

## **Attachment 10F(1)**

### **Explanatory Note for the Bureau of Reclamation August 2, 2010**

Attached is the NEPA report for Bureau of Reclamation's (BR) American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) Projects covering project status through June 30, 2010.

In the previous report, BR reported 197 ARRA projects/activities. During the current reporting period, BR reviewed the Spreadsheet's data to ensure that the total number of ARRA projects reported in the 5<sup>th</sup> column of page 1 reflected only the number of projects and did not include the number of associated NEPA actions. As a result of the review, BR now reports 178 Bureau of Reclamation ARRA projects in this report.

As of June 30, 2010, BR reports \$772,987,686 obligated. This is an increase of \$176,561,812 since the last report. The total ARRA appropriation for BR projects remains at \$945.25 million although at this time a balance of almost \$16.8 million is not allocated to a specific BR program. These funds were made available when BR withdrew other ARRA projects or bids came in lower than anticipated. BR anticipates that these funds will be allocated during the next reporting period for cost increases on existing ARRA projects or funding additional projects.

There is a decrease in pending NEPA actions from 31 (16 percent of the total) in the March 31, 2010, report to 20 (10 percent) pending in this report. Some projects include a combination of multiple phases and activities that are individually analyzed under NEPA but may be tracked under a single project number. This results in a greater number of NEPA actions than the number of ARRA funded projects reported. Explanations and additional clarification of information contained in the report are provided below.

#### **NEPA Actions vs. ARRA Projects**

The number of NEPA actions is not directly related to the number of ARRA actions for the following reasons:

- Rows 195-199 each group several ARRA projects together and are covered by one NEPA action.
- A number of projects have multiple NEPA actions that are identified on separate rows.
- Rows 18, 120, 122, and 123: These rows are not counted in the total NEPA actions. The specific projects for these categories were not yet identified at the time the first report was submitted so these were added as place holders. The specific projects and therefore, NEPA activities have now been identified in those rows and itemized on separate rows. Consequently, these rows are retained as space holders, so the numbering does not change from one reporting period to the next.

## Pending EAs

There are 19 pending EAs which cover 26 ARRA projects. Additional information about each of these projects is provided below.

- **Clean up closed concession areas removal of debris, trash & hazardous waste for trailer sites and perform underground storage tank remediation, Lake Berryessa, #72.000** (row 82) – The NEPA compliance for this project has been changed from a CE to an EA as a result of an expanded scope and complexity of the project.
- **Leavenworth Water Delivery System, Leavenworth Fish Hatchery, Intake Facilities, #11.000 (11.1)** (row 87) – Until recently, the draft EA for the Intake Facilities was in progress. It had been scheduled for completion in September but due to technical issues with the design and need for more public input, this project has been proposed for withdrawal from ARRA funding. The internal bureau administrative process to withdraw this project should be concluded in July and it will be formally reported as withdrawn in the next quarterly report.
- **Isleta Reach Habitat Restoration, Middle Rio Grande Project, #97.000** (row 112) – awaiting biological opinion. Biologic assessment submitted to FWS on 1-Apr-10. A biological assessment was submitted to the FWS for formal consultation in April. We anticipate receipt of a BiOp by the first week of Sept-10. Anticipate completion during the next reporting period.
- **Title XVI, Wildomar Recycled Water System, #1.127 (row 152) – Review of "CEQA-Plus" documents underway** (includes NEPA, Endangered Species Act (ESA), National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA)). Anticipate completion during the next reporting period.
- **Columbia / Snake River Habitat Projects - Preston Reach Habitat Complexity, #98.000 (98.1)** (row 223) – Due to time constraints on the construction window and ensuring the terms of the agreement are met, Reclamation agreed to complete both EAs whereas it was originally to be done by the grantee. Anticipate completion during the next reporting period.
- **Columbia / Snake River Habitat Projects - Entiat River Off-Stream Wells, #98.000 (98.2)** (row 224) – Due to time constraints on the construction window and ensuring the terms of the agreement are met, Reclamation agreed to complete both EAs whereas it was originally to be done by the grantee. Anticipate completion during the next reporting period.
- **Rohnerville Rancheria - Drill test well then install and develop a well to provide a community water supply, CA, #28.122** (row 186) - the project will be submitted for withdrawal (it is pending final approval so not shown as withdrawn for this reporting period).

The following EAs are for projects to provide emergency drought relief to Native American lands – all have been awaiting additional information from the tribes. The necessary information has been provided since the last reporting period and the EAs are currently being prepared:

**Emergency Drought Relief Projects #28.102, 28.103, 28.105, 28.110, 28.114, 28.119, 28.120, 28.121, 28.122, and 28.127** (rows 172, 173, 175, 178, 180, 183-185, 189) – NEPA and other Federal environmental compliance for these projects are expected to be completed during the next reporting period.

