

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Red Bridge Water Reuse Project Environmental Assessment and Finding of No Significant Impact

**PRO-EA-08-002
PRO-FONSI-08-003**

**Provo Area Office
Upper Colorado Region
Provo, Utah**



**U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
Provo Area Office
Provo, Utah**

July 2008

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.

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*prepared by Provo Area Office
Upper Colorado Region*



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Purpose and Need for Action

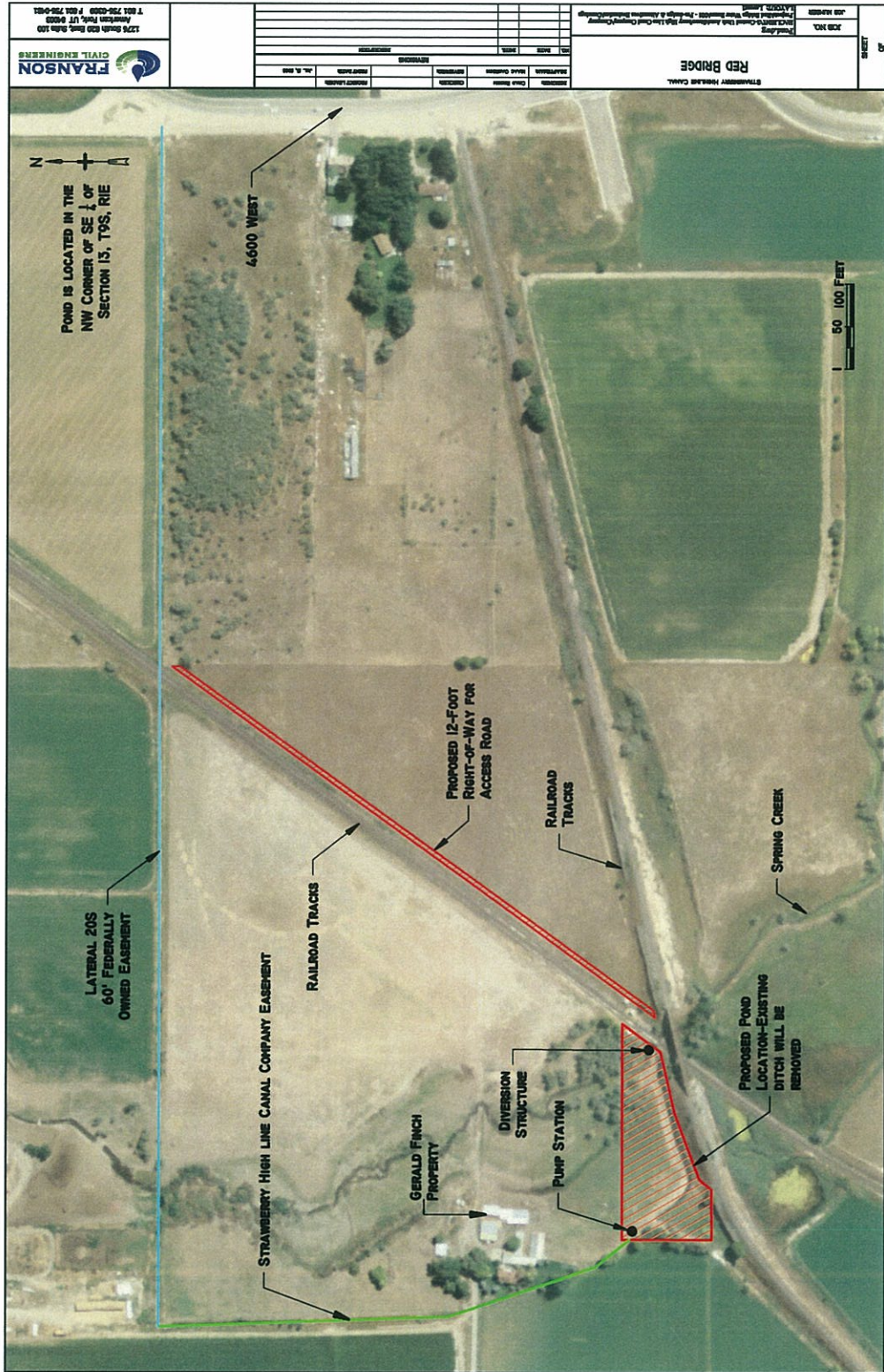
The purpose of the proposed action is to increase the water supply to the Strawberry High Line Canal Lateral 20 which serves 4,500 acres west of Payson Utah. A pump station would be constructed on Spring Creek where it crosses Red Bridge below the Strawberry High Line Canal Lateral 20 and deliver 1,800 acre-feet of water annually to Lateral 20. An average of 600 acre-feet of this water would be used to supplement the current irrigation water being delivered in Lateral 20 and would benefit agriculture lands that have an insufficient water supply. About 1,200 acre-feet of this water would replace Strawberry Project water currently being delivered in Lateral 20. This replaced Strawberry Project water would then be delivered to municipal secondary water irrigation systems within the project area such as the city of Payson and the town of Spring Creek.

