

Transmittal of the California WaterFix Draft Supplemental EIR/EIS

On July 17, 2018, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) issued for public review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) a Draft Supplemental EIR/EIS that evaluated proposed changes to conveyance facilities previously evaluated in the December 2016 Bay Delta Conservation Plan/California WaterFix Final EIR/EIS (Final EIR/EIS). The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) is now issuing the California WaterFix Draft Supplemental EIR/EIS, including the attached alternatives comparison, in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and the Council on Environmental Quality NEPA regulations.

Reclamation's federal action as described in the December 2016 Final EIR/EIS is as follows:

Reclamation's action in relation to the proposed project or alternatives would be to adjust CVP operations in the Delta to accommodate new conveyance facility operations and/or flow requirements, in coordination with SWP operations. (p. 1-20)

Reclamation's federal action as it relates to the proposed action analyzed in the draft supplemental document has not changed from the action presented in the December 2016 Final EIR/EIS. In addition, the California WaterFix Draft Supplemental EIR/EIS (page 3-6) includes the proposal to construct a connection between the California State Aqueduct and Delta Mendota Canal, a Reclamation owned and managed facility, south of Clifton Court Forebay. This proposed connection may require an action by Reclamation for access to its lands or other direct action to implement this proposal.

Public review of Reclamation's California WaterFix Draft Supplemental EIR/EIS begins on September 21, 2018 when the U.S Environmental Protection Agency posts its notice of availability in the Federal Register. Public comment on the draft supplemental document will close on November 5, 2018.

Attachment 1: *Additional Information Regarding Comparison of Alternatives*

Additional Information Regarding Comparison of Alternatives

In December 2016, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) and U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) published the Bay Delta Conservation Plan/California WaterFix Final Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (2016 Final EIR/EIS). DWR approved the California WaterFix on July 21, 2017 and, as part of the project approval, certified the Bay Delta Conservation Plan/California Final EIR for compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) on July 21, 2017. Reclamation has not yet issued a Record of Decision (ROD) as part of the federal decision making consistent with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA); therefore, the project is not considered “approved” by the federal agency. This California WaterFix Draft Supplemental EIR/EIS (Draft Supplemental EIR/EIS) was prepared to meet the requirements of both CEQA and NEPA regarding the proposed changes to the California WaterFix project as approved on July 21, 2017. However, because no ROD has been issued, and Reclamation has yet to issue its decision on selecting an alternative, Reclamation must continue to consider the effects of all alternatives as compared to one another.

Chapter 4 of the Supplemental EIR/EIS describes the environmental analysis approach used to evaluate the impacts of the Refined Alternative 4A which is referred to as the “proposed project” (i.e., the Alternative 4A with proposed modifications addressed in this Supplemental EIR/EIS). The approach to comparing the Refined Alternative 4A’s effects with effects of Alternative 4A (the approved project), as analyzed in the proposed Final EIR/EIS and certified Final EIR, is also described in Chapter 4. Analyses comparing the impacts related to the Refined Alternative 4A with Alternative 4A are presented in each of the resource chapters and impacts are presented in full impact format with CEQA and NEPA conclusions, and feasible mitigation measures are recommended to reduce significant impacts.

Additional impacts related to Refined Alternative 4A are entirely focused on construction-related and facility footprint impacts associated with Alternative 4A as described in the 2016 Final EIR/EIS. No additional analyses are presented for effects of water operations in this Supplemental EIR/EIS because the Refined Alternative 4A and Alternative 4A water conveyance operations would be identical. Similarly, the impacts of Environmental Commitments needed to offset conveyance facility effects are not repeated in this Supplemental EIR/EIS because Environmental Commitments for Alternative 4A and Refined Alternative 4A would be similar, and their effects would be similar. In addition, the 2016 Final EIR/EIS provided comparisons of the impacts between the 18 alternatives considered by the lead agencies, which included comparison of Alternative 4A. The effects of the Refined Alternative 4a on the human environment were found to be the same as the effects of Alternative 4A, and taken together, the 2016 Final EIR/EIS and this Supplemental EIR/EIS provide a comparison of the effects of the 19 alternatives.