RECLAMATION
Managing Water in the West

Categorical Exclusion Checklist

Water Year 2016 South of Delta 215 Contracts

CEC-15-047

Prepared by: _____ Date: 12/17/2015
Stacy L. Holt
Natural Resources Specialist
South-Central California Area Office

Concurred by: See Attachment A Date: See Attachment A
Archaeologist/Architectural Historian
Mid-Pacific Regional Office
Regional Archeologist concurred with Item 8. Their determination has been placed within the project file.

Concurred by: _____ Date: 12/17/2015
Lisa Carlson
Wildlife Biologist
South-Central California Area Office

Concurred by: _____ Date: 12/17/15
for Rain L. Emerson
Supervisory Natural Resources Specialist
South-Central California Area Office
ITA Designee concurred with Item 11. Their determination has been placed within the project file.

Approved by: _____ Date: 1/6/16
for Michael Jackson
Area Manager
South-Central California Area Office

Background

Section 215 of the Reclamation Reform Act, Public Law 97-293 authorizes the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) to provide temporary water service contracts (215 contracts) for unstorable flood flows (Section 215 water) as a result of (1) an unusually large water supply not otherwise storable of Project purposes; or (2) infrequent and otherwise unmanaged flood flows of short duration.

Nature of the Action

Reclamation proposes to execute 215 contracts during Water Year 2016 (March 1, 2016 through February 29, 2017) for temporary supply of Section 215 water with South of Delta (SOD) Central Valley Project (CVP) and non-CVP contractors when applicable (see Figure 1). Reclamation would review the estimated Jones Pumping Plant capacity on a continuing basis, and may revise the daily amount of available Section 215 water, to ensure that these deliveries do not result in early drawdown of CVP storage in San Luis Reservoir or adversely affect other CVP contractors.
Section 215 water would be made available to SOD CVP and/or non-CVP contractors from the following CVP facilities: Jones Pumping Plant, Delta-Mendota Canal, O'Neill Pumping/Generating Plant, San Luis Canal, Coalinga Canal, Pleasant Valley Pumping Plant, Gianelli Pumping/Generating Plant, Pacheco Pumping Plant, Coyote Pumping Plant, Santa Clara Conduit, and Hollister Conduit (Table 1). No construction or modification of facilities would be needed for delivery of this water. Section 215 water is only available in the Mendota Pool when CVP water is entering the Mendota Pool from the Delta-Mendota Canal.

Contractors requiring the use of State Water Project facilities are responsible for coordinating conveyance with the Department of Water Resources.

Contractors requiring the use of the Cross Valley Canal are responsible for coordinating conveyance with the Kern County Water Agency.

Section 215 water may be used for irrigation and municipal and industrial purposes and must be used within the contractor's water service boundary and within the CVP Consolidated Place of Use.

No banking, transferring or exchanging of Section 215 water is allowed.

