Notice of Determination

Appendix D

To:
☒ Office of Planning and Research
For U.S. Mail: P.O. Box 3044, Sacramento, CA 95812
Street Address: 1400 Tenth St., Sacramento, CA 95814

From:
State Water Resources Control Board
Division of Water Rights
1001 I Street, 14th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814
Contact: Philip Choy
Phone: (916) 341-5408

SUBJECT: Filing of Notice of Determination in compliance with Section 21108 or 21152 of the Public Resources Code.

State Clearinghouse Number (if submitted to State Clearinghouse): 2017021050

Project Title: Rio Bravo Hydro Sediment Management Project

Project Location (include county): Kern River in Kern County, California.

Project Description: The Olcese Water District (OWD) proposes the Rio Bravo Hydro Sediment Management Project (Project), which involves the implementation of measures to manage sediment accumulation at the Rio Bravo Hydroelectric Project (Rio Bravo), Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Project No. 4129. Sediment management methods include sediment pass through (sluicing) and mechanical sediment removal.

Mechanical sediment removal involves suction dredging in the Rio Bravo impoundment every 1-5 years and the use of excavators to remove sediment from the Rio Bravo canal every 5-10 years. For each mechanical sediment removal event, OWD estimates that approximately 10,000-34,000 cubic yards of sediment could be removed from the impoundment and approximately 5,000-10,000 cubic yards of sediment could be removed from the canal. Sediment would be stored in designated disposal areas on Rio Bravo property.

Sluicing through the Rio Bravo sluiceway is triggered by flow criteria, upstream sediment transport, and/or natural turbid flow conditions, and may occur multiple times each year. OWD designed sluicing triggers to maximize sediment mobility and limit impacts to biological resources. OWD estimates that approximately 1,000-1,500 cubic yards of sediment would be displaced downstream during each sluicing event.

This is to advise that the State Water Resources Control Board (Responsible Agency) approved the above described project on 2/5/18 and has made the following determinations regarding the above described project:

1. The project [☐ will ☒ will not] have a significant effect on the environment.
2. ☐ An Environmental Impact Report was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
   ☒ A Negative Declaration was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
3. Mitigation measures [☒ were ☐ were not] made a condition of the approval of the project.
4. A mitigation reporting or monitoring plan [☒was ☐ was not] adopted by the lead agency for this project.
5. A statement of Overriding Considerations [☐ was ☒ was not] adopted for this project.
6. Findings: [☐were ☒ were not] made pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.

This is to certify that the State Water Resources Control Board (Responsible Agency) has taken discretionary action on this project and has incorporated the determinations made above. The Mitigated Negative Declaration is available to the General Public at: State Water Resources Control Board, Division of Water Rights, 1001 I Street, 14th Floor, Sacramento, CA 95814.

Signature (Public Agency): _____ Title: Executive Director

Date 2/5/18 Date Received for filing at OPR _____

Reference Section: 21000-21174, Public Resources Code.

Governor's Office of Planning & Research
FEB 06 2018
STATE CLEARINGHOUSE