

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION CHECKLIST

Project: Gravel Placement in Clear Creek (#12-NCAO-199)

Date: July 16, 2012

Nature of Action: The Bureau of Reclamation will contract with an "outside party" to deliver and place 10,000 tons of spawning gravel amongst four locations on Clear Creek, Shasta County, CA. The specific areas of gravel placement are identified in Table 1 and shown in Attachment 1. Gravel will be either end-dumped from a truck directly at the injection site, or a front-end loader will place the gravel along the stream bank during the summer months up to late September. This activity has been occurring at these locations since 1997 and there will be no modification of existing facilities or construction of new facilities.

Table 1. Site locations for activities associated with spawning gravel placement in Clear Creek.

| Site Name | Location (TRS) | Approximate Area of Potential Effect (acres) | Gravel Quantity (tons) |
|-------------------------------|--|--|------------------------|
| Guardian Rock/Below NEED Camp | T. 31 N, R. 6 W, sec. 3, & T. 32 N, R. 6 W, sec. 34, | 0.97 | 2000 |
| Placer Bridge | T. 31 N, R. 6 W, sec 26 | 0.69 | 4,500 |
| Clear Creek Crossing /Bridge | T. 31 N, R. 6 W, sec 36 | 0.38 | 1,500 |
| Tule Backwater | T. 31 N, R. 5 W, Sec 34 | 1.50 | 2000 |
| Totals | ----- | ----- | 10,000 |

The purpose of this action is to meet the requirements of the CVPIA and the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Biological Opinion on the effects of the proposed Long-Term Operations Criteria and Plan for the Central Valley Project. Injecting gravel in Clear Creek to mitigate the influences of Whiskeytown Dam continues to represent a long term commitment to meeting these requirements aimed at increasing the quantity and improving the quality of anadromous fish spawning habitat in Clear Creek. In addition, the continued injection of gravels into the Clear Creek will help to maintain and restore geomorphic function of the channel restoration reach and downstream for the benefit of other native aquatic species of the area. As such, this action will serve to correct unsatisfactory environmental conditions of Clear Creek

Exclusion category: 516 DM 6 Appendix 9 C. Project Implementation Activities, 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 or group of actions would have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. No ☒ Uncertain ☐ Yes ☐

2. This action or group of actions would have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources. No ☒ Uncertain ___ Yes ___

Evaluation of Exemptions to Actions within Categorical Exclusion

1. This action would have significant adverse effects on public health or safety. No ☒ Uncertain ___ Yes ___
2. This action would have an adverse effect on unique geological features such as wetlands, wild or scenic rivers, rivers placed on the nationwide river inventory, refuges, floodplains, or prime or unique farmland. No ☒ Uncertain ___ Yes ___
3. This action would have highly controversial environmental effects. No ☒ Uncertain ___ Yes ___
4. This action would have highly uncertain environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risk. No ☒ Uncertain ___ Yes ___
5. This action would establish a precedent for future actions. No ☒ Uncertain ___ Yes ___
6. This action is related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulative significant environmental effects. No ☒ Uncertain ___ Yes ___
7. This action will adversely affect on properties listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historical Places. No ☒ Uncertain ___ Yes ___
8. This action would adversely affect a species listed or proposed to be listed as endangered or threatened. No ☒ Uncertain ___ Yes ___
9. This action threatens to violate Federal, state, local, executive or Secretarial orders, or tribal law or requirements imposed for protection of the environment. No ☒ Uncertain ___ Yes ___
10. This action would affect Indian Trust Assets. No ☒ Uncertain ___ Yes ___
11. This action would limit access to, and ceremonial use of, Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners No ☒ Uncertain ___ Yes ___

or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites.


12. This action would have a disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on low-income or minority populations No ☒ Uncertain ☐ Yes ☐
13. This action would contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species. No ☒ Uncertain ☐ Yes ☐

NEPA Action: Cat. Exclusion: ☒ EA: ☐ EIS: ☐

Environmental commitments, explanation, and/or remarks: The selected contractor will be required (if applicable) to fulfill a variety of environmental commitments as identified in the Statement of Work (SOW)(incorporated by reference). Example requirements identified in the SOW include: 1) the contractor shall independently prepare, submit and shepherd the necessary permits (401/404), and ESA consultations for the implementation of this action as identified in the SOW, up to and including any and all water quality testing as part of this action; 2) the contractor shall provide an experienced inspector on site who can ensure that the delivery and placement of gravels follows applicable regulations and permits and requirements of the SOW. Other examples include the use of local water sources to deter dust exposure to the public and workers that may be created by heavy machinery use at specific sites. Implementation of measures in the SOW, some of which are identified here, will ensure that no significant environmental effects will occur from this action.

