

APPENDIX D
HISTORIC PROPERTIES

1. Historic Overview of the Rogue River Basin Project Irrigation Districts
2. July 21, 2004 letter to the State Historic Preservation Office

HISTORIC OVERVIEW OF THE ROGUE RIVER BASIN PROJECT IRRIGATION DISTRICTS

American settlement of the Rogue River Valley began in 1850, when gold was discovered near present-day Jacksonville. The town of Jacksonville was founded in 1851, the first town in southern Oregon. Settlement spread quickly along the Rogue and up its tributaries, including along Bear Creek, as the agricultural potential of the area was recognized. By 1860, farms, many with small orchards, had been established from Ashland to Brownsboro. In 1887, the Southern Pacific Railroad line was completed, connecting San Francisco to Portland, with sidings in Medford and Ashland. Ready access to markets triggered development of a commercial orchard industry in the valley. By 1891, these fruits were being marketed throughout the United States and internationally. The area also produced nuts, grains, hay, and pastured livestock.

Successful agriculture in dry climates depends upon a sufficient and reliable water supply. The Medford area receives an average of 17 inches of water annually, but only about 15 percent of that falls during the growing season. Soon area growers realized that fruit trees required irrigation to produce full-sized fruits, and too little rain caused failure of both orchard and grain crops. Interest arose in developing water project to provide irrigation to serve the orchards and farms, and water and power for industrial and municipal use. In 1899, two San Francisco-based contractors filed for water rights on Little Butte Creek, and made notice of their intent to construct a storage dam on Fish Lake. In 1900, they surveyed the route for a 26-mile-long canal extending from a point on the South Fork of Little Butte Creek to Medford. The canal system would provide city water, irrigation water, and generate power from a water wheel installed at Antelope Creek. In 1900 the project proponents incorporated under the name Fish Lake Water Company (FLWC). By January 1902, the initial 18 miles of canal were completed extending as far as what is now called the Bradshaw Drop. This section of canal is known today as the Main Canal, and is jointly owned by the Rogue River Valley Irrigation District (RRVID) and the Medford Irrigation District (MID). By 1909, the FLWC had constructed temporary dams at Fish Lake and Fourmile Lake, built additional canal and laterals, likely including at least the initial segments of the Hopkins Canal, and was delivering water to lands in the vicinity of White City. Spurred by promotional campaigns, many valley farmers planted orchards in advance of the canals reaching their property.

However, the FLWC's funding was insufficient to meet their objectives and they fell behind on their construction schedule and suffered financial difficulties. In 1909, ownership of the system passed to a group of capitalists from Spokane who incorporated in 1910 as the Rogue River Valley Canal Company (RRVCC). The RRVCC conducted additional surveys, including for a high-line canal that would begin at the Bradshaw Drip and follow the foothills around the east side of Bear Creek Valley south and cross Bear Creek at Phoenix, and then swing northwest to the foothills west of Central Point. This canal is now known as the Medford Canal (or sometimes the East Main Canal or MID Canal) east of Bear Creek and is called the Phoenix Canal west of Bear Creek. It appears that, during this period, the RRVCC completed only the first 7 miles of the Phoenix

Canal, with no construction on the Medford Canal. Many farms with young orchards received no water or an insufficient supply. Due to lack of water and a general local economic depression, a number of farms were abandoned and others suffered hardship.

Water supply difficulties spurred valley farmers to seek to improve conditions through the creation of irrigation districts, through which farmers would act to complete irrigation systems to serve their lands. The Talent Irrigation District (TID) was organized in 1916, MID in 1917, and the Rogue River Valley Irrigation District (RRVID) in 1929. TID completed studies for a new irrigation storage and distribution system. By 1930 they had completed construction of two storage reservoirs and a system of canals that served about 10,000 acres. MID likewise conducted studies and elected to work with the RRVCC for the latter company to complete their planned system and furnish water to MID. RRVCC was to provide an expanded water supply by rebuilding the storage dams on Fourmile Lake and Fish Lake, complete the Cascade Canal to link those two reservoirs. They were to expand the water delivery system by widening the Main Canal and constructing the high-line canal (to build the Medford Canal and extend the Phoenix Canal). The RRVCC suffered delays in accomplishing these actions, but they were ultimately completed in 1929. That same year, MID acquired sole ownership of the Medford Canal and Phoenix Canals, joint ownership of the Main Canal and storage facilities, and a large share of the RRVCC's water rights. Later that same year the RRVID was formed and purchased the Hopkins Canal and remaining properties and water rights of the RRVCC.

