

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Categorical Exclusion Checklist

Elkhorn Slough Coastal Training Program for California Tiger Salamander Surveys

CEC 13-016

Prepared by:



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

Date: 3/27/13

Concurred by:



Shauna McDonald
Wildlife Biologist
South-Central California Area Office

Date: 3/27/13

Approved by:



Michael Jackson
Area Manager
South-Central California Area Office

Date: 3/27/13



Background

Instructors with the Elkhorn Slough Coastal Training Program will present a workshop on the biology and conservation of the California tiger salamander (CTS). The workshop will address:

- The geographic distribution of CTS and hybrid populations;
- Aquatic habitats and their management;
- Individual organism movement patterns;
- Population and community ecology;
- Survey methods;
- Methods for assessing potential project impacts and approaches for avoidance and minimization.

Purpose and Need for Action

CTS habitat is readily accessible along sections of the Madera and Friant-Kern Canals. There is a need to train California Department of Fish and Wildlife personnel in CTS survey techniques in order to protect this endangered species. The purpose of the Proposed Action is to grant access to workshop participants on Bureau of Reclamation right of way along the Madera and Friant-Kern Canals.

Proposed Action

The workshop consists of a classroom session and enrollment in one of two field training sessions, either April 22 or April 23, 2013. Only three to six pools would actually be visited and no more than 20 participants would attend each day. Participants would travel to the sites in up to ten personal vehicles. Instructors would demonstrate survey techniques and guide workshop participants in surveying CTS larvae using dip and seine nets. The instructors are fully permitted by State and Federal agencies.

Environmental Commitments

Reclamation shall implement the following environmental protection measures:

Resource	Protection Measure
Biological Resources	All work would be compliant with the 10(a)(1)(A) "recovery permit" issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service).
Land Use	All work would occur within Bureau of Reclamation right of way along the Madera and Friant-Kern Canals.

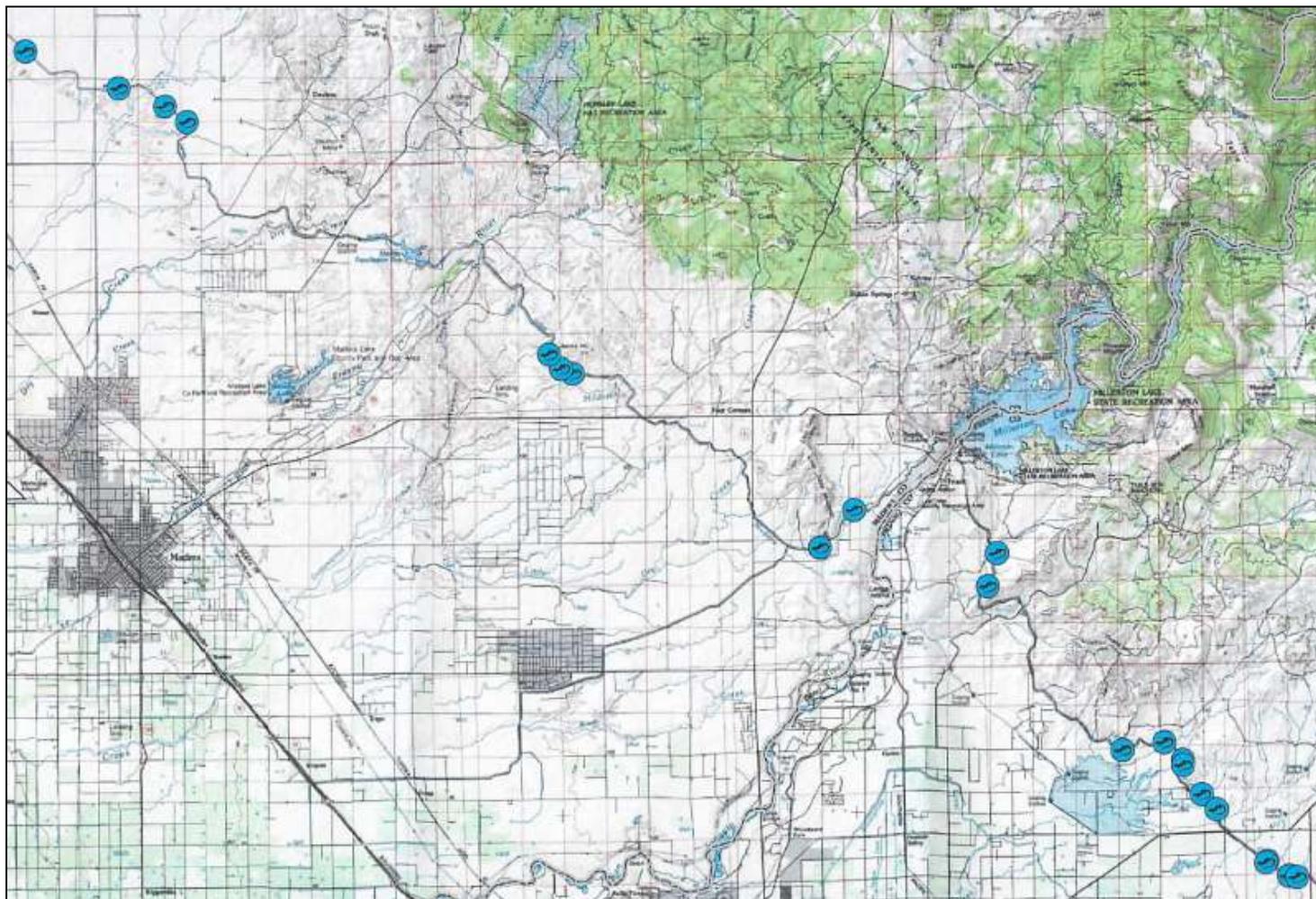
Environmental consequences for resource areas assume the measures specified would be fully implemented.

