Applicant:
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR)

Project Name:
Laguna Reservoir Restoration Project

Receiving Water:
Colorado River

Location:
Located approximately 12 miles northeast of Yuma, AZ, 5-miles downstream from Imperial Dam on the border of California and Arizona in Imperial County, CA.

Portions of Sections 25 and 30-32 of Township 15 South, Range 24 East and Sections 13 and 14 of Township 7 South, Range 22 West, SBB&M.

32^{o} 49' 34.12" N Latitude by 114^{o} 29' 13.22" W Longitude

Project Description:
The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation proposes to dredge behind the Laguna Dam and weir, in the existing river channel and in uplands to provide increased water storage capacity behind the Laguna Dam and maintain the operational integrity of Laguna Dam. The Laguna Dam contains sluicing flows used to remove sediment from the California Sluiceway below Imperial Dam. The project will remove sediments and vegetation interfering with dam operations. River deposited sediments consisting of sands and silts within the Colorado River channel and floodplain would be dredged and discharged at an upland disposal site. The Proposed Project impacts fall within the boundaries of the State of California, Arizona and within the boundaries of the Fort Yuma Indian Reservation.

The Proposed Project involves dredging activities in approximately 39.6 acres of waters of the United States, including the removal of 7.22 acres of jurisdictional wetlands. An additional 116.62 acres of uplands would be cleared and dredged to create new reservoir space and would become waters of the United States. The total dredging volume for the project would be approximately 2.3 million cubic yards of material. A floating dredge with cutter head would be used to loosen sediment, and the sediment would be blended with water and pumped through a hydraulic pipeline to the disposal site.

The proposed dredge launch site is located within the boundary of the Fort Yuma Indian Reservation. To facilitate launching of the dredge, an existing boat ramp would be modified and expanded. The expansion of the launch site would require vegetation clearing and grading and placing approximately 25 cubic yards of gravel material below the Ordinary High Water Mark (OHWM).

Dredged and excavated material would be disposed of within a small portion of the Laguna Disposal Site located north of the proposed dredging areas. The Laguna Disposal Site is an existing U.S. Bureau of Reclamation sediment disposal site that has been used since 1963. A retention dike would be constructed along the southern boundary of the Project Disposal Site to prevent the disposed dredged material and dredged river water from migrating outside the area or returning to the river. The dike would be approximately 3,000 feet in length, 14 feet high, and would be constructed of compacted local material.

Once restored, the Laguna Reservoir would be maintained by dredging and vegetation removal on an as-needed basis. Dredged material would continue to be placed within the existing 1,500 acre Laguna Disposal Site. The dredge launch site and access roads would continue to be maintained, as needed.

A total of 7.22 acres of marsh wetlands would be established at the Imperial National Wildlife Refuge (NWR) to compensate for the loss of 7.22 acres of marsh wetlands that would result from the Proposed Project. Wetland restoration would be conducted under the Imperial Ponds Reconstruction and Expansion Project at the Imperial NWR immediately adjacent to the Colorado River, approximately 10 miles north of the Laguna Reservoir site. This restoration project includes the expansion of ponds and associated marsh habitat in an area supporting existing ponds, marsh, and uplands that will result in a net gain of 2.00 acres of marsh wetlands. The Imperial Ponds Reconstruction and Expansion Project also includes the creation of 12 acres of wetlands created at Field 18, 5.22 acres would be designated to provide a portion of the compensatory mitigation for the loss of wetlands at the Project site.

Action:

Pending

Water Board Contact:

Kirk Larkin, Water Resources Control Engineer
(760) 776-8964