

# RECLAMATION

*Managing Water in the West*

## Categorical Exclusion Checklist (CEC)

### City of Shasta Lake – Water Treatment Plant – Dewatering Centrifuge Project – Shasta County, California

**NCAO-CEC-15-20**

Prepared by: for *R. Robertson* Date: *12/16/2015*  
Irene Hobbs  
Realty Specialist  
Northern California Area Office

Concurrence by: See Attachment 1 Date: October 5, 2015  
Megan Simon  
Northern California Area Office Designee  
for Tribal Trust Assets

Concurrence by: See Attachment 2 Date: November 30, 2015  
Lex Palmer  
Historian  
Mid-Pacific Regional Office

Concurrence by: *Donald Baden* Date: *12/16/2015*  
for Paul Zedonis  
Environmental and Natural Resource  
Division Manager  
Northern California Area Office

Approved by: *Donald Baden* Date: *12/16/2015*  
for Federico Barajas  
Area Manager  
Northern California Area Office

## **Proposed Action**

The City of Shasta Lake (City) is requesting permission to install, operate and maintain a dewatering centrifuge adjacent to the facilities of its existing water treatment plant in Shasta County, California. The centrifuge would be located on Reclamation land, southeast of the junction of Lake Boulevard and Shasta Dam Boulevard, approximately 600 feet south of Shasta Lake and 900 feet east of the Shasta Dam Visitor Center (Figure 1). The Project Area is surrounded by wooded land consisting of black, blue and canyon live oaks, foothill pines and dense shrubs including white-leaf manzanita, buckrush and Western redbud.

The purpose of the action is to correct an undesirable environmental condition. Current operations at the Fisherman's Point Water Treatment Plant require the use of settling ponds, from which the City is permitted to pump and discharge up to 175,000 gallons of water per day to Churn Creek. Concerns have been raised about the ability of this discharge to meet the new limits for Priority Pollutant metals in the California Toxics Rule and the Water Quality Control Plan for the Sacramento and San Joaquin River Basins, which will be imposed with the renewal of the City's National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System permit in 2017. The new system will remove the residuals in the process water, allowing the water to be recirculated to the treatment plant, thereby increasing water use efficiency while eliminating the discharge and related concerns regarding the potential effects of its contaminant load on aquatic organisms in receiving waters. Solids removed from the process water by the centrifuge will be disposed of in a permitted, off-site landfill. Continued discharge from the settling ponds will be on an emergency-only basis.

A new two-story structure, approximately 16 feet wide and 24 feet in length, would be constructed near the center of the water treatment plant footprint, between existing water tanks to the northwest and the existing water treatment facility to the southeast. The structure would house centrifugal solids dewatering equipment to be used in the City's municipal water treatment process.

The lower level of the structure would be a daylight basement constructed of concrete masonry units and/or cast-in-place concrete atop a shallow foundation. The upper level would be constructed of concrete masonry unit (CMU) or steel. The project includes the installation of approximately 410 linear feet of shallow-buried pipelines and utilities. All but approximately 200 square feet of the approximate 2,000 square foot Project footprint including the structure, pipelines and utilities, would be constructed on, or buried in, land that was previously disturbed, filled and/or graded for the construction of the water treatment plant in 1982. Vegetation in the location of the proposed facility is limited to sparse shrubs and young trees.

A plan of the Project Area is depicted in Figure 2. Photographs of the action area are provided as Figure 3. The Water Treatment Plant is located in Township 22 North, Range 5 West, Section 15 of the Mount Diablo Baseline & Meridian.

Reclamation engineers reviewed the City's Project plans in September of 2015 and determined that the proposed facility will not compromise existing infrastructure or interfere with current operations at the water treatment facility. This action will take place as soon as the City receives approval from Reclamation.

