

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Categorical Exclusion Checklist

Contra Costa Water District Contra Loma Pump Station Rehabilitation

CEC-11-088

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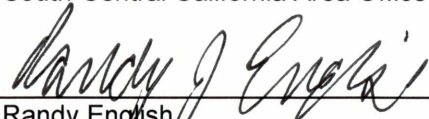


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Background

The Contra Loma Pump Station is located at the Contra Loma Reservoir (Reservoir) approximately 1.5 miles south of the City of Antioch. The reservoir is an off-stream storage facility for the Contra Costa Canal. Water is pumped from the canal into the Reservoir and then released by gravity flow. The reservoir is owned by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and managed by Contra Costa Water District (CCWD).

Purpose and Need for Action

The existing Contra Loma Pump Station at the Reservoir includes outdated equipment from the original 1967 construction. The equipment does not meet current electrical codes, has poor maintenance accessibility, and is not connected to the CCWD Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) system. There is a need to update the outdated equipment and correct maintenance access problems. The Purpose of the Proposed Action is to ensure the continued backup storage and maintenance of the Contra Loma Reservoir and its facilities. It is also intended to facilitate efficient, remote management by connecting with CWWD's existing SCADA system

Proposed Action

Reclamation proposes issuance of an MP620 permit (a Reclamation Mid-Pacific Region-specific permit issued for additions or alterations to Reclamation-owned conveyance and distribution facilities) for the construction of proposed improvements to the pump station at the Reservoir.

Construction of the improvements would include removal and replacement of the old pumps and electrical transformers, trenching for new electrical and fiber optic conduit, backfill and concrete for the trenches, and upgrades of other ancillary electrical and mechanical equipment. Specifically, the following improvements would occur (Figure 1):

- Installation of two new 21 cubic-feet-second (cfs) 300 horsepower pumps (firm 21 cfs station capacity) within the existing pump station.
- Replacement of the existing transformer, power meter and switchgear.
- Build-up of the top slab for heavier pumps using existing concrete wet wells.
- Construction of a new motor control center building and substation north of the pumps.
- Installation of a new remote transmitting unit (RTU) panel, radio, network within the existing RTU.
- Replacement of the existing motor operators for sleeve valves to provide SCADA control.

- Installation of a new motor operator on spillway isolation valve, outlet gate position indicator, magnetic flow meter, and a new reservoir staff gauge and video surveillance camera.
- Replacement of existing broken conduits to top of dam.
- Replacement of existing conduits to Check 2 on the canal.



Figure 1 Layout of Rehabilitation Project

All construction would occur within the Reclamation property at the Reservoir. The project will take up to one year to complete, from Summer 2012 to Summer 2013. Equipment to be used will include: a small crane to set up pumps; one or more backhoes (small to medium size) for excavation; a boom crane for replacement of heavy equipment; concrete trucks; vibratory compactor; and flatbed and dump trucks.

These improvements will result in an additional 240 square feet of concrete slab within the graveled area adjacent to the current pump station. Replacement of conduit will require approximately 1,550 linear feet of trenching 18 inches wide and 24 inches deep. With the exception of trenching up the dam face which supports non-native grassland and ruderal

vegetation, trenching will take place primarily within existing graveled access roads and parking areas. Installation of the staff gauge will require the reservoir to be drawn down to approximately 188 feet. A 12-inch deep section of rip rap will be removed, aggregate base installed and compacted, concrete slab poured, and holes drilled for three peers. Staff gauge markers will be fastened to the concrete slab.

Environmental Commitments

Environmental consequences for resource areas assume the measures specified below would be fully implemented:

Resource	Protection Measure
Cultural	If SHPO enters the consultation process and has comments or concerns regarding this action, Reclamation will seek to resolve these concerns while the project is being implemented.
Biological	All ground disturbing work activities will be completed during the dry season (April 1 to November 1). Should minor ground disturbing activities need to be conducted outside of this period, Reclamation may authorize activities pending approval by the Service.
Biological	Should any work activities take place outside of the dry season, Wildlife Exclusion Fencing (WEF) will be installed along the project footprint under the guidance of a Service-approved biologist and all work will take place within the fenced area. The WEF will remain in place throughout the duration of work activities and will be regularly inspected and fully maintained. Upon project completion the WEF will be completely removed and the areas returned to original condition or better.
Biological	Should ground disturbing activities take place outside the dry season; a Service-approved biologist will be present at the work site during all construction activities. The Service-approved biologist will have the authority to and shall stop any action that would result in adverse effects to the California red-legged frog. If work is stopped, the Service will be notified within one working day of the incident by the approved biologist.
Biological	Prior to start of work, a Service-approved biologist will conduct a training session for all construction personnel about the California red-legged frog, its habitat, and the necessary measures to avoid the species.
Biological	At least 15 days prior to the onset of activities, the name(s) and credentials of biologists who will conduct the California red-legged frog training and construction monitoring will be submitted to the Service. No project activities will begin until the project proponent has received written approval from the Service that the biologist(s) is qualified to conduct the work.
Biological	Night-time work will be avoided.
Biological	All construction-related holes, capable of entrapping wildlife, will be covered at the end of each workday in a manner that will prevent entrapment. Prior to commencing construction activities each workday, trenches shall be thoroughly inspected for animals.

Exclusion Category

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

Evaluation of Criteria for Categorical Exclusion:

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| 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) (43 CFR 46.215 (g)). | No | ☒ | Uncertain | ☐ | Yes | ☐ |
| 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 | ☐ |

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|--|----|-------------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------|-----|--------------------------|
| 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 Indian Trust Assets (ITA) (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) (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 | ☐ |

Regional Archeologist concurred with Item 8. Their determination has been placed within the project file.

Area Office Biologist concurred with Item 9. Their determination has been placed within the project file.

ITA Designee concurred with Item 11. Their determination has been placed within the project file.