

Appendix J – 2015 USBR Record of Decision

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Record of Decision

Central Valley Project Municipal and Industrial Water Shortage Policy

Prepared by

**United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
Mid Pacific Region**



**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
Sacramento, California**

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Mission Statements

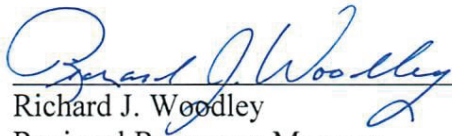
The mission of the Department of the Interior is to protect and provide access to our Nation's natural and cultural heritage and honor our trust responsibilities to Indian Tribes and our commitments to island communities.

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.

Record of Decision

Central Valley Project Municipal and Industrial Water Shortage Policy

Recommended:


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Date Nov. 4, 2015

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Date 11/13/15

Summary of Action

The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) prepared the Central Valley Project (CVP) Municipal and Industrial (M&I) Water Shortage Policy (WSP) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) to evaluate the potential impacts of CVP M&I WSP alternatives. The M&I WSP would be used by Reclamation to: 1) define water shortage terms and conditions for applicable CVP water service contractors, as appropriate; 2) determine the quantity of water made available to CVP water service contractors from the CVP that, together with the M&I water service contractors' drought water conservation measures and other non-CVP water supplies, would assist the M&I water service contractors in their efforts to protect public health and safety (PHS) during severe or continuing droughts; and 3) provide information to CVP water service contractors for their use in water supply planning and development of drought contingency plans. The alternatives evaluated in this EIS utilize different methodologies for allocating available CVP water supplies to CVP water service contractors during a Condition of Shortage¹. This EIS evaluates potential impacts of the M&I WSP over a 20-year period, 2010 through 2030. Reclamation's decision is the adoption of an updated M&I WSP.

Background

In January 1993, following the adoption of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act (CVPIA), many CVP M&I water service contractors expressed concerns regarding future allocations of water supplies provided by the CVP. Reclamation subsequently initiated an effort to develop an M&I WSP that would be incorporated into long-term water service contracts during the contract renewal process implemented under the CVPIA. Involved stakeholders submitted language for the M&I WSP as part of several proposed policies. In September 2001, Reclamation released a Draft M&I WSP. Reclamation initiated the preparation of an Environmental Assessment (EA) which included stakeholder input and consideration and evaluation of alternative policies developed in 1993, 1996-1997, and 2000-2001. The M&I WSP EA was released in October 2005 and a Finding of No Significant Impact was signed in December 2005. The M&I WSP currently being implemented by Reclamation is the 2001 Draft M&I WSP, as amended by Alternative 1B from the 2005 EA. Because the assumptions supporting the 2005 EA became outdated and due to significant changes in the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta (Delta) and CVP/State Water Project (SWP) operations, Reclamation decided in 2009 to

¹ "Condition of Shortage" is defined in Reclamation water service contracts as "...a condition respecting the Project during any Year (*March 1 through February of the following year*) such that the Contracting Officer is unable to deliver sufficient water to meet the Contract Total".

undertake the M&I WSP EIS to provide an updated M&I WSP that best recognizes the needs of various segments of the water user community and how those needs could be addressed under Conditions of Shortage.

Decision

Reclamation’s decision is to implement Alternative 4, Updated M&I WSP (Preferred Alternative). This alternative comprises the updated M&I WSP developed by Reclamation with stakeholder input received during the M&I WSP stakeholder workshops held between May 2010 and January 2011, with clarifying revisions made to address comments from stakeholders received after Stakeholder Workshop 4 (November 2010) and to address public comments received on the Draft EIS (March 2015). The Updated M&I WSP will apply to the CVP water service contractors noted in Table 1. These water service contractors generally comprise those whose contracts currently reference the M&I WSP and those with a water service contract that is expected to reference the updated policy. These water users are located throughout the Sacramento River Valley, San Joaquin River Valley, Tulare Lake Region, and San Francisco Bay/Central Coast area.

