CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION CHECKLIST
2011 Water Conservation Field Service Grant
Madera Irrigation District Meter Replacement Program for Farm Turnouts

South-Central California Area Office June 1, 2011

Background: The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) created the Water Conservation Field Services Program (WCFSP) in 1997 in order to assist water agencies to develop and implement effective water management and conservation plans, to coordinate with other state and local conservation efforts and to foster improved water management on a regional, statewide and watershed basis. To achieve these goals, Reclamation staff provides technical assistance and in some cases, financial assistance through 50-50 cost-sharing.

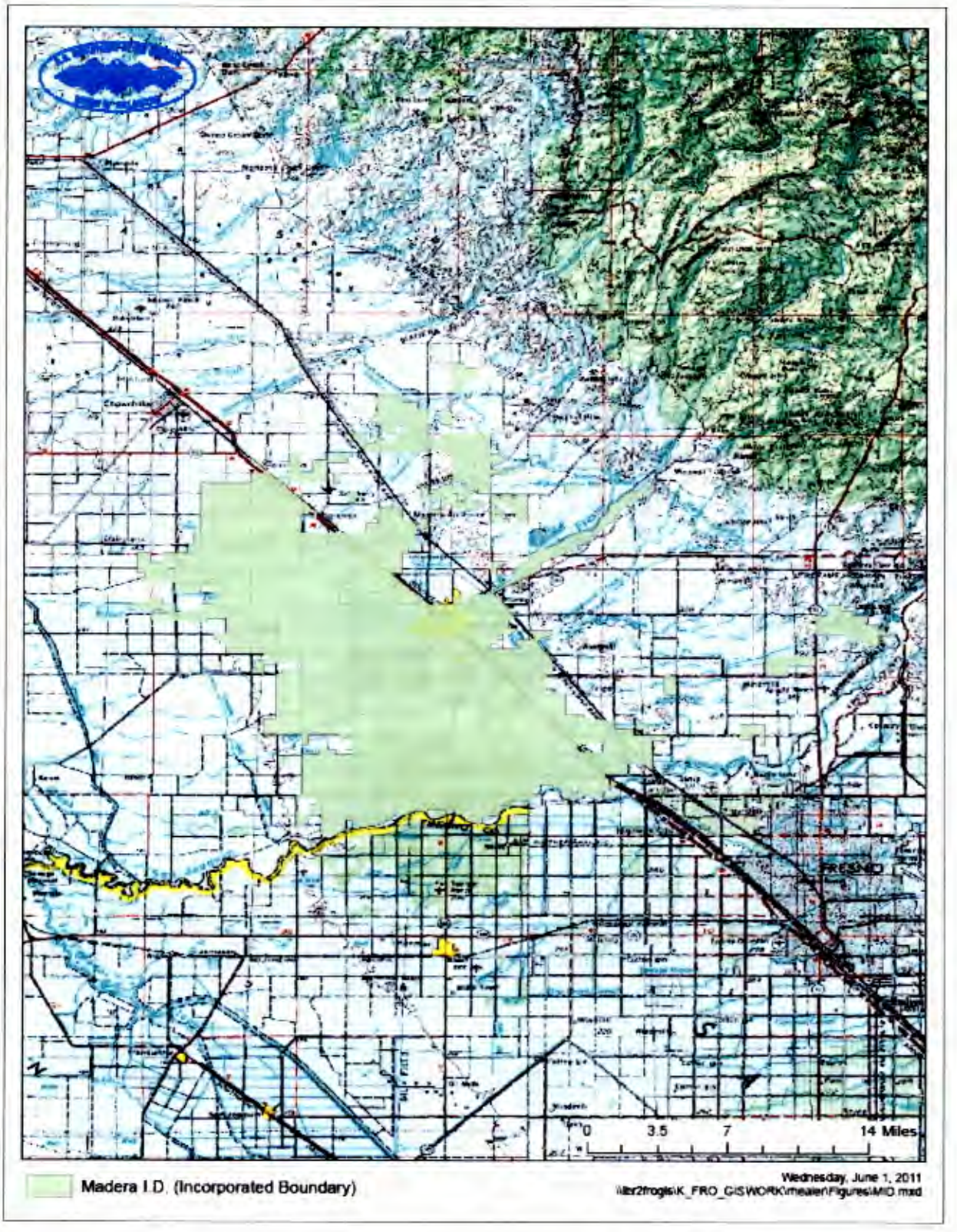
Madera Irrigation District (MID), located in Madera County developed an Open-Flow Meter Replacement Program for Farm Turnouts (Meter Replacement Program) for its aging open-flow propeller meters located at farm turnouts throughout the district (Figure 1). In 2009 and 2010, MID was awarded a WCFSP grant (Field Services Grant) for their Meter Replacement Program. Each grant was for $50,000 each. Categorical exclusion checklists (CEC-09-50 and CEC-10-020, respectively) were prepared to analyze potential environmental impacts from the award of the Field Services Grants.

The grants that MID received in 2009 and 2010, as well as their own funding, made it possible for MID to purchase 87 meters. There are currently 68 obsolete open flow meters that still need to be replaced and MID has applied for a 2011 Field Services Grant for replacement of up to 40 meters.

Purpose and Need for Action: The purpose of this action is to provide partial funding for the installation of new flow meters. The new flow meters would provide accurate delivery measurements for growers and improve the operation and maintenance of the delivery system.