The RRVID and MID irrigation distribution systems extant today are substantially the systems established by 1929. However, since the 1950's, both of the irrigation districts have been incrementally replacing or modifying elements of their distribution systems as they aged. In large part the modifications have involved piping sections of canal and replacing diversion and turnout structures. However, the MID facilities involved in the Preferred Alternative (the section of the MID Canal and the MID's diversions on the Middle and South Forks of Larson Creek) remain unmodified since their original construction in the 1920's.

The TID system, on the other hand, has been substantially altered. In 1954, Reclamation obtained authorization to construct the Talent Division of the Rogue River Basin Reclamation Project (Project). The focus of that Project was to construct new and enlarge existing reservoirs to expand the water supply for the area, and to enlarge and extend the TID delivery system. Essentially all of the TID canals were widened to allow them to carry additional volume of water. At that time, the headworks of all of the canals and the diversions, siphons, and other structures within the canals were replaced. The TID East Canal was widened, a new headworks constructed (Oak Creek Diversion), and all internal structures replaced. The diversion at Larson Creek that will be either abandoned or removed under Alternatives B and C was constructed in 1958, and the segment of the East Canal below that diversion that will be abandoned was widened at that time. At some later time, this section of canal was further modified when a concrete pipe was installed to replace the open ditch.

It is Reclamation's determination that the Project should be considered as a National Register Linear or Discontinuous Historic District (historic district). The three irrigation systems encompassed by the Project were integral in the historic development of Bear Valley and the Medford, Ashland, and other smaller communities in that valley. Also, their history illustrates a common chain of events associated with irrigation development elsewhere in Oregon and throughout the West. That chain often started, as in Bear Valley, with outside capitalists initiating grand irrigation schemes as investment enterprises, which were rarely brought to completion. Then the affected farmers under an irrigation system organized into irrigation districts, assumed control of the system and worked to expand the distribution and storage capabilities to serve core lands. They could rarely finance construction of large water storage reservoir sufficient to serve all irrigable lands. Then, after 1902, partnership of irrigation districts with the Federal Government to develop more extensive storage that allowed for an expanded and more reliable water delivery.

Some elements of the Project can be clearly determined to contribute to the historic district, both by their age and importance and by their retention of original design integrity (historic integrity). Other elements meet the age criteria but may have been so modified in the past as to lack historic integrity. They may ultimately be determined to be non-contributing elements to the historic district. Other elements do not yet meet the minimum standard age for consideration, but may be contributing elements after they are 50 years in age.



United States Department of the Interior

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IN REPLY REFER TO:

PN-3010
ENV-7.00

JUL 21 2004

Ms. Christine Curran
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Subject: Section 106 Consultations for the Modifications to the Rogue River Basin Project
Irrigation Canals from the Larson Creek Pipeline and Fish Passage Project

Dear Ms. Curran:

This letter follows up on a telephone conversation on June 23, 2005, between yourself and Ms. Lynne MacDonald. Lynne had just learned that the Medford Irrigation District (MID) has been awarded a grant under the Department of the Interior's Water 2025 program, and that the Department hopes that work can commence under the grant by the end of September. The grant is for the Larson Creek Pipeline and Fish Passage project (Larson Creek project), which is intended to restore Larson Creek to a natural condition to aid in stream habitat restoration to restore steelhead runs into the upper reaches of Larson Creek. Implementation of the Larson Creek project will result in actions that will alter segments of two canals and three associated small diversion structures that are part of the Rogue River Basin Reclamation Project (Project). On June 23, you assisted Lynne by informally discussing the best means to accomplish the Section 106 consultations about impacts to the Project facilities within the limited time frame allowed by the Department. You also discussed longer-term processes to address incremental changes that are likely to occur in the future to historic irrigation systems throughout Oregon from various water conservation cooperative efforts.