For the following projects, consultants are preparing EAs; anticipate completion during the next reporting period:

- **Emergency Drought Relief, New Well Installation, Region 1, #28.131, 28.104, 28.107, and 28.112** (row 195)
- **Emergency Drought Relief, New Well Installation, Region 3, #28.111, #28.126, 28.115, and 28.116** (row 197)
- **Emergency Drought Relief, New Well Installation, Region 2, #28.118, 28.124, and 28.117** (row 198)

#### **Completed EAs with Other Federal Reviews/Documents Pending**

There are 5 projects in this report with completed EAs waiting for additional federal environmental reviews or documents to be complete. Additional information about these projects is provided below.

- **Title XVI – City of Oxnard Groundwater Recovery Enhancement and Treatment Phase 1, #1.104** (row 129); **Title XVI – Upper Mojave River Groundwater Regional Recharge and Recovery Project, Mojave Water Agency, #1.124** (row 149); and **Challenge Grant – Oro Grande Wash Groundwater Recharge Project, Mojave Water Agency, #27.105** (row 157) – awaiting completion of NHPA Section 106 consultation process. Anticipate completion during the next reporting period.
- **Title XVI – Recycled Water System Pressurization and Expansion Project, Eastern Municipal Water District, #1.111** (row 136) – awaiting completion of State Historic Preservation Officer clearance. Anticipate completion during the next reporting period.
- **Inyo County, Native American Affairs Program, Bishop Wetlands, #110.532** (row 217) – This is an alternate project funded with ARRA funds since the last report that is awaiting completion of the Nationwide Permit 27 for Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Anticipate completion during the next reporting period.

#### **Pending EISs**

- **Title XVI - North San Pablo Bay Restoration and Reuse, Sonoma County Water Agency, #1.128** (row 221) – This is a new project approved by the Office of Management and Budget for ARRA funding on 2-Apr-10. Anticipate completion during the next reporting period.

### Withdrawn Projects/Activities

**There are currently 21 projects that have** been withdrawn; also, one activity associated with a project has been withdrawn (noted below). Six of these are new projects that have been withdrawn in this reporting cycle are:

- **Boundary Fencing, Belle Fouche Unit, #83.000** (row 54) – Project cannot be done within ARRA schedule requirements.
- **Bitter Lake Restoration Mitigation, Carlsbad Project, #103.000** (row 114) - After solicitation, no offers were received, so the project is being deferred and will not proceed with ARRA funding.
- **Tuscany Recycled Water System, Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District, #1.122** (row 147) – Project cannot be done within ARRA schedule requirements due to no progress being made towards execution of the cooperative agreement for the project.
- **Alturas Rancheria - Drill test well then install and develop a well to provide a community water supply, #28.101** (row 171) – Project proponent has failed to submit required information; therefore, the project cannot be done within ARRA schedule requirements.
- **New Well Installation - REGION 4: Westlands Water District, #28.132** (row 193) – The District decided not to pursue this portion of project #28.132, installation of any of the new wells), but will continue with the other ARRA funded portions of the project (rows 196 and 209).
- **Orland Project, Double Vault Facility - 5 Units, #109.524** (row 216) – This is an alternate project funded with ARRA funds after the last report but was subsequently determined that it couldn't be completed within ARRA schedule requirements so it has been withdrawn.

The other 16 projects were withdrawn in previous reporting cycles and include the following:

- **San Carlos Irrigation and Drainage District, #5.000** (row 7) – Sponsor turned down funding as the ARRA requirements negate the benefit to the District.
- **Retrofitting for ADA guidelines, San Felipe Division, #43.000** (row 24) and **Retrofitting for ADA guidelines, Delta Division, #45.000** (row 29) – Due primarily to

staff and budget reductions, the State of California Department of Parks and Recreation requested this project be deleted.