Cost Authority No: H30-17416700-0019100

Preparer: Paul Zedonis, Natural Resource Specialist

 7/16/2012

Paul Zedonis Date

Concurrence with Item 7:

See attached email by Amy Barnes 07/16/2012,


Archeologist Date

Concurrence with Items 10 and 11:

See attached email by Patricia Rivera, 06/11/2012


ITA Designee Date

Concurrence:

 7/16/12

Don Reck Date
Northern California Area Office
Supv. Natural Resource Specialist

Approval:

 7/16/12
for _____
Brian Person Date
Northern California Area Office
Area Manager

Attachment 1.

2012 Clear Creek Gravel Injection Project
Clear Creek, Shasta County, California

There are four sites

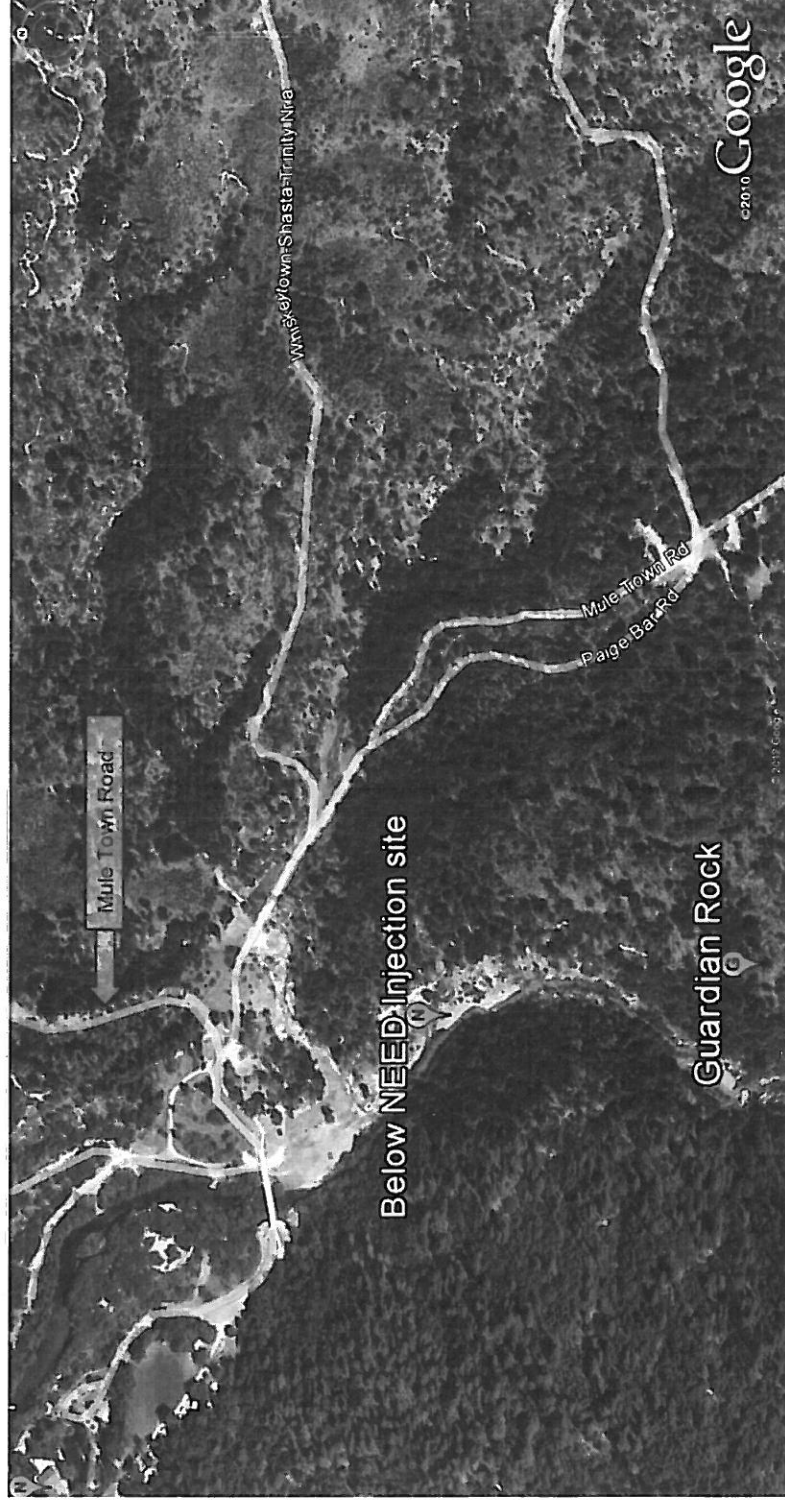
Below NEED Camp, also known as "Guardian Rock site" (Figures 1 and 2)
Below Placer Bridge Site (Figure 3)
Clear Creek Road Crossing Site (Figure 4)
Tule Backwater Site (Figure 5)