Following up on that discussion, with this letter we wish to open consultations to determine the historic significance of the Project, and then to continue with consultations focused, at this time, on the effects of the Larson Creek project. We will follow later with discussions on programmatically addressing incremental effects of water conservation and other identifiable repetitive actions on this and other irrigation systems. We anticipate those follow-on discussions would occur by this time next year.

THE ROGUE RIVER BASIN PROJECT

The Project is located in Jackson County, Oregon, in the Bear Creek Valley. It extends roughly from Ashland north to Central Point, and from lands east of Medford west to Jacksonville (see figure 1). The Project is comprised of three irrigation districts, the Rogue River Valley Irrigation District (RRVID); the Medford Irrigation District (MID), and the Talent Irrigation District (TID). The enclosed historic overview discusses the history of the three districts and identifies the storage and distribution systems associated with each. The overview also discusses the modifications made in the past to some of the features. To aid in consultation, the history of the Project is briefly summarized below.

History of the Project

American settlement of the Rogue River Valley began in 1850, when gold was discovered near present-day Jacksonville. The town of Jacksonville was founded in 1851, the first town in southern Oregon. As the agricultural potential of the area was recognized, settlement spread quickly along the Rogue and up its tributaries, including along Bear Creek. By 1860, farms, many with small orchards, had been established along streams from Ashland to Brownsboro. In 1887, the Southern Pacific Railroad line was completed, connecting San Francisco to Portland, with sidings in Medford and Ashland. Ready access to markets triggered a wave of new settlement in the valley, followed by development of a commercial orchard industry. By 1891, fruits and nuts were being marketed throughout the United States and internationally. Farms also produced grains and hay, and pastured livestock.

Successful agriculture in dry climates depends upon a sufficient and reliable water supply. Although the Medford area receives an average of 17 inches of precipitation annually, only about 15 percent of that falls during the growing season. That is not sufficient to realize the agricultural potential of the area. Early on, growers recognized that, in that climate, irrigation was required if orchards were to produce full-sized fruits and if the threat of crop failure from too little rain were to be avoided. In 1899, two San Francisco-based contractors filed for water rights on Little Butte Creek and made notice of their intent to construct a storage dam that would raise the elevation of Fish Lake, a natural mountain lake. In 1900, they surveyed the route for a 26-mile-long canal extending from a point on the South Fork of Little Butte Creek west to Medford. The canal system would provide city water, irrigation water, and generate power from a water wheel installed at Antelope Creek. Later that year the project proponents incorporated under the name Fish Lake Water Company (FLWC). By January 1902, they had constructed the initial 18 miles of canal extending from Little Butte Creek west as far as what is now called the Bradshaw Drop. This section of canal is known today as the Main Canal. Prior to 1909, the FLWC had constructed temporary dams at Fish Lake and Fourmile Lake. They had also extended the canal somewhat and had constructed laterals to deliver water to lands in the vicinity of White City. The new canal section likely comprises at least the initial segment of the Hopkins Canal. Spurred by promotional campaigns, many valley farmers planted orchards in advance of the canal service reaching their property.