These lands are currently supplied by limited water and this project would provide a full water supply. The project area is in high demand for water because of recent population growth. This project would create an additional direct water supply and would allow for more efficient use of Spring Creek flows which will decrease water shortages to irrigators and supply additional water to meet municipality's secondary water demands. This environmental assessment analyzes the impacts resulting from construction of the diversion, pond, pump station, access, and connecting pipelines to Lateral 20.

Proposed Action

The proposed action is to provide Water 2025 funding to enable the Strawberry High Line Canal Company (Company) to construct a replacement diversion dam, a pond and a 6 cubic feet per second (cfs) pump station in order to deliver 1,800 acre-feet of Spring Creek water to 4,500 acres of project lands. The diversion, pond, and pump station are located on and near Spring Creek at Red Bridge (see Red Bridge Figure below). The water would be delivered to federally owned Lateral 20. By supplying water to Lateral 20 some water could be used for secondary water systems within the project area.

The Company would be responsible for consulting with the Department of Natural Resources, the Division of Water Rights regarding any necessary stream alternation permits and/or to make any necessary changes to their water right. The water diversion and use of the Red Bridge Water Reuse Project would occur under the Utah Water Right No. 51-2577. This water right is based on a 1923 decree that gave Strawberry High Line Canal Company the entire flow of Spring Creek at the Red Bridge site.



Red Bridge Figure

The water is diverted within Company boundaries and would be used for authorized Strawberry Project purposes.

The Company is responsible for operation, maintenance, and replacement (OM&R) of the Project facilities. Any proposed contract would require the Company to contract with Reclamation and directly pay for reasonable OM&R costs associated with the use of this water.

Reclamation has determined that the reuse of this water would not impair the efficiency of the existing project facility, nor would it be incompatible with the use and purpose for which the facilities were constructed.

No Action Alternative

The replacement diversion, as well as a new pond and pump would not be constructed and the Company would not be able to use their additional water in Spring Creek. The 4,500 acres of project lands would not receive a full water supply.

Description of Strawberry Valley Project and Facilities

The Strawberry Valley Project, part of Reclamation's Upper Colorado Region, brought water from the Colorado River Basin to the Great Basin. It is located in Utah and Wasatch Counties, in central and eastern Utah. In Wasatch County, the project includes Strawberry Dam and Reservoir, located 29 miles southwest of Provo. Wasatch County also includes dikes, feeder canals, diversions and the Strawberry Tunnel, that diverts water from Wasatch to Utah County through the Wasatch Divide.

The western-most section of the Strawberry Tunnel is located in Utah County. Utah County contains major features of the Strawberry Valley Project, including canals, laterals, powerplants, diversion dams, and the High Line Canal. Reclamation and the Strawberry Water Users Association built the project to irrigate greater amounts of arable land in southern Utah Valley.

Environmental Consequences

Proposed Action

The proposed action would require ground-disturbing activities on approximately 2.5 acres. At the point of diversion on Spring Creek, a diversion structure, pond, and pump station would be built to deliver the water. No change in the use of project water would occur under this proposal.

