

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

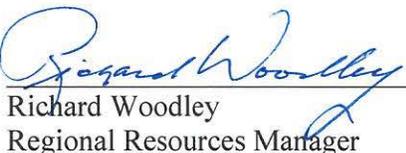
Finding of No Significant Impact 17-26-MP

Sutter National Wildlife Refuge Lift Station Project

Bureau of Reclamation, Mid-Pacific Region
Sacramento, California

Prepared by:  Date: 8/6/19
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Mid-Pacific Regional Office

Approved by:  Date: 8/6/19
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Regional Resources Manager
Mid-Pacific Regional Office

Mission Statements

The Department of the Interior protects and manages the Nation's natural resources and cultural heritage; provides scientific and other information about those resources; and 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.

Introduction

The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and its partners, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and Ducks Unlimited Inc. (DU), propose to construct the Sutter National Wildlife Refuge (SNWR) Lift Station (Proposed Action). The Proposed Action would further the goals and objectives of the Refuge Water Supply Program by improving refuge water availability at the SNWR. The lift station would allow SNWR to divert water from the East Borrow Ditch (EBD) including when water surface elevations are below 38.1 feet and the current gravity diversion infrastructure is not able to divert water. The lift station would be sized to deliver the maximum refuge water supply demands inside the Sutter Bypass but versatile enough to efficiently handle a wide range of flow rates to satisfy diverse wildlife habitat management goals of refuge staff.

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to provide reliable Level 2 (L2) and Incremental Level 4 (IL4) refuge water supplies to the SNWR in accordance with requirements under Section 3406(d) of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act (CVPIA). Current SNWR water supplies are taken from the EBD via a gravity main canal inlet. This gravity channel can only be used when water surface elevations in the EBD are at or above elevation 38.1 feet. When water elevations are held at levels needed for optimal use of the gravity channel for SNWR, the higher elevations cause seepage of neighboring agricultural fields. The EBD is managed by California Department of Water Resources (DWR) in a manner that limits the water elevation at Weir No. 2 to avoid this upstream seepage impact. This severely limits the SNWR's ability to divert water during critical habitat management periods and at the rates needed for optimal habitat management. The Proposed Action will alleviate this impairment to SNWR's water conveyance system, allowing access to its existing water supplies and increase its capacity to receive water supplies required for optimal management of its wetland habitat areas.

The objectives for the Proposed Action are as follows:

- Ensure the SNWR's ability to divert licensed water supplies (including future CVPIA water supplies) from the EBD in order to manage for habitat and wildlife needs;
- Design, permit, construct and operate a screened intake pump facility and associated infrastructure to provide the capability to deliver L2 and IL4 water supply to SNWR as required by CVPIA. The facility will be owned and operated by USFWS; and
- Screen the new intake facility in a manner that meets current National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) fish screen design criteria for screen slot size and approach velocity, or as approved by these two agencies.

This Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) is supported by Reclamation's Environmental Assessment (EA Number 17-26-MP), and is hereby attached and incorporated by reference.

Alternatives Including Proposed Action

No Action Alternative

The No Action Alternative would consist of Reclamation and its partners not constructing the SNWR Lift Station to help meet SNWR's water demands. The delivery of L2 and IL4 refuge water to the SNWR lands would continue to be unreliable due to inadequate surface water conveyance facilities, fluctuating water surface elevations, and fluctuating water availability in the EBD. SNWR would continue to not be able to meet their Section 3406(d) CVPIA water supply requirements, and wildlife and habitat management goals due to an inability to utilize regular dependable refuge water supplies for wetland habitat benefits. In addition, the diversion on EBD would remain unscreened and not meet current NMFS and CDFW screening criteria requirements.

Proposed Action

The Proposed Action/Project consists of the following elements, which are described in more detail below: (1) construction of a pump station (lift station) with 4 vertical-turbine pumps located approximately 200 feet upstream of California Department of Water Resources' (DWR) Weir No. 2 structure and on the west side of the EBD; (2) installation of approximately 700 feet of 54-inch diameter buried pipeline from the proposed pump station to a new concrete distribution box; (3) construction of a new concrete distribution box connected to the new buried pipeline and existing internal SNWR water conveyance facilities; (4) installation of two cylindrical fish screens fitted to the new pump station intakes; (5) improving a maintenance road; and (6) installing infrastructure to supply power to the pump station. The above elements are located on lands owned by the USFWS (SNWR property) and lands owned by the State of California (Sacramento and San Joaquin Drainage District acting by and through the Central Valley Flood Protection Board).

Findings

In accordance with NEPA, the Mid-Pacific Regional Office of Reclamation has found that approval of the Proposed Action is not a major federal action that will significantly affect the quality of the human environment. Consequently, an environmental impact statement is not required.

