosed potential impacts based on the EA; all were considered not significant.

- Public comment highlighted the requirement for a Sierra Nevada Yellow-legged Frog pre-construction survey, and this was included in the proposed action.

Impacts are summarized as follows:

- Overall: 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 and Scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (EO 11990); flood plains (EO 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.
- Public Health and Safety: The Proposed Action will not significantly affect public health or safety.
- Cultural Resources: 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 NHPA. Reclamation determined the undertaking will not affect historic properties. 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.
- Indian Trust Assets: The Proposed Action will not affect any Indian Trust Assets.
- Biological Resources: The Proposed Action will not negatively affect listed or proposed threatened or endangered species.
- Environmental Justice: Implementing the Proposed Action will not disproportionately affect minorities or low-income populations and communities.
- Cumulative Impacts: The Proposed Action will not have significant cumulative impacts.

#### **65. Development of a Smart Water Grid at Blue Lake Rancheria (2019)**

*Description: Provides funds to develop a smart water grid, SCADA system with web-based capabilities and construct a water tank to promote self-sufficiency and drought resiliency.*

The FONSI disclosed potential impacts based on the EA; all were considered not significant. Impacts are summarized as follows:

- Overall: 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 and Scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (EO 11990); flood plains (EO 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.
- Public Health and Safety: The Proposed Action will not significantly affect public health or safety.
- Cultural Resources: 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 NHPA. Reclamation determined that no historic properties would be affected and therefore, the proposed action will result in no significant impacts to cultural resources. 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.
- Indian Trust Assets: The Proposed Action will not affect Indian Trust Assets.
- Biological Resources: The Proposed Action will not affect listed or proposed threatened or endangered species.
- Environmental Justice: Implementing the Proposed Action will not disproportionately affect minorities or low-income populations and communities.
- Cumulative Impacts: The Proposed Action will not have significant cumulative impacts.

#### **66. Distribution Systems Improvement Project—Reclamation District 108 (2019)**

*Description: Provide funds to replace and automate manual water control gates and irrigation pipelines to conserve water and power. The EA incorporates a CEQA analysis by reference.*

The FONSI disclosed potential impacts based on the EA; all were considered not significant. Impacts are summarized as follows:

- Overall: 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 and Scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (EO 11990); flood plains (EO 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.
- Public Health and Safety: The Proposed Action will not significantly affect public health or safety.
- Cultural Resources: 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)). The SHPO responded with no objection to Reclamation's finding of no historic properties affected. 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.

- Indian Trust Assets: The Proposed Action will not affect Indian Trust Assets.
- Biological Resources: The Proposed Action is likely to adversely affect ESA listed species and a Biological Opinion was issued in 2018. These effects would be minimized by avoidance and minimization measures. Even with Biological Opinion coverage, there was still determined to be no significant impact.
- Environmental Justice: Implementing the Proposed Action will not disproportionately affect minorities or low-income populations and communities.
- Cumulative Impacts: The Proposed Action will not have significant cumulative impacts.

## **67. Maybell Canal Water Conservation Project (2019)**

*Description: Provides funds to install a total of 1,300 feet of polymer liner in two segments in the canal to eliminate seepage and conserve water.*

The FONSI disclosed potential impacts based on the EA; all were considered not significant. Impacts are summarized as follows:

- Overall: There are no park lands or wild and scenic rivers that will be affected by the Proposed Action. The Proposed Action will occur upstream of prime farmlands, and adverse effects on these farmlands are not expected. The proposed action area includes 2 short (1000-foot and 300-foot) segments of the Maybell Canal including a portion which is adjacent to the Yampa River. No effects unique characteristics of the geographic area will occur. The corridor has been disturbed previously due to maintenance requirements, and construction will occur on 1.6 acres of previously disturbed land. Potential effects to the Yampa River due to construction and vegetation removal may occur, but effects are expected to be temporary and minor. Disturbed areas (other than the canal and existing maintenance road) will be revegetated.
- Wildlife and Vegetation: The predicted short-term effects of the proposed action include impacts to vegetation within the proposed action area, and disturbance during construction which will affect wildlife for the duration of the construction in the immediate vicinity of the project.
- Water Resources: Benefits of the proposed action include improvements to flows in the Yampa River due to repairs on the canal which prevent seepage and water loss of up to 150 acre-feet per year. Beneficial effects to water quality downstream of the project area are expected by stabilizing the canal and preventing sloughing into the river and sediment loading.
- Public Health and Safety: The proposed action will have no significant impacts on public health or safety.
- Environmental Justice: No minority or low-income populations will be disproportionately affected by the proposed action.
- Cultural Resources: Colorado SHPO concurred with the finding of no adverse effect.
- Biological Resources: No habitat for endangered or threatened species exists in or near the project area. No change to depletions is expected as a result of this project, and lining the canal could increase water flows in the Yampa, having a net benefit to Colorado endangered fish habitat downstream of the project area.

