

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Categorical Exclusion Checklist

2013 Draining and Inspection of the Pacheco and Santa Clara Tunnels

CEC-13-024

Prepared by:

Ran Emerson
Rain Emerson
Natural Resources Specialist
South-Central California Area Office

Date: 11/05/2013

Concurred by:

See Attachment
William Soule
Archaeologist
Mid-Pacific Regional Office

Date: See Attachment

Concurred by:

See Attachment
Native American Affairs Specialist
Mid-Pacific Regional Office

Date: See Attachment

Concurred by:

Shauna McDonald
Shauna McDonald
Wildlife Biologist
South-Central California Area Office

Date: 11/5/13

Concurred by:

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

Date: 11/6/13

Approved by:

for *Randy Engel*
Michael Jackson
Area Manager
South-Central California Area Office

Date: 11/8/13



Background

The San Felipe Water Delivery System (figure 1) was designed and built by the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) to deliver water from the San Luis Reservoir to portions of San Benito County and the Santa Clara Valley via the Coyote Pump Plant. The system is maintained by the Santa Clara Valley Water District (Santa Clara) pursuant to an operating agreement (Contract No. 6-07-20-X0290) with Reclamation executed September 8, 1986.

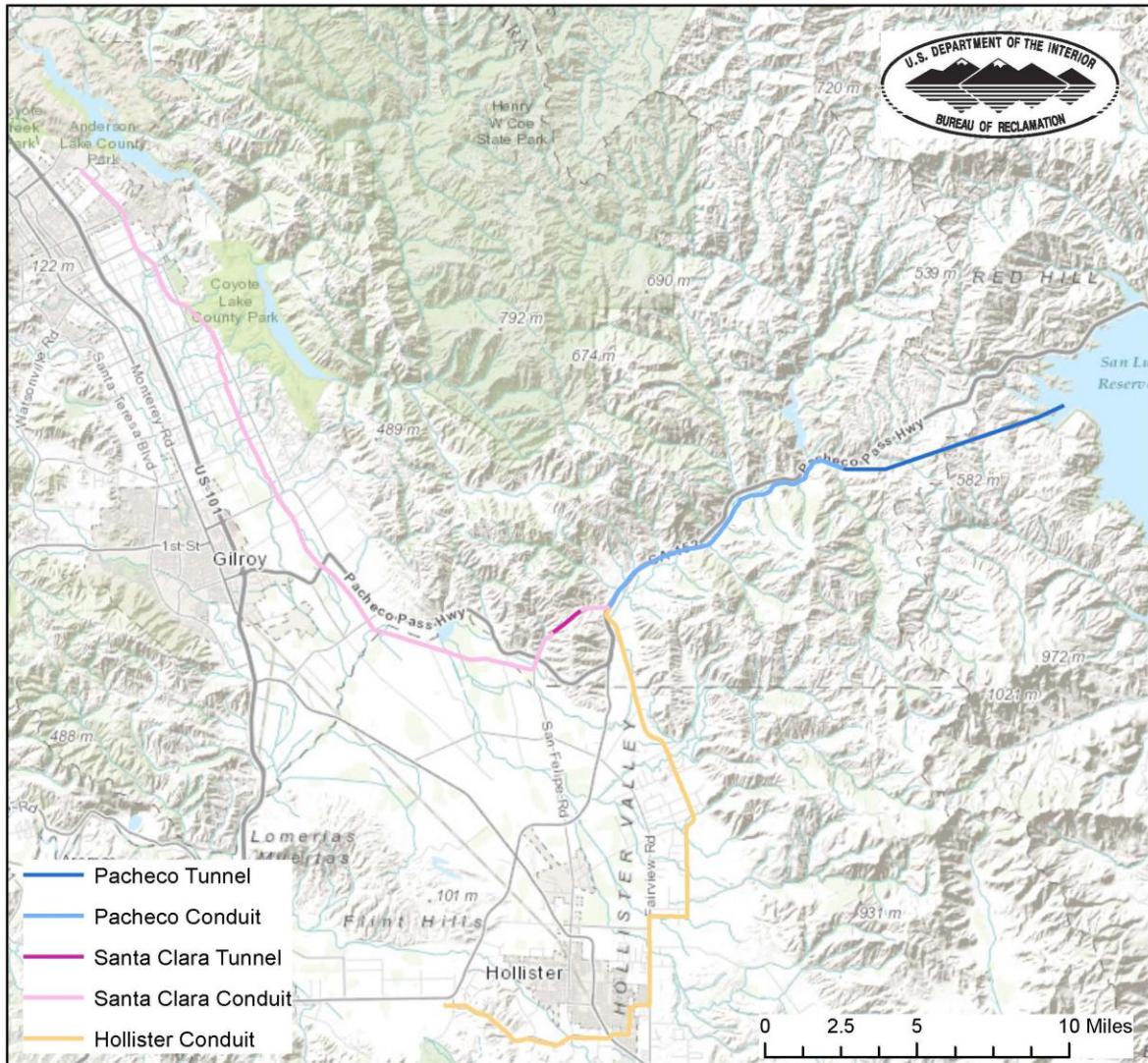


Figure 1 San Felipe Water Delivery System

Purpose and Need for Action

In order to meet its obligations to provide reliable water service and deliveries, Santa Clara proposed a comprehensive plan to provide long-term (ten-year) guidance to implement routine and preventative maintenance on its water conveyance systems referred to as the Pipeline

Maintenance Program (PMP). Santa Clara prepared an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the PMP (SCH# 2005101047) and issued a notice of determination on November 13, 2007. As the PMP also involved Reclamation facilities (Santa Clara and Pacheco Conduits and Tunnels), Reclamation prepared a draft environmental assessment (EA)-06-110 entitled *Pipeline Maintenance Program for the Pacheco and Santa Clara Conduits and Tunnels, Santa Clara Valley Water District* that detailed the proposed actions for maintenance of the Pacheco and Santa Clara Conduits over a 10 year period by Santa Clara. The draft EA was released for public comment in 2007; however, the EA has not been finalized as it is pending a biological opinion from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service).

