

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Categorical Exclusion Checklist

Tracy Fish Facility Water Hyacinth Disposal Authorization

CEC-13-070

Prepared by:



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

Date:

12/17/13

Concurred by:

See Attachment

Archaeologist/Architectural Historian
Mid-Pacific Regional Office

Date:

See Attachment

Concurred by:

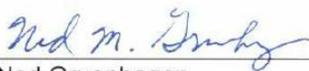
See Attachment

Native American Affairs Specialist
Mid-Pacific Regional Office

Date:

See Attachment

Concurred by:



Ned Gruenhagen
Wildlife Biologist
South-Central California Area Office

Date:

12/16/2013

Approved by:



for Michael Jackson
Area Manager
South-Central California Area Office

Date:

12/23/13



Background

Water Hyacinth de-stabilizes dissolved oxygen cycles, shades out important shallow water fish habitat, prevents boat passage, and blocks agricultural water intakes. In 1982, California State Senate Bill 1344 amended the California Harbors and Navigation Code and designated the California Department of Boating and Waterways (DBW) as the lead agency for controlling water hyacinth in the Delta, its tributaries, and Suisun Marsh. The program for controlling water hyacinth is called the Water Hyacinth Control Program (WHCP). A final programmatic Environmental Impact Report on the WHCP was completed in 2009 to satisfy California Environmental Quality Act requirements. Within the WHCP project area, there are approximately 368 possible treatment sites that average between one and two miles in length. As such, site specific treatment and disposal sites were not analyzed in the final programmatic Environmental Impact Report.

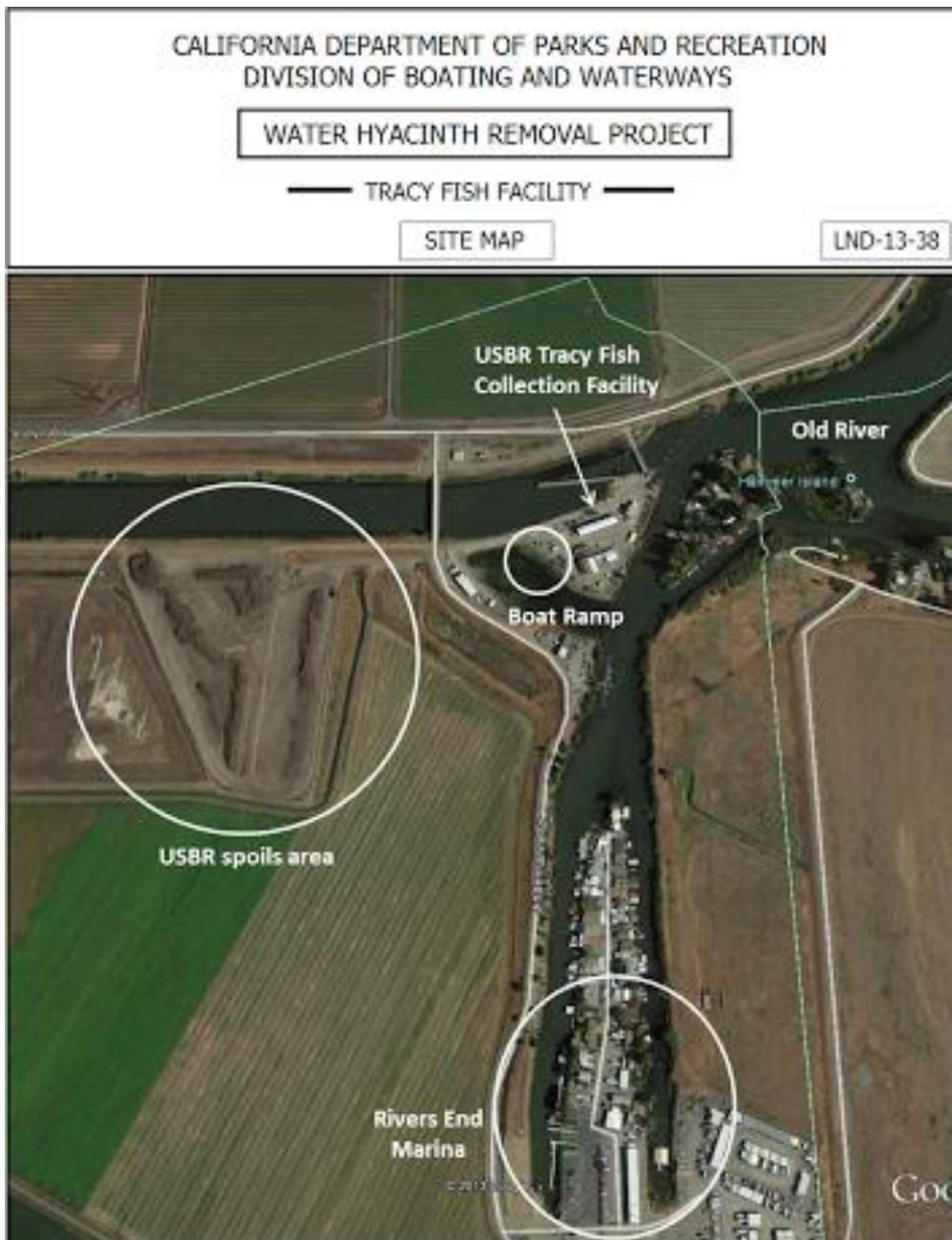
Purpose and Need for Action

The DBW needs a disposal site for water hyacinth harvested as part of the WHCP. The Proposed Action is highly beneficial for Reclamation as it also involves Reclamation facilities.