Reclamation reviewed the US Fish & Wildlife Service's Environmental Conservation Online System (ECOS) database, via the Information for Planning and Conservation (IPaC) application, to determine the potential for species Federally-listed as Threatened or Endangered, or Candidate species for listing, under the Federal Endangered Species Act or their habitats to occur at the site. The IPaC report generated for the site returned a list of 13 Federally-listed or Candidate species, none of which were reported as having Critical Habitat in the project area: the California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*), Conservancy fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta conservatio*), vernal pool fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta lynchi*), vernal pool tadpole shrimp (*Lepidurus packardi*), Delta smelt (*Hypomesus transpacificus*), Longfin smelt (*Spirinchus thaleichthys*), fisher (*Martes pennanti*), gray wolf (*Canis lupus*), Northern spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis caurina*), yellow-billed cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*), Valley elderberry longhorn beetle (*Desmocerus californicus dimorphus*), Hoover's spurge (*Chamaesyce hooveri*) and slender orcutt grass (*Orcuttia tenuis*). Reclamation also queried the California Native Diversity Database (CNDDDB) for Federally-listed and Candidate species. The CNDDDB query produced two additional species: Central Valley steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss irideus*), and Central Valley spring and winter-run salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*).

Reclamation used the Biogeographic Information and Observation System (BIOS) map viewer complement to the CNDDDB to refine the information obtained from the CNDDDB and IPaC report. The BIOS query produced no reported occurrences of any reported species within a mile of the project site and no reported occurrences of 10 of the listed or Candidate species anywhere in Shasta County. Of the five remaining species, habitat requirements of three involve vernal pools or poorly-drained features that function as vernal pools, which are absent from the site: vernal pool fairy shrimp, vernal pool tadpole shrimp and slender orcutt grass.

The site is considered too distant from water to be adequate habitat for the California red-legged frog. No elderberry trees or shrubs were reported on-site. Therefore, habitat for the Valley elderberry longhorn beetle is assumed absent. Project activities would not remove or disturb trees with nests. Likewise, activities would not significantly alter contiguous forest cover. Tree removal activities would be minor and conducted along the interior corridor of the already developed water treatment facility. Therefore, species dependent on continuous forest habitat (Northern spotted owl and fisher) would not be impacted by project activities.

Reclamation concluded that the area to be used for this action does not provide habitat for any species Federally-listed as Threatened or Endangered.

## Exclusion Categories

Bureau of Reclamation Categorical Exclusion – 516 DM 14.5, C.3. Minor construction activities associated with authorized projects which correct unsatisfactory environmental conditions or which merely augment or supplement, or are enclosed within existing facilities.

## 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)).

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, 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

***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:**

Regional Archeologist concurred with Item 8 (email attached). ITA Designee concurred with Item 11 (email attached).



Figure 1. Vicinity Map courtesy Quercus Consultants, Inc.