All four of the Google Earth images are positioned so that the top of each image is in the magnetic North alignment (i.e. the vertical alignment of the page is northward on top, and southward on the bottom side of the page.

The "Below NEED Camp" site is shown in two images to facilitate understanding the access associated for this site.

Attachment 1.

Figure 1. 2012 Clear Creek Gravel Injection Project – Below NEED Site (“Guardian Rock” site)



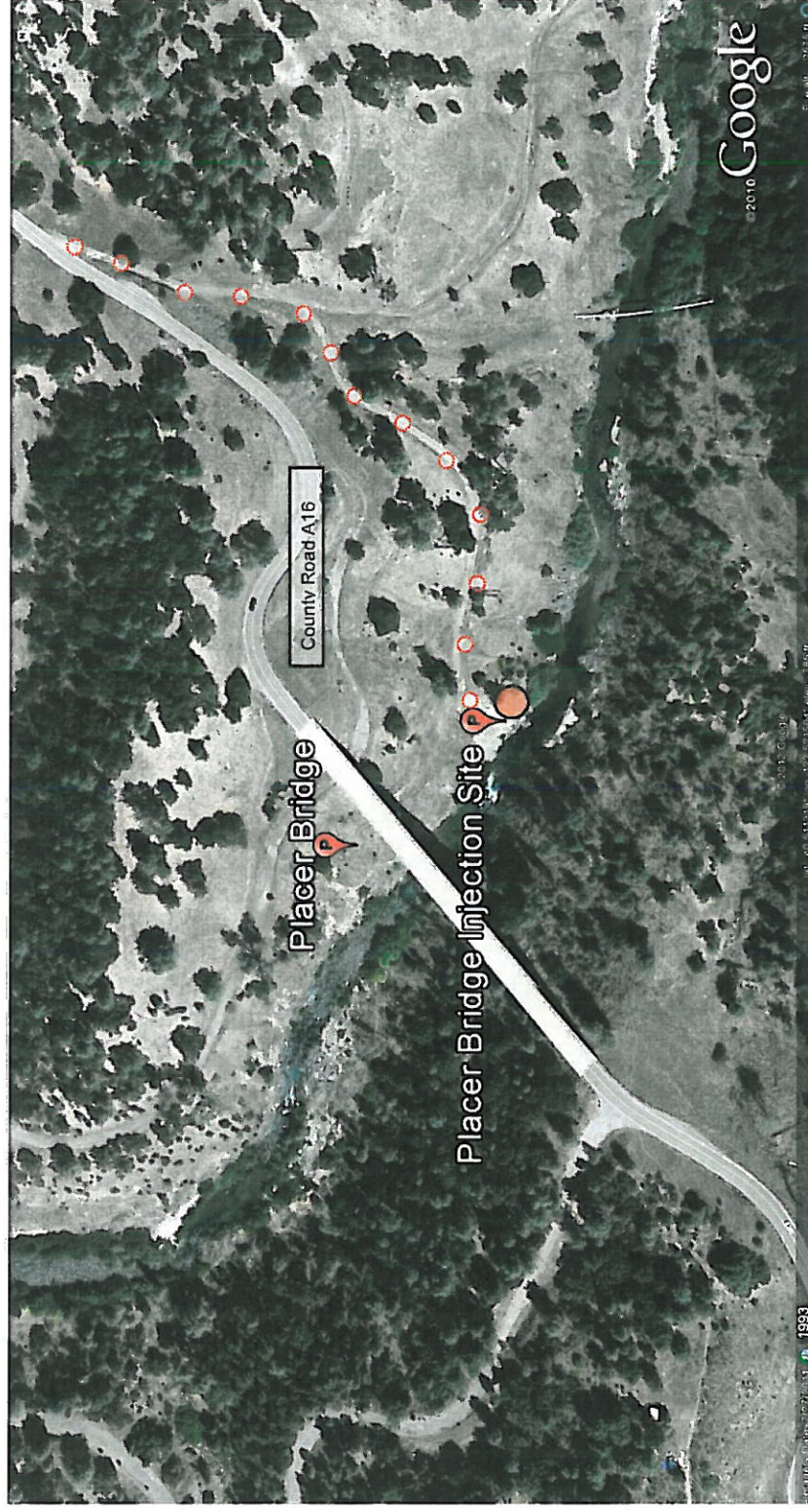
Attachment 1.

