

**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Rural Development**

The Seal Rock Water District: Notice of Finding of No Significant Impact

AGENCY: Rural Utility Service (RUS), USDA

ACTION: Notice of Finding of No Significant Impact

SUMMARY: The RUS has made a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) with respect to a request for possible financing assistance to the Seal Rock Water District (District) for the construction of the District's new raw water intake Project located in Lincoln County, Oregon.

FURTHER INFORMATION: To obtain copies of the EA and FONSI, or for further information, contact: Michael Beyer, State Environmental Coordinator, (503) 414-3368 michael.beyer@or.usda.gov. The EA and FONSI are also available for public review at the District office.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The project is proposing to construct a new Raw Water Intake and Treatment Plant for the District. This new system will include: an intake structure on the southside of Beaver Creek with submersible pumps, raw water line from the intake structure to the treatment process facility, back-up power for the intake structure (mobile) and treatment plant (permanent), water treatment plant using membrane filtration, electrical building near the intake structure, along with a new 500,000 gallon welded steel reservoir to improve flow between tanks and better utilize the existing storage capacity:

- i. Intake Facility: The new Beaver Creek intake structure is located at 2.05 river mile and will be constructed into the natural landscape. The District's water rights on Beaver Creek allows up to 2.0 cubic feet per second (1.29 million gallons per day). The riparian area disturbed during construction will be restored per ODFW's Fish and Wildlife Habitat Mitigation Policy OAR 635-415.
- ii. Treatment: The water treatment facility will be located on District owned property located at the Makai Tank site. The treatment process will use a low-pressure membrane filtration system. The treatment facility will have the capacity to adequately treat the current and future flows within the 20-year planning period.
- iii. Raw Water Conveyance: The raw water pipeline will follow the alignment of South Beaver Creek Road to the intersection with North Beaver Creek Road. It will then follow North Beaver Creek Road to the west until it turns north through private property to the treatment plant site. The size and material is a 14-inch nominal high-density polyethylene (HDPE) pipe and is sized to meet the projected water flows within the 20 year planning horizon.

Alternatives considered by RUS and the District include: No action, action alternative (preferred alternative) and several alternatives. The alternatives are discussed in the District's *Environmental Report for Seal Rock Water District, Oregon: Beaver Creek Water Supply Project*, dated May 2017. The RUS has reviewed and approved the EA for the proposed project.

The availability of the EA for public review was announced via notice in the following newspaper(s): The Newport News Times on April 10, 2019 and again on April 17, 2019. A 14-day comment period was announced in the newspaper. The EA was also available for public review at the USDA Rural Development office, as well as, the District's office. No public comments were received.

Based on its EA, commitments made by RUS, and public comments received, RUS has concluded that the project would have no significant impact (or no impacts) to water quality, wetlands, floodplains, land use, aesthetics, transportation, or human health and safety.

The proposed project will have no adverse effect on resources listed or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. The Agency has also concluded that the proposed project is not likely to affect federally listed threatened and endangered species or designated critical habitat thereof. The proposed project would not disproportionately affect minority and/or low-income populations.

No other potential significant impacts resulting from the proposed project have been identified. Therefore, RUS has determined that this FONSI fulfills its obligations under the National Environmental Policy Act, as amended (42 U.S.C. 4321 et seq.), the Council on Environmental Quality Regulations (40 CFR §§ 1500-1508), and USDA Rural Development's Environmental Policies and Procedures (7 CFR Part 1970) for its action related to the project.

RUS is satisfied that the environmental impacts of the proposed project have been adequately addressed. RUS's federal action would not result in significant impacts to the quality of the human environment, and as such it will not prepare an Environmental Impact Statement for its action related to the proposed project.

Dated: April 26, 2019