Table 1. Water Service Contractors Subject to the Updated M&I WSP

General Geographical Region	CVP Division	Water Service Contractors	M&I	Ag ¹
North of Delta	Shasta and Trinity River	Bella Vista Water District	X	X
		Centerville Community Services District	X	-
		City of Redding	X	-
		City of Shasta Lake	X	-
		Clear Creek Community Services District	X	X
		Mountain Gate Community Services District	X	-
		Shasta Community Services District	X	-
		Shasta County Water Agency	X	-
		United States (U.S.) Forest Service (Shasta)	X	-
	Sacramento River	4-M Water District	X	X
		Colusa County Water District	X	X
		Corning Water District	X	X
		Cortina Water District	X	X
		County of Colusa	X	X
		County of Colusa (Stonyford)	X	-
		Davis Water District	X	X
		Dunnigan Water District	X	X
		Elk Creek Community Services District	X	-
		Glenn Valley Water District	X	X
		Glide Water District	X	X
Holthouse Water District	X	X		

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General Geographical Region	CVP Division	Water Service Contractors	M&I	Ag¹	
North of Delta	Sacramento River	Kanawha Water District	X	X	
		Kirkwood Water District	X	X	
		La Grande Water District	X	X	
		Myers-Marsh Mutual Water Company	X	X	
		Orland-Artois Water District	X	X	
		Proberta Water District	X	X	
		Stony Creek Water District	X	X	
		Thomes Creek Water District	X	X	
		U.S. Forest Service (Salt Creek)	X	-	
		Westside Water District	X	X	
		Whitney Construction, Incorporated	X	-	
	American River	City of Roseville	X	-	
		East Bay Municipal Utility District	X	-	
		El Dorado Irrigation District	X	-	
		Placer County Water Agency	X	-	
		Sacramento County Water Agency	X	-	
		Sacramento Municipal Utility District	X	-	
		San Juan Water District	X	-	
	Delta	Banta-Carbona Irrigation District	X	X	
		Byron-Bethany Irrigation District	X	X	
		City of Tracy	X	X	
		Coelho Family Trust	X	X	
		Contra Costa Water District	X	-	
		Del Puerto Water District	X	X	
		Eagle Field Water District	X	X	
		Fresno Slough Water District	X	X	
		James Irrigation District	X	X	
		Laguna Water District	X	X	
		Mercy Springs Water District	X	X	
		Oro Loma Water District	X	X	
		Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency, Westlands Water District	X	X	
		Patterson Irrigation District	X	X	
		Reclamation District No. 1606	X	X	
		Tranquillity Irrigation District	X	X	
		Tranquillity Public Utility District	X	X	
		U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs	X	-	
		West Side Irrigation District	X	X	
		West Stanislaus Irrigation District	X	X	
	Westlands Water District Distribution Districts	X	X		
	South of Delta	West San Joaquin	City of Avenal	X	-
			City of Coalinga	X	-
			City of Huron	X	-
			Pacheco Water District	X	X
Panoche Water District			X	X	
San Luis Water District			X	X	
State of California			X	-	

General Geographical Region	CVP Division	Water Service Contractors	M&I	Ag ¹
South of Delta	West San Joaquin	Westlands Water District	X	X
	San Felipe	San Benito County Water District	X	X
		Santa Clara Valley Water District	X	X
	Cross Valley Canal	County of Fresno	X	X
		County of Tulare	X	X
		Hills Valley Irrigation District (includes Rag Gulch Water District)	X	X
		Kern-Tulare Water District	X	X
		Lower Tule River Irrigation District	-	X
		Pixley Irrigation District	X	X
		Tri-Valley Water District	X	X

Note:

¹ Ag = Agricultural water service contractor

Alternatives Considered

No Action Alternative

The No Action Alternative represents continued implementation of the current Draft M&I WSP. This existing draft policy is currently guiding Reclamation's allocation of CVP water to agricultural and M&I water service contractors during Conditions of Shortage and would continue if none of the action alternatives were selected.