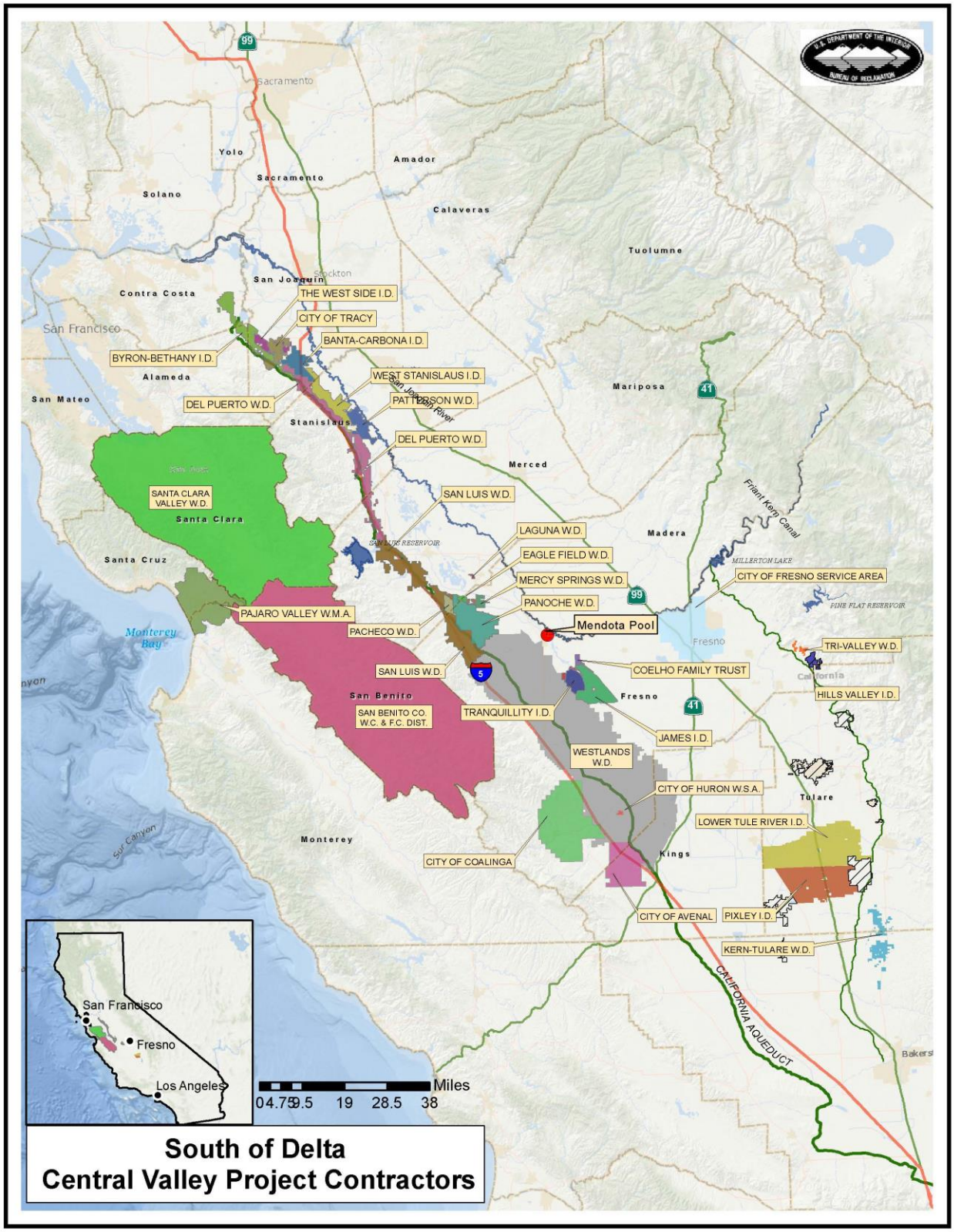


Figure 1. South of Delta areas where temporary water service contracts (215 contracts) could be allocated.

Priorities for Section 215 water would be in the following order as directed by the Area Manager and the Central Valley Operations Office:

Table 1. List of potential recipients of Section 215 water

First Priority	
Banta-Carbona Irrigation District	Byron Bethany Irrigation District
California Department of Fish and Wildlife	City of Avenal
City of Coalinga	City of Huron
City of Tracy	Del Puerto Water District
Department of Veteran's Affairs	Dos Palos Joint Power Authority
Eagle Field Water District	Mercy Springs Water District
Oro Loma Water District	Pacheco Water District
Panoche Water District	Patterson Irrigation District
The West Side Irrigation District	West Stanislaus Irrigation District
Westlands Water District	San Luis Water District

Second Priority	
Coelho Family Trust	Dudley & Indart
Fresno Slough Water District	James Irrigation District
Laguna Water District	Lempesis, Virginia L. (Carvalho, Kenneth)
Meyers Farming	Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency
Reclamation District No. 1606	San Benito County Water District
Santa Clara Valley Water District	San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors*
Tranquillity Irrigation District	Tranquillity Public Utility District
Westlands Water District	Westlands Water District Distribution District No. 1
Westlands Water District Distribution District No. 2	
* Central California Irrigation District, Columbia Canal Company, Firebaugh Canal Water District, and San Luis Canal Company	

Third Priority	
County of Fresno[1]	County of Tulare[2]
Kern-Tulare Water District (previously combined with Rag Gulth Water District)	Lower Tule River Irrigation District
Pixley Irrigation District	Tri-Valley water District
Hills Valley Irrigation District	
[1]Including its subcontractors: Fresno County Service Areas #5, #10, and #14 and Fresno County Water Works #34. [2]Iincluding its subcontractors: Alpaugh Irrigation District, Atwell Island Water District, City of Lindsay, Hills Valley Irrigation District, Saucelito Irrigation District, Stone Corral Irrigation District, Strathmore Public Utilities District, Styrotek, Inc., and City of Visalia.	

