

# RECLAMATION

*Managing Water in the West*

## Categorical Exclusion Checklist

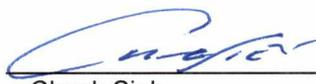
# Stone Corral Irrigation District Inclusion

CEC-12-028

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## **Background**

The Stone Corral Irrigation District revised their Contractor Service Area with the Tulare Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) in order to annex a single 89.29 acre agricultural land parcel located in Tulare County. The LAFCo adopted Stone Corral Irrigation District's Negative Declaration per Section 21080 (c) of the California Environmental Quality Act, and approved the annexation on August 4, 2010 (Resolution Number 10-016). The District has requested that Reclamation extend the boundaries of their Central Valley Project (CVP) service area to reflect the LAFCo action.

## **Purpose and Need for Action**

The landowners seeking the inclusion are currently dependent upon groundwater pumping for irrigation. The purpose of the proposed inclusion is to provide a reliable source of irrigation water to the parcel involved, while limiting the impact on a common aquifer.

## **Proposed Action**

Reclamation proposes to approve the annexation of Tulare County Assessor's Parcel Number 053-020-004-000 (Figure 1) to Stone Corral Irrigation District pursuant to Article No. 36 of its Repayment contract No. I75r-2555D.

## **Exclusion Category**

516 DM 14.5 paragraph 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 or lands in these contracts.*

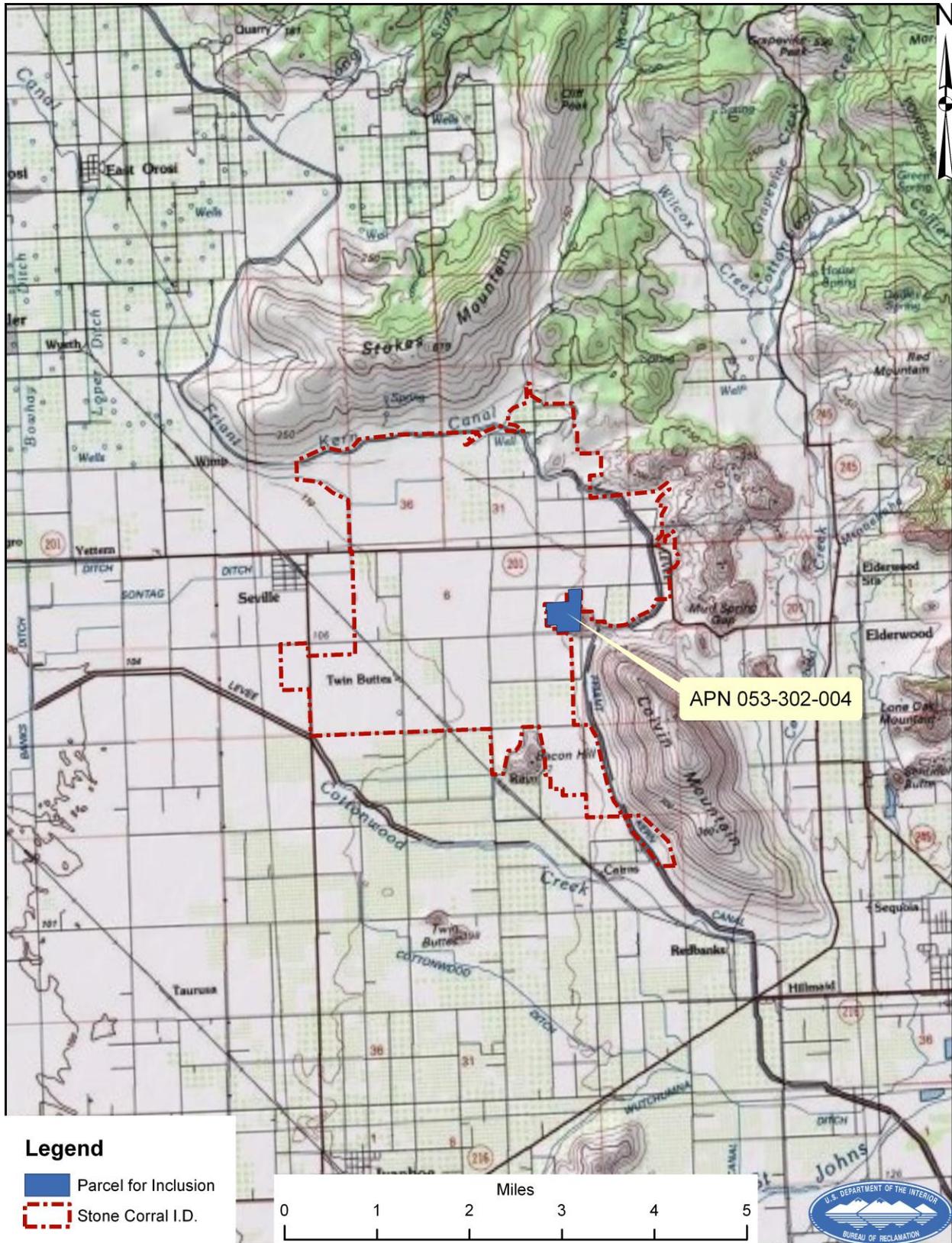


Figure 1 Location of Proposed Inclusion

## 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"/> |

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.

## 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.

### Environmental Document<sup>1</sup>: CEC-12-028

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). This guidance also pertains to Categorical Exclusions when environmental commitments have been identified in order to meet the requirements for exclusion.

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. 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. Reclamation would continue to require compliance with all commitments imposed by existing environmental documents, such as Biological Opinions and Programmatic Agreements. 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](mailto:csiek@usbr.gov)

<sup>1</sup> Environmental Document types include: Categorical Exclusion, Environmental Assessment/Finding of No Significant Impact and Environmental Impact Statement/Record of Decision

