

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION CHECKLIST
City of Pittsburg Contra Costa Canal Pipeline Crossing Repair, Milepost 18.5

South-Central California Area Office

November 25, 2011

Background: The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) constructed the Contra Costa Canal (Canal) over a period of approximately 20 years in the 1930s to 1950's to supply irrigation water for local agriculture (Figure 1). Water is pumped into the canal from the Sacramento/San Joaquin Delta near Rock Slough. At one of its termini the water flows to Martinez, where it is treated to become the water supply for that city and several other cities. The Canal is a Reclamation-owned facility, and is operated and maintained by the Contra Costa Water District (CCWD) under easement.

The City of Pittsburg (City) has a third-party easement from CCWD within the right-of-way of the Canal for construction, operation, and maintenance of utility pipelines and appurtenances within the Canal right-of-way. The City uses this easement to convey municipal sewer and drinking water via (several separate) pipelines that cross the Canal, including the drinking water pipeline at Canal milepost 18.4. The existing pipeline crosses under sections of wire fence, through the canal banks and spans the length of the canal (Figure 2).

Purpose and Need for Action: Due to age and weather, the 12-inch drinking water pipeline has deteriorated and is leaking. The purpose of the proposed action is to authorize the work necessary to repair the drinking water pipeline.

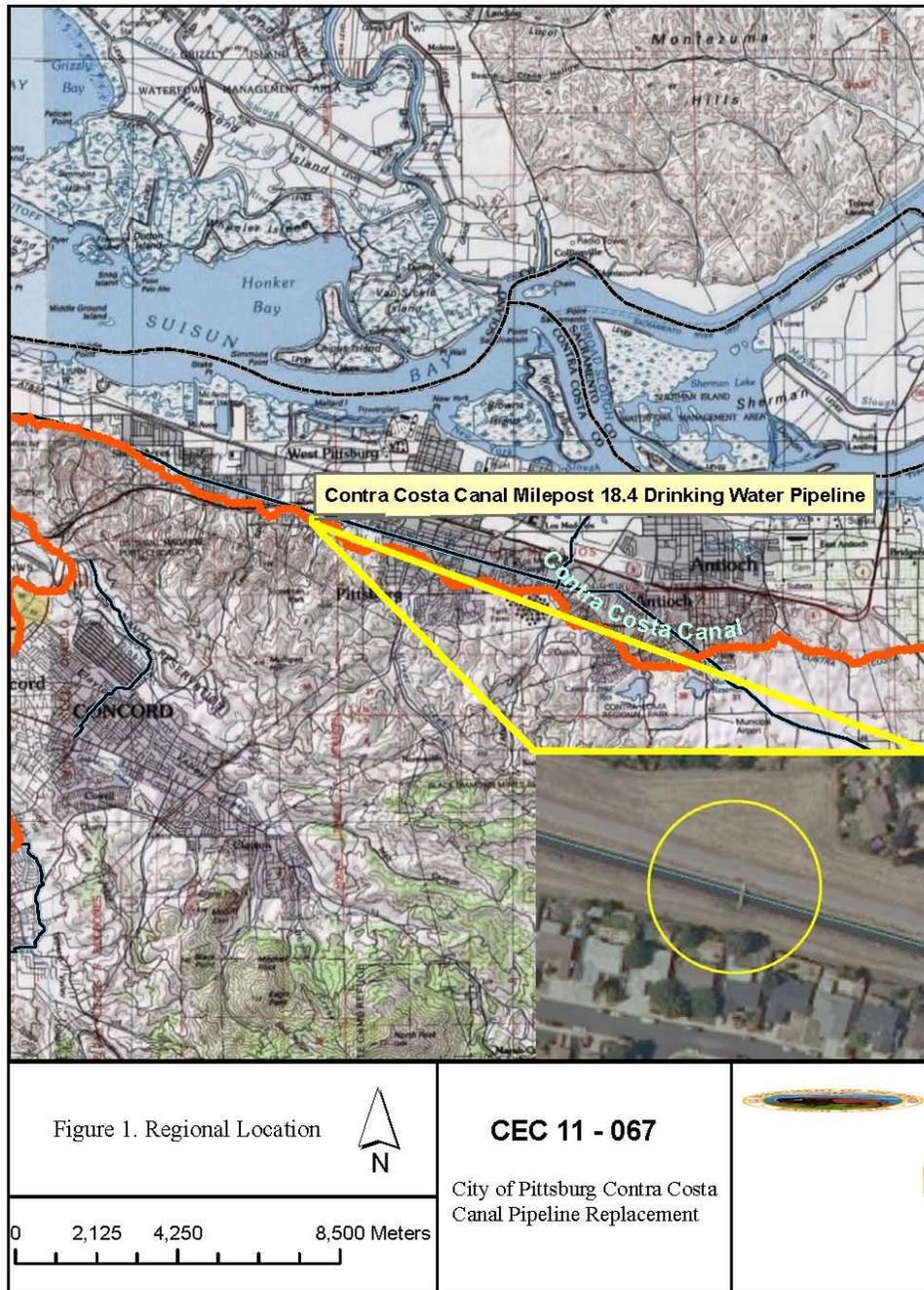
Proposed Action: Reclamation proposes to authorize the City of Pittsburg and CCWD to conduct the repair of the drinking water pipeline that crosses the Canal at milepost 18.4.

