

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION CHECKLIST
Exclusion of Lands from Rag-Gulch Water District

South-Central California Area Office

February 16, 2012

Background: Rag Gulch Water District (RGWD) has revised their Sphere of Influence with the Kern County Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) by detaching land. The LAFCo actions occurred on March 23, 2011 and May 25, 2011. These actions would only affect the quantities of water delivered by the appropriate districts for the subject territory. There would be no upgrade needed to existing facilities as a result of the annexation. RGWD has requested that its service area boundaries be condensed to exclude ± 325.88 acres (Figure 1).

Purpose and Need for Action: The reason for the proposed actions is that RGWD no longer delivers any supplied water to the territory proposed to be detached and the landowners do not require a water supply from RGWD.

Proposed Action: Reclamation proposes to approve the detachment of ± 325.88 acres from RGWD. See Table 1 for Assessor's Parcel Numbers and Figure 1 for project location.

Kern-Tulare Water District	
Assessor Parcel #	# Acres
051-090-36	4.55
338-230-27	161.33
338-230-28	160.00
Total	325.88

Exclusion Category: 516 DM 14.5 D (3) Administration and implementation of project repayment and water service contracts, including approval of organizational or other administrative changes in contracting entities brought about by inclusion or exclusion of lands in these contracts.

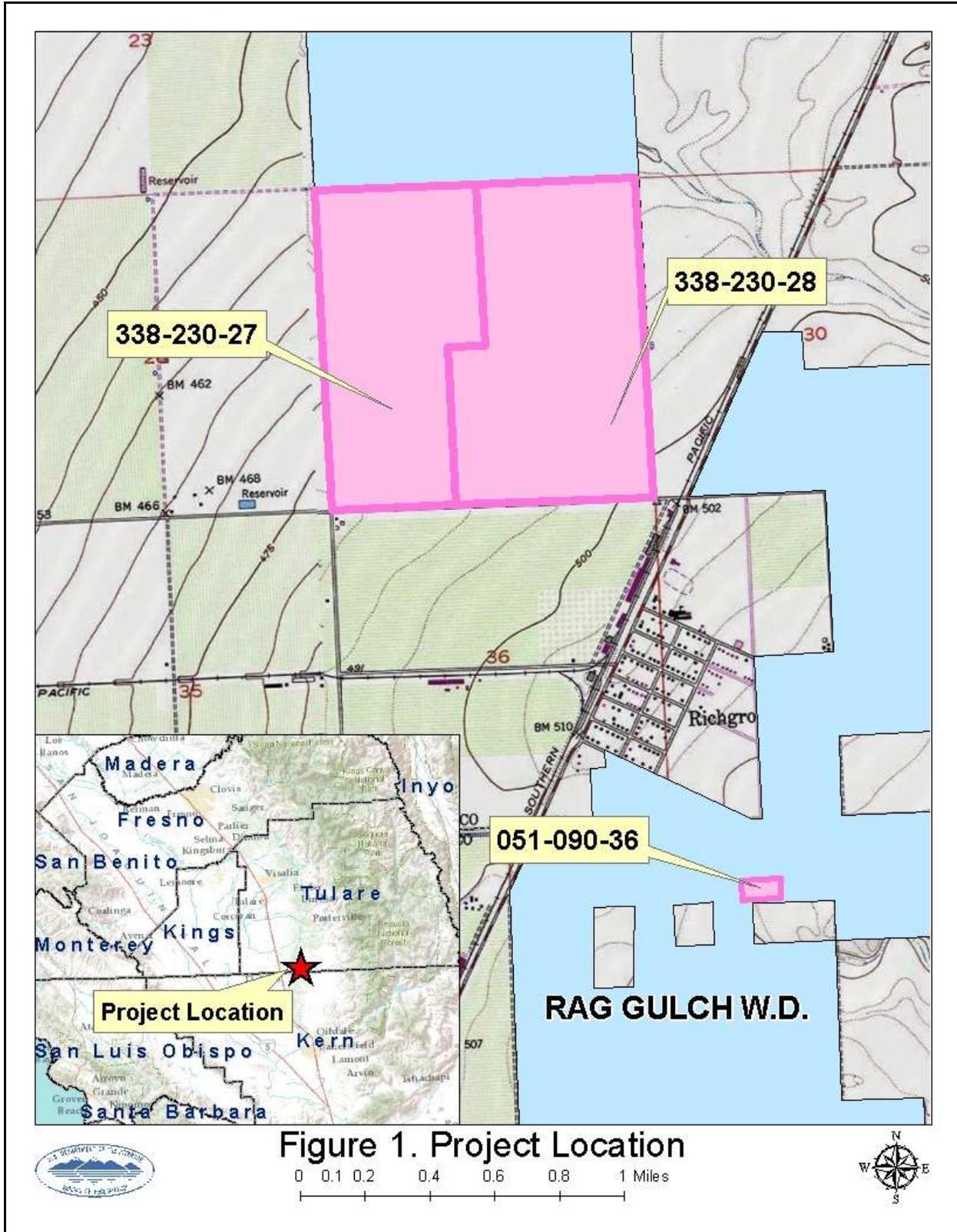


Figure 1. Project Location

Evaluation of Criteria for Categorical Exclusion

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

Evaluation of Exemptions to Actions within Categorical Exclusion

1. This action would have significant adverse effects on public health or safety. No X 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 X Uncertain ____ Yes
3. This action would have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks. No X 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 X Uncertain ____ Yes

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|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------|-----------------------|------------|
| <p>5. This action would have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects.</p> | <p>No <u>X</u></p> | <p>Uncertain ____</p> | <p>Yes</p> |
| <p>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).</p> | <p>No <u>X</u></p> | <p>Uncertain ____</p> | <p>Yes</p> |
| <p>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.</p> | <p>No <u>X</u></p> | <p>Uncertain ____</p> | <p>Yes</p> |
| <p>8. This action would violate a Federal, State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for protection of the environment.</p> | <p>No <u>X</u></p> | <p>Uncertain ____</p> | <p>Yes</p> |
| <p>9. This action would affect Indian Trust Assets (ITA) (To be completed by Reclamation official responsible for ITA).</p> | <p>No <u>X</u></p> | <p>Uncertain ____</p> | <p>Yes</p> |
| <p>10. This action would have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations.</p> | <p>No <u>X</u></p> | <p>Uncertain ____</p> | <p>Yes</p> |
| <p>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.</p> | <p>No <u>X</u></p> | <p>Uncertain ____</p> | <p>Yes</p> |

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:

Prepared by:

Danielle Oliveira

Date: 3/29/2012

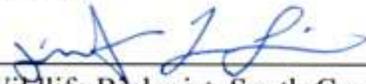
South-Central California Area Office

Regional Archeologist concurred with Item 6. Their determination has been placed within the project file.

Area Office Biologist concurred with Item 7. Their determination has been placed within the project file.

ITA Designee concurred with Item 9. Their determination has been placed within the project file.

Concur:



Date: 3-29-2012

Wildlife Biologist, South-Central California Area Office

Concur:



Date: 4/25/12

Supervisory Natural Resources Specialist, South-Central California Area Office

Approved:



Date: 4/25/12

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

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