

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Categorical Exclusion Checklist

Lateral 25.6 Intertie

CEC-12-053

Prepared by:



Date: 8-10-12

Ben Lawrence
Natural Resources Specialist
South-Central California Area Office

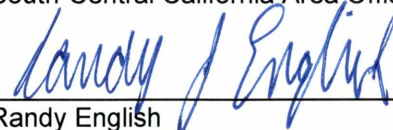
Concurred by:


for

Date: 8/10/12

Chuck Siek
Supervisory Natural Resources Specialist
South-Central California Area Office

Concurred by:



Date: 8/10/12

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

Approved by:


for

Date: 8-10-12

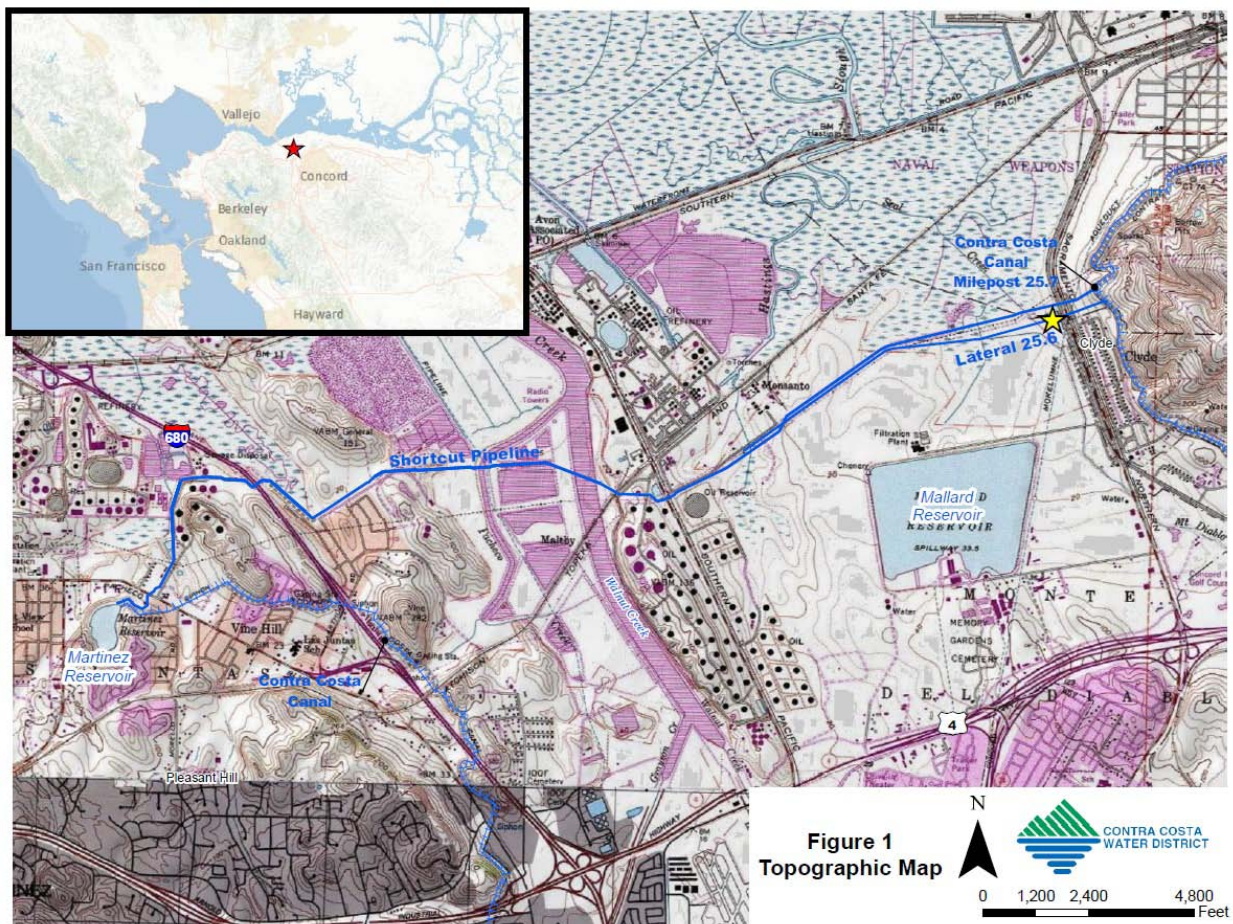
Michael Jackson
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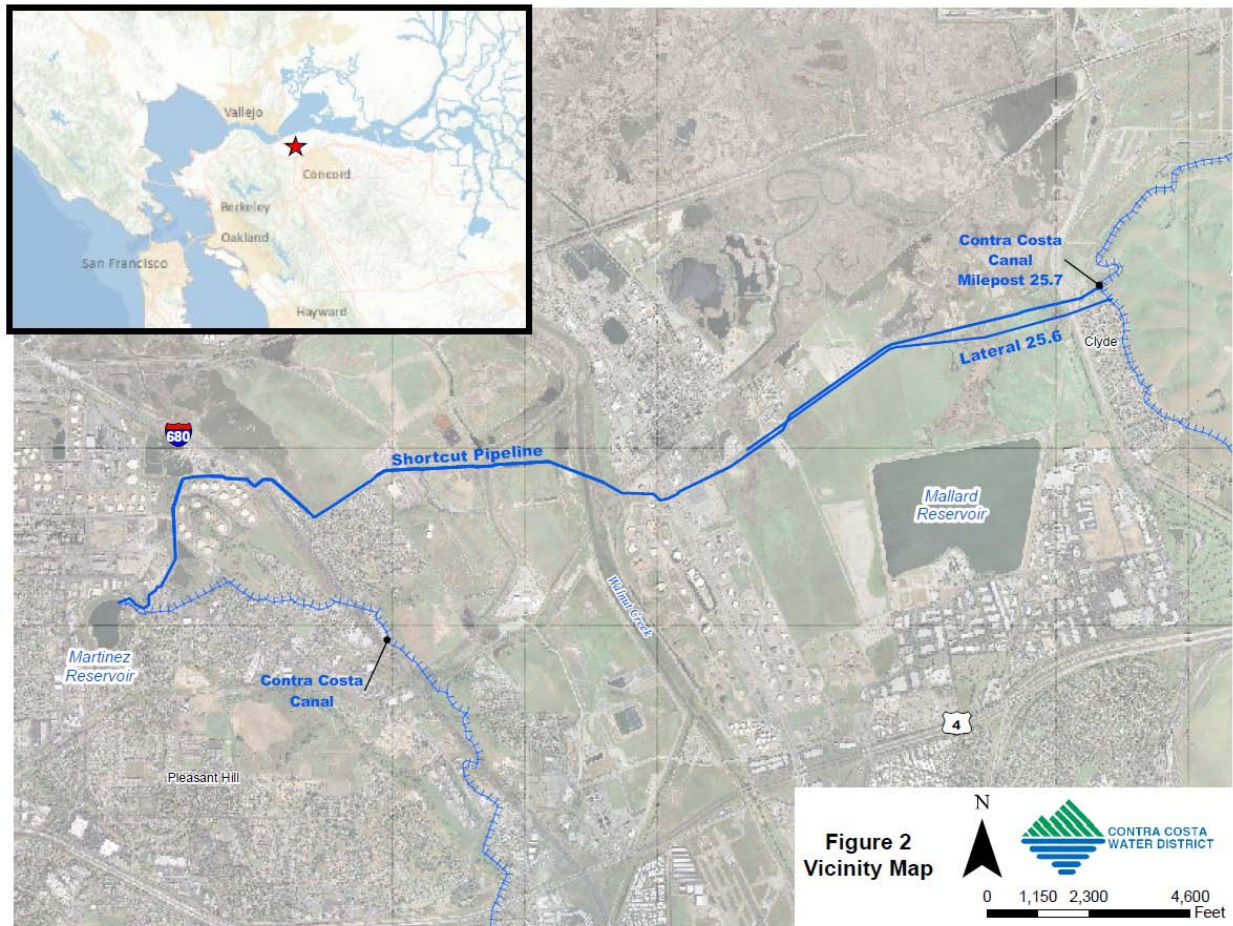


