

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Washington County Water Conservancy District 2019-2020 WaterSMART Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects

Finding of No Significant Impact and Final Environmental Assessment
LC-19-06

Lower Colorado Region, Boulder City, Nevada



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
Lower Colorado Region
Boulder City, Nevada

January 2019

Mission Statements

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

The mission of the Bureau of Reclamation is to manage, develop, and protect water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the American public.

Cover photo: Red Hills Desert Garden, Washington County, Utah (Source: Washington County Water Conservation District, 2015)

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List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

| Acronym or abbreviation | Term |
|-------------------------|--|
| Agreement | Agreement R18AP00223 |
| EA | Environmental Assessment |
| FONSI | Finding of No Significant Impact |
| NEPA | National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, as amended |
| Project | WaterSMART Small –Scale Water Efficiency Program grant for incentives for water efficiency in Washington County, Utah |
| Proposed Action | Agreement R18AP00223 |
| Reclamation | Bureau of Reclamation |
| WCWCD | Washington County Water Conservancy District |
| 2017 EA | Washington County Water Conservancy District WaterSMART Small-Scale Water Efficiency Project Finding of No Significant Impact and Final Environmental Assessment, LC-17-27 |

Finding of No Significant Impact

(FONSI)

LC-19-06

For

**Final Environmental Assessment (EA) for Washington County Water
Conservancy District 2019-2020 WaterSMART Small-Scale Water Efficiency
Projects**

Boulder City, Nevada

Based on a thorough analysis of the potential environmental impacts presented in the EA, the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) finds that implementation of the Proposed Action will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment within or adjacent to the project area, therefore an Environmental Impact Statement will not be prepared.

Accordingly, this FONSI is submitted to document environmental review and evaluation of the Proposed Action in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended.

Prepared: Faye Stroen Date: January 31, 2019
Natural Resource Specialist

Recommended: [Signature] Date: 31 Jan 2019
Manager, Environmental Compliance Group

Approved: [Signature] Date: February 6, 2019
Chief, Resources Management Office

Background

Reclamation proposes to award Agreement R18AP00223 (Agreement/Proposed Action) with the Washington County, Utah, Water Conservancy District (WCWCD) for a WaterSMART Small – Scale Water Efficiency Program grant for incentives for water efficiency in Washington County, Utah (Project) for years 2019-2020.

This FONSI incorporates by reference the attached *Washington County Water Conservancy District WaterSMART Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects 2019-2020 Final EA* (EA) and the *Washington County Water Conservancy District WaterSMART Small-Scale Water Efficiency Project Finding of No Significant Impact and Final Environmental Assessment LC-17-27* (2017 EA). The potential impacts of the Proposed Action were evaluated using information contained in the 2017 EA.

Alternatives Considered

A No Action Alternative and the Proposed Action were considered. Under the No Action Alternative, Reclamation would not award the Agreement.

The Proposed Action

Under the Proposed Action Reclamation would provide \$75,000.00 to WCWCD for two water efficiency incentive programs which are identified in WCWCD's Water Conservation Plan. The Proposed Action is summarized on page 1 of the EA and described on pages 3 and 4 of the 2017 EA.

Environmental Commitments

The following measures will be implemented as part of the Proposed Action to reduce or eliminate impacts to resources:

General

The WCWCD would be responsible for obtaining all required Federal, State, County, and City permits for the Project.

Cultural Resources/Traditional Cultural Properties/Sacred Sites

If during the course of any activities associated with the execution of the Project, WCWCD becomes aware of or discovers an architectural and/or archaeological resource, the activity in the vicinity of the resource will cease. The WCWCD will secure and protect the resource, and notify Reclamation. Reclamation will ensure that the stipulations of 36 CFR Part 800.11 are satisfied before activities in the vicinity of the resource can resume.

Environmental Impacts and Findings

Implementation of the Proposed Action will not result in significant impacts to any of the resources evaluated in the EA and 2017 EA. 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.

Minor, insignificant, temporary, impacts were identified related to noise, air quality, and soils.

Beneficial impacts related to overall water savings in the Virgin River Watershed and Colorado River system were identified. Environmental impacts are summarized on pages 1 and 2 of the EA and described on pages 5 and 6 of the 2017 EA.

Final Environmental Assessment for Washington County Water Conservancy District 2019-2020 WaterSMART Small-Scale Water Efficiency Projects

**Environmental Assessment
LC-19-06**

**Prepared by:
United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
Lower Colorado Region
Boulder City, Nevada**

1.0 Environmental Assessment

This Environmental Assessment (EA) was prepared in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA. The purpose of this EA is to evaluate the potential impacts of the proposed action on the physical and human environment and determine if the impacts will be significant thus warranting the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement.

The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) proposes to award Agreement R18AP00223 (Agreement/Proposed Action) to the Washington County, Utah, Water Conservancy District (WCWCD) for a WaterSMART Small –Scale Water Efficiency Program grant for incentives for year 2019-2020 water efficiency programs in Washington County (Project). The two existing incentive programs that would be funded under the Agreement are:

- Rebates to upgrade irrigation systems with water saving devices.
- Water Efficient Technical Assistance Program for commercial properties to implement water efficiency devices and new technology.

In 2017 Reclamation awarded Agreement R17AP00049 (2017 Agreement) to WCWCD to fund these two incentive programs. The *Washington County Water Conservancy District WaterSMART Small-Scale Water Efficiency Project Finding of No Significant Impact and Final Environmental Assessment* (LC-17-27) (2017 EA) was prepared to evaluate the 2017 Agreement. The 2017 EA can be found at: <https://www.usbr.gov/lc/region/g2000/envdocs.html>. The activities proposed under the Agreement are identical to those carried out under the 2017 Agreement, so the information contained in the 2017 EA was used to assess the impacts of the Proposed Action. The 2017 EA is incorporated by reference into this EA.

The purpose and need is described on pages 1 and 2 of the 2017 EA and applies to this EA as well. In summary, the purpose of granting the Agreement is to further the intent of the SECURE Water Act of 2009 and the goals of the WaterSMART program. The Agreement will assist WCWCD in meeting goals outlined in their Water Conservation Plan (WCWCD, 2015).

Under the Proposed Action Reclamation would provide \$75,000.00 to WCWCD for two existing water efficiency incentive programs which are identified in WCWCD's Water Conservation Plan. The Proposed Action, No Action Alternative, Alternatives Considered but Not Evaluated in Detail and Design Features are described on pages 3 and 4 of the 2017 EA.

The Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences of awarding the Agreement are described on pages 5 and 6 of the 2017 EA. 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. Minor, temporary impacts were identified related to noise, air quality, and soils.

Beneficial impacts related to overall water savings in the Virgin River Watershed and Colorado River system were identified.

2.0 Coordination and Consultation

2.1 Agencies Consulted

WCWCD

2.2 Scoping/Public Involvement

Reclamation conducted internal scoping for the EA. The FONSI and Final EA as well as a press release will be posted on Reclamation's web site. The press release will also be issued to local media to inform the public of the availability of the FONSI and Final EA.

3.0 List of Preparers

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4.0 References

Bureau of Reclamation. 2017. Washington County Water Conservancy District WaterSMART Small-Scale Water Efficiency Project Finding of No Significant Impact and Final Environmental Assessment LC-17-27. Boulder City, NV

Washington County Water Conservancy District (WCWCD). 2015. Water Conservation Plan.