During Conditions of Shortage when the CVP is unable to deliver sufficient water to meet the CVP water service contractors' Contract Total, M&I water service contractors allocations are maintained at 100 percent of their Contract Total as the agricultural water service contractor allocations are reduced to 75 percent of their Contract Total in incremental steps. Then, M&I water service contractor allocations are reduced to 75 percent of their historical use in incremental steps as agricultural water service contractor allocations are reduced to 50 percent of their Contract Total. The M&I water service contractor allocations are maintained at 75 percent of historical use until agricultural water service contractor allocations are reduced in incremental steps to 25 percent of Contract Total. M&I water service contractor allocations are then reduced in incremental steps to 50 percent of historical use until agricultural water service contract allocations are reduced in incremental steps from 25 percent to zero.

In years when the M&I water service contractor allocations are less than 75 percent of historical use, Reclamation would attempt to provide the amount of PHS need unmet by contractors' CVP allocation and other available non-CVP

supplies, up to 75 percent of the historical use, subject to the availability of CVP water supplies. There are some years in which allocations to agricultural water service contractors are at or near zero. In those years, CVP water deliveries for unmet PHS need to M&I water service contractors may not be fully realized. Water made available to M&I water service contractors may be reduced below 75 percent of historical use and below the unmet PHS needs when CVP water is not available.

Action Alternatives

The alternatives that moved forward for more detailed analysis in the EIS were those that responded to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) purpose and need, minimized negative effects, were potentially feasible, and represented a range of reasonable alternatives. As a result of initial alternatives screening, four action alternatives were selected to move forward for analysis in the EIS (in addition to the No Action Alternative). Table 2 presents the alternatives analyzed in the EIS. Analysis of these alternatives will provide the information needed for Reclamation to make a decision.

Table 2. Alternatives Analyzed in the EIS

Alternative Number	Alternative Name	Description
Alternative 1	No Action Alternative	Represents a projection of current conditions to the most reasonable future conditions that could occur during the life of the proposed action without any action alternative being implemented. The No Action Alternative represents continued allocation of water in the same way that Reclamation currently allocates CVP water to agricultural and M&I water service contractors during Conditions of Shortage, consistent with the 2001 Draft M&I WSP, as modified by Alternative 1B of the 2005 EA.
Alternative 2	Equal Agricultural and M&I Allocation	Provides no preference for either agricultural or M&I contractors. M&I and agricultural water service contractors receive equal allocation percentages during a Condition of Shortage.
Alternative 3	Full M&I Allocation Preference	M&I water service contractors receive 100% of their Contract Total until CVP supplies are not available to meet those demands. Agricultural allocations are reduced as needed to maintain 100% allocations to M&I contractors.
Alternative 4	Updated M&I WSP (Preferred Alternative)	Similar to Alternative 1 but modified to update the definition of unconstrained years used in calculating historical use. Attempts to provide unmet PHS need, but without a guarantee. Provides implementation guidelines and procedures.
Alternative 5	M&I Contractor Suggested WSP	Similar to Alternative 4 except attempts to provide a greater quantity of unmet PHS need.

Under Alternative 2, Equal Agricultural and M&I Allocation, M&I water service contractors would receive the same allocation, as a percentage of Contract Total, as the agricultural water service contractors. This means that in years when the CVP water supplies are not adequate to provide water to all water service contractors, agricultural and M&I water service contractor allocations would be reduced by the same percentage. This allocation methodology would provide a larger volume of CVP water to agricultural water service contractors than the No Action Alternative, as there would be no reductions to agricultural contractors to provide a larger volume of CVP water to M&I water service contractors. Deliveries to both north of the Delta and south of Delta M&I contractors would be lower than under the No Action Alternative in order to provide an equal allocation to agricultural water service contractors.

Under Alternative 3, Full M&I Allocation Preference, M&I water service contractors would receive a higher allocation as compared to the No Action Alternative and other action alternatives. Under this alternative, Reclamation would attempt to provide a 100 percent allocation to M&I water service contractors during a Condition of Shortage, to the extent that adequate CVP water supplies are available. This would be achieved by reducing allocations to agricultural water service contractors as needed to maximize the frequency of 100 percent allocations to the M&I water service contractors. This allocation methodology would provide the lowest volume of CVP water to agricultural water service contractors compared to the No Action and other action alternatives. Alternative 3 would have no provisions for unmet PHS needs that would be made available by Reclamation from CVP water supplies.