Environmental Commitments

The recipient contractors' shall implement the following environmental protection measures to avoid and/or reduce environmental consequences associated with the Proposed Action (Table 2). Environmental consequences for resource areas assume the measures specified would be fully implemented.

Table 2. Environmental Commitments

Resource	Protective Measure
Biological Resources	No new facilities would be constructed to convey this water.
Biological Resources	Lands that have never been tilled or irrigated shall not be tilled or put into agricultural production using this water.
Biological Resources	Lands that have been fallowed for three consecutive years, or more, shall not be irrigated with this surplus water.

Exclusion Category

516 DM 14.5 D (4). *Approval, execution, and implementation of water service contracts for minor amounts of long-term water use or temporary or interim water use where the action does not lead to long-term changes and where the impacts are expected to be localized.*

Evaluation of Criteria for Categorical Exclusion

	No	Uncertain	Yes
1. This action would have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment (40 CFR 1502.3).	☑	☐	☐
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)).	☑	☐	☐
3. This action would have significant impacts on public health or safety (43 CFR 46.215(a)).	☑	☐	☐
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)).	☑	☐	☐
5. This action would have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks (43 CFR 46.215(d)).	☑	☐	☐
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)).	☑	☐	☐
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) (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)).	☑	☐	☐
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)).	☑	☐	☐
11. This action would affect ITAs (512 DM 2, Policy Memorandum dated December 15, 1993).	☑	☐	☐
12. This action would have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (EO 12898) (43 CFR 46.215 (j)).	☑	☐	☐
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)).	☑	☐	☐
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)).	☑	☐	☐

NEPA Action: Categorical Exclusion

The Proposed Action is covered by the exclusion category and no extraordinary circumstances exist. The Action is excluded from further documentation in an EA or EIS.

Attachment A: Cultural Resources Determination

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

MP-153 Tracking Number: 16-SCAO-028

Project Name: Water Year 2016 South of Delta 215 Contracts

NEPA Document: CEC-15-047

NEPA Contact: Stacy Holt, Natural Resources Specialist

MP-153 Cultural Resources Reviewer: James D. Collis, Archaeologist

Date: December 17, 2015

Reclamation proposes to execute temporary water service contracts, effective March 1, 2016 through February 29, 2017, related to the temporary supply of unstorable flood flows, known as Section 215 water, to Central Valley Project (CVP) and non-CVP contractors located within the South of Delta CVP Place of Use. The availability of Section 215 water would be at Reclamation's discretion. No new construction or modification of facilities would be needed to convey this water. Section 215 water may be used for irrigation, municipal, and industrial purposes; must be used within the contractor's water service boundary; and cannot be banked, transferred, or exchanged.

Reclamation has determined that the proposed action is the type of undertaking that does not have the potential to cause effects on historic properties, should such properties be present, pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.3(a)(1). As such, Reclamation has no further obligations under 54 U.S.C. § 306108, commonly known as Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). Item 8 of CEC-15-047 is supported by this determination by Reclamation in that the proposed action would have no significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places.

This document conveys the completion of the cultural resources review and NHPA Section 106 process for this undertaking. Please retain a copy with the administrative record for the proposed action. Should the proposed action change, additional review under Section 106, possibly including consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer, may be required.