Proposed Action: Reclamation proposes to award a $50,000 2011 Field Services Grant to MID for their Meter Replacement Program. MID would use the funds to purchase and install 40 electronic open-flow propeller meters with digital display. The replacement program for the farm turnouts would be implemented over a three year time period depending on the availability of funds. No ground disturbance would occur as a result of this project.

Exclusion Category: 516 DM 14.5D (1). Maintenance, rehabilitation, and replacement of existing facilities which may involve a minor change in size, location, and/or operation.


0
3.5
7
14 Miles
Madera I.D. (Incorporated Boundary)
Wednesday, June 1, 2011
\\ltr2frogis\K_FRO_GIS\WORK\meaier\Figures\MID.mxd

Evaluation of Criteria for Categorical Exclusion

1. This action would have a significant effect on the quality of the 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 adverse effects 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; floodplains; national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas.	No _X_	Uncertain ___	Yes
3. This action would 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 of Historic Places as determined by the bureau (in coordination with a Reclamation cultural resources professional).	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 Indian Trust Assets (ITA) (To be completed by Reclamation official responsible for ITA).	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 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.	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:

Prepared by:

Rain Healer Date: June 1, 2011

South-Central California Area Office

Regional Archeologist concurrence with Item 7:
See attachment.

ITA Designee concurrence with Item 10:
See attachment.

Concur:

Date: 8/18/2011

Supervisory Wildlife Biologist, South-Central California Area Office

Concur:

Date: 8/22/11

Supervisory Natural Resources Specialist, South-Central California Area Office

Concur:

"For" Date: 8/22/11

Chief, Resources Management Division, South-Central California Area Office

Approved:

for Susie Rogers Date: 8/22/11

Deputy Area Manager, South-Central California Area Office

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
1243 "N" Street
Fresno, CA 93727

IN REPLY REFER TO:

TAKE PRIDE IN AMERICA

August 17, 2011

MEMORANDUM

To: Rain Healer

From: David E. Hyatt
Supervisor, Endangered Species Act Branch

Subject: No-Effect Determination for Water Conservation Field Service Grant Madera Irrigation District Meter Replacement Program for Farm Turnouts (CEC-11-036)

The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) proposes to award a $50,000 Water Conservation Field Service Grant to Madera Irrigation District (MID) for their Meter Replacement Program. MID would use the funds to purchase and install 40 electronic open-flow propeller meters with digital display.

To assure compliance with section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, routine operation and maintenance of this equipment would be conducted consistent with MID's OMB Approval Number 0348-0040 paragraph 11. The proposed project would not change existing land use nor would ground disturbing construction activities take place.

With the above limitations and based upon the nature of this action Reclamation has determined there would be No Effect to listed species or designated critical habitat under the Endangered Species Act (16 U.S.C. §1531 et. seq.).

Healer, Rain L

From: Rivera, Patricia L
Sent: Wednesday, August 03, 2011 7:41 AM
To: Healer, Rain L
Subject: RE: CEC-11-036 MID Meter Grant

Rain,

I reviewed the proposed action to award a $50,000 Water Conservation Field Service Grant to Madera Irrigation District (MID) for their Meter Replacement Program. MID would use the funds to purchase and install 40 electronic open-flow propeller meters with digital display. The replacement program for the farm turnouts would be implemented over a three year time period depending on the availability of funds. No ground disturbance would occur as a result of this project.

The proposed action does not have a potential to affect Indian Trust Assets. The nearest ITA is Table Mt. Rancheria approximately 5 miles ne of the project location.

Patricia

Healer, Rain L

From: Overly, Stephen A
Sent: Wednesday, June 01, 2011 2:53 PM
To: Healer, Rain L
Cc: Perry, Laureen (Laurie) M; Nickels, Adam M; Barnes, Amy J; Goodsell, Joanne E; Dunay, Amy L; Fogerty, John A; Williams, Scott A; Soule, William E
Subject: NHPA, Section 106 Review complete for 11-SCAO-172 (CEC 11-036) Water conservation Field Services Grant for MID Meter Replacement Program

Tracking #11-SCAO-172
Project: CEC 11-036 Water Conservation Field Services Grant for Madera Irrigation District MID Meter Replacement Program

Location: Madera County

Categorical Exclusion: 516 DM 14.5 D (1)

Reclamation proposes to award a Field Services Grant to the Madera Irrigation District (MID) to continue their Meter Replacement Program. This action by Reclamation will have no potential to cause effects to historic properties. MID has an Open-Flow Meter Replacement Program (Meter Replacement Program) to upgrade aging open-flow propeller meters located at farm turnouts throughout the district. In 2009 and 2010, MID was awarded Field Services Grants for their Meter Replacement Program to purchased and replace meters. Reclamation proposes to supply an additional subsidy in 2011 to MID's program to purchase and install an additional 40 digital display flow meters to replace existing open-flow propeller meters. Installation will not require ground disturbing activities.

As the proposed action has no potential to cause effects to historic properties pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800.3(a)(1), no additional consideration under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act is required. I concur with Item #6 of CEC-11-036, dated June 1, 2011.

Thank you for the opportunity to review the proposed action. Please place a copy of this concurrence with the CEC administrative record.

Tony

Stephen (Tony) Overly, M.A. Archaeologist
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Mid-Pacific Region
2800 Cottage Way, MP-153
Sacramento, CA 95825
916-978-5552