

# RECLAMATION

*Managing Water in the West*

## Categorical Exclusion Checklist (CEC)

### Spawning Gravel Injection in Clear Creek, Shasta County, California

NCAO-CEC-14-11

Prepared by: Tom T. Kisanuki Date: April 21, 2014  
Tom Kisanuki  
Fishery Biologist  
Northern California Area Office

Concurrence by: See Attachment 2 Date: 04/10/2014  
Patricia Rivera  
Native American Affairs Program  
Manager  
Mid-Pacific Regional Office

Concurrence by: See Attachment 3 Date: 04/17/2014  
Amy Barnes  
Archaeologist  
Mid-Pacific Regional Office

Concurrence by: Paul Zedonis Date: 4/17/2014  
Paul Zedonis  
Natural Resources Specialist  
Northern California Area Office

Approved by: Brian Person Date: 4/23/14  
for: Brian Person  
Area Manager  
Northern California Area Office



## Proposed Action

The Bureau of Reclamation will contract with an “outside party” to deliver and place 7,700 tons of spawning gravel amongst five locations on Clear Creek, Shasta County, CA. The specific areas of gravel placement are identified in Table 1 and shown in Attachment 1. Gravel will be either end-dumped from a truck directly at the injection site, or a front-end loader will place the gravel along the stream bank during the summer months up to late September. This activity has been occurring at these locations since 1997 and there will be no modification of existing facilities or construction of new facilities.

The purpose of this action is to meet the requirements of the CVPIA and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Biological Opinion on the effects of the proposed Long-Term Operations Criteria and Plan for the Central Valley Project. Injecting gravel in Clear Creek to mitigate the influences of Whiskeytown Dam continues to represent a long term commitment to meeting these requirements aimed at increasing the quantity and improving the quality of anadromous fish spawning habitat in Clear Creek. In addition, the continued injection of gravels into the Clear Creek will help to maintain and restore geomorphic function of the channel restoration reach and downstream for the benefit of other native aquatic species of the area. As such, this action will serve to correct unsatisfactory environmental conditions of Clear Creek

**Table 1. Site locations for activities associated with spawning gravel placement in Clear Creek.**

Site Name	Location (TRS)	Approximate Area of Potential Effect (acres)	Gravel Quantity (tons)
Whiskeytown Dam	T32N, R6W, Sec. 27	1.13	1,500
Below Dog Gulch	T32N, R6W, Sec. 33	1.82	1,000
Guardian Rock (aka Below NEED Camp)	T31N, R6W, Secs. 3, & 34	0.97	1,500
Placer Bridge	T31N, R6W, Sec. 26	0.69	2,000
Above Phase 3A	T31N, R5W, Secs. 31 & 32	6.77	1,700
<b>Totals</b>	-----	-----	<b>7,700</b>

## Exclusion Categories

Bureau of Reclamation Categorical Exclusion – 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.

## Extraordinary Circumstances

Below is an evaluation of the extraordinary circumstances as required in 43 CFR 46.215.

1. This action would have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment (40 CFR 1502.3). No  Uncertain  Yes
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  Uncertain  Yes
3. This action would have significant impacts on public health or safety (43 CFR 46.215(a)). No  Uncertain  Yes
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  Uncertain  Yes
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  Uncertain  Yes
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  Uncertain  Yes
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  Uncertain  Yes

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; and 43 CFR 46.215 (g)). 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)). No  Uncertain  Yes
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; and 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 (email attached).

ITA Designee concurred with Item 11 (email attached).

**NEPA Action Recommended**

CEC – This action is covered by the exclusion category and no extraordinary circumstances exist. The action is excluded from further documentation in an EA or EIS.

Further environmental review is required, and the following document should be prepared.

EA

EIS

**Environmental commitments, explanations, and/or remarks:**

The selected contractor will be required (if applicable) to fulfill a variety of environmental commitments as identified in the Statement of Work (SOW)(incorporated by reference). Example requirements identified in the SOW include: 1) the contractor shall independently prepare, submit and shepherd the necessary permits (401/404), and ESA consultations for the implementation of this action as identified in the SOW, up to and including any and all water quality testing as part of this action; 2) the contractor shall provide an experienced inspector on site who can ensure that the delivery and placement of gravels follows applicable regulations and permits and requirements of the SOW. Other examples include the use of local water sources to deter dust exposure to the public and workers that may be created by heavy machinery use at specific sites. Implementation of measures in the SOW, some of which are identified here, will ensure that no significant environmental effects will occur from this action.