Alternative 4, Updated M&I WSP, is similar to the No Action Alternative. This alternative comprises the M&I WSP developed by Reclamation with stakeholder input received during the M&I WSP stakeholder workshops held between May 2010 and January 2011, with clarifying revisions made to address comments from stakeholders received after Stakeholder Workshop 4 and to address public comments received on the Draft EIS. Reclamation used this feedback to identify elements of the 2001 Draft M&I WSP (represented in the No Action Alternative) that could be improved. The major modifications made to the 2001 Draft M&I WSP that are reflected in the Updated M&I WSP include the following:

- Reclamation deleted the reference to 1996 M&I Water Rate book.
- At the M&I water service contractors' request, Reclamation modified the method that would be used to adjust an M&I water service contractor's historical use.
- Reclamation expanded the definitions of the key terms and also defined terms not previously defined, to provide greater clarity on the intent and requirements of the M&I WSP's key terms and conditions.

- Term and Condition 1 was revised to remove the sentence stating that Reclamation intended contractors to use their non-CVP supplies first and rely on CVP water as a supplemental supply. Instead, Reclamation expects water service contractors, at their discretion, to use CVP water in conjunction with their other non-CVP supplies to meet demand during all years, including years where a Condition of Shortage exists.
- Clarified M&I allocation for contracts with both irrigation and M&I use which do not set forth individual Contract Totals for each use.

Alternative 5, M&I Contractor Suggested WSP, is similar to Alternative 4, Updated M&I WSP. This alternative was developed and recommended by several M&I water service contractors who participated in the M&I WSP workshops held between May 2010 and January 2011. Alternative 5 attempts to provide an increased quantity of CVP water allocated to M&I water service contractors to supply the unmet portion of the PHS needs during a Condition of Shortage. This would be achieved by increasing the upper limit for consideration of additional allocations to assist in meeting unmet PHS need from an initial allocation of 75 percent of historical use (under Alternative 4) to an initial allocation of 95 percent of historical use (under Alternative 5).

Environmentally Preferable Alternative

Section 1505.2(b) of NEPA requires that, in cases where an EIS has been prepared, the Record of Decision must identify all alternatives that were considered, specifying the alternative or alternatives which were considered to be environmentally preferable. The environmentally preferable alternative is the alternative that will promote the national environmental policy as expressed in NEPA's Section 101. Ordinarily, this means the alternative that causes the least damage to the biological and physical environment; it also means the alternative which best protects, preserves, and enhances historic, cultural, and natural resources (Council on Environmental Quality 40 Most Asked Questions number 6(a)). It is implicit in NEPA that the environmentally preferable alternative must be reasonable and feasible to implement.

In choosing the environmentally preferable alternative, Reclamation considered impacts to all resources. On balance, Alternative 1, No Action Alternative, and Alternative 4, Updated M&I WSP, would have the least environmental effects associated with implementing a CVP M&I WSP during a Condition of Shortage. Alternative 4 would have no environmental impacts compared to the No Action Alternative. Alternatives 2 and 3 have greater environmental effects to water quality, groundwater resources, air quality, geology and soils, and agricultural resources than Alternative 4. Alternative 5 would have small but greater effects to groundwater resources and air quality compared to Alternative 4.

Basis of Decision

Reclamation's decision to move forward is based on how the alternatives meet the project's purpose and need and the magnitude of environmental effects. While the alternatives would affect different resources in different ways, Alternative 4 provides Reclamation with the greatest degree of flexibility to address CVP water service contractors' needs during Conditions of Shortage while recognizing that CVP deliveries are subject to the amount of CVP water available and cannot be guaranteed, and provides clarity to the terms, conditions, and procedures of the CVP M&I WSP. Additionally, Alternative 4 has no environmental effects compared to the No Action Alternative; therefore, no mitigation measures are necessary.