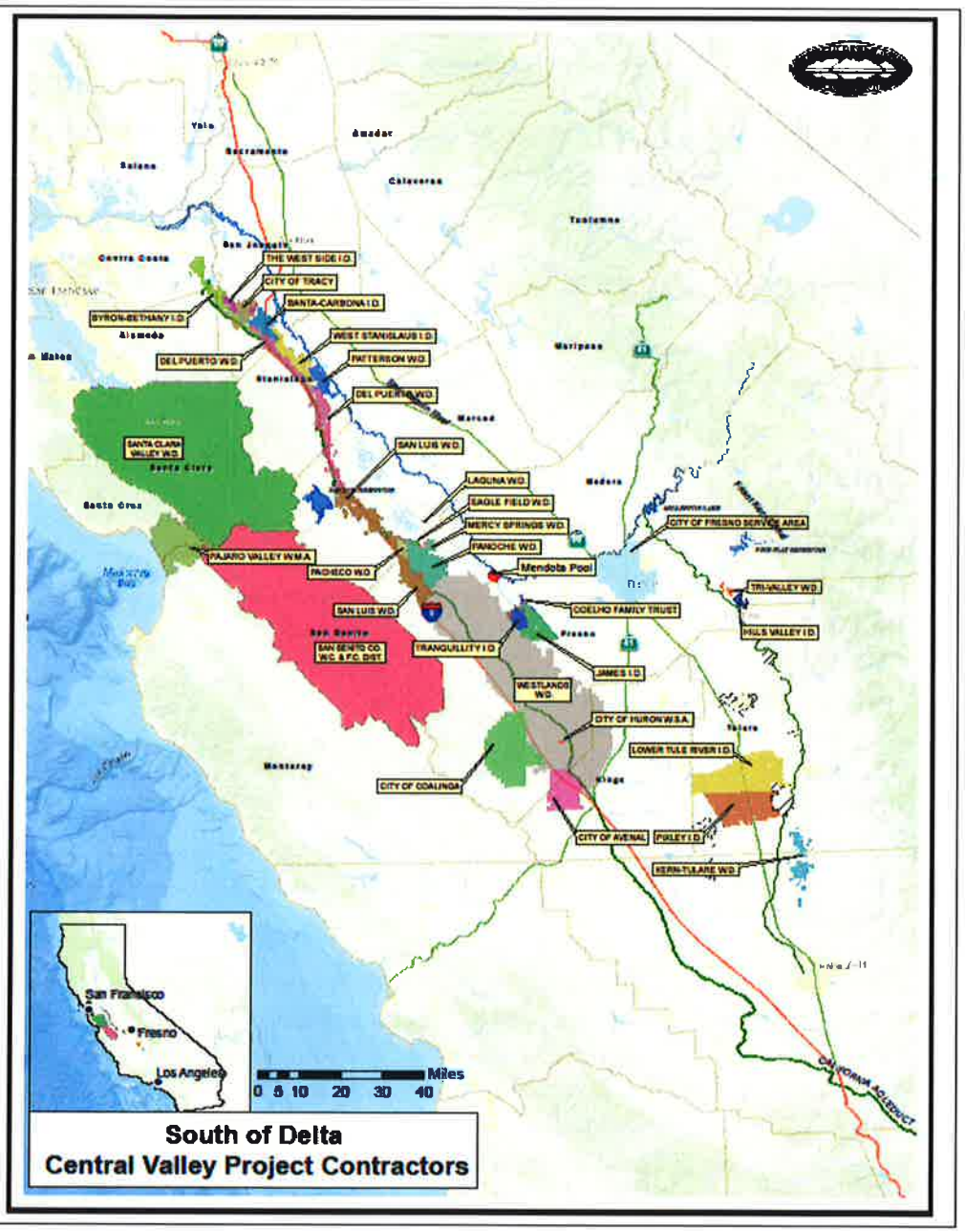
Attachment B: Indian Trust Assets

Indian Trust Assets
Request Form (MP Region)

Submit your request to your office's ITA designee or to MP-400, attention Deputy Regional Resources Manager.

Date:

Requested by (preparer)	Stacy Holt
Fund	
WBS	
Fund Cost Center	2142500
Region # (if other than MP)	
Project Name	Water Year 2016 South of Delta 215 Contracts
CEC or EA Number	15-047
Project Description (attach additional sheets if needed and include photos if appropriate)	Reclamation proposes to execute 215 contracts during Water Year 2015 (March 1, 2016 through February 28, 2017) for temporary supply of Section 215 water with SOD CVP and non-CVP contractors when applicable. Reclamation would review the estimated Jones Pumping Plant capacity on a continuing basis, and may revise the daily amount of available Section 215 water, to ensure that these deliveries do not result in early drawdown of CVP storage in San Luis Reservoir or adversely affect other CVP contractors.

e.g., T12 R5E S10, or Lat/Long coords). Include map(s)	

