

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Categorical Exclusion Checklist

Basalt Residence Modular Homes at San Luis Reservoir State Recreation Area

CEC-16-004

Prepared by:

Kelly Baker
Kelly Baker
Natural Resources Specialist
South-Central California Area Office

Date: 5/16/16

Concurred by:

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.

Date: See Attachment A

Concurred by:

Lisa Carlson
Lisa Carlson
Wildlife Biologist
South-Central California Area Office

Date: 05/16/2016

Concurred by:

Rain L. Emerson
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.

Date: 05/18/2016

Approved by:

Michael Jackson
Michael Jackson
Area Manager
South-Central California Area Office

Date: 05/18/2016



Nature of the Action

On Reclamation's behalf, the California Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks) proposes to install two additional modular homes at the Basalt Residence area within San Luis Reservoir State Recreation Area in Merced County, California (see Figure 1).

Each site will consist of a concrete foundation for the modular home, concrete foundation for covered parking/storage area, a 52' long x 24' wide x 12' tall modular home, and utility (water main, sewer, and electrical) connections. Refer to Figure 1 for an overview of the following project components:

- At each site, grading for the foundation for the modular home will be approximately 120' long x 160' wide x 12" deep, and filled with class II road base and concrete. Similarly, grading for the foundation for the covered parking/storage area would be 40' long x 20' wide.
- To provide sewer service to both new sites, one 1,200 gallon septic tank would be placed within a 9.25' long x 6.5' wide x 6.5' deep trench, and backfilled with native soil. Connecting each modular home to the septic tank would be a pipe buried within a 50' long x 3' wide x 3' deep trench. Two areas each measuring 50' long x 3' wide x 3' deep would be excavated for a leach field.
- For electrical service, three new power poles will be installed within 2' wide x 4' deep holes, and connected to existing service from the existing modular home. Two electrical service panels, one for each site, would be situated on top of a new 3' long x 3' wide x 4" deep concrete pad.
- For water service, a 1' wide x 4' deep trench will be excavated from an existing water main to each site, 75' long and 20' long, respectively.

Two new 10' wide roads would be created, leading from the existing entry road to each respective parking area. The roads would be 16' and 110' long, respectively, and consist of 4" of class II road base.

The modular homes are prefabricated and would be towed onto site. Construction would begin as soon as approved, and take roughly five weeks to complete. Equipment include: a backhoe with auger, trencher, cement truck, and various hand tools. Staging area would utilize existing paved areas within the residence property.

