will be able to do so.

identifying information from public
for us to withhold your personal
While you can request in your comment
be made publicly available at any time.
personal identifying information in your
Before including your name, address,

SUMMARY: The Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority propose to prepare a joint EIS/EIR to analyze the effects of water transfers from water agencies in northern California to water agencies south of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta) and in the San Francisco Bay Area. The EIS/EIR will address transfers of Central Valley Project (CVP) and non-CVP water

The EIS/EIR will identify potential selling parties in northern California, methods by which water could be made available for transfer, and maximum amounts of water available through each method. The EIS/EIR will also identify potential purchasing agencies south of the Delta and the proposed use of transfer water.

The EIS/EIR will investigate alternative transfer methods to make water available. Groundwater substitution and cropland idling have been frequent transfer mechanisms in the past and will be analyzed in the EIS/EIR. Groundwater substitution transfers occur when sellers forego diversion of their surface water supplies and pump an equivalent amount of groundwater as an alternative supply. The purchasing agency would receive the foregone surface water supply. The quantity of water available for transfer would account for potential stream flow losses as a result of groundwater-surface water interaction. Cropland idling would make water available for transfer that would have been used for agricultural irrigation without the transfer. Typically, the proceeds from the water transfer would pay farmers to idle land that they would have placed in production. Rice has been the crop idled most frequently in previous transfer programs.

Water transfers under the Proposed Action involving conveyance through the Delta would be implemented within the operational parameters of the Biological Opinions on the Continued Long-term Operations of the CVP/SWP and any other regulatory restrictions in place at the time of implementation of the water transfers. Current operational parameters applicable to the transfer water include:

- Conveyance of a maximum of 600,000 acre feet per year; and
- Use of the SWP’s Harvey O. Banks Pumping Plant and CVP’s C.W. “Bill” Jones Pumping Plant during July through September only.

The EIS/EIR is expected to analyze the adverse and beneficial effects of implementing water transfers on the following environmental resources: Surface water, water quality, groundwater, fisheries, vegetation and wildlife, special status species, geology and soils, land use, air quality, climate change, cultural resources, noise, recreation, energy, visual resources, socioeconomic, and Indian trust assets. The EIS/EIR will also evaluate environmental justice and cumulative impacts associated with the Long-Term Water Transfer Program.
Special Assistance for Public Meetings

If special assistance is required to participate in the scoping meeting, please contact Mr. Louis Moore at 916–978–5106 or via e-mail at wmoore@usbr.gov. Please contact Mr. Moore at least ten working days prior to the meeting. A telephone device for the hearing impaired (TDD) is available at 916–978–5608.

Public Disclosure

Before including your name, address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be publicly available at any time. While you can ask us, in your comment, to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.

Dated: October 12, 2010.

Anastasia T. Leigh,
Acting Regional Environmental Officer, Mid-Pacific Region.

[FR Doc. 2010–32583 Filed 12–27–10; 8:45 am]
BILLING CODE 4310–MN–P

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Reclamation

Hydropower Resource Assessment at Existing Reclamation Facilities—Draft Report

AGENCIES: Bureau of Reclamation, Interior.


SUMMARY: The Bureau of Reclamation is reopening the review period for the HRA for another 30 days from the date of publication of this Notice. The notice of availability of the HRA was published in the Federal Register on November 4, 2010 (75 FR 67993). The public review period was originally to end on December 6, 2010.


ADDRESSES: Send written comments or requests for copies to Mr. Michael Pulskamp, Bureau of Reclamation, Denver Federal Center, Bldg. 67, P.O. Box 25007, Denver, Colorado 80225, or e-mail to mpulskamp@usbr.gov. The Draft Report is also accessible from the following Web site: http://www.usbr.gov/power/.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Michael Pulskamp, 303–445–2931, mpulskamp@usbr.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The Administration is committed to increasing the generation of environmentally sustainable, affordable hydropower for our national electricity supplies. Reclamation has 476 dams and 8,116 miles of canals, and owns and operates 58 hydropower plants. On an annual basis, these plants produce an average of 40 billion kilowatt hours of electricity, enough to meet the entire electricity needs of over 9 million people on average, and provide the energy equivalent of more than 80 million barrels of crude oil or about 48.4 billion pounds of coal. Reclamation is the second largest producer of hydroelectric power in the United States, and is actively engaged in looking for opportunities to encourage development of additional hydropower capacity.

In March 2010 Reclamation signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Department of Energy and the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The MOU focuses on ways to increase renewable energy generation by focusing on development of sustainable, low impact, and small hydropower projects. The MOU committed Reclamation to produce an updated list of facilities and sites best suited for projects to increase sustainable hydropower generation by October 2010. The HRA provides information on potential hydropower development at existing Reclamation facilities that may warrant further study.

The Draft Report does not make any recommendations for development of the sites included in the report. Instead, it provides an inventory of hydropower potential at existing Reclamation sites using broad energy and economic criteria. Reclamation is not undertaking a new dam construction initiative with this study, and is focused on identifying the hydropower potential of Reclamation’s existing structures. This resource assessment level study does not take the place of a site by site feasibility study.

Public Disclosure

Before including your name, address, phone number, e-mail address, or other personal identifying information in your comment, you should be aware that your entire comment—including your personal identifying information—may be made publicly available at any time. While you can ask us, in your comment, to withhold your personal identifying information from public review, we cannot guarantee that we will be able to do so.


Michael R. Gabaldon,
Director, Technical Resources, Bureau of Reclamation.