

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Categorical Exclusion Checklist (CEC)

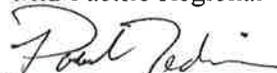
Colusa County Water District - Discharge Facility – Tehama-Colusa Canal, Milepost 92.86R – Central Valley Project, California

NCAO-CEC-15 - 04

Prepared by:  Date: 4/28/2015
Irene Hobbs
Realty Specialist
Northern California Area Office

Concurrence by: See Attachment 1 Date: April 16, 2015
Richard Stevenson
Native American Affairs Program Manager
Mid-Pacific Regional Office

Concurrence by: See Attachment 2 Date: April 27, 2015
Lauren Perry
Regional Archaeologist
Mid-Pacific Regional Office

Concurrence by:  Date: 4/28/2015
Paul Zedonis
Environmental and Natural Resource
Division Manager
Northern California Area Office

Approved by:  Date: 4/28/15
Federico Barajas
Area Manager
Northern California Area Office



Proposed Action

Colusa County Water District (District) is requesting permission to install, operate and maintain a new discharge facility along the Tehama-Colusa Canal (TCC) for the purposes of discharging well water into the TCC in conjunction with the District’s Warren Act Contract.

At Milepost 92.68R, an 8-inch PVC or steel pipeline will be installed from a well located on land owned by Jeff Charter. The pipeline would extend approximately 1,300 feet onto Reclamation’s right-of way, cross under Reclamation’s canal access road and extend into the canal through the embankment (Figure 1), all of which have been previously disturbed. A backhoe would be used to dig the trench. Soils extracted by trenching would be prevented from entering the canal and would be reused to cover the new pipeline. The pipeline over the U.S. right of way and access road shall have a minimum of 2-feet of cover. A plan and cross sectional view of the project area is shown in Figure 2. Photo of the action area is provided in Figure 3. The discharge facility is located in Section 19, Township 14 North, Range 2 West, M.D.M.&M. in Colusa County.

The Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority (TCCA) and Reclamation reviewed the location on March 31, 2015, and it has been determined the proposed facility will not interfere with the operation and maintenance of the TCC. This action would occur in early spring in preparation for the irrigation season.

The right-of-way and area to be used for this action does not provide habitat for any threatened or endangered species. The canal itself is concrete lined, and the TCCA regularly maintains the area and engages in a weed abatement program along both the right-of-way and in the canal.

Exclusion Categories

Bureau of Reclamation Categorical Exclusion – 516 DM 14.5, D(10): Issuance of permits, licenses, easements and crossing agreements which provide right-of-way over Bureau of Reclamation lands where the action does not allow or lead to larger public or private action.

Extraordinary Circumstances

Below is an evaluation of the extraordinary circumstances as required in 43 CFR 46.215.

1. This action would have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment (40 CFR 1502.3). No Uncertain Yes
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 Uncertain Yes
3. This action would have significant impacts on public health or safety (43 CFR 46.215(a)). No Uncertain Yes

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 Uncertain Yes
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 Uncertain Yes
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 Uncertain Yes
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 Uncertain Yes
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; and 43 CFR 46.215 (g)). No Uncertain Yes
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 Uncertain Yes
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; and 43 CFR 46.215 (j)). No Uncertain Yes
13. This action would limit access to, and ceremonial use of, No Uncertain Yes

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).

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 (email attached).

ITA Designee concurred with Item 11 (email attached).

NEPA Action Recommended

CEC – This action is covered by the exclusion category and no extraordinary circumstances exist. The action is excluded from further documentation in an EA or EIS.

Further environmental review is required, and the following document should be prepared.