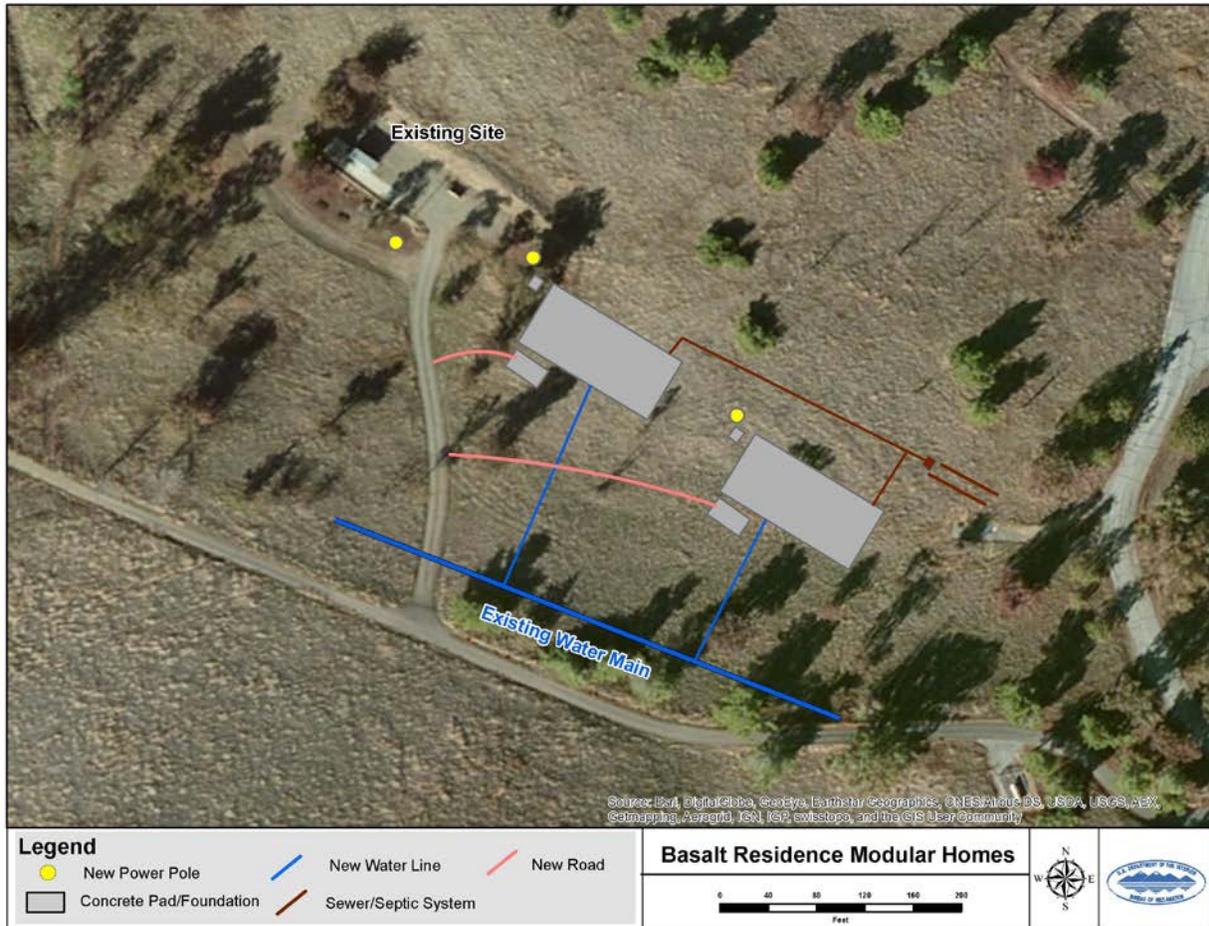


Figure 1 Proposed Action Area

Environmental Commitments

State Parks shall implement the following environmental protection measures to avoid and/or reduce environmental consequences associated with the Proposed Action (Table 1). Environmental consequences for resource areas assume the measures specified would be fully implemented.

Table 1 Environmental Commitments

Resource	Protection Measure
Biological Resources	A qualified biologist shall conduct pre-construction surveys for the San Joaquin kit fox, its sign and burrows in the Action Area and within a 200-foot area outside of the project footprint. The survey shall be conducted no less than 14 days and no more than 30 days prior to the initiation of any construction activities for the Proposed Action. A letter report documenting survey methods and findings shall be submitted to Reclamation at least 5 days before construction. If kit foxes, kit fox sign or kit fox burrows are found during the survey, construction on the Proposed Action shall not begin until Reclamation has been contacted and appropriate consultation has been completed.

Resource	Protection Measure
Biological Resources	To prevent inadvertent entrapment of listed species and other wildlife during construction, all excavated steep-walled holes or trenches more than 1 foot deep shall be covered at the close of each working day by plywood or similar materials, or provided with one or more escape ramps constructed of earth fill or wooden planks. Before such trenches or holes are filled, they must be thoroughly inspected for trapped animals. If federally protected species are found in any of the holes or trenches, work shall stop and Reclamation shall be contacted immediately for further guidance. The proponent shall also contact Reclamation no more than two (2) weeks after the project is completed to report on which animals, if any, were trapped during the project.
Biological Resources	Before the initiation of any ground-disturbing activities for the Proposed Action, the person in charge of work shall survey the site for any burrows that are located close enough to the Action Area that they may pass under an area where excavation would occur, or close enough that they may be destroyed during excavation (about 50 feet). If such burrows are present, and cannot reasonably be avoided, ground-disturbing activities shall not begin until Reclamation biologists have been contacted for further guidance.
Biological Resources	Work on the project shall begin no earlier than a half hour before sunrise and shall cease at least a half hour before sunset.
Biological Resources	To the maximum extent possible, no work shall take place during or within 3 days after which half an inch or more of precipitation has fallen.
Biological Resources	Before the start of any ground-disturbing activities associated with the Proposed Action, a qualified biologist shall conduct focused surveys for burrowing owls in areas of suitable habitat on and within 250 feet of the project footprint. A letter report documenting survey methods and findings shall be submitted to Reclamation at least 5 days before construction on the proposed project.
Biological Resources	If occupied burrowing owl burrows are found, Reclamation shall be notified and work on the proposed action shall not begin until a qualified biologist has established a non-disturbance buffer of 160 feet during the non-breeding season (September 1 through January 31) or 250 feet during the breeding season (February 1 through August 31). The biologist shall remain on-site during construction to monitor the burrow, and may stop construction at any time to avoid impacts to the owls. The buffer shall remain in place until the biologist determines the nest is no longer active.
Biological Resources	If a burrowing owl is observed at the construction site at any time during construction, a temporary non-disturbance buffer of approximately 160 feet shall be observed to establish a safe area for the animal until it leaves the construction area at its own volition.
Biological Resources	If possible, work on the proposed Action shall occur between September 1 st and January 31 st to avoid the migratory bird nesting season. If work must occur during the nesting season (February 1 st - August 30 th), then prior to construction, a qualified biologist shall conduct surveys for nesting Swainson's hawks in trees located within 200 yards of the Action Area. If an active Swainson's hawk nest is found, work shall not commence until a qualified biologist determines that the nest is no longer active.
Cultural Resources	State Parks archeologists will provide monitoring during construction.