However, the FLWC suffered financial difficulties and they fell behind on their construction schedule. In 1909, ownership of the system passed to a group of capitalists from Spokane who incorporated in 1910 as the Rogue River Valley Canal Company (RRVCC). The RRVCC conducted additional surveys, including an alignment for a high-line canal that would begin at the Bradshaw Drop, follow the foothills around the east side of Bear Creek Valley south, cross Bear Creek at Phoenix, and then swing northwest to the foothills west of Central Point. This canal is now known as the Medford Canal (or sometimes the East Main Canal or MID Canal) east of Bear Creek and the Phoenix Canal west of Bear Creek. RRVCC believed they could irrigate in excess of 55,000 acres with the proposed system. However, as with the FLWC, the RRVCC's funds were insufficient to accomplish their grand objectives. It appears that, prior to 1920, they completed only the first 7 miles of the Phoenix Canal, with no construction on the Medford Canal. Many farms with young orchards received no water or an insufficient supply. Lack of water and a general local economic depression led to abandonment of some farms and hardship on those that remained in operation.

Water supply difficulties spurred valley farmers to seek to improve conditions through the creation of irrigation districts, through which farmers would act to complete irrigation systems to serve their lands. TID was organized in 1916, MID in 1917, and RRVID in 1929. TID completed studies for a new irrigation storage and distribution system. By 1930 they had constructed two small dams to create Hyatt Prairie Reservoir and Emigrant Lake, and constructed a system of canals that served about 10,000 acres both east and west of Bear Creek below Ashland and around Talent. MID likewise conducted studies but elected to contract with the RRVCC for the latter company to complete their planned system and furnish water to MID. RRVCC was to provide an expanded water supply by rebuilding the storage dams on Fourmile Lake and Fish Lake and completing a canal to link those two reservoirs. They were to expand the water delivery system by widening the Main Canal and constructing the high-line canal (to build the Medford Canal and extend the Phoenix Canal). They promised MID that this system could irrigate 55,000 acres. However, the RRVCC again suffered delays and difficulties, and by 1929 had completed a system sufficient to serve only 10,500 acres. Completed works did include the Medford Canal and Phoenix Canals and reservoir improvements. In 1929, MID assumed full ownership from RRVCC of the Medford and Phoenix Canals, joint ownership of the Main Canal and storage facilities, and about two-thirds of the RRVCC's water rights. Later in 1929, the RRVID was formed and purchased the Hopkins Canal and remaining properties and water rights of the RRVCC. Today, although incorporated into Reclamation's Rogue River Basin Project, both the MID and RRVID retain ownership and operation of their historic systems.

The RRVID and MID irrigation distribution systems extant today are substantially the systems established by 1929. However, since the mid-1950's, both of the irrigation districts have been incrementally replacing or modifying elements of their distribution systems as they aged (see the enclosed historic overview for descriptions of the more significant modifications to these systems). Although the canals largely follow original alignments and most generally maintain their open, unlined ditch characteristics, many of the associated structures have been replaced. Fish Lake Dam has been rebuilt twice since 1929.

The TID system, on the other hand, was essentially entirely rebuilt in the late 1950's and the 1960's. This occurred as a result of the entry of the Federal Government into irrigation development of the valley. In 1954, Reclamation obtained authorization to construct the Talent Division of the Rogue River Basin Reclamation Project. The focus of the Project was to construct new and enlarge existing reservoirs to expand the water supply for the area, and to enlarge and extend the TID delivery system. Beginning in the late 1950's, essentially all of the TID canals were widened to allow them to carry an additional volume of water. At that time, the headworks of all of the canals and the diversions, siphons, and other structures within the canals were replaced and some canals were lengthened. Hyatt Prairie Dam and Emigrant Dam were rebuilt, and additional storage reservoirs constructed (see page 33 of the overview for a listing of TID facilities). Reclamation now owns the TID system, and TID operates and manages the irrigation works. Except that the general alignment of the original canals were retained when they were incorporated in the expanded distribution system, the TID system no longer represents the early phase of irrigation development in the valley. The sole exception is the McDonald Lateral, which is largely as originally designed.

Assessment of Historic Significance

As indicated above, Reclamation owns the facilities operated by TID, but MID and RRVID own and operate their systems. Because the Larson Creek project affects facilities owned by MID, we have discussed the determination of eligibility process with MID's District Manager and received her consent for the determinations offered below. Since elements of the RRVID system are involved in the Larson Creek project, no discussions have occurred with RRVID's management about the historic significance of their system. Therefore, the following assessments of historic significance do not include the RRVID system.

