
US DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Recycled Water Irrigation Pipeline to Stone Ranch, Conservation Easement Modification – Nederend Property (NRCS Easement #66-9104-09-00X7C), Kings County, CA

AGENCY: Natural Resources Conservation Service, USDA.

ACTION: Notice of Availability of Finding of No Significant Impact.

SUMMARY: Pursuant to Section 102[2][c] of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations [40 CFR Part 1500], and the Natural Resources Conservation Service Regulations [7 CFR Part 650], NRCS gives notice that an environmental impact statement is not being prepared for the easement boundary modification of the Nederend Conservation Easement (6691040900X7C), Kings County, CA. The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is adopting the Environmental Assessment (EA), prepared in September 2018, for the modification of the Nederend Wetlands Reserve Program (WRP), Agricultural Conservation Easement Program – Wetland Reserve Easement (ACEP-WRE), Kings County, CA.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Single copies of the EA may be obtained by contacting Dean Kwasny, Easement Program Specialist, USDA-NRCS, 430 G Street, Davis, CA 95616, (530) 792-5648. A hard copy of the EA can be viewed at the office of the USDA, 430 G Street, Davis, CA 95616. The EA be viewed at the following web address:

<https://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/main/ca/newsroom/pnotice/>

Written comments on the EA/FONSI should be submitted to Dean Kwasny within 30 days.

EFFECTIVE DATE: October 4, 2018

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The environmental assessment of this federally assisted action indicates that the project will not cause significant local, regional, or national impacts on the environment. In addition, NRCS finds that the modification of the WRP, ACEP-WRE easement will not result in a significant impact on the quality of the human environment, particularly when focusing on the special environmental concerns identified in the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). Therefore, NRCS has prepared a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) in compliance with NEPA, as amended, and gives notice that an environmental impact statement is not being prepared.

The sponsoring local organization, the City of Lemoore and Leprino Foods Company, agrees with carrying forward the proposed project of easement boundary modification. The purposes of the proposed action is to establish a right-of-way to allow for the installation and maintenance of a 24" low-pressure recycled agriculture irrigation water pipeline through a 3.3 acre portion of the NRCS conservation easement. Water from the pipeline will be used for irrigation of lands on the Stone Ranch – a private agricultural operation located to the north of the conservation easement. The pipeline will be installed under a north-south running roadway and an east-west-running stormwater drainage ditch that is within the boundary of the conservation easement.

This notice of a Finding of No Significant Impact has been forwarded to the appropriate State and Federal agencies and interested parties.

No administrative action on implementation of the proposed action will be taken until 30 days after the date of this notice.

Dated: October 4, 2018

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Carlos Suarez Acting for". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the last name "Suarez" being the most prominent part.

Carlos Suarez,

State Conservationist

Natural Resources Conservation Service