Signature | Printed name of approver | Date

Rain Emerson | 11/20/2015

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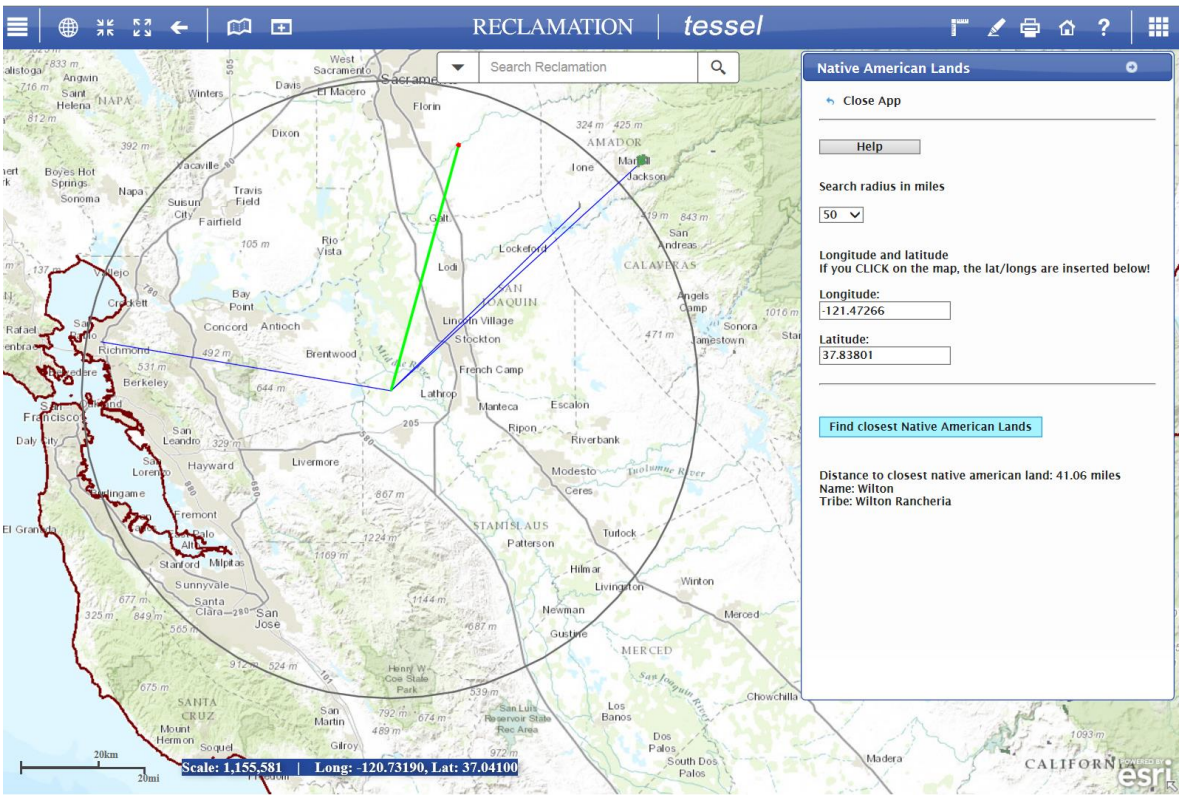
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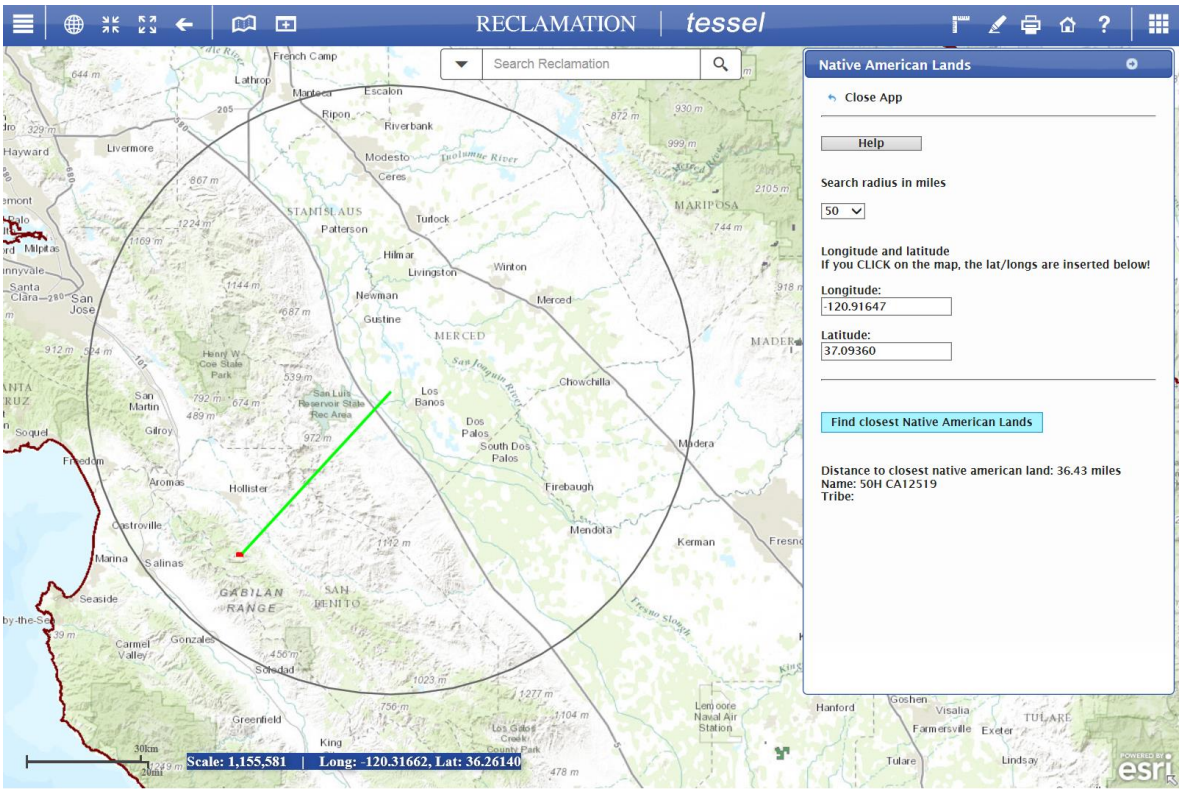
50
Longitude and latitude
If you CLICK on the map, the lat/longs are inserted below!
Longitude:
-121.47266
Latitude:
37.83801
Find closest Native American Lands
Distance to closest native american land: 41.06 miles
Name: Wilton
Tribe: Wilton Rancheria