Following are the reasons why the impacts from the proposed action are not significant:

1. The Proposed Action will not significantly affect public health or safety (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(2)).
2. 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); floodplains (EO 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(3) and 43 CFR 46.215(b)).

3. There is no potential for effects of the Proposed Action to be considered highly controversial (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(4)).
4. The Proposed Action will not have possible effects on the human environment that are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(5)).
5. The Proposed Action will neither establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects nor represent a decision in principle about a future consideration (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(6)).
6. The Proposed Action will not have a cumulatively significant impact (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(7)).
7. The Proposed Action will not significantly affect historic properties (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(8)).
8. The Proposed Action will not significantly affect listed or proposed threatened or endangered species, or habitat that has been determined to be critical under the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(9)).
9. The Proposed Action will not threaten a violation of Federal, state, tribal or local law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(10)).
10. The Proposed Action will not affect any Indian Trust Assets (512 DM 2, Policy Memorandum dated December 15, 1993).
11. Implementing the Proposed Action will not disproportionately affect minorities or low-income populations and communities (EO 12898).
12. 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 (EO 13007 and 512 DM 3).
13. The Proposed Action will not result in adverse impacts to water or land resources. The Proposed Action would not adversely impact water conveyance facilities or activities within the Refuge.
14. The Proposed Action will not have significant air quality impacts. There would be no construction or ground disturbance.

Notice of Completion & Environmental Document Transmittal

Mail to: State Clearinghouse, P.O. Box 3044, Sacramento, CA 95812-3044 (916) 445-0613
For Hand Delivery/Street Address: 1400 Tenth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814

SCH # 2018062073

Project Title: Sutter National Wildlife Refuge Lift Station Project

Lead Agency: Department of Fish and Wildlife Contact Person: Jeffrey Shu
Mailing Address: PO Box 944209 Phone: (916) 445-8572
City: Sacramento Zip: 94299-0002 County: Sacramento

Project Location: County: Sutter City/Nearest Community: Yuba City
Cross Streets: _____ Zip Code: _____
Longitude/Latitude (degrees, minutes and seconds): 39 ° 06 ' 09.8 " N / 121 ° 45 ' 33.4 " W Total Acres: 7.81
Assessor's Parcel No.: _____ Section: _____ Twp.: _____ Range: _____ Base: _____
Within 2 Miles: State Hwy #: N/A Waterways: Sutter Bypass
Airports: N/A Railways: N/A Schools: N/A

Document Type:

CEQA: NOP Draft EIR NEPA: NOI Other: Joint Document
 Early Cons Supplement/Subsequent EIR EA Final Document
 Neg Dec (Prior SCH No.) _____ Draft EIS Other: _____
 Mit Neg Dec Other: _____ FONSI

Local Action Type:

General Plan Update Specific Plan Rezone Annexation
 General Plan Amendment Master Plan Prezone Redevelopment
 General Plan Element Planned Unit Development Use Permit Coastal Permit
 Community Plan Site Plan Land Division (Subdivision, etc.) Other: _____

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

AUG 28 2019

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Development Type:

Residential: Units _____ Acres _____
 Office: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____
 Commercial: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____
 Industrial: Sq.ft. _____ Acres _____ Employees _____
 Educational: _____
 Recreational: _____
 Water Facilities: Type Lift Station MGD 26.78
 Transportation: Type _____
 Mining: Mineral _____
 Power: Type _____ MW _____
 Waste Treatment: Type _____ MGD _____
 Hazardous Waste: Type _____
 Other: _____

Project Issues Discussed in Document:

Aesthetic/Visual Fiscal Recreation/Parks Vegetation
 Agricultural Land Flood Plain/Flooding Schools/Universities Water Quality
 Air Quality Forest Land/Fire Hazard Septic Systems Water Supply/Groundwater
 Archeological/Historical Geologic/Seismic Sewer Capacity Wetland/Riparian
 Biological Resources Minerals Soil Erosion/Compaction/Grading Growth Inducement
 Coastal Zone Noise Solid Waste Land Use
 Drainage/Absorption Population/Housing Balance Toxic/Hazardous Cumulative Effects
 Economic/Jobs Public Services/Facilities Traffic/Circulation Other: Greenhouse Gas

Present Land Use/Zoning/General Plan Designation:

Present Land Use: waterfowl breeding and wintering habitat, and general conservation.

Project Description: (please use a separate page if necessary)

U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and California Department of Fish and Wildlife are lead federal and state agencies for National Environmental Policy Act and California Environmental Quality Act, respectively. Reclamation and its partners, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Ducks Unlimited Inc., propose to construct the Sutter National Wildlife Refuge (SNWR) Lift Station (Proposed Project). The Proposed Project would further the goals and objectives of the CVPIA Refuge Water Supply Program by improving refuge water availability and capacity for Level 2 and Incremental Level 4 water supplies at the SNWR.