Background

Lateral 25.6 was installed in 1952 to provide Central Valley Project (CVP) water to the Tesoro Refinery in Contra Costa County from the Contra Costa Canal (Canal). See Figures 1 and 2 for the general location of the Lateral and associated facilities.

In December 2011, the upper portion of the 24-inch lateral pipeline developed a significant leak which required immediate repairs. The repair was made difficult by the lateral's location on a steep slope, directly behind a residential area. Although the immediate emergency was addressed at that time, the pipe represents an ongoing maintenance challenge. The Contra Costa Water District (CCWD) is concerned that the lateral is losing water from other, undetected leaks and another major failure is likely.





Purpose and Need for Action

The purpose of the project is to improve the reliability of the water supply of the customers served by Lateral 25.6 by making maintenance safer and easier.

Proposed Action

Reclamation proposes to allow a new interconnection between Lateral 25.6 and the Shortcut Pipeline (SCPL). A new pipeline and valve would be constructed between the existing 48-inch diameter SCPL Intertie pipe and the 24-inch Lateral 25.6 (See Figures 3 and 3A). Due to the grade difference between Lateral 25.6 and the SCPL Intertie pipe, excavation to a depth of 12-feet would be necessary. A new butterfly valve with cover would also be installed in the box trench to serve as a shut off valve for the Lateral at this location.

Following installation of the pipeline and valve, soil would be returned to the excavation. Any excess soil would be removed from the work area and taken to an appropriate disposal site. Approximately 1,000 feet of the existing pipe, from its connection with the Canal to the new intertie, would be abandoned in place. The existing easement would be retained.

Duration of construction is expected to be approximately two (2) weeks. Construction equipment to be used would include an excavator, pile driver, dump truck, flat bed truck and a small front loader. Equipment would be staged in the existing 12-foot wide gravel access road.