## **Attachment 1.**

2014 Clear Creek Gravel Injection Projects  
Clear Creek, Shasta County, California

There are five sites:

Figure 1 - Whiskeytown Dam site

Figure 2 - Below Dog Gulch site

Figure 3 - Guardian Rock site

Figure 4 - Placer Bridge site

Figure 5 - Above Phase 3A site

Figure 6 - Above Phase 3A site

Note: the following Google Earth images are positioned so that the top of each image is aligned in a northerly direction (i.e.) the vertical alignment of page is northward on top, and southward on the bottom side of the page.

The "Above Phase 3A" site is shown in two separate images to facilitate understanding of the access and surrounding features associated with this site.

**Figure 1. Photograph of the Whiskeytown Dam injection site area and surrounding features. This area is accessed from the Whiskeytown National Recreation Area (NRA) Visitor Center via J.F. Kennedy Memorial Road to the Paige Bar Road. The Bureau of Reclamation will arrange with NRA to provide access to the injection site (via the Upper Gate) during the project operations.**



Figure 2. Photograph of the Below Dog Gulch injection site area and surrounding features. This area is accessed from the Whiskeytown National Recreation Area (NRA) Visitor Center via J.F. Kennedy Memorial Road to the Paige Bar Road. The Bureau of Reclamation will arrange with NRA to provide access (yellow arrow) to the road that terminates at the injection site during project operations



Figure 3. Photograph of the Guardian Rock (formerly “Below NEED Camp”) injection site area and surrounding areas. This area is accessed from the Whiskeytown National Recreation Area (NRA) Visitor Center via J.F. Kennedy Memorial Road to the Paige Bar Road (yellow arrow). The Bureau of Reclamation will arrange with NRA to provide access to the injection site during project operations



Figure 4. Photograph of the Placer Bridge area showing the gravel injection site downstream of the Placer Bridge. Access to this site is from Placer Road, and through a locked gate depicted by the yellow arrow. Bureau of Reclamation will provide immediate access to the injection site during project operations.