Purpose and Need

The purpose of updating the 2001 Draft M&I WSP, as amended, is to provide detailed, clear, and objective guidelines for the allocation of available CVP water supplies to CVP water service contractors during a Condition of Shortage. The update to the M&I WSP is needed by water managers and CVP water service contractors to help them better plan for and manage available CVP water supplies, and to better integrate the use of CVP water with the use of other available non-CVP water supplies. The update to the M&I WSP is also needed to clarify certain terms and conditions with regard to the applicability and implementation process of the M&I WSP.

The updated M&I WSP would be used by Reclamation to:

- Define water shortage terms and conditions for applicable CVP water service contracts, as appropriate;
- Determine the quantity of water made available to CVP water service contractors from the CVP, that together with the M&I water service contractors' drought water conservation measures and other non-CVP water supplies, would assist the M&I water service contractors in their efforts to protect PHS during severe or continuing droughts; and
- Provide information to CVP water service contractors for their use in water supply planning and development of drought contingency plans.

All action alternatives meet the purpose and need, but the No Action Alternative does not meet the purpose and need.

Environmental Issues Evaluated

During March 2011, public scoping sessions on the development of the CVP M&I WSP EIS were held in Sacramento, Willows, Fresno, and Oakland, California. Key issues raised during the public scoping process that are applicable for inclusion in the EIS are listed below.

- The final M&I WSP should be a single document that clearly states how Reclamation interprets and implements the M&I WSP.
- Any additional water provided to M&I water service contractors is viewed as water “taken” from agricultural contractors.
- M&I water service contractors would like a guaranteed quantity of CVP water to meet PHS needs and do not want their use of non-CVP supplies to count against their deliveries of CVP water in Conditions of Shortage.
- The analysis should use an appropriate baseline given ongoing regulatory issues regarding CVP/SWP operations.
- The effects analysis should include a cumulative impact discussion in the context of other reasonably foreseeable past, present, and future actions potentially affecting the allocation of CVP water, including the Bay Delta Conservation Plan.
- The EIS should analyze the impacts to water service contractors who have limited access to alternative water supplies and to “mixed use” contractors.
- The M&I WSP EIS should specifically state the agencies that are and are not affected by the policy, and state that the M&I WSP will apply equally to all M&I contractors, including the American River Division contractors.
- Certain American River Division contractors (City of Roseville, Placer County Water Agency, Sacramento Municipal Utility District, and San Juan Water District) disagree with Reclamation’s interpretation of Term 14 of State Water Resources Control Board Decision 893 and believe it should provide them with additional supply reliability beyond what the M&I WSP provides in their water service contracts.

The alternatives were evaluated to address issues raised and potential impacts to the range of environmental and socioeconomic resources relevant to NEPA. The action alternatives have the potential to result in impacts to several resources, including surface water, water quality, groundwater, geology and soils, air quality, greenhouse gases (GHGs) and climate change, agricultural

resources, socioeconomics, and power². The differences between the action alternatives for these impacts include:

- *Surface Water:* Alternative 2 would increase CVP deliveries to agricultural water service contractors and decrease CVP deliveries to M&I water service contractors, compared to the No Action Alternative. Alternative 3 would decrease CVP deliveries to agricultural water service contractors and increase CVP deliveries to M&I water service contractors, compared to the No Action Alternative. Alternatives 4 and 5 would have no change in CVP deliveries compared to the No Action Alternative. PHS needs would be met for the Sacramento River Division under all alternatives. The American River, Delta, and San Felipe Divisions would have unmet PHS needs under Alternative 2. There would be unmet PHS needs for the Shasta/Trinity River and West San Joaquin Divisions under Alternatives 2, 3, and 4. The Cross Valley Canal Unit would have unmet PHS needs under all alternatives.

There are only relatively small to no changes to Shasta and Trinity lakes storages, upper Sacramento River flows, and Lake Oroville storage as a result of action alternatives, which do not result in substantial impacts. The effects of changes to other reservoirs' storage and rivers' flows are addressed under other appropriate resource areas (e.g., water quality, recreation, flood hydrology, water quality, etc.).