I have determined that the TID and MID systems of the Rogue River Basin Project are historically significant. Their historical significance principally rests upon two factors. First, the two irrigation systems were integral in the historic development of Bear Valley and the Medford, Ashland, and other smaller communities in that valley. Therefore, they have local significance. The fact that the valley's orchard industry had developed a national and international market by the beginning of the 20th Century may possibly elevate significance to a State level. Second, the history of the Rogue River Basin Project as a whole illustrates a developmental sequence commonly seen elsewhere in Oregon and throughout the West. That sequence often started with outside capitalists who initiated grand water resource development investment enterprises that rarely came to more than limited fruition. The next step typically involved transfer of the system to farmers who organized as irrigation districts to complete a more limited system. And the sequence often ultimately ends with the irrigation district's partnership with the Bureau of Reclamation to complete an expanded water supply and delivery system.

As shown in the overview, TID and MID have many component parts spanning a broad period of time and arrayed over a large area. Therefore, we recommend that they be determined to be eligible as a National Register linear or discontinuous historic district. Both the TID and MID systems would be in a single historic district, which we recommend be called The Rogue River Basin Irrigation Project National Register District. Designation of a linear or discontinuous historic district will also allow us to individually assess which of the facilities contribute to or do

not contribute to the historic significance of the larger Project. At a later time the RRVID may also be included as part of the historic district, but that decision must be made with prior consent of RRVID's management.

We believe that the historic district designation should thematically encompass both the initial 1900 through 1930 phase of irrigation development and the facilities associated with the 1950's through 1960's Federal phase. It is likely that all of the original phase features that retain sufficient physical integrity of design and material will ultimately be determined to be contributing to the historic district, as will facilities from the later phase after they reach the 50-year threshold. Due to the extent of past modifications, it is possible that few or none of MID's facilities representing the initial phase of irrigation development will be individually eligible to the National Register due to lack of historic integrity of design. However, because of the need to complete this initial consultation as quickly as is possible, we wish to limit discussions at this time to the features affected by the Larson Creek project and assess their significance as contributing elements to the historic district. We can resolve the more complex issue of whether each work is individually eligible to the National Register during subsequent consultations.

The Larson Creek project will impact small sections of the Medford Canal and the TID's East Canal. As indicated above, the Medford Canal was constructed by the RRVCC at some time between 1920 and 1929. It is 25 miles long, extending from Bradshaw Drop (about 10 miles northeast of Medford) to the town of Phoenix, where it goes under Bear Creek in a siphon. The Medford Canal, with the Phoenix Canal, forms the backbone of the entire MID irrigation delivery system. The Medford Canal follows its original alignment and in most part remains the open, unlined ditch of original design. However, since the mid-1950's, MID has systematically replaced most of the flumes and siphons as well as many of the less significant structures in the canal (see page 29 of the historic overview). Although its historic integrity is compromised, Reclamation believes that the Medford Canal retains sufficient original character to be a contributing element to the historic district. It primarily represents the initial phase of irrigation development in the valley. The elements of the canal affected by the Larson Creek Project (described below under the project description) date from the 1920's and have not been modified. They contribute to the historic character of the canal.

The TID East Canal (also called the East Side Lateral) originated prior to 1930, but was entirely rebuilt by Reclamation in 1958. The 21-mile long canal originates at Emigrant Dam and extends northwest to near Medford along the east side of the Bear Creek Valley. Although detailed information is not presently available, we know that Reclamation widened and deepened the canal and replaced all associated structures in 1958. Although altered, it remained an unlined, gravity-flow ditch, and the 1958 diversion at Larson Creek is largely indistinguishable in type from the 1920's diversions on the Medford Canal. It does follow the same route, and so has retained integrity of location and association. Therefore, Reclamation believes that the East Canal retains, perhaps minimally, sufficient physical integrity to be representative of the initial phase of irrigation development. It clearly represents the Federal phase of irrigation development. The elements of the East Canal affected by the Larson Creek project include a 1958 diversion structure and the final 1,000 feet of the canal. The diversion has not been modified since construction. However, the canal segment, originally open unlined ditch, has been replaced with buried concrete pipe at some time since the 1950's.