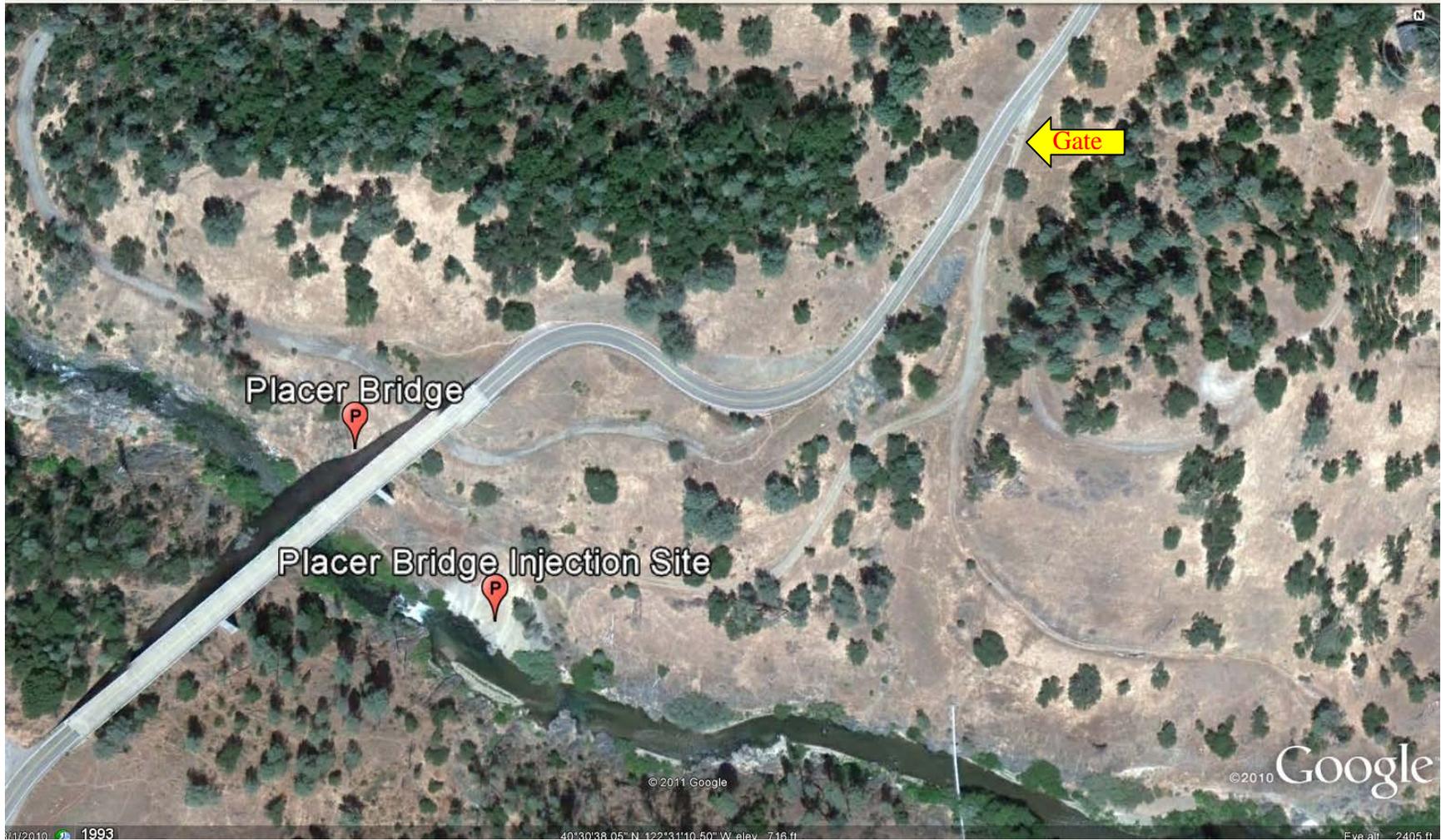


Figure 5. Photograph of the Above Phase 3A injection area, in relation to other local features. Access to this site is from Clear Creek Road, and through a locked gate at the Gold Dredge Parking Lot. Bureau of Reclamation will provide immediate access to the injection site during project operations. Yellow arrows depict access and injection sites.