Figure 2. 2012 Clear Creek Gravel Injection Project – Below NEED Site (“Guardian Rock” site)
Red dotted circles depict access road to site – Red rectangle depicts injection site



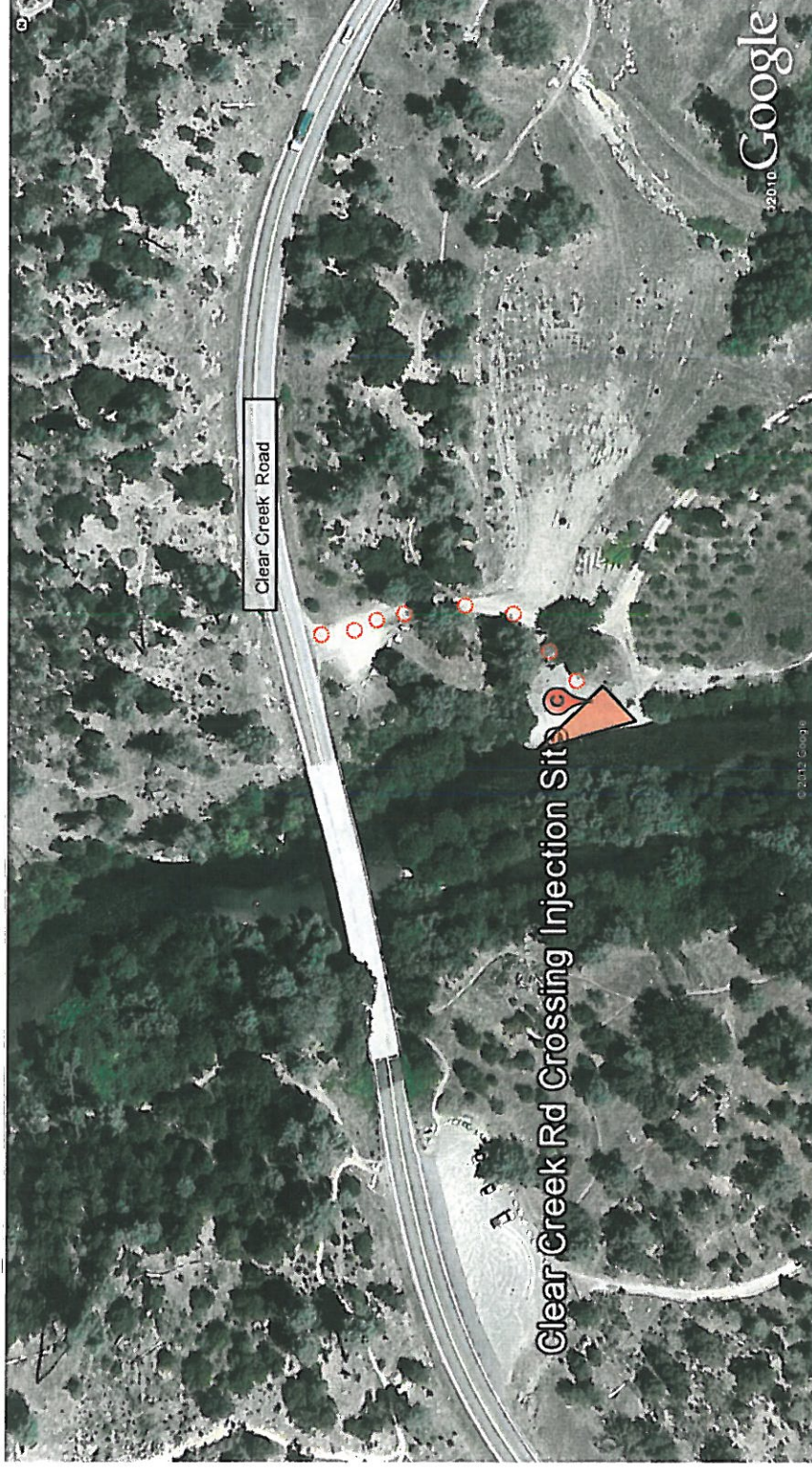
Attachment 1.