- Cumulative Impacts: None of the effects from the proposed action, together with other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions, rise to a significant cumulative impact.

## **68. Hobble Creek Piping Project, Utah County, Utah (2019)**

*Description: Provides funds to replace a portion of the ditch system with a pressurized pipeline to minimize seepage and evaporations loss, reduce maintenance costs, meet additional water demands, and reduce drought-related impacts.*

The FONSI disclosed potential impacts based on the EA; all were considered not significant. Impacts are summarized as follows:

- Overall: A no effect determination (or only beneficial impacts) was made for the following resources: hydrology, recreation, wetlands, riparian, noxious weeds, vegetation, threatened and endangered species, sensitive species, socioeconomics, water rights, cultural resources, paleontology, floodplains, Indian Trust Assets, environmental justice, system operations, and water quality. There would be no significant adverse cumulative effects on any resource.
- Water Quality: Water quality impacts during construction would be minimal, as there is no water in the ditch during the non-irrigation season. Piping the ditch would improve water quality in the system. There are no foreseeable long-term negative effects to water quality resulting from the Proposed Action.
- Geology and Soils: The Proposed Action would have temporary surface soil impacts during construction, minimized by erosion and sediment controls. Disturbed areas would have topsoil and vegetation removed during construction and then replaced. The seeds of native plants in the topsoil would promote the revegetation of disturbed areas.
- Visual Resources: There would be changes to the existing visual conditions directly adjacent to the ditch. The visual character of the close-range to mid-range would be impacted where trees would be removed within the construction corridor. All plant disturbance would be regraded and revegetated.
- Health, Safety, Air Quality, Noise: The Proposed Action may have minor, short-term effects during construction, including temporary increase in noise levels due to heavy equipment and truck traffic. Temporary and localized impacts to air quality could occur during construction, including increases in fugitive dust. However, dust suppressant measures would be used to help minimize the short-term impacts. Enclosing the ditch would improve public safety from the open water channel. There would be no long-term effects on health, safety, air quality, or noise.
- Fish and Wildlife Resources: Effects to fish, small mammals, reptiles, and big game would be minimal. Wildlife disturbance would be localized, temporary, and minimal due to the linear and fast-moving nature of the construction activities. Effects to wildlife would be isolated, and seasonal migrations may be affected. These temporary effects would be minimized by restricting construction activities to avoid sensitive nesting or breeding seasons.
- Access and Transportation: The Proposed Action would have minor short-term effects during construction. It is not anticipated that road access or conditions would be impaired, and there would be no long-term effects on access and transportation.



## **69. Northeast Colorado Walker Recharge Project, Central Colorado Water Conservancy District (2019)**

*Description: Provides funds to design and construct the first phase of recharge project which uses an existing ditch and construct two pipelines, a recharge pond, and four to six alluvial wells to conjunctively manage surface and groundwater supplies for irrigation.*

The FONSI disclosed potential impacts based on the EA; all were considered not significant. Impacts are summarized as follows:

- **Water Resources:** Up to 15,000 acre-feet of water annually would be provided to help Central conjunctively manage its surface and groundwater supplies. Recharge operations would temporarily store and re-time water from periods of surplus to periods of reduced supply. South Platte River Compact calls could increase in frequency from 1 to 29 days per year based on 2012-2017 hydrology under the Proposed Action assuming similar hydrology and water demands of senior water rights. With future phases (II and III) and pumping rates up to 100 cfs, South Platte River Compacts calls could increase between 1 and 31 days under similar conditions. The increased water supply would be used to replace depletions caused by pumping from 1,400 groundwater wells within Central's district boundaries. Alluvial groundwater wells are the primary source of water and provide supplemental irrigation supplies when yield from surface water rights is insufficient. Minor temporary effects to water quality may occur during construction. However, Central would implement best management practices to minimize stormwater runoff. The Proposed Action will make up to 15,000 acre-feet of additional water supply available to Central which will primarily be used to augment supplies to replace depletions caused by existing alluvial well pumping including augmentation that supports existing irrigated farmland.
- **Biological Resources:** The Walker Recharge Project would have no effect to ESA-listed species in Colorado. Reclamation formally consulted with the USFWS on depletion effects to ESA-listed species in the Platte River in Nebraska. The Service concluded that Proposed Action including future phases of the Walker Recharge Project (up to 30,000 acre-feet per year) is not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of the endangered and threaten species or critical habitat. Local wildlife may temporarily avoid the project area during construction activities. Construction activities during a severe winter could affect wintering concentrations of local wildlife including mule deer, whitetail deer and wildlife turkey. Up to 15 acres of shallow open water habitat (North and South Ponds) would be created under the Proposed Action and benefit waterfowl and other water dependent wildlife.
- **Cultural Resources:** The Proposed Action would have no effect to National Register of Historic Places eligible properties.
- **Indian Trust Assets:** No known Indian trust assets would be affected by the Proposed Action.
- **Environmental Justice:** The Proposed Action will not result in disproportionate adverse effects to minority or low-income populations, or Indian Tribes.
- **Soils:** The Proposed Action will temporarily affect about 5 acres of soil types classified by the Natural Resource Conservation Service as prime farmland if irrigated and 2.5 acres as farmland of Statewide and local importance. None of these lands are or have

historically been irrigated. The Proposed Action will permanently affect about 5 acres of soil types classified by the Natural Resource Conservation Service as prime farmland if irrigated and 5.0 acres classified as farmland of Statewide and local importance. None of these lands have been historically irrigated and will be used for the North and South Ponds.

## **70. Lower Colorado Region WaterSMART Grants Program (2020)**

*Description: Provides funds for water conservation and efficiency grants, small-scale water efficiency projects, cooperative watershed management-implementation projects, resiliency project, and Water Conservation Field Services in Reclamation's Lower Colorado Region. The EA provides a programmatic level assessment.*

The FONSI disclosed potential impacts based on the EA; all were considered not significant. Impacts are summarized as follows:

- Overall: Implementation of the Proposed Action will not result in significant impacts to any of the resources evaluated in the EA.
  - There will be no direct, indirect, or cumulative impacts to environmental justice, Indian Trust Assets, or water quality.
  - Beneficial impacts related to overall water savings in the lower Colorado River system were identified.
  - Minor, insignificant, temporary impacts were identified related to air quality, biological resources, cultural resources including traditional cultural properties and Sacred Sites, floodplains/wetlands, noise, soils, and visual resources.
- Air Quality: The construction, access, and delivery activities are expected to be limited in size and scope, and equipment use intermittent and short-term. As a result, impacts to air quality from release of criteria air pollutants during construction or site access and delivery are expected to be minor.
- Biological Resources: Activities would take place in urban areas either within or in association with existing residential, commercial, or institutional buildings, structures, grounds, or facilities or other areas previously disturbed by development. Improvement Projects which involve replacement, refurbishment, repair, or installation may result in ground or vegetation disturbance. Rebate programs which involve turf conversion or upgrading irrigation systems may also disturb soil and vegetation. Although there may be some disturbance, it would be minor, short term, and localized. The potential for species listed as threatened or endangered to occur in these areas is low because of the setting of the proposed action. Migratory birds may be present, but the potential for them to be impacted is also low in these settings because of the limited disturbance associated with the Proposed Action. The potential for the spread of invasive species is low, as most projects would take place on facilities where vegetation is maintained. For the reasons described above, the Proposed Action would not have adverse impacts on any species proposed for listing or listed under the ESA, or on their critical habitat. Because of the affected environment and minor nature of the Proposed Action, adverse impacts to MBTA or the introduction or spread of noxious weeds or invasive species is not anticipated.