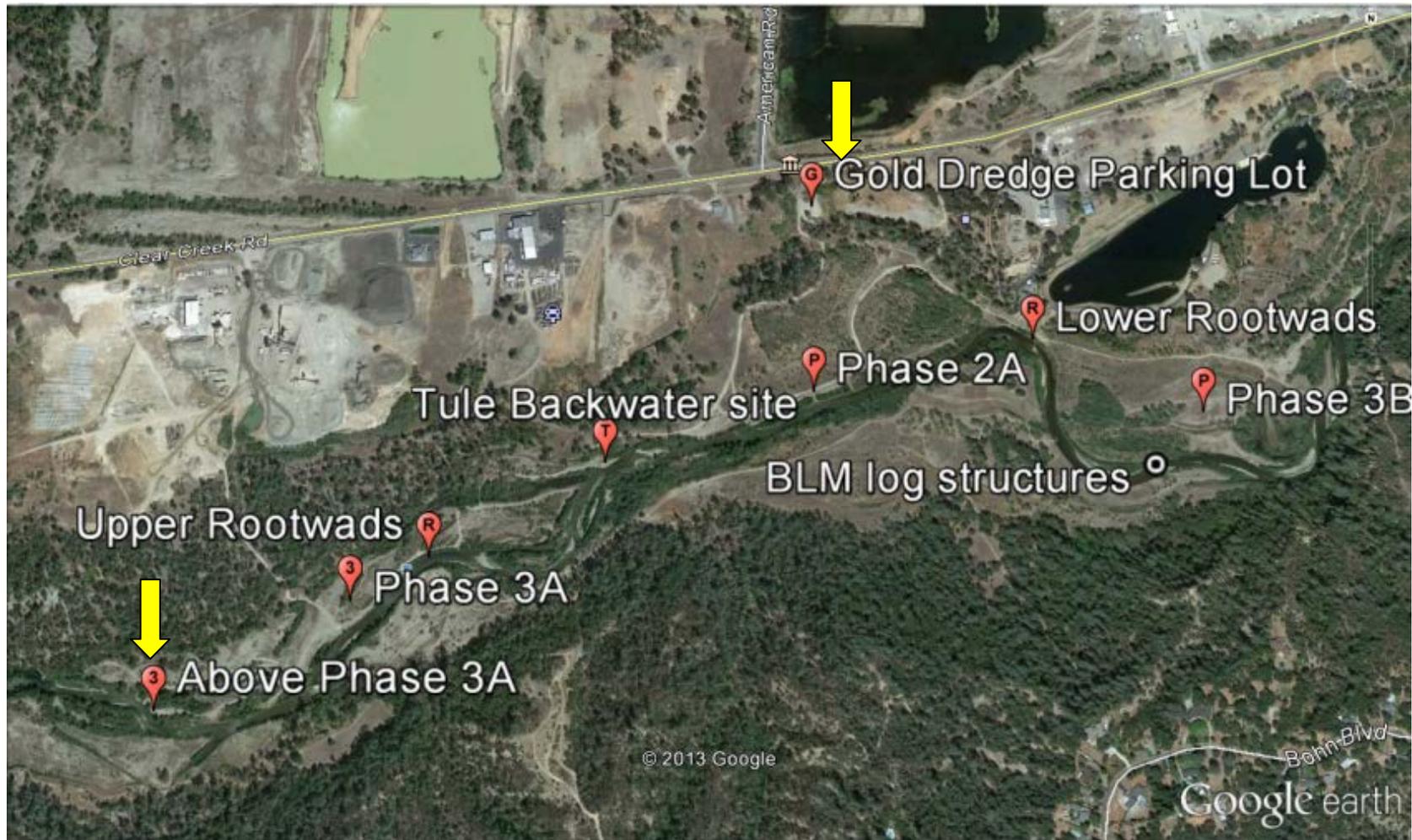


Figure 6. Photograph of the Above Phase 3A injection site. Prior to project implementation, Bureau of Reclamation will provide site-specific information on how to access this site.



Attachment 2.



Zedonis, Paul <pzedonis@usbr.gov>

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**CR & ITA Review: CEC Clear Creek Gravl Injection in 2014 04/10/14**

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**RIVERA, PATRICIA** <privera@usbr.gov>  
To: Paul Zedonis <pzedonis@usbr.gov>

Thu, Apr 10, 2014 at 4:31 PM

Paul,

I reviewed the proposed action to contract with an "outside party" to deliver and place 7,700 tons of spawning gravel amongst five locations on Clear Creek, Shasta County, CA. Gravel will be either end-dumped from a truck directly at the injection site, or a front-end loader will place the gravel along the stream bank during the summer months up to late September. This activity has been occurring at these locations since 1997 and there will be no modification of existing facilities or construction of new facilities.

The purpose of this action is to meet the requirements of the CVPIA and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Biological Opinion on the effects of the proposed Long-Term Operations Criteria and Plan for the Central Valley Project. Injecting gravel in Clear Creek to mitigate the influences of Whiskeytown Dam continues to represent a long term commitment to meeting these requirements aimed at increasing the quantity and improving the quality of anadromous fish spawning habitat in Clear Creek. In addition, the continued injection of gravels into the Clear Creek will help to maintain and restore geomorphic function of the channel restoration reach and downstream for the benefit of other native aquatic species of the area. As such, this action will serve to correct unsatisfactory environmental conditions of Clear Creek.

The proposed action does not have a potential to impact Indian Trust Assets. The nearest Indian Trust Asset is Redding Rancheria approximately 7 miles East of the project location.

Attachment 3.

**CULTURAL RESOURCE COMPLIANCE**  
**Mid-Pacific Region**  
**Division of Environmental Affairs**  
**Cultural Resources Branch**

MP-153 Tracking Number: 14-NCAO-162

Project Name: Clear Creek Spawning Gravel Injection

NEPA Document: NCAO-CEC-14-11

MP 153 Cultural Resources Reviewer: Amy J. Barnes

Date: April 17, 2014

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This proposed undertaking by Reclamation is a gravel augmentation project for this year (2014) at four existing gravel injection sites on lower Clear Creek: Whiskeytown Dam, Below Dog Gulch, Placer Road Bridge, Above Phase 3A, and Guardian Rock (Below N.E.E.D. Camp). 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 NHPA Section 106 regulations codified at 36 CFR § 800.3(a)(1). Reclamation has no further obligations under NHPA Section 106, pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.3(a)(1).

The purpose of this project is to add spawning gravel to Clear Creek, either end-dumped from a truck directly at the injection site, or a front-end loader will place the gravel along the stream bank. Existing roads will be used to access each gravel injection site. This activity has been occurring in these locations since about 1997 and there will be no modification of existing facilities or construction of new facilities. Compliance with the Central Valley Project Improvement Act, Section 3406(b)(12) requires Reclamation to add spawning gravel to Clear Creek to help mitigate the loss of habitat that resulted from constructing Whiskeytown Dam.

After reviewing NCAO-CEC-14-11, dated April 2014, I concur with Item 8 which states that this action would not have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places.

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.