Proposed Action

The Proposed Action would authorize DBW to transport and dispose of mechanically harvested water hyacinth on Reclamation's disposal site (Figure 1) at the Tracy Fish Facility. The Proposed Action would also allow DBW to use Reclamation's boat ramp for access to the disposal site. DBW contractors would transport the water hyacinth to the disposal site by truck. It is estimated that between 100 to 150 acres of water hyacinth would be collected. The water hyacinth would remain on site until it decomposes. The proposed action would be authorized between December 17, 2013 and December 31, 2018.

Figure 1: Proposed Disposal Site



Environmental Commitments

Reclamation and DBW 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	Avoidance measures for San Joaquin kit fox shall be adhered to (FWS 2011). Prior to DBW commencing activity, and whenever a lapse of the activity for two or more weeks occurs, a survey of the project area by a biologist shall be conducted for the presence of San Joaquin kit fox (SJKF), or sign or other evidence of use or potential use of the area by SJKF, including their dens, or potential dens, etc. as defined by Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS; 2011). If evidence of their presence, or use of the area by SJKF is found, or sign or dens or potential dens are found, additional environmental review is required, including potentially formal consultation with FWS. However, pending a finding of no evidence of SJKF, or sign of, or use of the area, or of dens or potential dens for SJKF, activities would be permitted.
	Should listed species be observed, any additional environmental review required shall be completed before resumption of activities.
	Speed limit of vehicles handling vegetation on Reclamation lands/non-public roadways shall not exceed 15 miles per hour.
	Work at night-time shall be minimized to the extent possible.
	Contamination of water shall be avoided so listed fish and their habitat would not be affected. To avoid effects on listed species and designated critical habitat, activities that would affect water quality are not permitted.
	Equipment operating at Reclamation facilities shall be maintained in good working condition and DBW shall ensure that protections are in place to prevent spill and prevent contamination of water.
	Migratory birds are protected from take under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 USC § 703 et. Seq.) and no take of migratory birds is permitted.
	Any burrows occupied by burrowing owls shall be protected and activities shall be conducted in a manner so as to not cause abandonment of nests with eggs or young, or otherwise cause take.

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.

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"/> |

- | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| <p>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)).</p> | <p>No
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> | <p>Uncertain
<input type="checkbox"/></p> | <p>Yes
<input type="checkbox"/></p> |
| <p>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)).</p> | <p>No
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> | <p>Uncertain
<input type="checkbox"/></p> | <p>Yes
<input type="checkbox"/></p> |
| <p>11. This action would affect ITAs (512 DM 2, Policy Memorandum dated December 15, 1993).</p> | <p>No
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> | <p>Uncertain
<input type="checkbox"/></p> | <p>Yes
<input type="checkbox"/></p> |
| <p>12. This action would have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (EO 12898) (43 CFR 46.215 (j)).</p> | <p>No
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> | <p>Uncertain
<input type="checkbox"/></p> | <p>Yes
<input type="checkbox"/></p> |
| <p>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)).</p> | <p>No
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> | <p>Uncertain
<input type="checkbox"/></p> | <p>Yes
<input type="checkbox"/></p> |
| <p>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)).</p> | <p>No
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> | <p>Uncertain
<input type="checkbox"/></p> | <p>Yes
<input type="checkbox"/></p> |

Attachment A

Cultural Resources Determination

CULTURAL RESOURCE COMPLIANCE Reclamation Division of Environmental Affairs

MP-153 Tracking Number: 14-SCAO-041

Project Name: Tracy Fish Facility Water Hyacinth Disposal Authorization

NEPA Document: CEC-13-070

NEPA Contact: Charles Siek, Supervisory Natural Resources Specialist

MP 153 Cultural Resources Reviewer: William Soule, Archaeologist

Date: 12/10/2013

This proposed undertaking by Reclamation is the granting of authorization to the California Department of Boating and Waterways (DBW) to transport and dispose of mechanically harvested water hyacinth on Reclamation's disposal site at the Tracy Fish Facility. This is the type of undertaking that does not have the potential to cause effects to historic properties, should such historic properties be present, pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Section 106 regulations codified at 36 CFR Part 800.3(a)(1).

In addition to the use of the Tracy Fish Facility disposal site, this proposed action would also allow DBW to use Reclamation's boat ramp for access to the disposal site. DBW contractors will transport the water hyacinth by truck. An estimated 100-150 acres of water hyacinth will be collected and will remain at the disposal site until it decomposes.

After reviewing the materials submitted by SCAO, I concur with Item 8 in CEC-13-070 which states that this proposed action would not have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by Reclamation. With this determination, Reclamation has no further NHPA Section 106 obligations. 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 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

RIVERA, PATRICIA

12/10/13 4:57 PM

to me, Kristi

Chuck,

I reviewed the proposed action to authorize the State Department of Boating and Waterways (DBW) need for a disposal site for water hyacinth harvested as part of the Water Hyacinth Control Program. The proposed action would authorize DBW to transport and dispose of mechanically harvested water hyacinth on Reclamation's disposal site at the Tracy Fish Facility. The Proposed Action would also allow DBW to use Reclamation's boat ramp for access to the disposal site. DBW contractors would transport the water hyacinth to the disposal site by truck.

It is estimated that between 100 to 150 acres of water hyacinth would be collected. The water hyacinth would remain on site until it decomposes.

The proposed action is highly beneficial for Reclamation as it also involves Reclamation facilities.

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