

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION CHECKLIST
Pump Repair and Maintenance of Access Roads and Culverts

South-Central California Area Office

January 5, 2012

Introduction: This Categorical Exclusion addresses the actions necessary to reduce surface water and maintain access on Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) property.

Background: Reclamation owns property near the town of Locke and Walnut Grove in southern Sacramento County, California. The area is surrounded by waterways, including Sacramento River, Delta Cross Channel, and Snodgrass Slough.

Purpose and Need for Action: Agricultural operations have created a network of drainage ditches that fill with storm water and levee seepage. California State Parks owns and until recently operated a drainage pump that drained water in these ditches from both State Parks and Reclamation property. The purpose of the Proposed Action is to repair an existing pump that is used to reduce surface water, to maintain culvert and ditch capacity, and to maintain access.

Proposed Action: Reclamation proposes three separate but related actions:

1. Repair and maintenance of the existing drainage pump and installation of a security cage. The pump is secured on an iron framed structure that is above ground level. Any repair work and installation of the security cage would take place on this framework. Once repaired, responsibility for operations and maintenance of the drainage pump would be transferred to Transtower; a lessee on Reclamation land. State Parks stated that the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board indicated discharge from the pump is not a point source discharge subject to a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit, under their construction or industrial storm water permits.
2. Clear culverts and ditches up to 100-feet out from the culverts of sediment and vegetation for the purpose of restoring the flow of water. Three culverts exist on Reclamation property. One culvert is located on the North/South ditch east of the center access road under the Transtower entry. The second culvert is on the same ditch, under a spur road leading to a turnout east of the center road, and North of the Transtower. The third culvert spans the center road near the drainage pump, connecting the Reclamation property to the California State Parks property. Environment Commitments are required as part of this action (see attached Environmental Commitment Program).
3. Trim trees on and through the “middle,” North/South running road. This is the road that divides the State owned portion and the Federally owned portion of the Delta Meadows parcel. Environment Commitments are required as part of this action (see attached Environmental Commitment Program).

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.

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 <u> ___ </u> | 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 <u> ___ </u> | 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 <u> ___ </u> | Yes |
| 9. This action would affect Indian Trust Assets (ITA) (To be completed by Reclamation official responsible for ITA). | No <u> X </u> | Uncertain <u> ___ </u> | Yes |
| 10. This action would have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations. | No <u> X </u> | Uncertain <u> ___ </u> | 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 <u> ___ </u> | 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 <u> X </u> | Uncertain <u> ___ </u> | 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: Commitments are written into the attached Environmental Commitment Program form.

Prepared by:

Chuck Siek

Date: December 19, 2012

South-Central California Area Office

Regional Archeologist concurrence with Item 7:
See attachment.

ITA Designee concurrence with Item 10:
See attachment.

Concur:



Date: 1-5-12

Wildlife Biologist, South-Central California Area Office

Concur:



Date: 1/5/12

Supervisory Natural Resources Specialist, South-Central California Area Office

Approve:

~~Concur.~~



Date: 1/6/12

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

Environmental Commitment Program

This form must accompany all Federal discretionary action approvals that require compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act and other applicable environmental laws.

Approval document¹: [Enter type and number]

Environmental Document²: [Enter type and number]

On January 14, 2011 the President's Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) issued guidance for Federal agencies to implement, monitor and evaluate environmental commitments identified in Environmental Assessments and Environmental Impact Statements completed for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

The Bureau of Reclamation's NEPA Handbook provides guidance on the establishment of an Environmental Commitment Program (ECP) to meet the CEQ guidance. The ECP is a system designed to implement, monitor and evaluate the environmental commitments identified in the NEPA document. This guidance also pertains to Categorical Exclusions when environmental commitments have been identified in order to meet the requirements for exclusion. These commitments fall under one or more of the following categories:

1. Commitments where no construction or ground disturbance is involved

These commitments are typically associated with water transfers, exchanges, Warren Act contracts and similar actions.

Required Not Required

2. Commitments where construction or ground disturbance is involved

These commitments are typically associated with short-term construction impacts resulting from modifications to Federal facilities or modifications to non-Federal facilities where there is a Federal nexus such as Federal funds or approvals.

Required Not Required

3. Long-term commitments

These commitments are typically associated with larger construction or ground disturbing activities where impacts to resources such as wetlands, special status species habitat or water quality may occur that require long-term mitigation and monitoring.

Required Not Required

Note: If the "Not Required" boxes are checked on all three commitment categories, no further action is required. If any of the required boxes are checked please refer to the following Environmental Commitment table for a summary of the commitments required for environmental compliance. A comprehensive description of the environmental commitments can be found in the associated environmental document. Please direct any questions or comments regarding the Environmental Commitment Program to:

Chuck Siek, Supervisory Natural Resources Specialist
Department of Interior, Bureau of Reclamation
1243 "N" Street, Fresno, CA. 93721
(559) 487-5138 email at csiek@usbr.gov

¹ Approval document types include but are not limited to: contracts and agreements, permits, licenses and grants.

² Environmental Document types include: Categorical Exclusion, Environmental Assessment/Finding of No Significant Impact and Environmental Impact Statement/Record of Decision

Environmental Commitment Table
South-Central California Area Office
Environmental Document: 11-100

Existing environmental documents: Reclamation would continue to require compliance with all commitments imposed by existing environmental documents, such as Biological Opinions and Programmatic Agreements.

Funding: The project proponent is responsible for all direct costs to implement, monitor and evaluate the environmental commitments described in the following table. The project proponent is also responsible for the costs incurred by Reclamation staff to monitor and evaluate the environmental commitments.

To be completed by Reclamation [Assigned Natural Resource Specialist]						To be completed by [proponent]		
Resource	Commitment Category ³	Summary of Environmental Commitments ⁴	Timeframe for Implementation ⁵	Verification of Compliance ⁶		Point of Contact	Verification of Compliance (Authorizing Official)	
				Initials	Date		Initials	Date
Biology	2	Culverts and Ditches: A qualified biologist, provided by SYMVCD shall inspect all culverts and ditches just prior to being cleared of vegetation and sediment to determine the presence of burrows. No work is to occur within 200-feet of observed burrows or potential hibernacula (e.g. voids or space suitable for GGS overwintering).	At all times culverts and/or ditches are being cleared of vegetation or sediment.					
Biology	2	Trees and shrubs: A qualified biologist, provided by SYMVCD shall confirm that no protected shrubs or Heritage trees (Any tree having a trunk with a circumference of 47.1 inches or oak tree native to California, with a circumference of 31.4 inches) will be trimmed. The biologist shall note (in writing with supporting images) the following items: 1. Any elderberry shrubs with stems at least one inch in diameter at ground level with a drip line within 100-feet of proposed activities. 2. Heritage oak trees with a drip line within 200-inches should be avoided. These bushes and trees shall be identified as Environmentally Sensitive Areas, flagged, and shall be avoided.	At all times trees and or bushes are being trimmed.					

³List category numbers checked on first page

⁴ Summarize environmental commitments from environmental document completed for action (SMART-Specific, Measureable, Attainable, Relevant or Timed)

⁵ List when environmental commitments must start/end

⁶ Verification by Reclamation that all environmental commitments have been implemented and a summary report has been completed as required