

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

National Environmental Policy Act Categorical Exclusion Checklist

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ORIGINAL

Categorical Exclusion No.: 10-SCAO-009-CX

DATE: MAR 17 2010

PROJECT: Wells 21 and 22 Project

NATURE OF ACTION:

Cooperative Agreement No. R10AC35R08 provides American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 funds for the Irvine Ranch Water District to design and construct the Wells 21 and 22 Project in Orange County, California. Wells 21 and 22 were constructed in 1992, but do not currently produce water due to high nitrate, total dissolved solids, and hardness levels. The project will install well head equipment, a 5 million gallon per day reverse osmosis treatment plant, and associated conveyance, transmission, and brine disposal pipelines.

EXCLUSION CATEGORY:

516 DM 14.5 C(3) – Minor construction activities associated with authorized projects which correct unsatisfactory environmental conditions or which merely augment or supplement, or are enclosed within existing facilities.

EVALUATION OF EXCEPTIONS TO ACTIONS WITHIN CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

Would the action:	No	Uncertain	Yes
1. Have significant impacts on public health or safety?	X	_____	_____
2. Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas?	X	_____	_____
3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA section 102(2)(E)]?	X	_____	_____
4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?	X	_____	_____
5. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects?	X	_____	_____
6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects?	X	_____	_____
7. Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office?	X	_____	_____



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
Lower Colorado Region
Southern California Area Office
Temecula, California

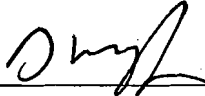

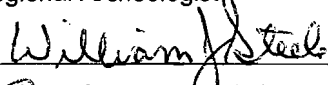

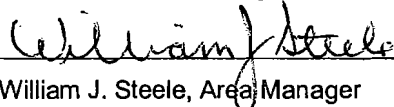
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| 8. Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species? | X | | |
| 9. Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment? | X | | |
| 10. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898)? | X | | |
| 11. 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 (Executive Order 13007)? | X | | |
| 12. Adversely affect Indian Trust Assets? | X | | |
| 13. 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 and Executive Order 13112)? | X | | |

EXPLANATION/REMARKS

The action is minor construction associated with the authorized Irvine Basin Groundwater and Surface Water Improvement Projects. Pipelines will be under streets within a developed urban environment. An Initial Study (SCH No. 2009121071) prepared under the California Environmental Quality Act identified no substantial adverse effects. No sacred sites or properties eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places were identified within the Area of Potential Effect. Individuals and tribal representatives recommended by the California Native American Heritage Commission were contacted.

COMMITMENTS:

Cultural Resources: Should cultural resources be discovered during project construction, all ground disturbing activities in the area of the archeological resource will stop and the Regional Archeologist, Pat Hicks, will be contacted at 702-293-8359. Construction will not resume in the area of the discovery until all mitigative measures developed in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer have been completed.

Preparer's Signature:	 <hr/> Doug McPherson, Environmental Protection Specialist	Date: 3/17/2010
Concurrence with Item 7:	 <hr/> Regional Archeologist	Date: 3/17/2010
Concurrence with Item 12:	 <hr/> Regional Director of JTA designee	Date: 3/17/2010
Recommended:	 <hr/> Dennis Wolfe, Area Engineer	Date: 3-17-10
Approved:	 <hr/> William J. Steele, Area Manager	Date: 3/17/2010