

Environmental Determination

This Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND)/Environmental Assessment (EA) evaluates the impacts of implementing the 2-Gates Demonstration Project (2-Gates Project, or Project) in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). The Project would be located in the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta (Delta), which is a vital source of drinking water for 25 million Californians and supports more than 1.3 million acres of irrigated agricultural lands. The 2-Gates Project would install and operate removable gates in two key channels in the central Delta (Old River and Connection Slough) for a five-year period in order to control flows and thereby help reduce entrainment of delta smelt (*Hypomesus transpacificus*) at the State Water Project and Central Valley Project export pumps.

Reclamation is the lead agency under NEPA and is responsible for determining the scope and content of the EA. Reclamation will issue a Finding of No Significant Impact based on the analysis in the EA. Environmental documents prepared in compliance with CEQA require that an agency make a determination whether a project would result in any impacts that would be considered significant, and whether an MND is an appropriate level of documentation under CEQA, as discussed below.

Environmental Factors Potentially Affected

The Project would not result in any impacts in the areas listed below that would be considered a “Potentially Significant Impact”; as indicated by the checklist on the following pages, the Project has been designed to reduce potential impacts to less than significant, and mitigation measures have been identified that would reduce other impacts to less than significant.

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|--|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics | <input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Air Quality |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Geology/Soils |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hazards and Hazardous Materials | <input type="checkbox"/> Hydrology/Water Quality | <input type="checkbox"/> Land Use/Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Noise | <input type="checkbox"/> Population/Housing |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Public Services | <input type="checkbox"/> Recreation | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation/Traffic |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Utilities/Service Systems | <input type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Findings of Significance | |

Environmental Determination

On the basis of this initial evaluation:

I find that the proposed project COULD NOT have a significant effect on the environment, and a NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

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I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, there will not be a significant effect in this case because revisions to the project have been made by or agreed to by the applicant. A MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION will be prepared.

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I find that the proposed project MAY have a significant effect on the environment, and an ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required.

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I find that the proposed project MAY have a “potentially significant impact” or “potentially significant unless mitigated” on the environment, but at least one effect 1) has been adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and 2) has been addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis as described on attached sheets. An ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT is required, but it must analyze only the effects that remain to be addressed.

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I find that although the proposed project could have a significant effect on the environment, because all potentially significant effects (a) have been analyzed adequately in an earlier EIR pursuant to applicable standards, and (b) have been avoided or mitigated pursuant to that earlier EIR, including revisions or mitigation measures that are imposed upon the Project, nothing further is required.

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Name

Signature

Date