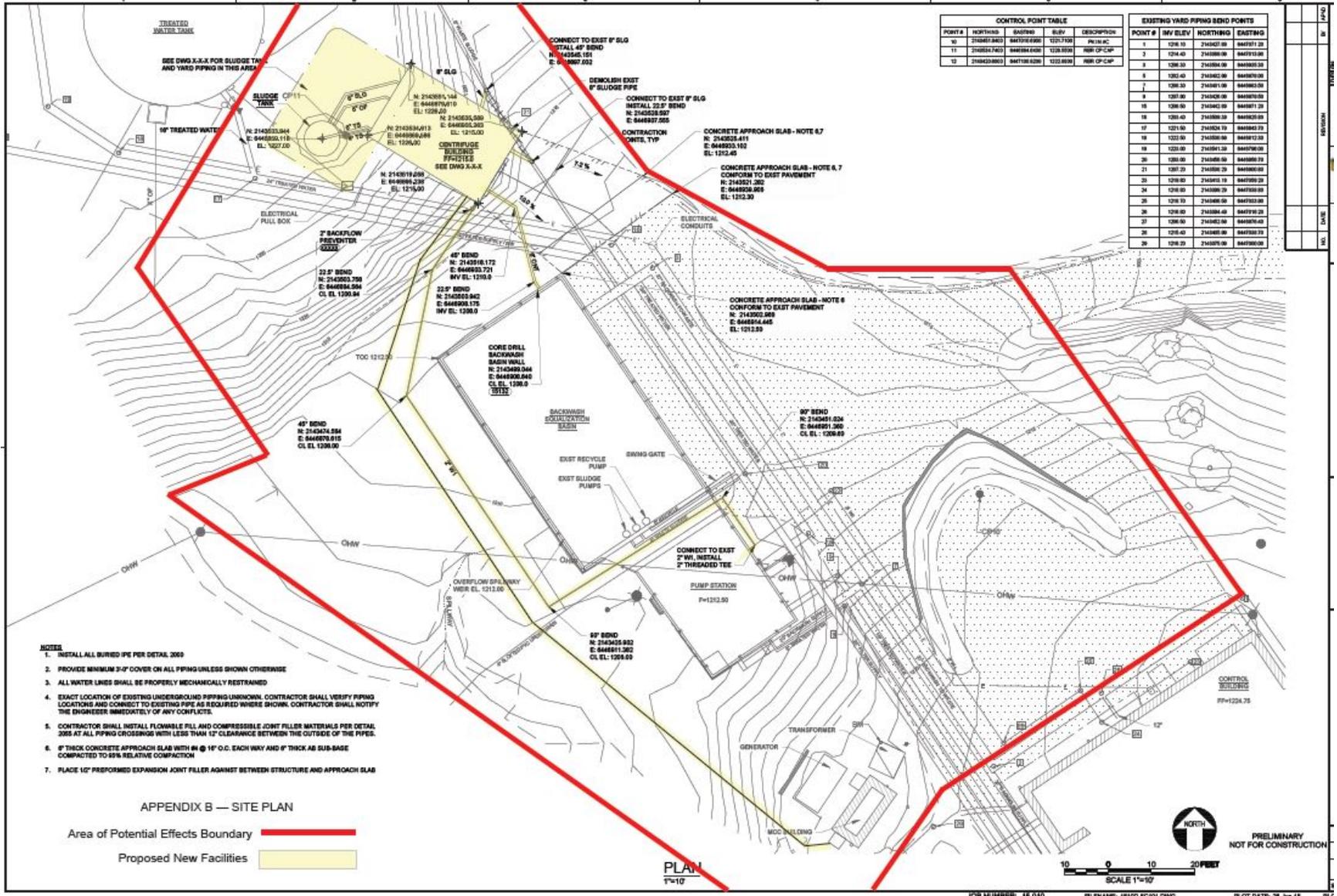


Figure 2. Plan view depicting proposed facilities and elevations courtesy Waterworks Engineers via Quercus.