Exclusion Category

516 DM 14.5 Categorical Exclusions.

D. Operation and Maintenance Activities. (10) Issuance of permits, licenses, easements, and crossing agreements which provide right-of-way over Bureau lands where the action does not allow for or lead to a major public or private action.

Figure 1 Potential Training Sites on the Madera and Friant-Kern Canals



Evaluation of Criteria for Categorical Exclusion:

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|---|--|
| 1. This action would have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment (40 CFR 1502.3). | No <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 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 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 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 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 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 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 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncertain <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> |

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|--|----|-------------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------|-----|--------------------------|
| 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 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain | <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 11. This action would affect ITAs (512 DM 2, Policy Memorandum dated December 15, 1993). | No | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain | <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 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 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain | <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 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 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain | <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 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 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain | <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Regional Archeologist concurred with Item 8. Their determination has been attached.

ITA Designee concurred with Item 11. Their determination has been attached.

Area Office biologist concurred with Item 9. Their determination has been placed in the project folder.

APPENDIX A Cultural Resource Determination

United States Department of the Interior



BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Mid-Pacific Regional Office
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, California 95825-1898

IN REPLY
REFER TO:
MP-153
ENV-3.00

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL ONLY

March 19 2013
MEMORANDUM

To: Charles Siek
SCAO

From: Scott Williams
Archaeologist – Division of Environmental Affairs

Subject: Elkhorn Slough Coastal Training Program for California Tiger Salamander Surveys (13-SCAO-122)

Charles

The proposed undertaking to grant access to workshop participants on Bureau of Reclamation right of way along the Madera and Friant-Kern Canals for training program for California Tiger Salamander Surveys has no potential to cause effects to historic properties pursuant to the Section 106 implementing regulations at 36 CFR Part 800.3(a)(1). Instructors with the Elkhorn Slough Coastal Training Program will present a workshop on the biology and conservation of the California tiger salamander habitat along sections of the Madera and Friant-Kern Canals. Instructors would demonstrate survey techniques and guide workshop participants in surveying California Tiger Salamander larvae using dip and seine nets. The workshop consists of a classroom session and enrollment in one of two field training sessions, either April 25 or April 26, 2013. Only three to six pools would actually be visited and no more than 20 participants would attend each day.

I concur with Item 8 of the CEC 13-016, for this action.

This concludes the Section 106 review process. Please retain a copy of this memo with the administrative record for this action. If the project activities change or circumstances are altered after this review, there may be additional Section 106 review responsibilities up to and including consultation with the California State Historic Preservation Officer.'

APPENDIX B Indian Trust Asset DeterminationPatricia Rivera privera@usbr.gov

3/26/13

Chuck,

I reviewed the proposed action to grant access to workshop participants attending the Elkhorn Slough Coastal Training Program for California Tiger Salamander Surveys a right of way along the Madera and Friant-Kern Canals on Bureau of Reclamation. Instructors would demonstrate survey techniques and guide workshop participants in surveying California Tiger Salamander larvae using dip and seine nets. The workshop consists of a classroom session and enrollment in one of two field training sessions, either April 25 or April 26, 2013. Only three to six pools would actually be visited and no more than 20 participants would attend each day. Participants would travel to the sites in up to ten personal vehicles. The instructors are fully permitted by

The proposed action does not have a potential to affect Indian Trust Assets.