We ask that you concur in the designation of a linear or discontinuous National Register district that will be called The Rogue River Basin Irrigation Project National Register Historic District. We ask that you concur that the Medford Canal and the East Canal are contributing elements to that historic district.

DESCRIPTION OF THE LARSON CREEK PROJECT AND ITS EFFECT UPON HISTORIC PROJECT FACILITIES

It is necessary to summarize how MID and TID operate their canals in the Larson Creek vicinity to understand the planned modifications. Water from Emigrant Lake is released into TID's East Canal and flows approximately 27 miles north before reaching the Middle Fork Larson Creek. The canal extends only 1,000 feet beyond (north of) the Middle Fork. At the crossing of the Middle Fork, TID transfers water from the canal into the creek and uses the natural creek to carry the water to a point near Barnett Road where it is diverted from the creek into the Cherry Creek lateral. TID also spills excess water from the East Canal into the Middle Fork that was needed to ensure that deliveries reached the extreme end of the canal. Figure 2 shows the routes of the canals and creeks, and also shows the locations of features involved in the Larson Creek project.

As outlined above, the Medford Canal flows generally south from Bradshaw Drop, crossing the Middle and South Forks of Larson Creek near Medford, before continuing south and eventually crossing Bear Creek at Phoenix. The stretch of the Medford Canal between the South and Middle Forks has actually replaced the natural creek channel between the two forks. As the Medford Canal crosses the Middle Fork of Larson Creek it diverts the excess water spilled by TID into that creek; there is a small diversion dam at that point. As it crosses the South Fork of Larson Creeks, flow of that creek is diverted into the canal, and there is another small diversion dam at that point.

The principal purposes of the Larson Creek project is to remove in-stream barriers to fish in the South and Middle Forks of Larson Creek, and to separate irrigation flows from natural flows in the Middle Fork. Separation of flows would stop the unnatural stream flow fluctuations that occur during the irrigation season and stop the discharge of heated canal water into the creek. Piping will improve efficiency of the irrigation conveyance system, reducing water loss into the soil. Also, a real estate developer who owns some of the land crossed by this segment of the Medford Canal wishes MID to move the canal to allow maximum development of the land.

The Larson Creek project involves:

- Removal of the three small diversion dams. These are concrete stoplog structures, essentially similar to concrete culverts which can be closed off by dropping wood planks into grooves in the concrete side walls and a central pier. Enclosed photographs show the two MID diversions. The TID diversion is of the same type, but is smaller.
- Removal of a 2,500-foot long segment of the Medford Canal, spanning the stretch of canal between the two diversions (see enclosed photographs). Most of this segment will be filled and incorporated into the new housing developments. The remainder will be restored for use as the channel for Larson Creek.

- Abandonment of the final 1,000 feet of the TID East Canal (the piped section referenced above; see enclosed photograph). This will be left as is, so that it can be used as an emergency wasteway by TID.
- Construction of two pipelines. One along North Phoenix Road would replace the section of the Medford Canal; a siphon will be built to carry the canal's flow under the South Fork of Larson Creek. The second pipeline along Barnett Road would connect the East Canal to the Cherry Creek service lands and on down to the Medford Canal. This pipeline will make it unnecessary to run water down the Middle Fork of Larson Creek. A siphon will carry the East Canal under the Middle Fork.

Reclamation has determined that the Larson Creek project will have an adverse effect upon the historic integrity of the Medford Canal and East Canal due to removal of the two diversion structures and alteration of a segment of the canal. Approximately 2 percent of the total canal will be modified; this modification is not sufficient to significantly impact the overall historic integrity of the canal as a whole. However, the two diversions that will be removed are original to the 1920's, and information collected when preparing the Project overview indicated most of the original Medford Canal structures have been replaced in the 1950's and 1960's.