**Figure 3-A. Photograph with view of embankment to be excavated for new centrifuge facility.**



**Figure 3-B. Photograph of area to be excavated for facility pipelines and utilities.**

Attachment 1. Indian Trust Assets Review



Simon, Megan <msimon@usbr.gov>

**ITA Review - City of Shasta Lake Water Treatment Plant Dewatering Centrifuge Project**

1 message

Simon, Megan <msimon@usbr.gov>  
To: Paul Zedonis <pzedonis@usbr.gov>

Mon, Oct 5, 2015 at 5:22 PM

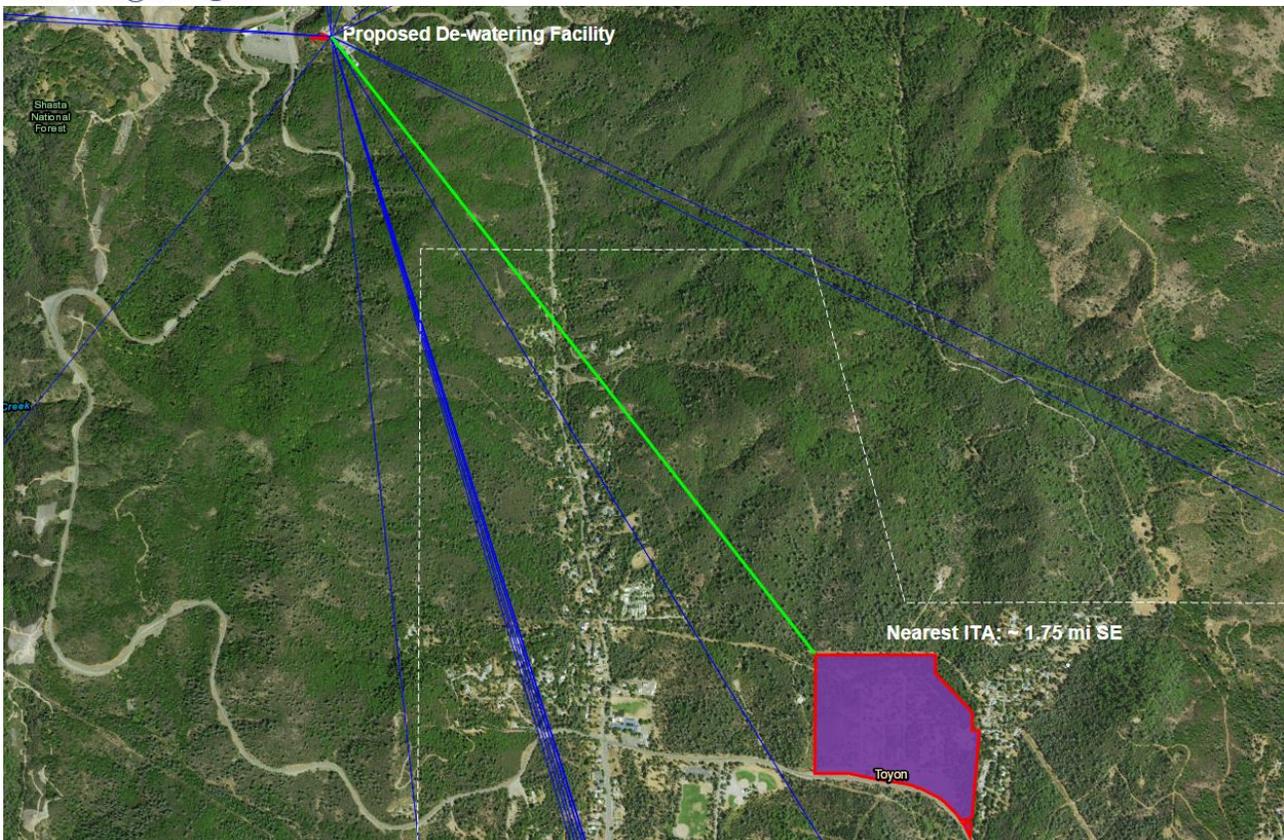
I have examined the proposal for the City of Shasta Lake's Water Treatment Plant Dewatering Centrifuge Project and have determined that this facility is at least 1.75 miles from the closest Indian Trust Asset.

I have determined that there is no likelihood that this project will adversely impact Indian Trust Assets.

—

*Megan K. Simon*

Natural Resources Specialist  
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation  
Northern California Area Office  
16349 Shasta Dam Blvd.  
Shasta Lake, CA 96019  
(530) 276-2045  
msimon@usbr.gov



Attachment 2. Cultural Resources Review

**CULTURAL RESOURCES COMPLIANCE**  
**Division of Environmental Affairs**  
**Cultural Resources Branch (MP-153)**

**MP-153 Tracking Number:** 15-NCAO-246

**Project Name:** City of Lake Shasta Residuals Dewatering Water Treatment Facility Project, Shasta County, California (15-NCAO-246)

**NEPA Contact:** Megan Simon, Natural Resource Specialist

**MP 153 Cultural Resources Reviewer:** Lex Palmer, Historian

**Date:** November 30, 2015

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The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) proposes to approve a Federal permit requested by the City of Lake Shasta for a Residuals Dewatering Water Treatment Facility Project located on Reclamation lands in Shasta County. This action constitutes an undertaking with the potential to cause effects to historic properties, assuming such properties are present, requiring compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) as amended.

