

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Categorical Exclusion Checklist

Westlands Water District Modification at Coalinga Canal MP 7.04L

CEC 13-010

Prepared by:  Date: 5/21/13
Chuck Siek
Supervisory Natural Resources Specialist
South-Central California Area Office

Concurred by: See Attachment Date: See Attachment
Archaeologist/Architectural Historian
Mid-Pacific Regional Office

Concurred by: See Attachment Date: See Attachment
Native American Affairs Specialist
Mid-Pacific Regional Office

Concurred by:  Date: 5/21/2013
Lisa Carlson
Wildlife Biologist
South-Central California Area Office

Approved by:  Date: 6/24/2013
Michael Jackson
Area Manager
South-Central California Area Office



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

May, 2013

Background

Westlands Water District (WWD) has an existing license with the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) which includes a temporary diversion structure located at approximately milepost 7.04L on the Coalinga Canal southwest of the Interstate 5/State Highway 198 interchange in Fresno County. WWD has requested permission to modify the diversion structure. The proposed action would extend from Reclamation right of way to private property east of Sonoma Avenue. Reclamation's Lands Division anticipates approval of these modifications under this existing license following Reclamation's operational and environmental impact reviews.

Purpose and Need for Action

There is a need to modify the existing diversion structure because it is at risk for failure due to its age. No other diversion structures are available to deliver water to irrigated land served by this diversion structure. In addition, there is a need to relocate the diversion structure to the canal O&M road as is practice along the rest of the Coalinga canal. Finally there is a need to replace the existing diesel powered booster pump with an electric pump to reduce emissions.

Proposed Action

The proposed modifications include the replacement/relocation of existing pipes and metering components as well as the replacement/relocation of the existing booster pump.

Small excavation equipment would be used to dig on the outside edge of the paved service road to locate the existing pipe. Once the pipe is located it would be cut using either an acetylene torch or electric cutting wheel, powered by a portable generator. The existing pipe under the service road would be filled with a mortar grout to prevent future collapse. The existing pipe east of the paved road would be excavated and removed. Once all of the existing piping has been filled and removed, excavation would begin for the new piping and the pad for the new pump and metering section. This would be accomplished with small equipment including backhoes, ½ ton to ¾ ton trucks, a boom truck, and hand tools.

Pipe would be laid in the new trenches and the forms for the new pad would be completed at the end of the first week. Beginning the second week, concrete would be poured and once cured, the pump, suction pipe, and wood supports would be placed using the boom truck.

Above ground pipes would be field fit and welded on site. The majority of the underground pipe would already be in place up to the end point of required concrete encasement. The remainder of the pipe would be installed and the trench backfilled and compacted.

Construction is anticipated to take one month and there may be up to 6 workers on site at any time. The project site would be restored to pre-construction condition and all trash and remaining materials would be picked up and removed from the job site.

Environmental Commitments

Reclamation shall implement the following environmental protection measures:

Resource	Protection Measure
Biological Resources	To prevent the inadvertent entrapment of wildlife during construction, all excavated, steep-walled holes or trenches shall be covered at the close of each working day by plywood or similar materials. If the holes or trenches cannot be closed, one or more escape ramps constructed of earthen-fill or wooden planks with a slope of 2:1 shall be installed. Before such holes or trenches are filled, they will be thoroughly inspected for trapped animals. If at any time wildlife is found trapped or injured, Reclamation must be contacted immediately.
	All construction pipes, culverts, or similar structures that are stored at the construction site for one or more overnight periods should be thoroughly inspected for animals before the pipe is subsequently buried, capped, or otherwise used or moved in any way. If a special-status species is discovered inside a pipe, that section of pipe should not be moved until Reclamation has consulted with the Service.
	If a burrowing owl is observed at the construction site at any time during construction, a temporary non-disturbance buffer shall be created to establish a safe area for the animal until it leaves the construction area at its own volition or until an appropriate buffer distance is established consistent with Reclamation's guidance. Construction sites in areas that are excavated will remain active and disturbed to ensure that it is highly unlikely that the burrowing owl will return during construction.
	Prior to the start of any ground-disturbing activities associated with the project, the person in charge of work shall survey the project area for burrows. If burrows are found in the project area, Reclamation shall be contacted for further guidance, and work shall not proceed until Reclamation has granted permission to proceed.
	If any listed species are observed in the project area, Reclamation will be notified and the project will be rescheduled or postponed to avoid all impacts to species.
	A 20-mile per hour speed limit will be required on unpaved roads within listed species habitats.
	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.
	To eliminate an attraction to predators, all food-related trash items such as wrappers, cans, bottles, and food scraps will be disposed of in closed containers; these containers will be removed at least once every day from the entire project site.
Water Quality	During construction hazardous materials such as fuel, oil and paint may be on site. WWD and its contractor would be required to comply with all Federal, state and local laws, during and after construction pertaining to the use, storage, transportation and disposal of any hazardous material.
Cultural Resources	In the event that cultural resources or human remains are identified during the implementation of this project there may be additional considerations pursuant to Section 106 of the NHPA. If inadvertent discoveries of cultural resources or human remains occur during project implementation, work shall temporarily stop and Reclamation cultural resources staff shall be contacted immediately.