It is more difficult to assess the effect of project actions on the TID East Canal. Although a diversion dam will be removed, that dam dates from 1958. The segment of canal that will be abandoned lacks physical integrity, and so does not contribute to the overall historic character of the East Canal. Ultimately, Reclamation has determined that the proposed actions will have no adverse effect upon the historic integrity of the East Canal. However, because we would have considered the diversion dam to be a contributing element of the canal if it met the 50-year age threshold, and because it is only 4 years short of that threshold, we propose to include the diversion dam in the mitigation action proposed below.

We ask that you concur with these assessments of effect.

MITIGATION OF ADVERSE EFFECTS

The mitigation proposed is specific to the Larson Creek project, and so is scoped to the scale of adverse effect from that undertaking. Since the adverse effect is confined to a small section of the Medford Canal, the mitigation proposed is to complete Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) current view photographic documentation of this section and the two associated diversion structures. For reasons given above, Reclamation will also photograph the TID East Canal diversion. Given the very simple nature of the structures and canal, we anticipate that 12 to 15 photographs will fully document their physical characteristics. The photographs will be collected, processed, indexed, labeled, and packaged in accordance with HAER requirements.

We ask that you concur that this action is appropriate mitigation for the adverse effects of the Larson Creek project on the historic integrity of the Medford Canal.

It is likely that water conservation and fish passage improvement actions will continue to occur on the Rogue River Project. Therefore, Reclamation intends to initiate programmatic consultations with you within the next year to discuss the cumulative effects of incremental

modifications from these and other kinds of foreseeable actions on the historic integrity of the system. We anticipate that one outcome of those consultations could be a programmatic agreement (PA) and the commitment to complete full HAER documentation of the Rogue River Project facilities. We anticipate that the draft historic overview provided with this letter will form the core of the narrative section of the HAER, and that the current view photographs taken for the Larson Creek mitigation will be incorporated into the document. We have collected a large body of other HAER current view photographs of Rogue River Project facilities a few years ago when funding was available and in anticipation of the need for documentation. Those would be incorporated into the HAER.

However, these kinds of incremental modifications are not limited to the Rogue River Project, nor are they even limited to Reclamation Projects. Therefore, when we consult over the next year, we would like to open discussions about a State-wide PA and about mitigation approaches that refocus on themes that exceed specific Project or irrigation district boundaries. Under that scenario, we might not complete a PA specific to the Rogue River Project.

One further point of information. The subject of this letter has been confined to impacts on the historic facilities. However, you will have noticed that new construction is also involved in the Larson Creek project, and so there is also the potential to affect other types of historic properties. Consultation with your office about those other actions will occur under separate cover within the next few weeks.

As indicated at the opening of the letter, Reclamation hopes to be able to complete these consultations as soon as possible in order to comply with a schedule that was defined by the Department. In order to increase the chances that we can come to agreement during without extending beyond the 30-day period following receipt of this letter, we ask that you call or e-mail Lynne MacDonald if you need any additional information. Please also contact her informally if you cannot concur with any points we make in this letter. On the phone, Lynne will discuss your concerns and reach an alternative that you can agree with. The objective is that your response to this initial letter can be concurrence on a mutually agreed-upon approach. If it is at all possible, within the context of your already-existing commitments, to complete this consultation in less than the 30 days to which you are entitled, that favor would be greatly appreciated. We understand that it may not be possible for you to expedite your response.

Again, thank you for the help you have already provided, and for your assistance throughout the course of this consultation. Do not hesitate to call Lynne MacDonald at 208-378-5316, or to e-mail her at lmacdonald@pn.usbr.gov.

Sincerely,



Ronald J. Eggers
Area Manager

Enclosures – 4 (Figure 1, Figure 2, Photos, Overview)

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