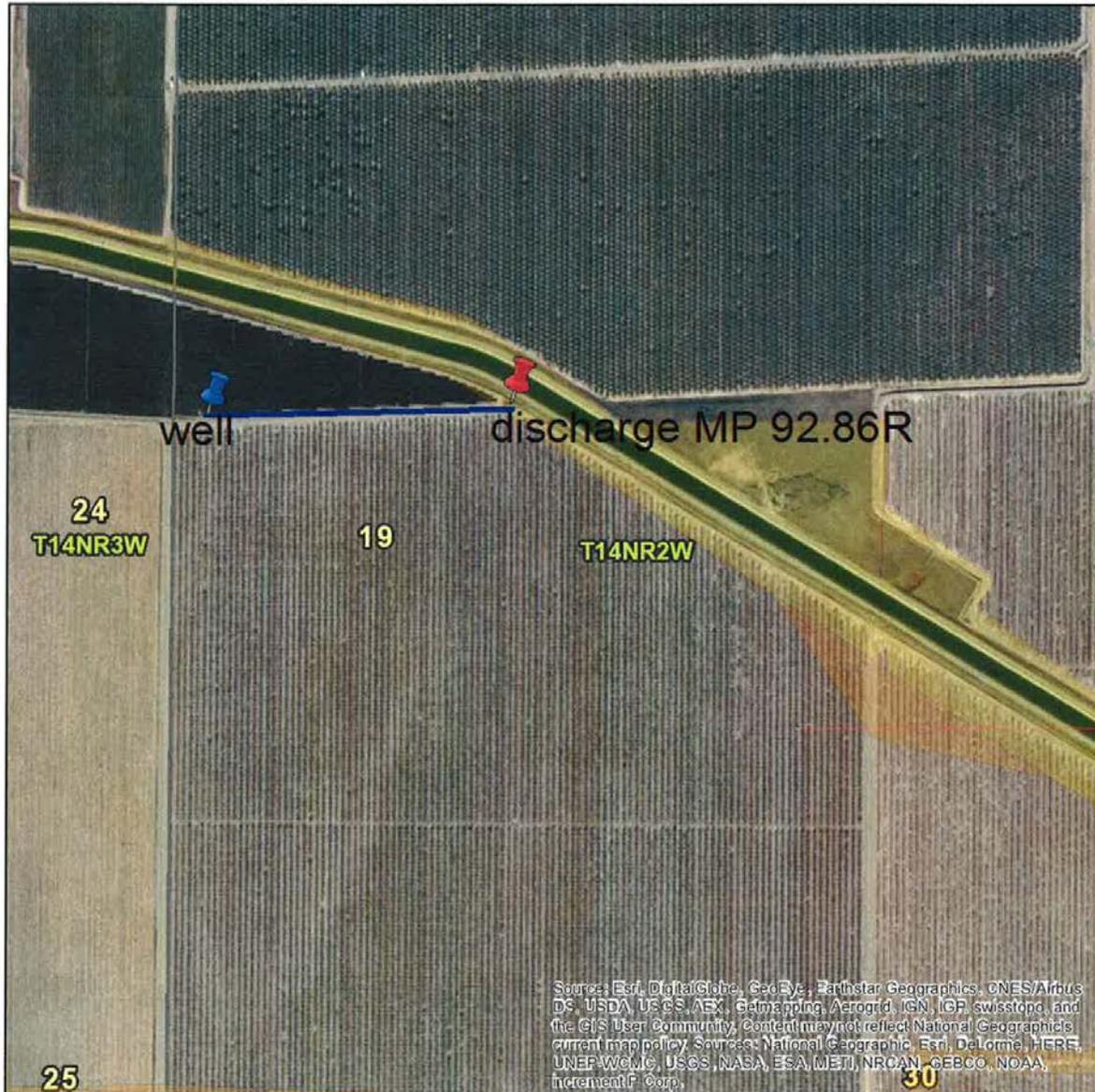
EA

EIS

Environmental commitments, explanations, and/or remarks:

Cost Authority Number to review this request: 15XR0680A2 RX.0214965E.2300166

Colusa Co WD - Jeff Charter



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Figure 1. Aerial view of the proposed pipeline from the groundwater well to the new discharge facility at MP 92.86