Based on historic properties identification efforts conducted by Quercus Consultants, Inc., Reclamation consulted with, and received concurrence from, the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) on a finding of no historic properties affected pursuant to 36 CFR §800.4(d)(1). Consultation correspondence between Reclamation and the SHPO has been provided with this cultural resources compliance document for inclusion in the administrative record for this action.

This document serves as notification that Section 106 compliance has been completed for this undertaking. Please note that if project activities subsequently change, additional NHPA Section 106 review, including further consultation with the SHPO, may be required.

**Attachments:**

Letter: Reclamation to SHPO dated October 20, 2015

Letter: SHPO to Reclamation dated November 24, 2015



## United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION  
Mid-Pacific Regional Office  
2800 Cottage Way  
Sacramento, CA 95825-1898

IN REPLY REFER TO:

MP-153  
ENV-3.00

OCT 20 2015

CERTIFIED – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Ms. Julianne Polanco  
State Historic Preservation Officer  
Office of Historic Preservation  
1725 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, Suite 100  
Sacramento, CA 95816

Subject: National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Section 106 Consultation for the  
Proposed City of Lake Shasta Residuals Dewatering Water Treatment Facility Project,  
Shasta County, California (15-NCAO-246)

Dear Ms. Polanco:

The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) is initiating consultation under Title 54 USC § 306108, commonly known as Section 106 of the NHPA, and its implementing regulations found at 36 CFR Part 800, for actions related to the proposed City of Lake Shasta Residuals Dewatering Water Treatment Facility Project, Shasta County, California (Figures 1 and 2 in enclosed report). The City has received Community Development Block Grant funding through the California Housing and Community Development Department to add a dewatering facility at the City of Lake Shasta Water Treatment Plant, located on Reclamation lands. Reclamation determined that the currently proposed project, requiring a Federal permit, is an undertaking as defined in 36 CFR § 800.16(y) and involves the type of activity that has the potential to cause effects on historic properties under 36 CFR § 800.3(a). We are entering into consultation with you on this undertaking and notifying you of a finding of no historic properties affected.

The project area is located 900 feet east of the Shasta Dam Vista House (Figures 1 and 2 in enclosed report) and involves the construction of a new building that will house centrifugal solids dewatering equipment as part of the municipal water treatment process for the City of Shasta Lake. The new two-story building would be 16 feet wide by 24 feet long, supported on shallow foundations with shallow buried utilities. Excavation of previously undisturbed soils will be limited in extent during construction. Most of the soil that will be excavated to accommodate the above-ground facilities appears to be fill, produced when the hillside was leveled to accommodate the existing water tanks.

Reclamation has determined the area of potential effects (APE) consists of a vertical APE with a maximum depth of 15 feet and a horizontal APE of 1,250 square feet for a total of 0.75 acres. The excavation, for the above ground features, pipelines, and utility lines, will be conducted in

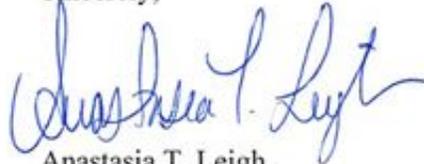
previously disturbed soils, from construction of the existing water treatment plant. The APE is located in Section 15, T. 33 N., R. 5 W., Mount Diablo Meridian, as depicted on the Shasta Dam, California, 7.5' U.S. Geological Survey topographic quadrangle map.