There are no anticipated impacts to any of the following resources as a result of the proposed action: threatened and endangered species, farmlands, flood plains,

water quality, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, hazardous or solid wastes, air quality, cultural resources, and Native American concerns. A no effect determination was made on each of the following environmental issues as well as no significant adverse cumulative impacts (see table below).

| EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANT CRITERIA | | No | Yes | Uncertain |
|---|---|----|-----|-----------|
| 1. | This action or group of actions would have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. | X | | |
| 2. | This action or group of actions would involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources. | X | | |
| EVALUATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL ISSUES | | | | |
| 1. | This action would have significant adverse effects on public health or safety. | X | | |
| 2. | This action would have an adverse effect on unique geographical features such as: wetlands, Wild or Scenic Rivers, or Scenic Rivers, refuges, floodplains, rivers placed on the Nationwide River Inventory, or prime or unique farmlands. | X | | |
| 3. | This action will have highly controversial environmental effects. | X | | |
| 4. | This action will have highly uncertain environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risk. | X | | |
| 5. | This action will establish a precedent for future actions. | X | | |
| 6. | This action is related to other actions with individually insignificant, but cumulatively significant effects. | X | | |
| 7. | This action will affect properties listed, or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places. | X | | |
| 8. | This action will adversely affect a species listed, or proposed to be listed, as endangered or threatened. | X | | |
| 9. | This action threatens to violate federal, state, local or tribal law or requirements imposed for protection of the environment. | X | | |
| 10. | This action will affect Indian trust assets. | X | | |
| 11. | This action will not accommodate access to or allow ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites by Indian religious practitioners to the extent practicable. Neither will it avoid adversely affect, to any practicable extent, the physical integrity of such sacred sites (E.O. 13007). | X | | |
| 12. | This action will disproportionately affect minority or low-income populations (E.O. 12898). | X | | |

If the proposed action is authorized, in the event that any cultural and/or paleontological site, feature or artifact (historic or prehistoric) is discovered on Federal land, whether on the surface or as an inadvertent subsurface discovery, it would immediately be reported to the Provo Area Office archaeologist. Construction in the area of discovery will cease until an evaluation can be made by the archaeologist to determine appropriate actions to prevent loss of significant cultural or scientific value.

In the case of an inadvertent discovery of human remains: The applicant would immediately cease work in the area of discovery and provide an oral notification to Reclamation's authorized official of the discovery of human remains on Reclamation land. The applicant would forward a written report of their findings to Reclamations authorized official within 48 hours. The applicant would leave such discoveries intact until authorized to proceed by Reclamation's authorized official. Protective and mitigative measures specified by Reclamation's authorized official would be the responsibility of the applicant.

No Action Alternative

In the event that the project is not executed, the Company would not be able to use their additional water in Spring Creek. These lands would continue to be supplied by limited water and the demand for water due to high growth would not be met.

**COMBINED FONSI/DECISION RECORD
PROVO AREA OFFICE**

Decision: It is my decision to authorize the proposed action identified in EA No. PRO-EA-08-002.

Finding of No Significant Impact No. PRO-FONSI-08-003: Based on the analysis of potential environmental impacts contained in the attached environmental assessment, I have determined that impacts are not expected to be significant and an environmental impact statement is not required.

Rationale for Decision: The decision to allow the proposed action does not result in any undue or unnecessary environmental degradation.

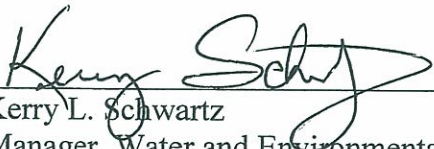
Recommended by:



Beverley Heffernan
Chief, Environmental Group

7/23/08
Date

Concur:



Kerry L. Schwartz
Manager, Water and Environmental
Resources Division

7/23/08
Date

Approved by:



Bruce C. Barrett
Area Manager, Provo Area Office

7/24/08
Date