Scale: 1,155,581 | Long: -120.73190, Lat: 37.04100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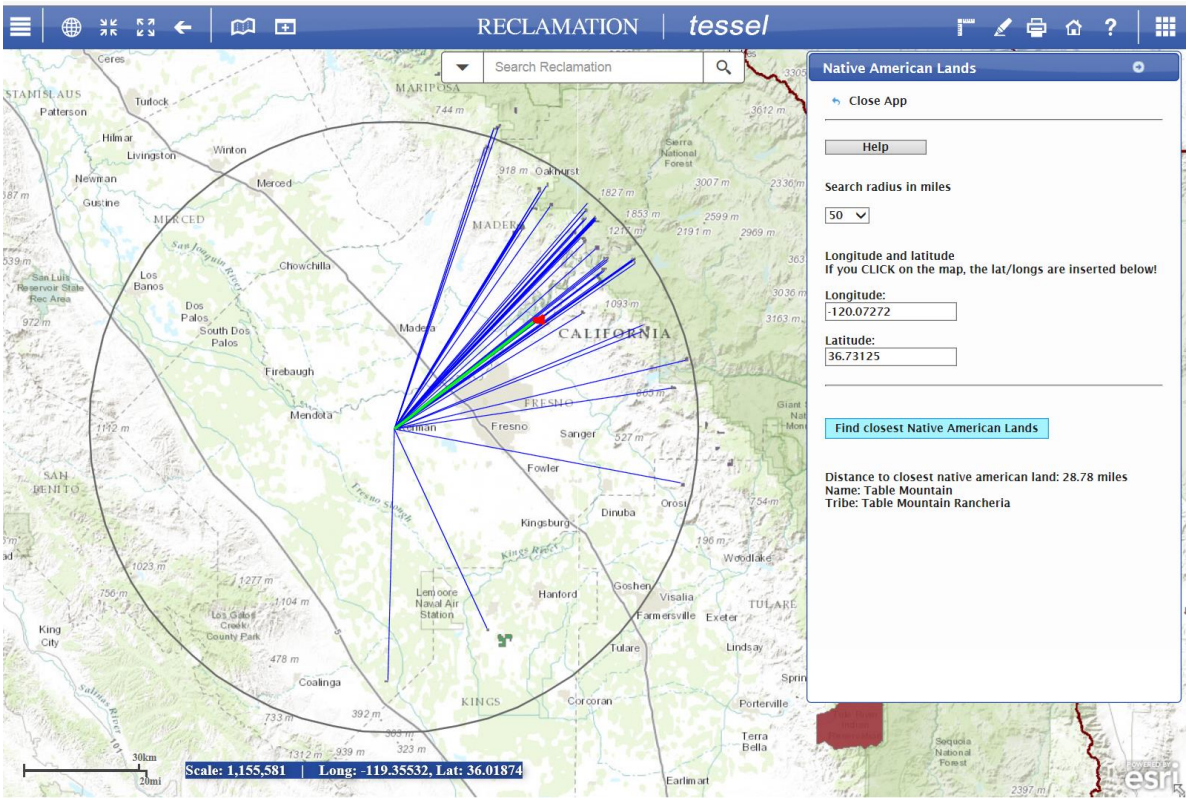
Longitude:
-120.91647
Latitude:
37.09360
Find closest Native American Lands
Distance to closest native american land: 36.43 miles
Name: 50H CA12519
Tribe:
Scale: 1,155,581 | Long: -120.31662, Lat: 36.26140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Longitude and latitude
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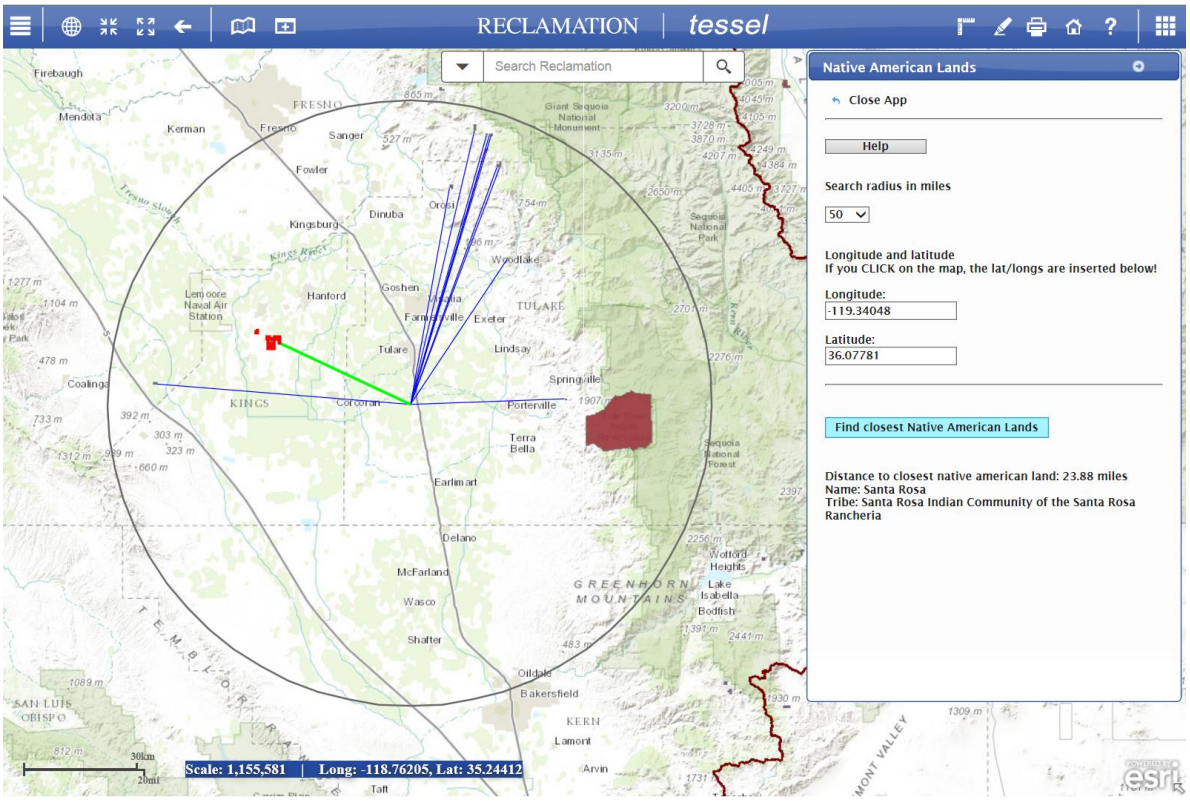
Longitude:
-120.07272
Latitude:
36.73125
Find closest Native American Lands
Distance to closest native american land: 28.78 miles
Name: Table Mountain
Tribe: Table Mountain Rancheria
Scale: 1,155,581 | Long: -119.35532, Lat: 36.01874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If you CLICK on the map, the lat/longs are inserted below!
Longitude:
-119.34048
Latitude:
36.07781
Find closest Native American Lands
Distance to closest native american land: 23.88 miles
Name: Santa Rosa
Tribe: Santa Rosa Indian Community of the Santa Rosa Rancheria
Scale: 1,155,581 | Long: -118.76205, Lat: 35.24412