Figure 3. 2012 Clear Creek Gravel Injection Project – Below Placer Bridge Site
Red dotted circles depict access road from County Road A16. Red circle depicts talus cone injection site.



Attachment 1.

Figure 4. 2012 Clear Creek Gravel Injection Project - Clear Creek Crossing Site
Red dotted circles depict access road



Attachment 1.

Figure 5. 2012 Clear Creek Gravel Injection Project
Tule Backwater Site – Red dotted circles depict access road. Red rectangle depicts gravel injection site



Zedonis, Paul A

From: Barnes, Amy J
Sent: Monday, July 16, 2012 9:14 AM
To: Zedonis, Paul A; Kisanuki, Tom T
Cc: BOR MPR Cultural Resources Section
Subject: Gravel Placement in Clear Creek (12-NCAO-199)

Tracking #12-NCAO-199

Project: Gravel Placement in Clear Creek

Location: Shasta County: Igo, Olinda, and Redding 7.5 minute USGS quadrangle maps.
sec. 27 and 34, T. 31 N., R. 5 W. - Tule Backwater
sec. 36, T. 31 N., R. 6 W. - Clear Creek Road Bridge
sec. 26, T. 31 N., R. 6 W. - Placer Road Bridge, 0.7 acres)
sec. 3, T. 31 N., R. 6 W. and sec. 34, T. 32 N., R. 6 W. - Below N.E.E.D. Camp

Categorical Exclusion: 516 DM 14.5 C (3)

The proposed activities associated with Reclamation conducting a gravel augmentation project this year (2012) at four sites on lower Clear Creek will have no potential to affect historic properties pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800.3(a)(1). Compliance with the Central Valley Project Improvement Act, Section 3406(b)(12) requires Reclamation to add spawning gravel to Clear Creek to help mitigated the loss of habitat that resulted from constructing Whiskeytown Dam. The proposed action involves the placement of up to 10,000 tons of clean and washed spawning gravel in Clear Creek at four existing gravel injection sites: Tule Backwater, Clear Creek Road Bridge, Placer Road Bridge, and Below N.E.E.D. Camp. Gravel will be either end-dumped from a truck directly at the injection site or a front-end loader will place the gravel along the stream bank. Existing roads will be used to access each gravel injection site. This activity has been occurring in these locations since about 1997 and there will be no modification of existing facilities or construction of new facilities.

As the proposed action has no potential to affect historic properties, Reclamation has no further action under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. I concur with Item 7 of the CEC, entitled *Gravel Placement in Clear Creek*, dated June 6, 2012.

This email memo is intended to convey the conclusion of the Section 106 process for this undertaking. Please retain a copy of this memo with the project administrative record.

Amy J. Barnes, Archaeologist M.A.
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Mid-Pacific Region, MP-153
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, CA 95825
916-978-5047
abarnes@usbr.gov

Zedonis, Paul A

From: Rivera, Patricia L
Sent: Monday, June 11, 2012 8:57 AM
To: Zedonis, Paul A
Subject: RE: ITA Concurrence Request: CEC Gravel Placement in Clear Creek 060812

Paul,

I reviewed the proposed action to contract with an "outside party" to deliver and place 10,000 tons of spawning gravel amongst four locations on Clear Creek, Shasta County, CA. The specific areas of gravel placement are identified in Table 1 and shown in Attachment 1. Gravel will be either end-dumped from a truck directly at the injection site, or a front-end loader will place the gravel along the stream bank during the summer months up to late September. This activity has been occurring at these locations since 1997 and there will be no modification of existing facilities or construction of new facilities."

The proposed action does not have a potential to affect Indian Trust Assets. The nearest ITA is Redding Rancheria approximately 2 miles NE of the project location.

Patricia