

## FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

In accordance with Section 102 (2) (C) of the national Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as amended, the South-Central California Area Office of the U. S. Bureau of Reclamation, has determined that the habitat improvement projects described in the proposed action of the Jensen River Ranch Habitat Enhancement and Public Access Plan will not significantly affect the quality of the human environment. Furthermore an environmental impact statement is not required. This Finding of No Significant Impact is supported by the attached draft Initial Study and Environmental Assessment, *Jensen River Ranch Habitat Enhancement and Public Access Plan, dated January 2002*, which is hereby incorporated by reference.

The proposed action is comprised of a total of eleven project elements. These elements are:

- Planting Valley Oak/Sycamore Woodland, Valley Oak/ Sycamore Savannah, and
- Native Grassland
- Construct Wildlife Enhancement Features
- Control Nonnative Invasive Plant Species
- Return Limited Grazing for Weed Control
- Meander the existing DK channel, creating seasonal and perennial oxbows
- Create Seasonal Wetland Depressions
- Extend Woodward Park Drainage
- Install Visual Buffer Plantings
- Preserve and Expand Cottonwood and Mixed Riparian Forest along Intermediate Terrace
- Addition of multi-use trails and public use areas, some of which will be ADA compatible, and
- Removal of old infrastructure (pole barn and fencing), and replacement with new public facilities, such as interpretive signage and picnic kiosks.

Implementation the Proposed Action would result in no significant environmental impacts. This determination is supported by the following factors:

1. **Agriculture.** The proposed action would convert Prime Farmland to non-agriculture uses. However, the site is located within a rapidly urbanizing zone of Fresno County. The current agriculture use is seasonal livestock grazing. Livestock grazing would continue however it would occur under different management goals. Therefore this is not a significant impact.
2. **Air Quality.** The proposed action would create short-term effects on air quality in the form of dust and exhaust odors from construction activities. However these impacts are of a short duration and will be minimized by implementation of control measures accepted by the San Joaquin Valley United Air Pollution Control District. Therefore this is not a significant impact.

3. **Biological and Wildlife Resources.** Implementing the proposed action may affect valley elderberry bushes (*Sambucus spp.*), host plant of the valley elderberry long-horned beetle (*Desmocerus californicus dimorphus*). Reclamation has concluded consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. A determination of a not likely to adversely affect was made. Therefore this is not a significant impact.
4. **Cultural Resources.** A cultural resource survey was conducted. A previously recorded site was relocated and three previously unidentified resources were located. However the State Historic Preservation Office has determined that these sites are not eligible for listing in the National register of Historic Places and has determined that the proposed action would have no effect on cultural resource.
5. **Geology.** Implementation of the proposed action would not affect geological resources. Therefore this is not a significant impact.
6. **Hazardous Material.** The proposed action would not involve the routine transport, use or disposal of hazardous material. Therefore this is not a significant impact.
7. **Hydrology and Water Quality.** Implementing the proposed action would not increase sedimentation or erosion, increase runoff or alter peak flows. Therefore this is not a significant impact.
8. **Land Use.** Implementing the proposed action is consistent with the Fresno County General Plan. Therefore this is not a significant impact.
9. **Mineral Resource.** The proposed action would not physically preclude the future recovery of mineral resources. Therefore this is not a significant impact.
10. **Noise.** During construction activities there would be short durations of noise levels from the operation of graders, scrapers, trucks and backhoes. Installation of a visual berm within the ranch boundary and adjacent to a mobile home park would mitigate the short duration and day time occurrence of noise from construction and reduce noise to less than 80 dBA. Therefore this is not a significant impact.
11. **Population Housing.** The proposed action does not involve the construction of new homes, the extension of existing infrastructure or displacement of existing housing. Therefore this is not a significant impact.
12. **Public Services.** There would be no significant impacts to public services.
13. **Recreation.** There would be no expansion or modification of the existing Woodward Park facilities. Recreation opportunities would only improve. Therefore this is not a significant impact.
14. **Traffic and Transportation.** Use of Jensen Ranch after the implementation of the proposed action could increase visitor use above 75 people per day. This is

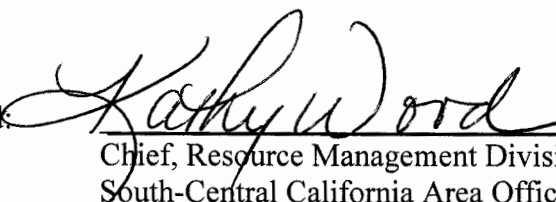
consistent with existing public transportation plans. Therefore this is not a significant impact.

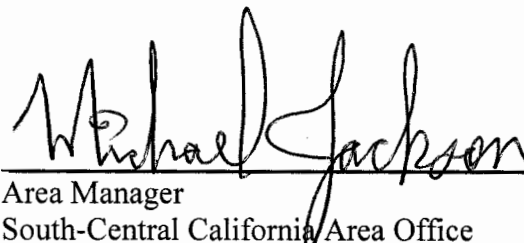
15. **Utilities and Services.** Some storm water from the DK drainage area channel would be diverted. However this is consistent with the existing DK drainage area and channel infrastructure. Therefore this is not a significant impact.
16. **Indian Trust Assets.** There are no Indian Trust Assets on the Jensen Ranch. Therefore this is not a significant impact.
17. **Environmental Justice.** Implementation of the proposed action would not significantly alter employment opportunities, housing availability, human health, or otherwise have a disproportionately high adverse to minority of impoverished communities.

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For the

Proposed Jensen River Ranch Habitat Enhancement  
And  
Public Access Plan

Recommended:  4/16/04  
Chief, Resource Management Division Date  
South-Central California Area Office

Approved:  4/19/04  
Area Manager Date  
South-Central California Area Office