

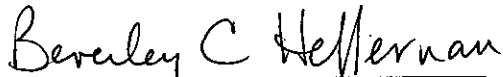
PRO-FONSI-08-001

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
Modified
Supersedes PRO-FONSI-06-004

**Rockport Reservoir
Weber Basin Project
Summit County, Utah**

**United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
Upper Colorado Region
Provo Area Office
Provo, Utah**

Recommended by:



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2/12/08
Date

Concur:



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2/12/08
Date

Approved by:



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2/12/08
Date

Introduction

The Bureau of Reclamation is hereby modifying Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) Number 06-004 issued March 2, 2007, authorizing the Weber Basin Water Conservancy District to construct a Coanda screen water intake structure at Rockport Reservoir for the purpose of conveying water to the Lost Creek Canyon pipeline and from there to the Signal Hill water treatment plant. Instead of authorizing implementation of the Coanda Screen Intake alternative as analyzed in the February 2007 Environmental Assessment (EA), Reclamation is authorizing use of the Coanda screen technology as described in the EA, but in a different location, namely, the area analyzed in the EA for the Collector Wells alternative.

Finding

The Bureau of Reclamation has determined that authorizing WBWCD to construct a Coanda screen water intake structure at Rockport Reservoir will not have a significant impact on the quality of the human environment, and that an environmental impact statement is not required. This decision was based on a thorough review of public comments received during the public review process and the environmental effects of alternatives described in chapter 3 of the February 2007 Rockport Reservoir Environmental Assessment. This decision is in accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, and the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations for Implementing the Procedural Provisions of NEPA (40 CFR 1500-1508).

Decision

Reclamation has decided to authorize WBWCD to construct the proposed Coanda screen water intake structure at Rockport Reservoir. In addition to this water intake structure, necessary pipelines and a pumping station will be constructed in order to convey water to the existing Lost Creek Canyon pipeline, and through that pipeline to the Signal Hill water treatment plant.

The Coanda screen intake will consist of a concrete structure that extends across the width of the river to back up the water and create enough head to install and operate the self-cleaning Coanda screens. An existing river channel will be improved for use as a fish passage channel to ensure safe passage of fish upstream, although fish typically can pass over the Coanda screens unharmed.

The new location of the Coanda screen structure will be within the reservoir basin of Rockport Reservoir. This location is approximately 1,100 feet downstream from the location selected in the March 2007, FONSI (see map). The intake capacity of this structure will be 7,500 acre-feet of water per year. As part of this proposed action, up to 7,500 acre feet per year of project water is authorized to be conveyed. Any non-project water proposed in the future to be conveyed through Rockport Reservoir into this intake structure (including up to 1600 acre-feet per year of Mountain Regional water as analyzed in the EA as well as Smith & Morehouse water) would require new agreements not analyzed in the EA and could therefore need additional analysis in

accordance with NEPA. The effects of such new agreements for carriage of non-project water were analyzed in the February 2007 EA, except for the difference in location of the intake structure, but the potential need for such agreements was not identified in the EA.

Approximately 340 feet of 36-inch pipe will gravity feed water to a new pump station (versus 170 feet in the original location) and the pressure pipeline from the pump station to the 100,000 gallon equalization tank is 480 feet of pressure pipe (versus 120 feet in the original location). 1,100 feet of pipe will convey water from the equalization tank to the existing Lost Creek Canyon Booster Pump Station. Eighty percent of the water will pass over the Coanda screen and 20 percent will pass through the fish passage channel. Installing the structures will disturb approximately 1 acre of riparian habitat, including open water (0.08 acre permanent disturbance), and 0.09 acre of upland habitat (0.04 acre permanent disturbance).

The new location within the reservoir basin was analyzed in the Environmental Assessment under the Collector Wells alternative. This site was cleared for recreation; water rights; water resources; water quality; system operations; public safety, access, and transportation; visual resources; socioeconomics; cultural resources; paleontological resources; wetlands and vegetation; wildlife resources; and threatened and endangered species. The environmental analysis indicated that the impacts at this site, even with the Collector Well alternative (which would have a much bigger foot print, with more facilities), overall was temporary, short-term, and insignificant. The Collector Well alternative would have required some mitigation to help offset moderate visual impacts. This modified Coanda screen alternative will have low visual impact that does not require mitigation.

The design of the new pump station may be changed in appearance from the proposal in the initial FONSI. The initial exterior design of the new pump station was intended to blend in with the existing pump station and resemble a barn. At the request of the Rockport State Park Manager, design of the pump station may be modified as needed to complement existing park facilities.

Reasons for the Decision

A finding of no significant impact for the selected alternative is based on the following:

1. The proposed action will have no adverse effect on such unique characteristics as cultural resources, wilderness areas, wetlands, and riparian areas.
2. The environmental effects of the proposed action are neither controversial nor do they involve unique or unknown risks.
3. The proposed action will have no adverse effect on species either currently listed or proposed for listing as candidate, endangered, or threatened species, and no adverse effect on designated critical habitat for these species.

4. The proposed action does not threaten to violate Federal, state, or local laws or requirements imposed for protection of the environment.

Reclamation has analyzed the environmental effects, public comments, and the alternatives in detail and believes that the selected action alternative best meets the purpose and need described in the EA.

Public Involvement

Preparation of the EA for the Rockport Reservoir EA included public involvement activities throughout the planning process. The public scoping process, to contact and solicit comments from interested parties, was initiated in July 25, 2006, with a scoping letter mailed to over 100 municipalities, organizations or agencies considered to have an interest in the proposed action. The draft EA was sent to the same municipalities, organizations and agencies and made available on the internet for a 30-day public review period ending December 29, 2006. Reclamation received three comment letters on the draft EA.

All comments received were reviewed and considered in preparing the final EA, the March 2, 2007 FONSI, and this modified FONSI. Revisions to the draft EA were made as appropriate in response to comments. The project file in the Provo Area Office contains the comment letters and documentation on how comments were considered, as well as a complete description of all public involvement activities.

Summary of Environmental Impacts

The expected environmental effects of the selected alternative are described in Chapter 3 of the EA. This selected alternative is a combination of the alternatives analyzed in the EA, using the technology from the Coanda Screen Intake alternative in the location of the Collector Wells alternative. The environmental analysis is focused on impacts to recreation; water rights; water resources; water quality; system operations; public safety, access, and transportation; visual resources; socioeconomics; cultural resources; paleontological resources; wetlands and vegetation; wildlife resources; and threatened and endangered species. The environmental analysis indicates that the impacts will be temporary, short-term, and insignificant.

Environmental Commitments

Reclamation is obligated to carry out the environmental commitments prescribed to mitigate or eliminate impacts resulting from implementation of the selected action alternative. These environmental commitments are described in Chapter 4 of the EA and are incorporated by reference into this FONSI. In addition, all necessary easements or rights-of-way will be obtained by the applicant prior to construction. The implementation and effectiveness of these environmental commitments will be closely monitored by Reclamation. This monitoring will ensure incorporation of mitigation requirements in all construction contract specifications, as appropriate, and compliance with environmental commitments recommended by Reclamation.