

## **Notice of Availability of the Record of Decision for the Adoption of the Odessa Subarea Study Final Environmental Impact Statement**

**AGENCY:** Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA).

**ACTION:** Notice of Availability of Record of Decision (ROD).

**SUMMARY:** NRCS announces the availability of the agency's ROD to adopt the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS), "Odessa Subarea Special Study," prepared by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and the Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology), under the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) adoption provisions of the Council on Environmental Quality (40 CFR § 1506.3).

**ADDRESSES:** The complete text of the ROD and the FEIS can be viewed and downloaded from the project website at <https://www.ogwrp-programs.org/watershed-plan>.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Roylene Comes At Night, State Conservationist, Natural Resources Conservation Service, at [roylene.comes-at-night@usda.gov](mailto:roylene.comes-at-night@usda.gov) (509) 323-2900 or Jules Riley, Water Resource Planning Specialist, [jules.riley@usda.gov](mailto:jules.riley@usda.gov) (509) 507-0178. Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication should contact the USDA Target Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice).

**SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION:** Reclamation and Ecology completed the Odessa Subarea Special Study FEIS in 2012. The 2013 Amended ROD documented Reclamation's selection of Alternative 4A, identified in the FEIS, for implementation. To provide financial assistance to nonfederal partners, as appropriate and available, within the Odessa Subarea through its Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Program (Pub. L. 83-566), NRCS—Washington (NRCS-WA) needs to prepare a Watershed Plan-EIS to authorize funding for

Alternative 4A implementation.

Since the issuance of Reclamation's amended ROD in 2013, East Columbia Basin Irrigation District (the District) has partially or fully constructed some project elements of Alternative 4A as described in the FEIS. Furthermore, some Alternative 4A project elements analyzed in the FEIS are no longer needed because engineering design and available technology have progressed. Alternative 4A (2024) reflects the progress that the District and Reclamation have made, both on the ground and in design, on Alternative 4A as described in the FEIS. NRCS-WA reviewed the information and analyses contained in the FEIS and determined that the environmental consequences of Alternative 4A were previously adequately analyzed. NRCS-WA also determined that the project elements of Alternative 4A (2024) are similar in type and the effects similar or less in magnitude than those analyzed for Alternative 4A described in the FEIS. Therefore, NRCS-WA is issuing this decision to adopt the 2012 FEIS prepared by Reclamation and Ecology. This ROD documents that NRCS-WA selects the same preferred alternative, Alternative 4A, as that identified in Reclamation's and Ecology's 2012 FEIS. The NRCS-WA action is to implement Alternative 4A (2024), which will construct pump station and distributions systems that will deliver 164,000 acre-feet of new Columbia River diversions to 70,000 acres of lands.

No administrative action on implementation of the proposal will be taken until 30 days after the date of this publication in the **Federal Register**.

Signed this 22 day of May, 2024, in Spokane Valley, WA

ROYLENE COMES AT NIGHT  
State Conservationist

[This activity is listed in the Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance under 10.904, Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention, and is subject to the provisions of Executive Order 12372, which requires inter-government consultation with State and local officials].