CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION CHECKLIST
Westland's Water District
Coalinga Canal Pumps Replacement at Mile Post (MP) 14.54R

South-Central California Area Office October 22, 2010

Background: The Coalinga Canal (CC), formerly called Pleasant Valley Canal, was completed in 1973 as part of the San Luis Unit of the Central Valley Project and is therefore a Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) facility. The CC carries water from the turnout structure on the San Luis Canal to the Coalinga area, in Fresno County (Figure 1). The CC system includes a 1.6-mile intake channel to the Pleasant Valley Pumping Plant and 11.6 miles of canal, all of which are operated and maintained by Westland's Water District (WWD).

Reclamation issued a License for the Erection and Maintenance of Structures in December, 2007 to WWD. This license, in effect for 5-years from date of issuance allows WWD to install, operate, maintain, and remove a series of temporary diversion facilities along the right-of-way of the CC. These temporary diversion facilities are over-the-bank turnouts as opposed to permanent diversion facilities where the turnout is constructed within the embankment (Figure 2).

Purpose and Need for Action: The existing pump system does not have sufficient water delivery to the receiving orchard. The purpose of the project is to increase the turnout's capacity.

Proposed Action: Reclamation proposes to amend the existing license, which authorized a series of temporary diversion facilities along the CC, to allow the replacement of the two pumps and construction of new electrical equipment at the existing temporary diversion. The amendment is required because the scope of work includes ground disturbance not covered in the existing license.

The new 200 horsepower electrical pumps are expected to be in operation approximately 3500-4000 hours through mid-May to mid-September and most of January. In addition, the project would remove and replace the existing pump panels, electrical service conduit and install a new pad mount transformer as well as an underground power line.

Excavation for the electrical conduit would be approximately 160 linear feet, installed with 36 inch covers and warning tape placed 18 inches above the conduit. Any pipe or conduit within the canal right-of-way would be covered with at least two feet of backfill material, including under the ditch at the edge of the operations and maintenance service road.

Excavation through the canal embankment shall be properly backfilled and compacted. The operating road shall be cut to neat lines and replaced with 4 inches of hot mix asphaltic concrete over 6 inches of compacted aggregated base. Installation would require a backhoe, small crane, trencher and water truck with a staging ground outside of the Reclamation right of way.

Exclusion Category: 516 DM 14.5 D Operation and Maintenance Activities.

(1) Maintenance, rehabilitation, and replacement of existing facilities which may involve a minor change in size, location, and/or operation.

(10) Issuance of permits, licenses, easements, and crossing agreements which provide right-of-way over Bureau lands where the action does not allow for or lead to a major public or private action.

Figure 1. Project Location

Figure 2. Pump at MP 14.54R on the Coalinga Canal

Evaluation of Criteria for Categorical Exclusion

1. This Action will have a significant effect on the quality of human environment	No _X_	Uncertain ___	Yes
2. This action would have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources	No _X_	Uncertain ___	Yes

Evaluation of Exemptions to Actions within Categorical Exclusion

1. This action would have significant impacts on public health or safety	No _X_	Uncertain ___	Yes
2. 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 (E.O. 11990); floodplains (E.O. 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas	No _X_	Uncertain ___	Yes
3. This action will have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks	No _X_	Uncertain ___	Yes
4. This action would establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects	No _X_	Uncertain ___	Yes

5. This action would have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects	No _X_	Uncertain ___	Yes
6. This action would have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register or Historic Places (National Register) as determined by the bureau (in coordination with a Reclamation cultural resources professional, LND 02-01 D(1)(a)	No _X_	Uncertain ___	Yes
7. 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	No _X_	Uncertain ___	Yes
8. This action would violate a Federal, State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for protection of the environment	No _X_	Uncertain ___	Yes
9. This action would affect ITAs (To be completed by Reclamation official responsible for ITAs)	No _X_	Uncertain ___	Yes
10. This action would have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations	No _X_	Uncertain ___	Yes
11. 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	No _X_	Uncertain ___	Yes
12. This action would contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeks or non-native invasive species know to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weeks Control Act)	No _X_	Uncertain ___	Yes

NEPA Action: Categorical Exclusion __X__

Environmental commitments, explanation, and/or remarks:

☒Yes ☐No Environmental commitments are required and attached.

- ☒ San Joaquin Kit Fox Avoidance and Minimization Measures
- ☐ Giant Garter Snake Avoidance and Minimization Measures
- ☐ California Tiger Salamander Avoidance and Minimization Measures
- ☐ California Red-Legged Frog Avoidance and Minimization Measures
- ☒ Other: Burrowing owl

Air Quality: Pumps are electric resulting in no emissions at the site. Temporary impacts to air quality from construction are de minimus.

Prepared by:

Danielle Oliveira Date: October 22, 2010

South-Central California Area Office

Regional Archeologist concurrence with Item 7:
See attachment.

ITA Designee concurrence with Item 10:
See attachment.

Concur:

Date: Jan 24, 2011
Wildlife Biologist, South-Central California Area Office

Concur:

Date: 2/1/11
Supervisory Natural Resources Specialist, South-Central California Area Office

Concur:

David Woolley Date: 2-2-11
acting Chief, Resources Management Division, South-Central California Area Office

Approved:

Laurel Myers Date: 2/8/11
Deputy Area Manager, South-Central California Area Office