- **Retrofitting for ADA guidelines, West San Joaquin Division, #42.000** (row 26) – Project Proponent has failed to submit complete project description or project design; therefore, Reclamation will not be able to meet the deadline for completing environmental documentation and issuing a contract..
- **Retrofitting for ADA guidelines, Ventura, #44.000** (row 28) – Withdrawn due to loss of critical personnel and increased workload resulting from their own ARRA projects. Forest Service will not be able to utilize ARRA funding for ADA projects in the Casitas Open Space within a reasonable timeframe.
- **Paint/Preservation, Friant, #63.000** (row 31) – Withdrawn due to health and safety issues with lead paint.
- **Powerplant Life Safety, Riverton, #39.000** (row 52) and **CBT - Green Mountain, #66.000** (row 60) – Withdrawn due to construction costs and extended schedules that would prevent the projects from being completed in time to apply ARRA funding.
- **Power plant station service breakers, Elephant Butte, #92.000** (row 96) – Could not be completed within ARRA time frame.
- **Power plant/Generator 15Kv Breakers, #93.000** (row 97) – Original cost estimate 5 years old, new cost estimate increased cost by 350%; Region requested project be deferred and the funds made available for another project.
- **Repair Spring Creek Powerplant Intake (Whiskeytown Lake) Temperature Curtain, #99.000** (row 103) – could not be completed within ARRA time frame.
- **Yakima River Basin Water Enhancement Project (YRBWEP) Benton Irrigation District, #20.000** (row 106) – Sponsor turned down funding due to the impacts to the 2009 construction schedule and the uncertainty of additional costs to the District water users as a result of ARRA funding for the project..
- **Construction of the Blue River Fish Barrier, #96.000** (row 110) – has been withdrawn from ARRA funding because project construction could not meet the ARRA schedule.
- **Sheehy Springs Fish Barrier, #100.000** (row 111) – Project is located on private land - landowner (previously supportive) is no longer willing to locate the project on his property. Alternative sites have been investigated, but, none are viable
- **Pittsburg Recycled Water Project Phase 2, Delta Diablo Sanitation District, #1.110** (row 135) – Sponsor requested cancellation of project funding due to changes in construction schedules so project has been withdrawn.

The following activity of the San Jose Water Reclamation and Reuse Project was withdrawn during this reporting period:

- **Title XVI – San Jose Water Reclamation and Reuse Project Phase 1c – San Jose Hedding Extension Rose Garden, #1.117** (row 142) – The activity associated with this NEPA action is not going to be funded with ARRA funds.

### **Projects/Activities Added Since Last Report**

The following nine projects have been added since the last reporting cycle:

- **Delta-Mendota Canal / California Aqueduct Intertie (Intertie), #107.000** (row 214)
- **Youth Corps jobs at Lake Berryessa, New Melones, and Auburn/Folsom, #108.000** (row 215)
- **Orland Project, Double Vault Facility - 5 Units, #109.524** (row 216) – This is an alternate project funded with ARRA funds after the last report but was subsequently determined that it couldn't be completed within ARRA schedule requirements so it has been withdrawn.
- **Inyo County, Native American Affairs Program, Bishop Wetlands, #110.532** (row 217)
- **Folsom (CVP) - Replacement of Existing Civil Maintenance Buildings, #111.503** (row 218)
- **Low Flow Conveyance Channel, Middle Rio Grande Proj., Complete Aerial Photography of the S.A./S.O. Cross Section Lines, #112.523** (row 219)
- **Various, Provo River Project, June Sucker Recovery Implementation Program Activities, #113.531** (row 220)
- **Title XVI - North San Pablo Bay Restoration and Reuse, Sonoma County Water Agency, #1.128** (row 221)
- **Upper Stillwater Dam, Bonneville Unit-CUP - Dam Repair, #77.500** (row 222)

Three new actions have been added to page 2 of the Spreadsheet which are part of the Columbia/Snake River Habitat project:

- **Columbia / Snake River Habitat Projects - Preston Reach Habitat Complexity, #98.000 (98.1)** (row 223)

- **Columbia / Snake River Habitat Projects - Entiat River Off-Stream Wells, #98.000 (98.2)** (row 224)
- **Columbia / Snake River Habitat Projects - Methow Valley Irrigation District (MVID) East Diversion, #98.000 (98.5)** (row 225)

### Clarifications

- **Native Fish Habitat, #23.107** (row 104) and **Yuma Area Projects - Lower Cibola Bridge Deck Repair, #12.000** (row70) – NEPA and all other environmental compliance are complete. Although the work has is being completed by another bureau or agency, Reclamation is funding the projects with ARRA funds. After discussion with CEQ, we have left these two on our report.

### NEPA Benefits

- The **YRBWEP Sunnyside Conduit, #21.000** (row 107) Environmental Assessment (EA) was developed with input from stakeholders to ensure all aspects of the project were addressed. The public scoping process provided feedback that identified a key storm water issue which needed to be analyzed. A review of the draft assessment was conducted to allow another opportunity for the public and stakeholders to comment on the incorporation of the storm water item as well as any other components in the document. This project is in construction and will conserve water that will benefit fish by leaving more water in the natural system.

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