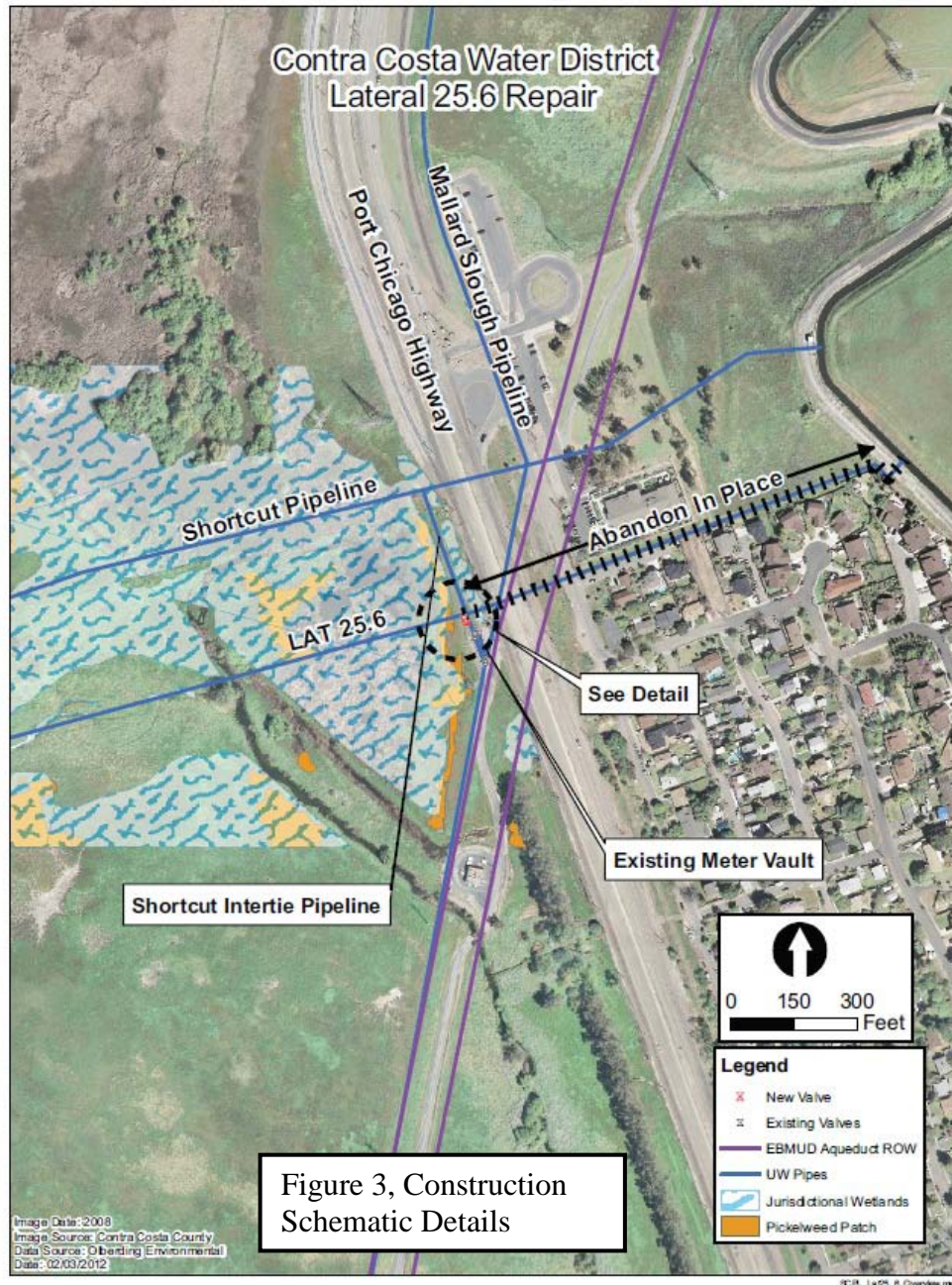