- *Water Quality:* Changes in CVP deliveries could affect the salinity and bromide concentrations in the Delta Division. Alternative 5 would have only very minimal changes in reservoir or river flows compared to the No Action Alternative that would not affect salinity and bromide concentrations. Alternatives 2 and 3 would cause an increase in electrical conductivity which could affect water quality in the Delta Division.
- *Groundwater:* A reduction in CVP deliveries to agricultural water service contractors could cause these contractors to supplement their surface water supplies through increased groundwater pumping. Alternative 2 would reduce agricultural groundwater pumping in all regions due to increases in CVP deliveries to agricultural water service contractors, while Alternative 3 would increase agricultural groundwater pumping in all regions due to decreases in CVP deliveries to agricultural contractors. M&I water service contractors may need to make use of all their available groundwater supplies under Alternative 2 in order to meet PHS needs in certain years. Alternatives 4 and 5 would have little to no change in groundwater pumping by CVP water service contractors compared to the No Action Alternative.

² It was determined that no impacts or only minor impacts would occur to aquatic resources, terrestrial resources, environmental justice, cultural resources, Indian sacred sites, recreation, flood hydrology, and visual resources.

Increased pumping caused by change in deliveries to supplement supply shortages may cause groundwater level declines that could lead to land subsidence. Alternative 2 would cause a net increase in pumping that could potentially increase land subsidence in the San Francisco Bay/Central Coast region. Alternative 3 would cause a net increase in pumping that could potentially increase land subsidence in the Sacramento Valley, San Joaquin Valley, and Tulare Lake regions.

- *Geology and Soils:* Under Alternative 3, reduced CVP deliveries to agricultural water service contractors could indirectly lead to wind erosion if agricultural water service contractors implement crop idling to manage their water supplies.
- *Air Quality:* Increases in CVP deliveries to agricultural water service contractors under Alternative 2 would result in decreased pollutant emissions from reduced groundwater pumping. Decreases in CVP deliveries to agricultural water service contractors under Alternative 3 would result in increased pollutant emissions due to increased groundwater pumping. Under Alternative 3, the general conformity *de minimis* threshold would be exceeded in the San Joaquin Valley Air Basin. Alternatives 4 and 5 would have little to no changes compared to the No Action Alternative.
- *GHGs and Climate Change:* Changes in CVP deliveries to agricultural water service contractors would decrease GHG emissions under Alternative 2 and increase GHG emissions under Alternatives 3 and 5. Alternative 4 would have no change compared to the No Action Alternative.
- *Agricultural Resources:* Alternative 3 would reduce agricultural acreage primarily in the Tulare Lake Region, but minimally to other regions in the study area.
- *Socioeconomics:* Changes in CVP deliveries for CVP water service contractors would have differing effects for agricultural and M&I water service contractors in Alternatives 2 and 3. Generally, effects would be positive for agricultural water service contractors under Alternative 2 and negative under Alternative 3, while the opposite would be true for M&I water service contractors. Alternatives 4 and 5 would have no change compared to the No Action Alternative.
- *Power:* Changes in CVP deliveries may cause changes in power generation from hydroelectric power generation facilities by changing reservoir releases or by changing reservoir storage, as represented by changes in reservoir elevations. Alternative 2 and 3 would experience minimal reductions to the amount of power generated at the Folsom and Nimbus power plants and slight fluctuations in the amount of

power generated at San Luis Reservoir. Alternatives 4 and 5 would have no change compared to the No Action Alternative.

- *Indian Trust Assets:* Under Alternatives 2 and 3, the magnitudes of groundwater level fluctuations are very small compared to overall groundwater supplies and would not be substantial enough to create a noticeable change to water supply at existing wells near Indian Trust Asset sites. Therefore, Alternatives 2 and 3 would not interfere with the exercise of federally-reserved water rights and/or reduce the health of tribal members by decreasing water supplies. Alternatives 4 and 5 would have no change compared to the No Action Alternative, and would not result in impacts to Indian Trust Assets.

