

ODESSA SUBAREA SPECIAL STUDY Columbia Basin Project

REPORT AVAILABILITY November 2008

The Odessa Subarea Special Study is an investigation of continued phased development of the Columbia Basin Project to provide surface water to replace current groundwater irrigation occurring in the Odessa Ground Water Management Subarea. Alternatives currently proposed include construction of water delivery infrastructure to convey Columbia Basin Project water to the groundwater-irrigated lands. Proposed construction would include expanding the capacity of existing facilities and constructing new canals, siphons, tunnels, pumping plants, piped laterals, and a re-regulating reservoir. The proposed infrastructure is part of the original development plan for the Columbia Basin Project. Reclamation is also considering modifying operations at Banks Lake through additional draw down or a two-foot operational raise, and construction of a new 127,000 acre-foot reservoir in Rocky Coulee.

Reclamation and the Washington Department of Ecology (Ecology) are jointly preparing an environmental impact statement (EIS) to satisfy the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA). The document will describe the alternatives considered and assess the social, economic, and environmental effects of the action alternatives compared to a no action alternative.

Preparation of an EIS was initiated with publication of a Notice of Intent to Prepare an

EIS in the Federal Register by Reclamation and a Determination of Significance by Ecology on August 21, 2008. A four week public scoping period, in which issues and concerns and other potential alternatives were identified, ran from August 21 through September 19, 2008. During this time, Reclamation and Ecology requested written comment and hosted two public meetings in September 2008.

Reclamation and Ecology have prepared a report that summarizes the major public comments received during this scoping period. The comments received will be used to assist in

- Identifying the significant issues relevant to the proposed action;
- Identifying those elements of the environment that could be affected by the proposed action;
- Formulating alternatives for the proposed action; and
- Determining the appropriate environmental documents to be prepared.

The *Odessa Subarea Special Study, Environmental Impact Statement, Scoping Summary Report* can be downloaded from the Study website. Paper copies of the report are available by contacting Kim McCartney, Study Manager (contact information provided on the reverse).

FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Please note: The study management contact information has changed.

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Study Website: http://www.usbr.gov/pn/programs/ucao_misc/odessa/index.html