The biological opinion is still pending for the PMP EA and the Pacheco and Santa Clara Tunnels still need to be inspected to determine if repair is necessary. Delay in inspections pending the finalization of the PMP EA could lead to system failure in areas where repairs are needed.

Proposed Action

Reclamation and Santa Clara will inspect the Pacheco and Santa Clara Tunnels as well as the above ground storage tank located at the Pacheco Pumping Plant (see Figure 2) to determine if repairs are needed. If repairs are needed, Reclamation will complete additional environmental review as necessary.

Prior to draining, Santa Clara will conduct lockout/tagout¹ of the following facilities: Hollister Conduit and Santa Clara Conduit at the Bifurcation Structure, Pacheco Pumping Plant, Santa Clara Conduit at Sectionalizing Valve 2, Santa Clara Conduit at Sectionalizing Valve 1, Santa Clara Conduit at Calaveras Fault Outlet, and Santa Clara Conduit at Calaveras Fault Inlet. This will protect workers and prevent commingling of water supplies from Hollister Conduit that potentially could spread zebra mussels into Santa Clara's water delivery system.

Once lockout/tagout is complete, Santa Clara will drain the tunnels into the above ground storage tank located at the Pacheco Pumping Plant (Figure 2) using an 80-horsepower diesel pump. Water from the tank will then flow back into San Luis Reservoir via the existing subsurface pipeline used to bring water into the facility. No water will be discharged outside of this system into local waterways.

Inspection of the tunnels will involve Reclamation and Santa Clara personnel walking the length of both tunnels once the tunnels are dewatered and air quality is deemed safe. Ventilation fans run by two 80-horsepower diesel generators, eight hours a day over four days, will be used to ensure safe air quality within the tunnels.

The Proposed Action is expected to start in December 2013 and take up to 12 days to complete.

¹ Lockout/tagout refers to specific practices and procedures to safeguard employees from the unexpected energization or startup of machinery and equipment, or the release of hazardous energy during service or maintenance activities. This procedure requires, in part, that a designated individual turn off and disconnect the machinery or equipment from its energy source(s) before performing service or maintenance. The authorized employee(s) must either lock or tag the energy-isolating device(s) to prevent the release of hazardous energy and take steps to verify that the energy has been isolated effectively.

Equipment will include: fans for ventilation, two diesel generators with associated spill prevention, utility trucks, and other district vehicles.