As part of the Proposed Action, the existing pipeline would be cut both where it exits the canal and approximately 10 feet back from the canal where the pipe runs underground and connects to an existing abutment. The new replacement pipeline would connect to the existing underground pipe ends via new flange adapters (connected at the abutments) and span the canal just above the original pipeline height (Figure 2). To connect the new section of aboveground pipe to the cut ends of the existing belowground pipe, CCWD would temporarily remove the fence sections and hand excavate to reach the existing underground pipeline. The excavation would be approximately 20 feet long, 2.5 feet wide, and up to 4.5 feet deep and excavation would generate (an estimated) 8 to 12 cubic yards of soil. The new pipe section may need to be lowered in by crane for installation.

Replacement valves and other appurtenances would be similar to the existing appurtenances. No increase in conveyance capacity would occur and the pipeline would continue to be used to convey drinking water only; all other operations of the facility would remain the same. The Canal banks, trench, and other disturbed areas would be returned to pre-project conditions and all trash and debris disposed of offsite at an approved facility with the capacity to accept it. Loose soil will be prevented from entering the canal through erosion control measures.

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.

Figure 1. Regional Location Map



Evaluation of Criteria for Categorical Exclusion

- | | | | |
|--|-------------|----------------|-----|
| 1. This action would have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. | No <u>X</u> | Uncertain ____ | Yes |
| 2. This action would have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources. | No <u>X</u> | Uncertain ____ | Yes |

Evaluation of Exemptions to Actions within Categorical Exclusion

- | | | | |
|--|-------------|----------------|-----|
| 1. This action would have significant adverse effects on public health or safety. | No <u>X</u> | Uncertain ____ | Yes |
| 2. 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; floodplains; national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas. | No <u>X</u> | Uncertain ____ | Yes |
| 3. This action would have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks. | No <u>X</u> | Uncertain ____ | Yes |
| 4. This action would establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects. | No <u>X</u> | Uncertain ____ | Yes |

- | | | | |
|--|-------------|----------------|-----|
| 5. This action would have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects. | No <u>X</u> | Uncertain ____ | Yes |
| 6. This action would have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by the bureau (in coordination with a Reclamation cultural resources professional). | No <u>X</u> | Uncertain ____ | Yes |
| 7. 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. | No <u>X</u> | Uncertain ____ | Yes |
| 8. This action would violate a Federal, State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for protection of the environment. | No <u>X</u> | Uncertain ____ | Yes |
| 9. This action would affect Indian Trust Assets (ITA) (To be completed by Reclamation official responsible for ITA). | No <u>X</u> | Uncertain ____ | Yes |
| 10. This action would have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations. | No <u>X</u> | Uncertain ____ | Yes |
| 11. 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. | No <u>X</u> | Uncertain ____ | Yes |

12. 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. No X Uncertain ____ Yes

NEPA Action: Categorical Exclusion X

Environmental commitments, explanation, and/or remarks:

Yes No Environmental commitments are required and attached.

- San Joaquin Kit Fox Avoidance and Minimization Measures
- Giant Garter Snake Avoidance and Minimization Measures
- California Tiger Salamander Avoidance and Minimization Measures
- California Red-Legged Frog Avoidance and Minimization Measures
- Other:

Air Quality: N/A

Prepared by:

Michael Eng

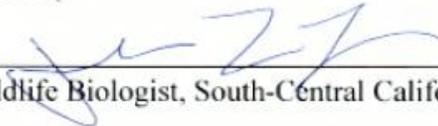
Date: December 20, 2011

South-Central California Area Office

Regional Archeologist concurrence with Item 7:
See attachment.

ITA Designee concurrence with Item 10:
See attachment.

Concur:


Wildlife Biologist, South-Central California Area Office

Date: December 20, 2011

Concur:


Supervisory Natural Resources Specialist, South-Central California Area Office

Date: 12/22/11

Approved:


Chief, Resources Management Division, South-Central California Area Office

Date: 1/6/12