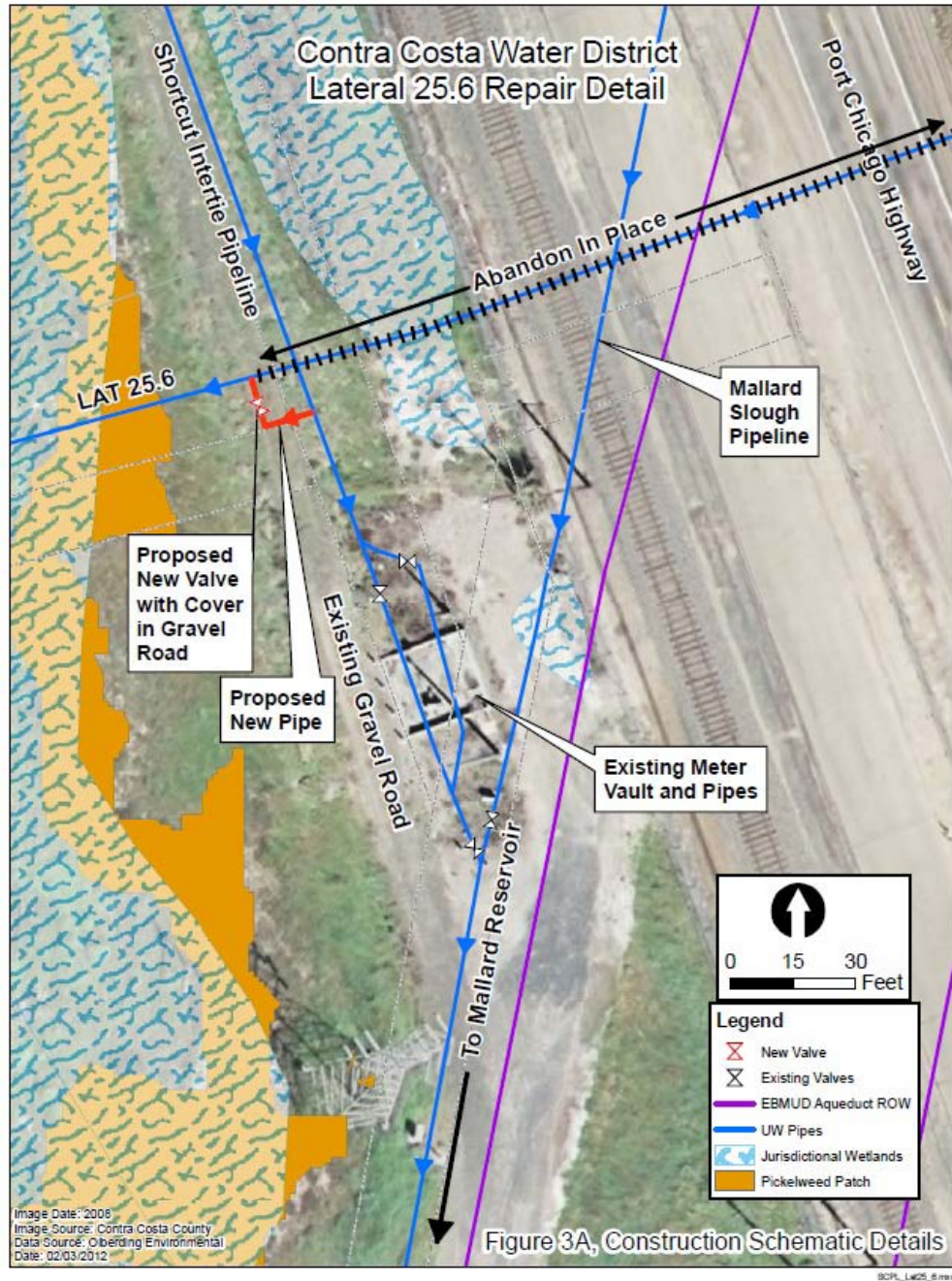


