

# RECLAMATION

*Managing Water in the West*

## Categorical Exclusion Checklist

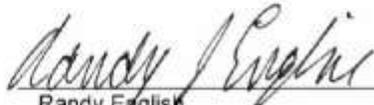
### Keenan Farming Company, Inc. License Agreement Land Usage at San Luis Canal Mile Post 166.50

CEC-12-014

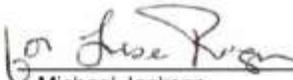
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U.S. Department of the Interior  
 Bureau of Reclamation  
 South-Central California Area Office

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## Background

Keenan Farming Company (Keenan Farms) is one of the largest pistachio processors in the United States. Keenan Farms is requesting a 10-year License to use Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) right-of-way (ROW) along the San Luis Canal (SLC) for agricultural purposes (Figure 1). The requested parcel has been licensed off and on since 1977 for same use. The last such license was cancelled by mutual agreement in August 2002.

## Purpose and Need for Action

The Reclamation parcel is adjacent to property owned by Keenan Farms. This parcel is well situated for loading Keenan Farms trucks for with harvested pistachio nuts for delivery to the processor.

## Proposed Action

Reclamation proposes to enter into a 10-year License with Keenan Farms to allow them the use of Reclamations ROW to load trucks with pistachios annually during the months of September and October.

No ground disturbance or construction would be performed. The parcel of land to be used is approximately 5-acres in size (Figure 2) and is located approximately 10 miles northeast of Avenal, CA. Keenan Farms has the necessary equipment to properly maintain the property.

## Environmental Commitments

Reclamation shall implement the following environmental protection measures:

Resource	Protection Measure
Biological Resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project-related vehicles shall observe a 20 MPH speed limit in all project areas, except on county roads and State and federal highways.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All food-related trash items such as wrappers, cans, bottles, and food scraps will be disposed of in closed containers and removed at least once a week from a construction or project site.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To prevent harassment, mortality of wildlife or destruction of habitat by dogs or cats, no pets will be permitted on project sites.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Activities will be limited to daytime hours.</li> </ul>
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>If any listed species are observed on or near the project area, Reclamation will be notified and the action will be rescheduled or postponed to avoid all impacts to species. Any scheduled operations and maintenance activities will also be rescheduled or postponed to avoid impacts to listed species. Project-related vehicles shall stay on established roads.</li> </ul>

Environmental consequences for resource areas assume the measures specified would be fully implemented.

## Exclusion Category

516 DM 14.5 D (10). Issuance of permits, licenses, easements, and crossing agreements which provide right-of-way over Bureau lands where action does not allow for or lead to a major public or private action.

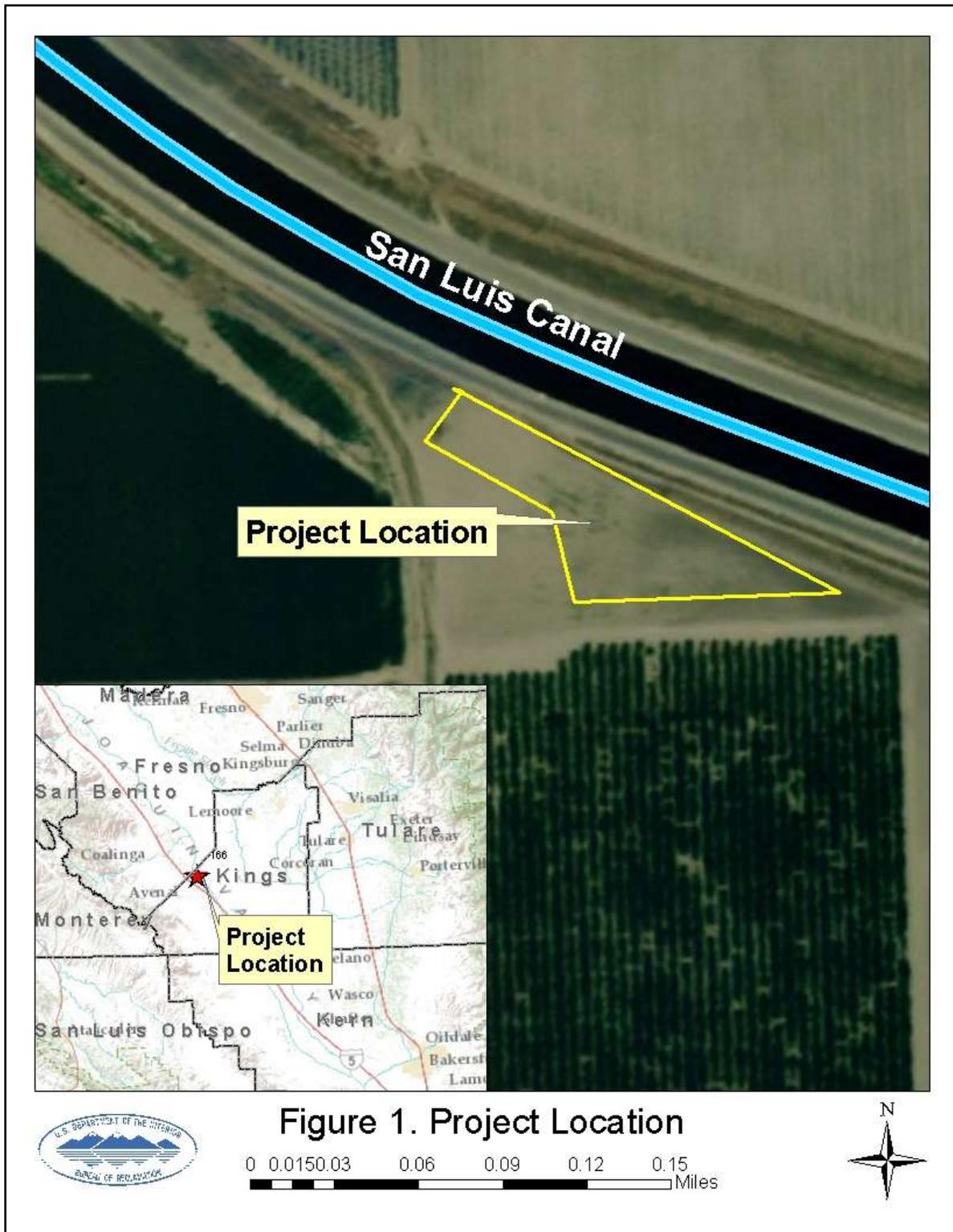


Figure 1 Project Location



Figure 2 Right of Way area requested by Keenan Farms Company, Inc.

## 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"/> |
| 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 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain | <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> |

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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) (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. Their determination has been placed within the project file.

Area Office Biologist concurred with Item 9. Their determination has been placed within the project file.

ITA Designee concurred with Item 11. Their determination has been placed within the project file.