

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
BUREAU OF RECLAMATION**

**MID-PACIFIC REGION**

**SOUTH-CENTRAL CALIFORNIA AREA OFFICE  
FRESNO, CALIFORNIA**

**DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT**

**ONE-YEAR WARREN ACT CONTRACT WITH MADERA IRRIGATION DISTRICT  
AND ADDITIONAL POINT OF DELIVERY INTO FRESNO COUNTY WATER WORKS  
#18 2008 ONLY (SOQUEL WATER)**

**CENTRAL VALLEY PROJECT  
MADERA COUNTY**

**FONSI-07-107**

Recommended by:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Concurred by:

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Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
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Approved by:

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Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
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In accordance with section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, the South-Central California Area Office of the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), has determined that the approval of a Warren Act contract is not a major federal action that would significantly affect the quality of the human environment and an environmental impact statement is not required. This Finding of No Significant Impact is supported by Reclamation's Draft Environmental Assessment (EA) Number EA-07-107 *One Year Warren Act Contract and Additional Point of Delivery into Fresno County Water Works #18 2008 Only (Soquel Water)*, *Central Valley Project, Madera County*, dated September 2007, and is hereby incorporated by reference.

**BACKGROUND**

The Madera Irrigation District (MID) is requesting a Warren Act Contract approval to convey up to 10,000 acre-feet (af) of its non-CVP water in excess capacity of Central Valley Project (CVP) Friant Division facilities. Reclamation has entered into Warren Act Contracts with MID since 1979. In addition and pursuant to Article 7(b) of the Warren Act Contact, MID has requested approval of an additional temporary point of delivery for conveying up to 40 af of the non-CVP (Soquel) water supply to a Municipal and Industrial (M&I) Long-Term Central Valley Project Contractor. This M&I Contractor is namely Fresno County Water Works #18 (FCWW 18), who will provide the water to the ultimate end user (Table Mountain Rancheria) for M&I purposes. The volume of water analyzed for delivery through this point of delivery is up to 40 acre feet. Reclamation is not the approving agency for disposition of this non-CVP water.

**FINDINGS**

***Water Resources***

The proposed action will not alter water rights held by the United States to divert Project water from the San Joaquin River. The origin of the non-CVP water is adjacent to and within the San Joaquin Basin and water quality is similar for CVP and non-CVP Water. The proposed action will convey non-CVP water in existing canals, including unlined canals providing groundwater recharge. The proposed action will result in continued deliveries of water supplies to existing agricultural lands. In addition, the change in delivery will provide water to Table Mountain Rancheria to meet demands for existing M&I uses. The amount of water to be delivered to Table Mountain Rancheria (40 af) is

small. Therefore, no major changes or significant impacts will occur as a result of the proposed action.

### ***Biological Resources***

No federally listed threatened or endangered species or designated critical habit will be affected by the proposed Reclamation action. The Endangered Species Notice to the Friant Division water service contractors indicated some types of surface disturbing activities will require consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. Native land that has never been tilled or irrigated will not be tilled using this non-CVP water. If the land has been fallow for three or more consecutive years, it must be inspected for the possible presence of endangered species prior to tilling or disturbance and such conversion may not proceed unless and until appropriate Endangered Species Act (ESA) compliance has determined that such actions will not likely affect protected species or that appropriate ESA compliance has been completed. Moreover, native lands located at Table Mountain Rancheria will not be disturbed using this non-CVP water.

### ***Cultural Resources***

The conveyance of this non-CVP Water will have no potential to affect historic properties pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800.3(a)(1)) because the non-CVP Water will be conveyed in existing facilities and canals to established agricultural lands or to existing facilities at Table Mountain Rancheria. No excavation or construction will occur to convey this non-CVP Water and no untilled land will be cultivated or disturbed without further environmental reviews.

### ***Indian Trust Assets***

Indian Trust Assets are known to exist within the Friant Division service area; however, no land disturbing activities and no new construction will occur. The Proposed Action will not interfere with hunting, fishing, or water rights. Therefore, no significant impacts will occur under the Proposed Action.

### ***Socioeconomic Resources***

No significant effects on public health or safety will occur under the proposed action. MID is responsible for obtaining and managing water for the benefit of its members in consideration of local economic conditions and employment. There will be no significant social or economic effects. Table Mountain Rancheria is responsible for obtaining and managing water for the benefit of its customers. Seasonal labor requirements will not change, and businesses will not be financially harmed.

### ***Environmental Justice***

The Proposed Action will continue water deliveries to maintain existing conditions and associated job opportunities in MID and Table Mountain Rancheria. The conveyance of the non-CVP Water and its use will not cause any harm to minority or disadvantaged populations.

### ***Cumulative Impacts***

Non-CVP water will be transported pursuant to a Warren Act Contract and will be distributed using existing diversions and existing facilities. This water will only be conveyed if and when capacity exists. No additional water supplies will be conveyed in the Friant Kern Canal from historical operations. The only cumulative effect is a slight beneficial effect to socio-economic resources, from the transport and delivery of the non-CVP water on a planned basis. The proposed action will maintain the existing environmental conditions and could provide an incentive for farmers to continue farming rather than selling their lands to developers. The low-cost housing in the San Joaquin Valley entices home buyers to purchase homes driving up the value of the lands. These economical pressures would likely result in fewer irrigated acres. The Proposed Action is temporary (for one year) and does not contribute to the increased population growth and urbanization.

Approval will not have highly controversial or uncertain environmental effects or involve unique or unknown risks. Impacts associated with the proposed action are minor, short-term, localized and temporary in nature; therefore, there are no significant cumulative impacts associated with this project.