



STATE ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT

Determination of Non-Significance

Date of issuance: 10/31/2023

Lead agency: Kittitas Reclamation District

Agency Contact: Urban Eberhart, krdooffice@fairpoint.net, (509) 925-6158

Project Name: Kittitas Reclamation District 2023 Tributary Supplementation Program – North Branch Canal 27.5 to 30.3 Canal Lining and Manastash Ridge Trail South Branch Canal Extension Safety Improvement Project

Description of proposal:

KRD proposes one canal lining project on the North Branch Canal (NBC) and one canal piping project on the South Branch Canal Extension (SBCE), both to be constructed November 2023-March 2024:

- The NBC lining project includes lining approximately 3 miles of earthen canal between Vantage Highway and Stevens Road. The Project would line the canal with concrete covered geomembrane, replace concrete turnout structures, install fencing on either side of the canal within the existing right-of-way and install approximately 400 feet of elk fence at the south end of the Project along Stevens Road near I-90.
- The SBCE piping project is a safety project intended to remove a water hazard by piping approximately 1,120 feet of the South Branch Canal Extension. The piping will be 30- to 42-inch diameter plastic pipe and will be buried with up to 12 inches of soil. The project also includes replacing two existing high energy drop chutes, a drainage swale along the southern side of the backfilled canal, incorporating a walking trail across the top of pipeline backfill, and adding a fence as a barrier to separate pedestrians on the trail from the adjacent existing operations and maintenance roadway.

Location of proposal: The NBC lining project is located along the eastern side of the Kittitas Valley, approximately 5 miles east of the town of Kittitas, Washington. The Project is located in Sections 2, 3, 11 and 17 of Township 17 North, Range 20 East, Willamette Meridian; S17, 20, 21, 28, 29, 33, and 43, T18N R20E. The Project lining will follow the existing canal alignment for a distance of approximately 3 miles from Vantage Highway at the north end of the Project to Stevens Road at the south end of the Project. Fencing will follow the canal starting at the Vantage Highway crossing and extending south to the Stevens Road crossing. The elk fencing

will be installed along Stevens Road between the KRD O&M road turnoff to the I-90 overpass.

SBCE: This segment of the Project is located along the southwest side of the Kittitas Valley near the trailhead for hiking Manastash Ridge, approximately 3.5 miles southwest of Ellensburg. The Project is located in S13, T17N, R17E and S18, T17N, R18E. The piping would follow the existing canal alignment.


Project Proponent: Kittitas Reclamation District
Urban Eberhart, SEPA Responsible Official
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The KRD has determined that this proposal will not have a probable significant adverse impact on the environment. We have reviewed the SEPA Environmental Checklist, and cultural resources findings and determined that an environmental impact statement is not required under RCW 43.21C.030(2)(c). This information is available upon request to the KRD.

This determination is based on the following findings and conclusions:

- This project is a modification to an existing delivery system and does not extend outside the existing developed KRD footprint.
- Best management practices will be used to prevent impacts to the natural environment during construction.
- The purpose of the project is to implement the goals and objectives of the Yakima Basin Integrated Plan by providing water conservation through prevention of infiltration loss.
- After completion, 100% of the saved water that would have been lost to seepage will be delivered to the Yakima River and through tributary supplementation to creeks, providing immediate instream benefits to the Yakima River basin and downstream water users.
- The project eliminates a water safety hazard near a popular trailhead.

This DNS is issued under WAC 197-11-340(2). The lead agency will not act on this proposal for 14 days from October 31, 2023. Written comments must be submitted no later than 5:00 PM on November 14, 2023, to the KRD c/o Urban Eberhart, PO Box 276, Ellensburg, WA 98926 or via email to krdooffice@fairpoint.net.

Signature 
(electronic signature or name of signor is sufficient)
Secretary Manager
Kittitas Reclamation District

Date October 31, 2023