

# RECLAMATION

*Managing Water in the West*

## Categorical Exclusion Checklist

# San Luis Drain Autosampler Shelter

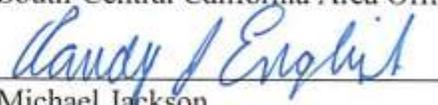
CEC 13-020

Prepared by:  Date: 6/27/13  
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: 6-27-13  
Jennifer Lewis  
Wildlife Biologist  
South-Central California Area Office

Approved by: for  Date: 6/28/13  
Michael Jackson  
Area Manager  
South-Central California Area Office

## Background

The Grassland Bypass Project (GBP) located in both Fresno County and Merced County uses the federal San Luis Drain to convey agricultural drain water to Mud Slough. The GBP has improved water quality in the lower San Joaquin River through the control and reduction of agricultural drain water. This discharge is regulated by the Regional Water Quality Control Board and the 2009 Agreement for Continued Use of the San Luis Drain between the United States and the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority.

There are several monitoring stations located within the GBP designed to evaluate the effects of the GBP on the San Luis Drain, Mud Slough, Grassland wetland supply channels, and the San Joaquin River.

## Purpose and Need for Action

A monitoring station near Kesterson Reservoir known as Site B is located 0.7 miles northwest of Gun Club Road on the service road of the San Luis Drain. The dirt road used to access the monitoring station and adjacent refuges is a narrow levee that is only wide enough for one vehicle. The dirt road is unsafe for passing and backing and turns are not possible. Road conditions are worsened in winter when rain makes the road muddy and rutted.

The purpose of the proposed action is to support the safe year-round collection of water quality data by relocating the monitoring station.

## Proposed Action

The proposed action would construct a new shelter to house autosamplers and supplies at the Gun Club Road crossing near the Kesterson Reservoir in Merced County (Figure 1). The proposed action location is a highly disturbed levee and road crossing. The proposed action would include:

- Installation of a concrete pad measuring approximately 67-inches x 60-inches;
- Installation of a “Plasti-Fab” insulated fiberglass shelter (61-inches x 54-inches) on the concrete pad;
- Installation of a solar array and 12-volt battery to power the monitoring station;
- Use of the existing “Aquamatic” autosamplers as the main samplers and the Sigma 900 MAX autosampler as the back-up sampler.

All work would be conducted by Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) staff with federal funds.

## Environmental Commitments

Reclamation would implement the following environmental commitments to avoid any environmental consequences associated with the Proposed Action (Table 1). Environmental consequences for resource areas assume the measures specified would be fully implemented.

**Table 1 Environmental Commitments**

Resource	Protection Measure
Biological Resources	Work shall be restricted to daylight hours
	All vehicles shall maintain the posted speed limit.
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.

## Exclusion Category

516 DM 14.5 C (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.

Three potential sites are considered at this time (A, B and C Figure 1). The exact location will be determined with the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Authority to avoid obstructing maintenance or other activities that may take place along the bridge/check structure.

**Figure 1 Potential Proposed Action sites**



## 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"/> |

## Evaluation of Criteria for Categorical Exclusion:

- |  |    |                                     |           |                          |     |                          |
|--|----|-------------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------|-----|--------------------------|
| 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.

Project Biologist concurred with Item 9. Their determination is on file.

# Attachment A Cultural Resources Determination



IN REPLY  
REFER TO:  
MP-153  
ENV-3.00

## United States Department of the Interior

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

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL ONLY

June 24, 2013  
MEMORANDUM

To: Chuck Siek  
Supervisory Natural Resources Specialist – South Central California Area Office

From: BranDee Bruce /S/  
Architectural Historian – Division of Environmental Affairs

Subject: 13-SCAO-131: National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Section 106 Compliance for Construction of the San Luis Drain Autosampler Station, on San Luis Drain (SLD), Merced County, California

The proposed undertaking to install a new autosampler station on the bank of the SLD was determined to be the type of action that has the potential to cause effects to historic properties pursuant to 36 CFR §800.3 of the Section 106 implementing regulations. As a result of this determination, Reclamation implemented the steps in the Section 106 process as outlined at §800.3 to §800.6.

The proposed construction of a new monitoring station to house existing autosamplers and supplies includes the installation of a concrete pad measuring approximately 67 inches by 60 inches, with a vertical depth of less than 1 foot; and installation of a Plasti-Fab insulated fiberglass shelter (61 inches by 54 inches) on the concrete pad; and installation of a solar array and 12 volt battery to power the monitoring station. All work would be conducted by Reclamation staff with Federal funds.

Reclamation conducted historic property identification efforts and identified the SLD, constructed from 1968-1975, as the only cultural resource within the area of potential effect for this undertaking. The SLD is less than 50 years of age, but has been identified by Reclamation as having potential significance as a component of the Central Valley Project (CVP) and, for the purposes of this project, will be treated as eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (National Register) under Criterion A, for its contribution to the development of agriculture and irrigation in California. Reclamation applied the criteria of adverse effect and found no adverse effects to historic properties pursuant to 36 CFR §800.5(b) is appropriate for this undertaking.

Reclamation initiated consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) on May 17, 2013 by sending a consultation package for this undertaking. In a letter dated June 14, 2013, SHPO concurred with our findings (letter is attached). Reclamation received the letter on June 19, 2013.

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

CC: Cultural Resources Branch (MP-153), Anastasia Leigh – Regional Environmental Officer (MP-150)

# Attachment B Indian Trust Assets Determination

RIVERA, PATRICIA

3/26/13

Chuck,

I reviewed the proposed action to construct a new shelter to house autosamplers and supplies at the Gun Club Road crossing near the Kesterson Reservoir in Merced County. The proposed action would include:

- Installation of a concrete pad measuring approximately 67-inches x 60-inches;
- Installation of a “Plasti-Fab” insulated fiberglass shelter (61-inches x 54-inches) on the concrete pad;
- Installation of a solar array and 12-volt battery to power the monitoring station;
- Use of the existing “Aquamatic” autosamplers as the main sampler and the Sigma 900MAX autosampler as the back-up sampler.

All work would be conducted by Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) staff with federal funds.

The proposed action does not have a potential to affect Indian Trust Assets. The nearest ITA is a Public Domain Allotment approximately 45 miles Southwest of the project location.

Patricia Rivera  
Native American Affairs Program Manager  
US Bureau of Reclamation  
Mid-Pacific Region  
2800 Sacramento, California 95825  
(916) 978-5194