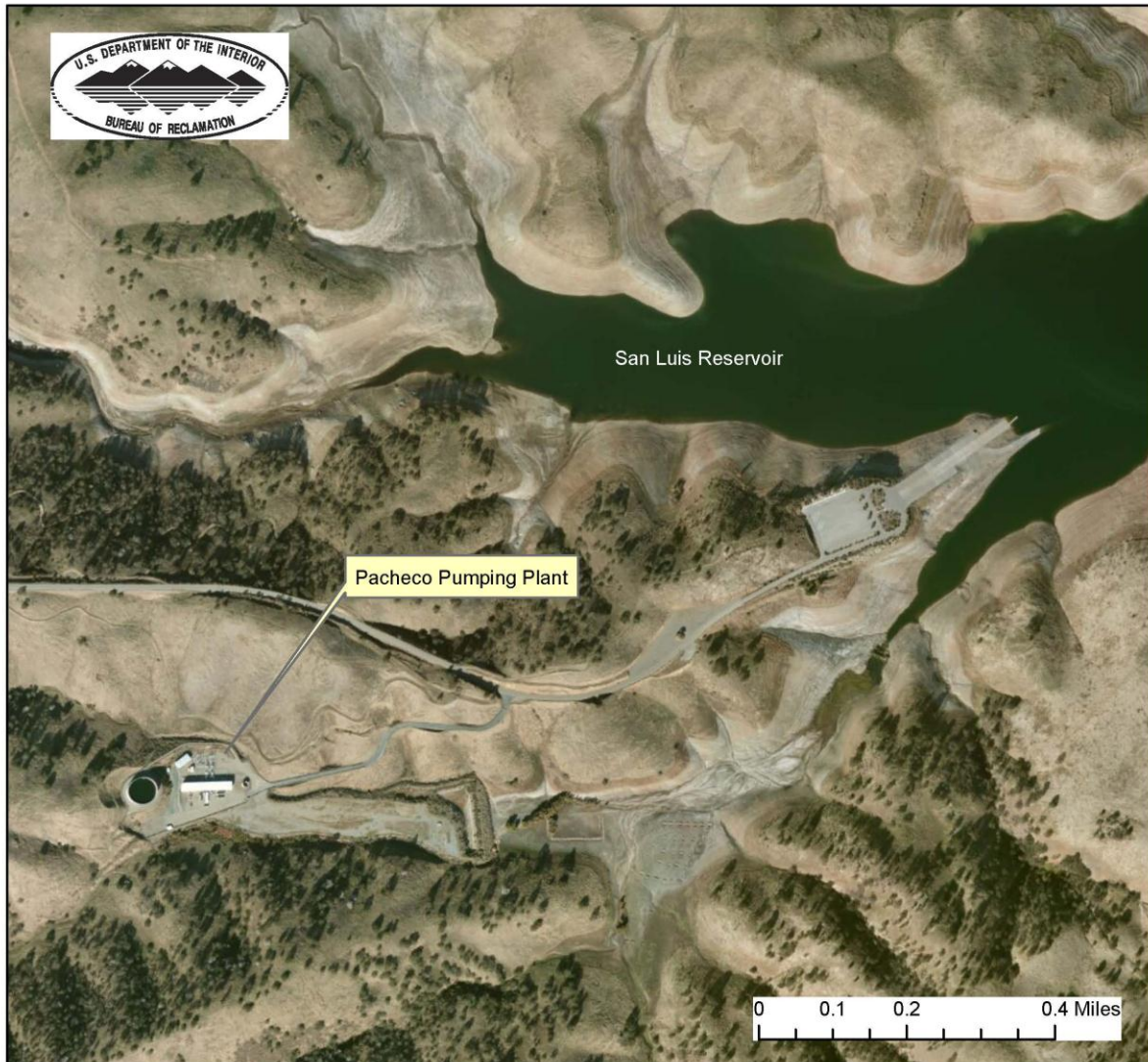


Figure 2 Pacheco Pumping Plant

Exclusion Category

516 DM 14.5 paragraph B (1): *Routine planning investigation activities where the impacts are expected to be localized, such as land classification surveys, topographic surveys, archeological surveys, wildlife studies, economic studies, social studies, and other study activity during any planning, preconstruction, construction, or operation and maintenance phases.*

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 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"/> |

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

Attachment A Cultural Resources Determination



Emerson, Rain <remerson@usbr.gov>

Re: Project Description for EA-13-024 for review

Soule, William <wsoule@usbr.gov>

Fri, Nov 1, 2013 at 12:53 PM

To: "Emerson, Rain" <remerson@usbr.gov>

Rain:

Re: 13-SCAO-264: 2013 Draining and Inspection of the Pacheco and Santa Clara Tunnels

I have reviewed the project description in the revised CEC and have concluded that the revision is minor and that our Section 106 review memorandum dated August 30, 2013 (attached), is still valid for this action.