- **Cultural Resources:** Activities would take place in urban areas either within or in association with existing residential, commercial, or institutional buildings, structures, grounds, or facilities or other areas previously disturbed by development. Improvement Projects which involve replacement, refurbishment, repair, or installation may result in ground disturbance or modification of facilities. Rebate programs which involve turf conversion or upgrading irrigation systems may also involve ground disturbance. Because of the minor nature and affected environment of the Proposed Action, it is anticipated that many projects would not have the potential to cause effects to Historic Properties or Sacred Sites. If potential effects to Historic Properties are anticipated when projects are reviewed, adverse impacts would be avoided, minimized, or mitigated through the NHPA Section 106 process.
- **Floodplains/Wetlands:** Since projects would take place within existing facilities, or in areas already impacted by farming or development, it is not anticipated that new structures would be placed in floodplains or the functioning of floodplains affected. Any projects which could potentially affect a floodplain would be reviewed to ensure compliance. If there is potential for impacts to wetlands (i.e., canal lining projects), any potential impacts would be avoided, minimized and/or mitigated in accordance with EO 11990 and any requirements under the CWA.
- **Noise:** The existing noise level in project areas varies. Many of the project areas would be in urban environments where there is already ambient noise from traffic, aircraft, leaf blowers, and other equipment. Turf conversion or irrigation system projects may take place in residential or agricultural areas where there is less ambient noise. Projects which involve equipment use may raise ambient noise levels temporarily. These activities are expected to be limited in size and scope, and equipment use intermittent and short-term. As a result, noise impacts from construction or site access and delivery are expected to be minor.
- **Soils:** Some of the proposed projects may result in impacts to soils. Improvement Projects which involve replacement, refurbishment, repair, or installation may require soil disturbance. Activities would take place in urban areas either within or in association with existing residential, commercial, or institutional buildings, structures, grounds, or facilities or other areas where soils have been previously disturbed by development. Since this would be minor disturbance, and soil stabilization methods will be implemented as appropriate and any required permits obtained and implemented, this would not impact soil productivity or lead to erosion.
- **Visual Resources:** There may be short term impacts to visual resources from vehicles, equipment, and movement of materials. If projects are located along scenic roadways, or near vista points or undisturbed natural areas, these activities may temporarily lessen the visual quality of the area. These potential impacts would be minor and temporary.
- **Cumulative Effects:** No measurable cumulative impacts are anticipated because of the minor and short-term impacts to air quality, biological resources, cultural resources, floodplains/wetlands, noise, soils, or visual resources.

## **71. Reclaimed Water Distribution Cheney Purple Pipe Project (2022)**

*Description: Provides funds to upgrade a wastewater treatment and reclamation facility for reclaimed water for irrigated turf grass and landscape at City of Cheney parks, athletic fields, and school grounds to address a declining aquifer and summer irrigation demands.*

The FONSI disclosed potential impacts based on the EA; all were considered not significant. Impacts are summarized as follows:

- Overall: Resources determined to be unaffected by the Proposed Action include: geology and soils; mineral resources; wilderness area; wild and scenic rivers; prime and unique farmland; floodplains; visual resources; recreation; wetlands and riparian areas; noxious weeds and vegetation; hydrology; water rights; water quality; cultural resources and Sacred Sites; Indian Trust Assets; paleontological resources; health and safety; air quality; noise; climate; fish and wildlife resources; threatened, endangered, and sensitive species; environmental justice; socioeconomics; environmental health and safety; public safety; access and transportation; and system operations. No cumulative effects are anticipated.
- The Proposed Action would yield the following beneficial effects:
  - Hydrology: During the construction phase, it is expected that there would be no direct adverse impact to hydrology. However, beneficial indirect impacts on groundwater hydrology are anticipated through implementation of the Proposed Action.
  - Water Rights: The Proposed Action would have no direct adverse impacts to water rights during construction. However, the anticipated reduction in groundwater withdrawal (i.e., approximately 1 million gallons per day) during the irrigation season may allow the City to maintain their existing water rights for a longer period. Therefore, the Proposed Action has potential beneficial indirect impacts on the City's water rights.
  - Water Quality: The Proposed Action would have no adverse direct impact on water quality. Reclaimed water would increase the quantity of potable groundwater; therefore, it is anticipated that the Proposed Action would have potential beneficial indirect impacts on water quality.
  - Climate: It is anticipated that the Proposed Action would have no adverse direct impact to the climate. The Proposed Action plans to decrease groundwater pumping by using Class A reclaimed water for irrigation on selected parks and playfields, rather than using potable groundwater for irrigation. Therefore, the Proposed Action is anticipated to have an insignificant beneficial indirect impact on climate change related effects. It is anticipated that climate change would have no direct or indirect impacts on the Proposed Action.