

reimbursable portion of construction costs of SOD modifications to Deer Creek Dam. Contract was executed April 25, 2003.

Great Plains Region

Bureau of Reclamation, PO Box 36900, Federal Building, 316 North 26th Street, Billings, Montana 59107-6900, telephone 406-247-7790.

New contract actions:

46. Town of Deaver, Shoshone Project, Wyoming: Negotiate a long-term contract for up to 475 acre-feet of irrigation water from the two drains below Deaver Reservoir.

47. Tom Green County Water Control and Improvement District No. 1, San Angelo Project, Texas: The District has requested deferment of its 2003 repayment obligation. A basis of negotiation has been prepared to amend contract No. 14-06-500-369. A public notice has been published in the San Angelo Times.

Modified contract actions:

19. Savage ID, P-SMBP, Montana: The District is currently seeking title transfer. The contract is subject to renewal pending the outcome of the title transfer process. The final version of a 5-year interim contract has been sent to the District for signature. The District has requested information concerning renewal of the long-term contract.

24. Belle Fourche ID, Belle Fourche Project, South Dakota: Belle Fourche ID has requested a \$25,000 reduction in construction repayment. The contract amendment has been sent to the District for signature.

40. Clayton and Debbie Fulfer (Individual), P-SMBP, Boysen Unit, Wyoming: Renewal of long-term contract for up to 15 acre-feet of supplemental irrigation water to service 5.72 acres.

Discontinued contract action:

44. Frenchman-Cambridge ID, Frenchman Unit, P-SMBP, Nebraska: Proposed contract amendment for deferment of annual payment due to severe drought.

Completed contract actions:

27. Milk River Project, Montana: City of Harlem water service contract expired in December 2002. Initiating negotiations for renewal of a water service contract for an annual supply of raw water for domestic use from the Milk River not to exceed 500 acre-feet. Contract was executed May 22, 2003.

28. Lower Marias Unit, P-SMBP, Montana: Town of Chester water service contract expired in December 2002. Initiating negotiations for renewal of a long-term water service contract for an annual supply of raw water for domestic use from Tiber Reservoir not to exceed

500 acre-feet. Contract was executed May 27, 2003.

37. Chippewa Cree Tribe (Tribe), Rocky Boy's Indian Reservation, Montana: Pursuant to Title II, section 201(a)(2), of the Rocky Boy's Indian Reserved Water Rights Settlement and Water Supply Enhancement Act of 1999 (Pub. L. 106-163), Reclamation is negotiating to allocate 10,000 acre-feet per year of stored water in Lake Elwell. Contract was executed March 6, 2003.

41. Midvale ID, P-SMBP, Riverton Unit, Wyoming: Negotiations of a SOD Program contract for modification of Bull Lake Dam. An agreement was executed February 13, 2003.

Dated: June 23, 2003.

Wayne O. Deason,

Acting Director, Program and Policy Services.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

Bureau of Reclamation

[DES 03-43]

Lower Santa Ynez River Fish Management Plan and Cachuma Project Biological Opinion for Southern Steelhead Trout, Santa Barbara County, CA

AGENCY: Bureau of Reclamation, Interior.

ACTION: Notice of availability of the draft environmental impact statement/ environmental impact report (EIS/EIR).

SUMMARY: In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) has prepared a Draft EIS/EIR for the Lower Santa Ynez River Fish Management Plan (Plan) and Cachuma Project Biological Opinion (Opinion) for Southern Steelhead Trout. The Plan and Opinion include various flow and non-flow measures to be implemented by Reclamation and the Cachuma Project Member Units to protect and enhance habitat for the endangered southern steelhead trout along the Santa Ynez River downstream of Bradbury Dam.

DATES: Written comments on the Draft EIS/EIR will be accepted for 45 days following the date the Environmental Protection Agency publishes the Notice of Availability of the Draft EIS/EIR in the **Federal Register**, anticipated to occur in April 2003.

ADDRESSES: Written comments should be sent or hand-delivered to: David Young, Bureau of Reclamation, South-Central California Area Office, 1243 N Street, Fresno, California, 93721, phone:

559-487-5127. Comments submitted by electronic mail should be sent to: dkyoung@mp.usbr.gov. Please include "Cachuma EIS/EIR" and your name and return address in the text of the message.

Copies of the Draft EIS/EIR for the Plan and Opinion are available in the South-Central California Area Field Office at the above address, or at the Cachuma Operation and Maintenance Board Office, 3301 Laurel Canyon Road, Santa Barbara, California, 93105, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

David Young, Bureau of Reclamation, at the above address, or at 559-487-5127.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Cachuma Project consists of Bradbury Dam, Cachuma Lake, and various water conveyance facilities. The dam impounds water along the Santa Ynez River in northern Santa Barbara County. Water is provided to the Cachuma Project Member Units for irrigation, domestic, and municipal and industrial water uses. The current Member Units consist of the City of Santa Barbara, Goleta Water District, Montecito Water District, Carpinteria Valley Water District, and the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District—Improvement District #1. Reclamation owns all project facilities and operates Bradbury Dam. Operation and maintenance of the Cachuma Project facilities, other than Bradbury Dam, was transferred in 1956 to the Member Units who formed Cachuma Operation and Maintenance Board (COMB) to carry out these responsibilities.

In August 1997, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) designated the anadromous steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) of the Southern Evolutionarily Significant Unit (ESU), which includes the lower Santa Ynez River below Bradbury Dam, as an endangered species under the Federal Endangered Species Act. In April 1999, Reclamation requested initiation of consultation with NMFS regarding ongoing operations of the Cachuma Project under the provisions of Section 7 of the Federal Endangered Species Act. Reclamation submitted a Biological Assessment (BA) to NMFS in 1999. The proposed actions described in the BA are designed to improve the availability and quality of habitat for the steelhead in the lower river. NMFS issued a final Opinion in September 2000. The Opinion concluded that the proposed actions described in the BA would not jeopardize the continued existence of the anadromous steelhead of the Southern ESU, nor destroy or adversely