Sincerely,

Bill

William E. Soule, M.A. Archaeologist
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Mid-Pacific Region, MP-153
2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, CA 95825
Phone: 916-978-4694
Fax: 916-978-5055
Email: wsoule@usbr.gov

On Thu, Oct 24, 2013 at 12:26 PM, Emerson, Rain <remerson@usbr.gov> wrote:

Bill,

The project description for this action has changed since your determination was issued due to reduction in scope of the project. Could you please take a look at the revised PD in the attached CEC and let me know if you could provide a revised memo or if the previous memo will still work. Thank you.

Rain

Cost authority: RR175296522200516

On Fri, Aug 30, 2013 at 8:43 AM, Soule, William <wsoule@usbr.gov> wrote:

Rain:

This project has been logged into our database as 13-SCAO-264. Please find attached our Section 106 review memorandum which states that this action does not have the potential to cause effects to historic properties.

Sincerely,

Bill

William E. Soule, M.A. Archaeologist
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Mid-Pacific Region, MP-153
2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, CA 95825

Phone: 916-978-4694
Fax: 916-978-5055
Email: wsoule@usbr.gov

On Thu, Aug 29, 2013 at 4:28 PM, Healer, Rain <rhealer@usbr.gov> wrote:

Good afternoon, I have attached the project description for EA-13-024 for review.

Cost authority: A1R-1752-9652-220-05-1-6-2

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Rain Emerson, M.S.
Natural Resources Specialist
Bureau of Redamation
South-Central California Area Office
Ph: 559-284-1051 or 487-5196

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Rain L. Emerson, M.S.
Natural Resources Specialist
Bureau of Redamation, South-Central California Area Office
1243 N Street, Fresno, CA 93721
Ph: 559-487-5196
Cell: 559-284-1051



13-SCAO-264 106 Response No Potential.pdf

38K



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

August 30, 2013
MEMORANDUM

To: Rain Healer
Natural Resource Specialist – South-Central California Area Office

From: William Soule
Archaeologist – Division of Environmental Affairs

Subject: 13-SCAO-264: Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD) 2013 Draining and Inspection of the Santa Clara and Pacheco Conduits and Tunnels

Pursuant to its operating agreement with Reclamation, SCVWD proposes to drain and inspect the Santa Clara Conduit and Tunnel, the Pacheco Conduit and Tunnel, Pacheco Pump Plant, Coyote Pump Plant, and the Bifurcation Station. This is the type of undertaking that does not have the potential to cause effects to historic properties, should such properties be present, pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Section 106 regulations codified at 36 CFR Part 800.3(a)(1).

The proposed action by SCVWD includes: closing valves upstream and downstream of the work area (isolation); draining the remaining water in the Pacheco Pump Plant, Pacheco Conduit, and in the Santa Clara Conduit from the Bifurcation Station up to the Calaveras Fault Crossing Inlet; inspecting the pipelines and performing minor repairs on pipeline appurtenances and minor plumbing; and refilling pipelines. There is no ground disturbance, construction of new facilities, alternation of existing facilities, or change in land use associated with this proposed action.

After reviewing the materials provided for the Section 106 determination of effect for this undertaking, I concur with a statement in EA-13-024 that neither the Proposed Action nor the No Action Alternative would have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by Reclamation. This memorandum is intended to convey the completion of the NHPA Section 106 process for this undertaking. Reclamation has no further obligations under NHPA Section 106, pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.3(a)(1). 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 consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer, 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



Emerson, Rain <remerson@usbr.gov>

Re: 13-024 For Review

RIVERA, PATRICIA <privera@usbr.gov>

Fri, Oct 25, 2013 at 6:49 AM

To: "Emerson, Rain" <remerson@usbr.gov>

Cc: Kristi Seabrook <kseabrook@usbr.gov>, "Williams, Mary D (Diane)" <marywilliams@usbr.gov>

Rain,

I reviewed the proposed action to approve the action wherein Reclamation and Santa Clara will inspect the Pacheco and Santa Clara Tunnels as well as the above ground storage tank located at the Pacheco Pumping Plant to determine if repairs are needed. If repairs are needed, Reclamation will complete additional environmental review as necessary.

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

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

On Thu, Oct 24, 2013 at 1:22 PM, Emerson, Rain <remerson@usbr.gov> wrote:

Patricia,

I have attached the project description for 13-024 for your review.

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Rain L. Emerson, M.S.
Natural Resources Specialist
Bureau of Redamation, South-Central California Area Office
1243 N Street, Fresno, CA 93721
Ph: 559-487-5196
Cell: 559-284-1051