Figure 3, Construction Schematic Details



Environmental Commitments

Reclamation shall implement the following environmental protection measures:

Resource	Protection Measure
Biological Resources	A pre-construction survey for soft bird's beak shall be conducted by a qualified biologist no more than 14 days prior to construction to determine the presence or absence or the species. All survey information and findings shall be documented and submitted to Reclamation for approval.

Resource	Protection Measure
Biological Resources	If possible, construction shall occur outside of the California clapper rail nesting season (mid-March to July). If construction must occur during the California clapper rail nesting season, a qualified biologist shall survey the project area, and a 500 foot radius around the project area, no more than 14 days prior to construction for California clapper rail nests. All survey information and findings shall be documented and submitted to Reclamation for approval. If a California clapper rail nest is found, no construction shall occur within 500 feet of the nest until a qualified biologist determines the nest is no longer active.
Biological Resources	If possible, construction shall occur outside of the California least tern nesting season (mid-April to late September). If construction must occur during the California least tern nesting season a qualified biologist shall survey the project area, and a 500 foot radius around the project area, no more than 14 days prior to construction for California least tern nests. All survey information and findings shall be documented and submitted to Reclamation for approval. If a California least tern nest is found, no construction shall occur within 500 feet of the nest until a qualified biologist determines the nest is no longer active.
Biological Resources	A qualified biologist, approved by Reclamation, would be present on-site to monitor for the salt marsh harvest mouse during all work activities in the project area for the proposed project. The biological monitor would have the authority to stop work if deemed necessary for any reason to protect the salt marsh harvest mouse, or any other federally listed species. Prior to the initiation of work each day, the monitor would thoroughly survey the work area and adjacent habitat areas to determine if salt marsh harvest mouse are present in these areas and would remain on-site throughout the day while work activities are occurring. If a salt marsh harvest mouse is observed in these areas, then work would not be initiated or would be stopped immediately by the biological monitor until the SMHM leaves the work area on its own volition and Reclamation. If the salt marsh harvest mouse does not leave the work area, work would not be initiated again until after the Reclamation has been contacted and a decision reached on how to proceed with further work activities. The biological monitor would direct the project engineer or foreman on how to proceed accordingly.
Biological Resources	Prior to the initiation of work, the biological monitor would conduct an environmental training session for all contractors and construction personnel. At a minimum, the training would include a description of the salt marsh harvest mouse and its habitats; the specific avoidance measures being implemented for this species; and the boundaries within which work may be conducted. Brochures, books, and briefings may be used in the training session.
Biological Resources	Prior to the initiation of work, any vegetation in the area to be excavated and in the staging area would be removed by hand or using hand tools (e.g., hoe, rake, shovel). Pickleweed would be avoided to the maximum extent possible. No mechanical or motorized equipment would be used to remove vegetation in this area. The biological monitor would supervise the vegetation removal activities.
Biological Resources	To prevent entrapment of salt marsh harvest mice (or any other listed species), any pipes or similar objects located in salt marsh harvest mouse habitat areas would be capped prior to the end of each work day or inspected by the approved biologist prior to commencement of work activities the following day.
Biological Resources	The number of access routes, size of staging areas, and total area of the work activities would be limited to the minimum necessary to achieve the Project goal. Routes and boundaries would be clearly demarcated.
Biological Resources	Project-related vehicles will observe a 15 mile per hour speed limit in all Project areas, except on City and County roads, and State highways; this is particularly important during high tides and when the sun sets.

Resource	Protection Measure
Biological Resources	To avoid the salt marsh harvest mouse (which is nocturnal), there will be no nighttime construction.
Biological Resources	An exclusion fence (i.e., silt fencing) for the salt marsh harvest mouse would be installed around the work areas. The fence would be placed into a shallow trench and the base backfilled to prevent salt marsh harvest mice from moving underneath. The final design and proposed location of the fencing would be reviewed and approved by Reclamation prior to being installed. The biological monitor would have the ability to make field adjustments to the fence location depending on site-specific habitat conditions. The areas outside of the exclusion fencing would be off limits to construction activities and personnel at all times during work activities. The biological monitor would monitor the fence periodically to ensure that it remains an effective barrier to salt marsh harvest mice. The fence would be maintained as needed and remain in place throughout the work period.
Biological Resources	If any listed species are observed in the project area, Reclamation will be notified and the project will be rescheduled or postponed to avoid all impacts to species. Any scheduled operations and maintenance activities will also be rescheduled or postponed to avoid impacts to listed species.
Biological Resources	A litter control program shall be instituted at the project site. All workers shall ensure their food scraps, paper wrappers, food containers, cans, bottles, and other trash from the project area are deposited in covered or closed trash containers. The trash containers shall be removed from the project area at the end of each working day.
Biological Resources	No firearms (except for Federal, State, or local law enforcement officers and security personnel) or canine or feline pets shall be permitted on construction sites to avoid harassment or killing or injuring of listed species.

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

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:

- | | | | | | | |
|---|----|-------------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------|-----|--------------------------|
| 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"/> |
| 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 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain | <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes | <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)). | No | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain | <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> |

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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 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain | <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 11. This action would affect ITAs (512 DM 2, Policy Memorandum dated December 15, 1993). | No | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain | <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes | <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)). | No | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain | <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes | <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)). | No | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain | <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes | <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)). | No | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain | <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> |

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.