

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Categorical Exclusion Checklist

BF Sisk Corrective Action Data Collection

CEC 12-084

Prepared by:



Chuck Sisk
Supervisory Natural Resources Specialist
South-Central California Area Office

Date: 11/29/12

Concurred by:



Lisa Carlson
Wildlife Biologist
South-Central California Area Office

Date: 11/29/12

Approved by:



for Michael Jackson
Area Manager
South-Central California Area Office

Date: 11/29/12



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
South-Central California Area Office

November 2012

Background

The Bureau of Reclamation Mid Pacific Region Safety of Dams Branch has requested that the Mid Pacific Region Geology Branch gather design data involving the B.F. Sisk Dam Corrective Action Project.

Purpose of the Proposed Action

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to obtain data to more accurately model the performance of the B. F. Sisk Dam during a seismic event.

Proposed Action

The Proposed Action would involve the boring of 28 test holes for the purpose of determining site specific test data involving the engineered fill of the B.F. Sisk Dam. All test holes would be located on the existing asphalt paved road on the dam crest. Three types of tests would be utilized including:

1. Cone Penetration Tests (CPT)-This would involve 18 test holes advanced to 150-feet of depth or until refusal is met. Seismic refraction soundings would be performed at each 5-foot depth interval, starting 20-feet below the crest. Water level data, if applicable, would be recorded in each CPT drill hole.
2. Standard Penetration Tests (SPT)-This would involve 4 test holes advanced to 125-feet of depth or until refusal is met. The SPT drill holes would be within 10-feet of the CPT holes. The SPT drill holes would be advanced using a combination of 6.25-inch inside diameter flight augers with dry core sampler.
3. Undisturbed Sample Drill Holes-This would involve 6 test holes advanced within 10-feet of the CPT holes located at similar Stations. The undisturbed drill holes would be advanced continuously sampling and collecting undisturbed samples every 2.5-feet of depth. All samples would be geologically logged and photographed.

Once excavated, the bore holes would be backfilled with bentonite to within one foot of the surface, drill cuttings would be tamped into place and the pavement would be repaired. A geologic report summarizing investigation activities and conditions encountered including all logs, material descriptions, test results, laboratory results, geologic maps and cross sections would be provided.

Environmental Commitments

Resource	Commitment
Biological Resources	<p>The following avoidance measures would be implemented by Reclamation and their representative(s) to avoid potential environmental consequences associated with the proposed Project. The No Effect determination for this project assumes the measures specified would be fully implemented.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> a. A preconstruction survey would be conducted by a qualified biologist no less than 14 and no more than 30 days prior to any construction activities on the project site, for the San Joaquin kit fox, its sign and burrows. If no kit foxes, kit fox sign or burrows are found during the survey, a letter report documenting survey methods and findings will be submitted to Reclamation at least 5 days before construction. If kit foxes, kit fox sign or burrows are found during the survey, the action shall not commence until Reclamation's approval has been received. b. All equipment will be maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's directions so there will be no leaks of fluids such as gasoline, oils, or solvents. c. If any listed species are observed in the Action Area, the project will be rescheduled to avoid all impacts to species.

Exclusion Category

516 DM 14.5 Categorical Exclusions:

B. Planning Activities.

Data collection studies that involve test excavations for cultural resources investigations or test pitting, drilling, or seismic investigations for geologic exploration purposes where the impacts will be localized.

D. Operation and Maintenance Activities.

Minor safety of dams construction activities where the work is confined to the dam, abutment areas, or appurtenant features, and where no major change in reservoir or downstream operation is anticipated as a result of the construction activities.

Evaluation of Criteria for Categorical Exclusion:

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. This action would have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment (40 CFR 1502.3). | No <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncertain <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 2. This action would have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources (NEPA Section 102(2)(E) and 43 CFR 46.215(c)). | No <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncertain <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. This action would have significant impacts on public health or safety (43 CFR 46.215(a)). | No <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncertain <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. This action would have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographical characteristics as historic or cultural resources; parks, recreation, and refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (EO 11990); flood plains (EO 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas (43 CFR 46.215 (b)). | No <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncertain <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. This action would have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks (43 CFR 46.215(d)). | No <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncertain <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 6. This action would establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects (43 CFR 46.215 (e)). | No <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncertain <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. This action would have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects (43 CFR 46.215 (f)). | No <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncertain <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 8. This action would have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by Reclamation (LND 02-01) (43 CFR 46.215 (g)). | No <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncertain <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 9. This action would have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated critical habitat for these species (43 CFR 46.215 (h)). | No <input type="checkbox"/> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncertain <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> |

- 10. This action would violate a Federal, tribal, State, or local law or requirement imposed for protection of the environment (43 CFR 46.215 (i)). No Uncertain Yes
- 11. This action would affect ITAs (512 DM 2, Policy Memorandum dated December 15, 1993). No Uncertain Yes
- 12. This action would have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (EO 12898) (43 CFR 46.215 (j)). No Uncertain Yes
- 13. This action would limit access to, and ceremonial use of, Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (EO 13007, 43 CFR 46.215 (k), and 512 DM 3)). No Uncertain Yes
- 14. This action would contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act, EO 13112, and 43 CFR 46.215 (l)). No Uncertain Yes

Regional Archeologist concurred with Item 8. Their determination has placed in the project file.

ITA Designee concurred with Item 11. Their determination has been placed in the project file.

Area Office Biologist concurred with Item 9. Their determination has been placed in the project file.