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.

(1) Maintenance, rehabilitation, and replacement of existing facilities which may involve a minor change in size, location, and/or operation.

C. Project Implementation Activities.

(3) Minor construction activities associated with authorized projects which correct unsatisfactory environmental conditions or which merely augment or supplement, or are enclosed within existing facilities.

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 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 been attached.

The Area Office biologist concurred with Item 9. Their determination is in the project folder.

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

Westlands Water District Modification at Coalinga Canal MP 7.04L

(13-010)

**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

May 15, 2013
MEMORANDUM

To: Charles Siek
Supervisory Natural Resource Specialist – South-Central California Area Office

From: William Soule
Archaeologist – Division of Environmental Affairs

Subject: 13-SCAO-105 Westlands Water District Modification at Coalinga Canal Mile Post 7.04L

This proposed undertaking by Reclamation is the granting of permission to the Westlands Water District (WWD) to modify an existing temporary diversion structure at Coalinga Canal (CC) Mile Post (MP) 7.04L. This is the type of undertaking that was determined to have the potential to cause effects to historic properties pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 regulations codified at 36 CFR Part 800. As a result of this determination Reclamation implemented the steps in the Section 106 process as outlined at 36 CFR § 800.3 to § 800.6. Reclamation owns the CC, reaches 1 and 2 of which are operated by the WWD.

Reclamation will grant WWD permission to modify the existing temporary diversion facility at MP 7.04L, which is at risk of failure due to age. The WWD has proposed to excavate into the CC east bank service road to expose and decommission (in place) a failed diversion pipe, excavate a trench to install a new buried diversion pipe, and install a new pump and metering station located on both Reclamation and private lands. The area of potential effects (APE) was determined to consist of an area of 1.3 acres located in the SW¹/₄ of Section 28, the SE¹/₄ of Section 29, the NE¹/₄ of Section 32, and the NW¹/₄ of Section 33; T. 19 S., R. 16 E., Mr. Diablo Baseline and Meridian, on the Gujarral Hills U.S. Geological Survey quadrangle map (1971).

Historic property identification efforts included a review of Reclamation's report and site record database for the Coalinga Canal and a field survey of the project APE by a Reclamation archaeologist.

Reclamation sent letters to the Table Mountain Rancheria, the Santa Rosa Rancheria Tachi-Yokut Tribe, the Picayune Rancheria of Chukchansi Indians, the North Fork Rancheria of Mono Indians, the Cold Springs Rancheria of Mono Indians, and the Big Sandy Rancheria of Mono Indians; requesting their assistance in identifying sites of religious and cultural significance and inviting them to participate in the Section 106 process. The Table Mountain Rancheria responded in a letter of April 08, 2013, noting that the project is located outside of their area of interest. The Santa Rosa Rancheria Tachi Yokuts Tribe responded in an email dated April 03, 2013, stating that they did not have direct concerns at this time but wished to be contacted in the event of any discovery during project construction.

In a letter dated April 23, 2013, Reclamation initiated consultation with the California State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) inviting the SHPO's comments on our delineation of an APE and the appropriateness of our identification efforts. Reclamation also requested the SHPO's concurrence that our finding of no historic properties affected was appropriate pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.4(d)(1). In a letter dated May 07, 2013, the SHPO responded, concurring with our finding of effect for this undertaking.

This memorandum is intended to convey the completion of the NHPA Section 106 process. Please retain a copy in the administrative record for this action. Should changes be made to this project, additional Section 106 review, possibly including further consultation with the SHPO, may be necessary. Thank you for providing the opportunity to comment.

Bill

William E. Soule, M.A., Archaeologist
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CC: Cultural Resources Branch (MP-153), Anastasia Leigh – Regional Environmental Officer (MP-150)

Westlands Water District Modification at Coalinga Canal MP 7.04L

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**Appendix B
Indian Trust Asset Determination**

RIVERA, PATRICIA

to me, Kristi

Chuck,

I reviewed the proposed action to grant permission to the Westlands Water District to modify the existing temporary diversion facility. The proposed action would extend from Reclamation right of way to private property east of Sonoma Avenue. Reclamation's Lands Division anticipates approval of these modifications under this existing License following Reclamation's operational and environmental impact reviews. A full project description is available in the attached draft Cat Exclusion.

Westlands Water District's has an existing License with Reclamation which includes a temporary diversion structure located at approximately MP 7.04L on the Coalinga Canal southwest of the Interstate 5/State Highway 198 interchange in Fresno County.

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

Patricia Rivera
Native American Affairs Program Manager
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