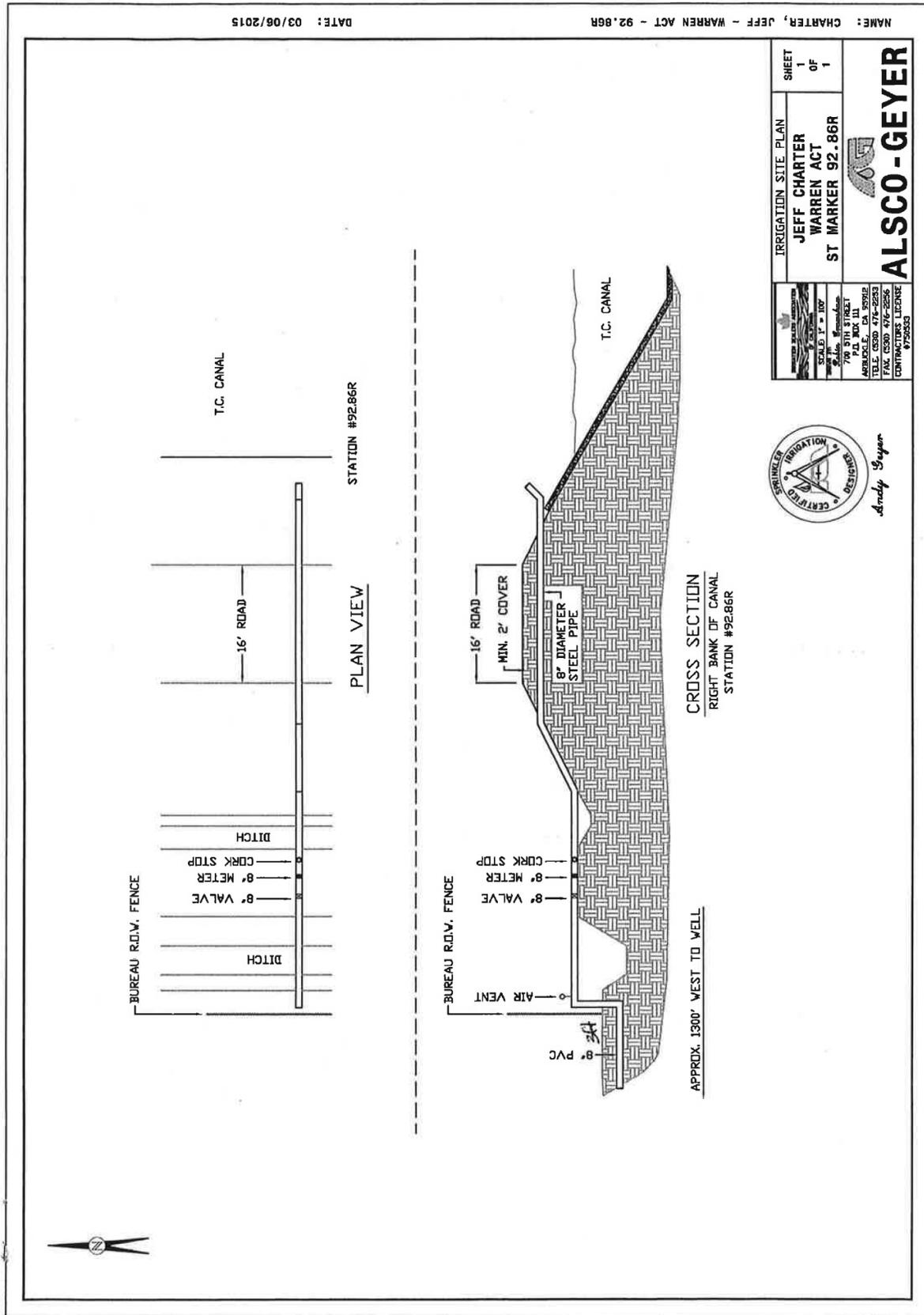


Figure 2. Cross-sectional view showing pipeline placement and elevations.



Figure 3. Image looking west from the O&M road along the Tehama Colusa Canal at Jeff Charter's property.

Attachment 1. Indian Trust Asset concurrence



Zedonis, Paul <pzedonis@usbr.gov>

CR and ITA review: Discharge Facilities Colusa County WD

Johnson, Charles <cjohnson@usbr.gov>
To: Paul Zedonis <pzedonis@usbr.gov>
Cc: "STEVENSON, RICHARD" <rstevenson@usbr.gov>

Thu, Apr 16, 2015 at 9:43 AM

Paul,

The closest ITA to the proposed three discharge locations is the Cortina Indian Rancheria of Wintun Indians about 8 miles to the west of the Tehama-Colusa Canal (see attached image). Based on the nature of the planned work it does not appear to be in areas that will impact Indian hunting or fishing resources or water rights nor are they on actual Indian lands. It is reasonable to assume that the proposed action will not have any impacts on ITAs.

Chuck Johnson

Chuck Johnson, CPSS
Chief, Land Resources
Regional GIS Program Manager
Regional Realty Officer
Regional Soil Scientist
Regional Fire Management Officer

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"Non sibi sed aliis"

Attachment 2. Cultural Resource Review concurrence

**CULTURAL RESOURCE COMPLIANCE
Reclamation Division of Environmental Affairs
MP-153**

MP-153 Tracking Number: 15-NCAO-123

Project Name: Colusa County Water District Discharge Facility into Tehama-Colusa Canal
Mile Post 92.86R

NEPA Document: NCAO-CEC-15-04

NEPA Contact: Paul Zedonis, Natural Resources Specialist

MP 153 Cultural Resources Reviewer: Lauren Perry, Regional Archaeologist

Date: 04/27/2015

The undertaking by Reclamation is to grant permission to Colusa County Water District to install, operate, and maintain a new discharge facility on the Tehama-Colusa Canal (TCC) at MP 92.86R to discharge water into the TCC. This is the type of undertaking that does not have the potential to cause effects to historic properties, should such historic properties be present, pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Section 106 regulations codified at 36 CFR Part 800.3(a)(1).

The District is proposing to install an 8" PVC or steel pipe from an existing well located on land owned by Jeff Charter onto Reclamation's right-of way, cross under Reclamation's canal access road and extend into the canal through the embankment. The entire route is previously disturbed from construction of the road and canal and adjacent agriculture. A backhoe would be used to dig the trench. Soils extracted by trenching would be prevented from entering the canal and would be reused to cover the new pipeline. The pipeline across the access road shall have a minimum of 2-feet of cover. The discharge facility is located in Section 19, Township 14 North, Range 2 West, M.D.M.&M. in Colusa County.

After reviewing the materials submitted by NCAO, I concur with item 8 in NCAO-CEC-15-04 that this action would not have significant effects on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by Reclamation. With this determination, Reclamation has no further NHPA Section 106 obligations. This memorandum is intended to convey the completion of the NHPA Section 106 process for this undertaking. Please retain a copy in the administrative record for this action. Should changes be made to this project, additional NHPA Section 106 review, possibly including consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer, may be necessary. Thank you for providing the opportunity to comment.

CC: Cultural Resources Branch (MP-153), Anastasia Leigh – Regional Environmental Officer (MP-150)