Historic properties identification efforts related to this project were conducted by Quercus Consultants, Inc. on behalf of the City of Shasta Lake. These efforts included a record search at the Northeast Information Center (File # W15-119) for the proposed project APE and surrounding .50 mile radius, and an intensive level pedestrian survey. The results of these efforts are documented in the enclosed report titled: *Archaeological Survey Report City of Shasta Lake Water Treatment Plant Dewatering Centrifuge Project Project Number 15-NCAO-246 Shasta County, California* (Quercus Consultants, Inc. 2015). No historic properties were identified in the APE during the records search or survey.

Reclamation determined that consultation with Indian tribes was not necessary for this undertaking. To reiterate, the APE is within previously disturbed, engineered fill from the site's initial construction activity that took place in 1982. In addition, the proposed new building would be constructed within the existing water treatment facility. Due to the lack of potential for direct or indirect effects to properties of religious or cultural significance, Reclamation did not pursue Native American input on project effects.

Based on the information discussed above and in the enclosed report, Reclamation has reached a finding of no historic properties affected for the proposed undertaking. We invite your comments on the delineation of the APE and the appropriateness of the historic properties identification efforts. We are also notifying you of our finding of no historic properties affected pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.4(d)(1). If you have any questions or concerns regarding this project, please contact Mr. Kevin (Lex) Palmer, Historian, at 916-978-5213 or [kpalmer@usbr.gov](mailto:kpalmer@usbr.gov).

Sincerely,



Anastasia T. Leigh  
Regional Environmental Officer

Enclosure – 1

**OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION**

1725 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, Suite 100  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95816-7100  
(916) 445-7000 Fax: (916) 445-7053  
calshpo@parks.ca.gov  
www.ohp.parks.ca.gov



November 24, 2015

In reply refer to: BUR\_2015\_1026\_001

Ms. Anastasia T. Leigh  
Regional Environmental Officer  
Bureau of Reclamation  
Mid-Pacific Regional Office  
2800 Cottage Way  
Sacramento, CA 95825-1898

Re: National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Section 106 Consultation for the Proposed City of Lake Shasta Residuals Dewatering Water Treatment Facility Project, Shasta County, California (15-NCAO-246)

Dear Ms. Leigh:

Thank you for your letter dated October 20, 2015, requesting my review and comment with regard to the above-referenced project. The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) is consulting with me pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations found at 36 CFR Part 800 (as amended 8-05-04). Reclamation proposes to authorize the construction of a dewatering facility at the City of Lake Shasta Water Treatment Plant, located on Reclamation lands. Along with your consultation letter, you also provided the following document:

- *Archaeological Survey Report, City of Shasta Lake Water Treatment Plant Dewatering Centrifuge Project, Shasta County, California* (Quercus, September 2015).

Reclamation has determined that the area of potential effects (APE) for this undertaking is approximately 0.75 acres within the boundaries of the City of Lake Shasta Water Treatment Plant and includes all project-related construction activities including construction of a new structure to house centrifugal solids dewatering equipment, and placement of associated underground utilities. The vertical APE will reach a maximum depth of 15 feet below existing grade.

Your letter and attached technical report document Reclamation's efforts to identify historic properties in the APE. These efforts included a records search, and a cultural resources survey conducted by Quercus Consultants, Inc (Consultant). No historic properties were identified through these identification efforts and, pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4(d)(1), Reclamation is seeking my concurrence with their finding that the proposed undertaking will result in no historic properties affected. After reviewing your submission I have the following comments:

- Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4(a)(1), I have no objections to the APE as defined.
- Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4(d)(1)(i), **I do not object with your finding of no historic properties affected for this undertaking.**

Thank you for seeking my comments and considering historic properties as part of your project planning. Be advised that under certain circumstances, such as unanticipated discovery or a change in project description, Reclamation may have additional future responsibilities for this undertaking under 36 CFR Part 800. If you have any questions, please contact Patrick Riordan of my staff at (916) 445-7017 or [Patrick.Riordan@parks.ca.gov](mailto:Patrick.Riordan@parks.ca.gov).

Sincerely,



Julianne Polanco  
State Historic Preservation Officer