Exclusion Category

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.*

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"/> |

- | | 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)). | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <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)). | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <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)). | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 11. This action would affect ITAs (512 DM 2, Policy Memorandum dated December 15, 1993). | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 12. This action would have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (EO 12898) (43 CFR 46.215 (j)). | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 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)). | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 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)). | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

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 RESOURCE COMPLIANCE
Mid-Pacific Region
Division of Environmental Affairs
Cultural Resources Branch

MP-153 Tracking Number: 16-SCAO-061

Project Name: Basalt Residence Modular Homes Project at San Luis Reservoir

NEPA Document: CEC-16-004

MP 153 Cultural Resources Reviewer: Mark Carper

NEPA Contact: Kelly Baker

Determination: No Historic Properties Affected

Date: March 21, 2016

This proposed undertaking by the California Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks) is to install two prefabricated modular homes and associated utilities within San Luis Reservoir State Recreation Area (SRA), Merced County, California. The Recreation Area is Reclamation owned but managed by California State Parks. Reclamation determined that authorization of the proposed project is an undertaking as defined in 36 CFR § 800.16(y) and a type of activity that has the potential to cause effects on historic properties under 36 CFR § 800.3(a).

Proposed project activities include the installation of two prefabricated modular homes. Each proposed home location will consist of a concrete foundation for the modular home, concrete foundation for a covered parking/storage area, a 52' long x 24' wide x 12' tall modular home, and utility (water main, sewer, and electrical) connections. Project components include (see enclosed Figure 2 for component locations):

- At each site, grading for the foundation for the modular home will be approximately 120' long x 160' wide x 12" deep, and filled with Class II road base and concrete. Similarly, grading for the foundation for the covered parking/storage area would be 40' long x 20' wide.
- To provide sewer service to both new sites, one 1,200 gallon septic tank will be placed within a 9.25' long x 6.5' wide x 6.5' deep trench, and backfilled with native soil. Connecting each modular home to the septic tank would be a pipe buried within a 50' long x 3' wide x 3' deep trench. Two areas, each measuring 50' long x 3' wide x 3' deep, would be excavated for a leach field.

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- For electrical service, three new power poles will be installed within 2' wide x 4' deep holes, and connected to existing service from an existing modular home. Two electrical service panels, one for each site, would be situated on top of a new 3' long x 3' wide x 4" deep concrete pad.
- For water service, a 1' wide x 4' deep trench will be excavated from an existing water main to each site, 75' long and 20' long, respectively.

In an effort to identify historic properties, State Parks referred to a cultural resources inventory conducted in 2007 for a deferred maintenance program project. This previous project encapsulates the current proposed APE. In addition, State Parks conducted a project specific survey for the current proposed project APE. The report of this survey is amended to the State Park's Project Evaluation. No historic properties were identified through these identification efforts. Reclamation finds these efforts sufficient for this undertaking.

Pursuant to the regulations at 36 CFR § 800.3(f)(2), Reclamation identified the Santa Rosa Tachi-Yokut Tribe as an Indian tribe who might attach religious and cultural significance to historic properties within the APE. Reclamation sent letters to the tribe on April 11, 2016, inviting their participation in the Section 106 process, and requesting their assistance in the identification of sites of religious and cultural significance or historic properties that may be affected by the proposed undertaking pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.4(a)(4). No responses were received.