Note: The State Clearinghouse will assign identification numbers for all new projects. If a SCH number already exists for a project (e.g. Notice of Preparation or previous draft document) please fill in.

Reviewing Agencies Checklist

Lead Agencies may recommend State Clearinghouse distribution by marking agencies below with and "X".
If you have already sent your document to the agency please denote that with an "S".

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Air Resources Board | <input type="checkbox"/> Office of Historic Preservation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Boating & Waterways, Department of | <input type="checkbox"/> Office of Public School Construction |
| <input type="checkbox"/> California Emergency Management Agency | <input type="checkbox"/> Parks & Recreation, Department of |
| <input type="checkbox"/> California Highway Patrol | <input type="checkbox"/> Pesticide Regulation, Department of |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans District # _____ | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Utilities Commission |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans Division of Aeronautics | <input type="checkbox"/> Regional WQCB # _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Caltrans Planning | <input type="checkbox"/> Resources Agency |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Central Valley Flood Protection Board | <input type="checkbox"/> Resources Recycling and Recovery, Department of |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coachella Valley Mtns. Conservancy | <input type="checkbox"/> S.F. Bay Conservation & Development Comm. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coastal Commission | <input type="checkbox"/> San Gabriel & Lower L.A. Rivers & Mtns. Conservancy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Colorado River Board | <input type="checkbox"/> San Joaquin River Conservancy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation, Department of | <input type="checkbox"/> Santa Monica Mtns. Conservancy |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Corrections, Department of | <input type="checkbox"/> State Lands Commission |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Delta Protection Commission | <input type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Clean Water Grants |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Education, Department of | <input type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Water Quality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Energy Commission | <input type="checkbox"/> SWRCB: Water Rights |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fish & Game Region # <u>2</u> | <input type="checkbox"/> Tahoe Regional Planning Agency |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Food & Agriculture, Department of | <input type="checkbox"/> Toxic Substances Control, Department of |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Forestry and Fire Protection, Department of | <input type="checkbox"/> Water Resources, Department of |
| <input type="checkbox"/> General Services, Department of | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Health Services, Department of | <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Housing & Community Development | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Native American Heritage Commission | |

Local Public Review Period (to be filled in by lead agency)

Starting Date 6/29/2018 Ending Date 8/13/2018

Lead Agency (Complete if applicable):

Consulting Firm: _____	Applicant: _____
Address: _____	Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____	City/State/Zip: _____
Contact: _____	Phone: _____
Phone: _____	

Signature of Lead Agency Representative:  Date: 8/28/18

Authority cited: Section 21083, Public Resources Code. Reference: Section 21161, Public Resources Code.

Notice of Determination

Appendix D

To:

[X] Office of Planning and Research
U.S. Mail: P.O. Box 3044
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044
Street Address: 1400 Tenth St., Rm 113
Sacramento, CA 95814

[] County Clerk
County of:
Address:

From:

Public Agency: CA Department of Fish and Wildlife
Address: 1812 9th St.
Sacramento, CA 95811
Contact: Jeffrey Shu
Phone: (916) 445-8572

Lead Agency (if different from above):
Address:
Contact:
Phone:

SUBJECT: Filing of Notice of Determination in compliance with Section 21108 or 21152 of the Public Resources Code.

State Clearinghouse Number (if submitted to State Clearinghouse): 2018062073

Project Title: Sutter National Wildlife Refuge Lift Station Project

Project Applicant:

Project Location (include county): Sutter County

Project Description:

The Sutter National Wildlife Refuge Lift Station Project would build a lift station on the East Borrow Ditch (EBD) next to the SNWR to convey water supplies in accordance with the requirements under Section 3406(d) of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act (CVPIA).

This is to advise that the Department of Fish and Wildlife has approved the above (X) Lead Agency or () Responsible Agency

described project on 8/28/19 (date) and has made the following determinations regarding the above described project.

- 1. The project [] will [X] will not] have a significant effect on the environment.
2. [] An Environmental Impact Report was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
[X] A Negative Declaration was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
3. Mitigation measures [X] were [] were not] made a condition of the approval of the project.
4. A mitigation reporting or monitoring plan [X] was [] was not] adopted for this project.
5. A statement of Overriding Considerations [] was [X] was not] adopted for this project.
6. Findings [X] were [] were not] made pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.

This is to certify that the final EIR with comments and responses and record of project approval, or the negative Declaration, is available to the General Public at:

1812 9th St., Sacramento, CA 95811

Signature (Public Agency): [Signature] Title: EPM

Date: 8/28/19 Date Received for filing at OPR: Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Authority cited: Sections 21083, Public Resources Code. Reference Section 21000-21174, Public Resources Code.

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