Section 7 of the Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA)

Reclamation coordinated with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service during development of the Draft EIS regarding the impact analysis on special status species and environmental commitments. Reclamation further coordinated with National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration National Marine Fisheries Service in preparing the Final EIS. A full consultation under Section 7 of the ESA with U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service or National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration National Marine Fisheries Service was determined not to be needed for this action because the potential impacts are within the range of impacts already observed under current operations of the CVP and are covered by the Biological Opinions on the Coordinated Long-Term Operations of the CVP and SWP.

Section 106 Compliance

Reclamation is responsible for complying with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Alternative 4 would not result in the disturbance of land or require any construction activities; therefore, there are no impacts to cultural resources. Under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, Alternative 4 is the type of activity that does not have the potential to affect historic properties and there are no further obligations under Section 106 [36 Code of Federal Regulations Sec. 800.3(a)(1)].

Comments Received on the Final EIS

Reclamation's Notice of Availability of the Final EIS was published in the Federal Register on September 10, 2015, and the Environmental Protection Agency's Notice of Availability was published on September 18, 2015. The EIS was posted on Reclamation's website, and copies were distributed to those who requested a copy. A press release was released on September 10, 2015, and was sent to participants in public meetings and commenters on the Draft EIS.

Reclamation received comments from three entities after release of Final EIS. The commenters were: Somach Simmons & Dunn for Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District (Kelley Taber); East Bay Municipal Utility District (Michael Tognolini); and Santa Clara Valley Water District (Cindy Kao). These comments either reiterated comments previously provided during the public comment period, or supported Reclamation's choice of the Preferred Alternative. Reclamation had adequately addressed the previous comments in the Final EIS. The comments consisted of the following:

- Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District (GCID) did not agree that their comments on the Draft EIS were adequately addressed in Appendix I of the Final EIS. GCID was concerned that the M&I WSP's definition of PHS is too broad and would allow a greater amount of water than necessary for domestic use and essential public services to be included in the calculation, thereby overestimating system demands during Conditions of Shortage and influencing the allocation of water within the CVP system. Additionally, GCID was concerned that implementation of the M&I WSP could affect water supply reliability under their Settlement Contract. As described in the Final EIS, the determination of any additional CVP water supplied to M&I water service contractors during a Condition of Shortage to assist in meeting PHS needs would take into account a contractor's estimated PHS demand, as well as their non-CVP supplies available in that year, and, most importantly, the availability of CVP water in that year. Reclamation would closely review the data provided by an M&I water service contractor so that CVP water provided for PHS needs is estimated in accordance with California criteria and used appropriately during a Condition of Shortage. The Final EIS also states in Appendix B that Reclamation does not have discretion to determine water supply allocations to Sacramento River Settlement Contractors, San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors, certain named State Wildlife Areas and National Wildlife Refuges, and the privately owned/managed wetlands comprising the Grassland Resources Conservation District as identified under the CVPIA Section 3406(d). Water supply allocations for these water service contractors are determined annually based on the forecasted full natural inflow to Shasta Lake. CalSim II simulates

water supply allocations to these water service contractors based on inflow to Shasta Lake.

- East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD) supports Reclamation's selection of Alternative 4 as the Preferred Alternative for the M&I WSP. However, EBMUD requested that their contractual historic use of 133,000 acre-feet (AF), per their Long Term Renewal Contract, be noted in the M&I WSP as an exception to the methodology used for calculating historical use. Reclamation, when applying the M&I WSP to EBMUD, would use EBMUD's contractual historic use of 133,000 AF as the basis for making adjustments for population growth, extraordinary water conservation measures, and use of non-CVP water supplies. But, Reclamation believes it inappropriate to specifically state or call out such an exception in the M&I WSP.
- Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD) supports Reclamation's selection of Alternative 4 as the Preferred Alternative for the M&I WSP. SCVWD believes an adopted M&I WSP is critically important for water supply reliability in support of the communities and businesses in its service area.