Reclamation initiated consultation with California the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) on April 18, 2016 with a notification of a determination of no historic properties affected for the proposed project. SHPO concurred with the determination in a letter dated May 16, 2016.

I concur with Item 8 on CEC-16-004. The proposed action would have no significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places.

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

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including consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer, may be necessary.
Thank you for providing the opportunity to comment.

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

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May 16, 2016

Reply in Reference To: BUR_2016_0418_001

Anastasia T. Leigh
Regional Environmental Officer
United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation, Mid-Pacific Regional Office
2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, CA 95825-1898

Re: National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Section 106 Basalt Residence Modular Home Project at San Luis Reservoir, Merced County, California (Project #16-SCAO-011)

Dear Ms. Leigh:

On April 18, 2016 the Office of Historic Preservation received your letter requesting to initiate consultation for the above-referenced undertaking. The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) is consulting pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations found at 36CFR Part 800 (as amended). Along with the consultation letter, the following documents were provided:

- *Archaeological Survey Report, 2007-08 Deferred Maintenance Program Projects, Sewage Lift Stations and Water Treatment Facilities, San Luis Reservoir State Recreation Area, Merced County, CA (W. Wulzen, California State Parks, November, 2007).*
- *Figure 1- Project Location Map and Figure 2 - Area of Potential Effects Map*

Proposed project activities encompass the installation of two prefabricated modular homes located on Reclamation land within San Luis Reservoir State Recreation Area (SRA), Merced County, California. Each home site will consist of a concrete foundation for a modular home and a covered parking/storage area, a 52' long by 24' wide by 12' tall modular home, and utility connections (water main, sewer, and electrical). Project work scope includes:

- Grading for the modular home foundation of about 120' by 160' and 12 inches deep, and back-filled with Class II road base and concrete. The storage area will be 40' by 20'.
- Sewer service provision will require one 1,200 gallon septic tank placed in a 9.25' long by 6.5' wide and 6.5' deep trench and backfilled with native soil. A connector pipe buried within a 50' long by 3' wide and 3' deep trench will be the connector. Leach fields will require two areas, each 50' long by 3' wide by 4 inches deep, to be excavated.
- Electrical service needs three new power poles installed within 2' wide by 4' deep holes; wiring will be above-ground. A concrete pad 3' by 3' by 4 inches deep is needed for mounting two service panels.
- Access will be provided by two new 10' wide roads coming off an existing entry road; one will be 16', the second 110' long and each will require 4 inches of Class II road base.
- All construction staging will be on existing paved areas within the residential property.

Reclamation has determined that the area of potential effects (APE) for this undertaking encompasses all construction elements within the project design and is about 1.2 acres. Related staging and vehicle traffic will occur on paved surfaces. The vertical APE varies, with a maximum depth of 6.5 feet to about one foot for foundation pad preparation and grading. The legal description is noted on the included Figure 1.

Efforts to identify historic properties included referencing a recent archaeological survey report conducted in 2007 which covered this proposed project's APE and surroundings. This report was augmented by a contemporary site specific pedestrian survey and supplementary report (October, 2015). The documentation includes a record and archival search result, review of history materials, a pedestrian survey result and analysis and evaluation of resources within the APE. No historic properties were identified within the APE through these identification efforts and the area appears to have low sensitivity for potential for buried archaeological resources. Reclamation considers these efforts and documentation to be sufficient.

Further, pursuant to regulations at 36 CFR §800.3(f)(2) and 36 CFR §800.4(a)(4) Reclamation identified the Santa-Rosa Tachi-Yokut Tribe as an Indian tribe who might attach religious and cultural significance to historic properties in the APE and invited them to consult by letter on April 11, 2016. It does not appear that concerns exist at the project location; however Reclamation will take appropriate steps to address any future concerns that might arise.

Reclamation is requesting review and comment on the delineation of the APE, efforts to identify historic properties, and is seeking concurrence with the effect finding for this undertaking. Following staff review of the documentation, the following comments are offered

:

- Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4(a)(1), there are no objections to the APE as defined;
- Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4(b), Reclamation has documented a reasonable and good faith effort to identify historic properties within the area of potential effects.
- Reclamation has determined that the proposed undertaking would result in no historic properties affected. Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4(d)(1), **I do not object.**

Please 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 (as amended). Should you require further information, please contact Jeanette Schulz at Jeanette.Schulz@parks.ca.gov or (916) 445-7031.

Respectfully,



Julianne Polanco
State Historic Preservation Officer