

RECLAMATION

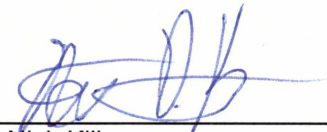
Managing Water in the West

Categorical Exclusion Checklist

Lake Casitas Bait Shop Renovation

CEC-12-063

Prepared by:



Nick Kilb
Natural Resources Specialist
South-Central California Area Office

Date: 10/3/2012

Concurred by:



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

Date: 10/3/12


Concurred by:



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

Date: 10/15/12

Approved by:

for 
Michael Jackson
Area Manager
South-Central California Area Office

Date: 10/15/12



Background

Lake Casitas Recreation Area (Park) (Figure 1) and surrounding Open Space Lands have been managed since 1959 by Casitas Municipal Water District (CMWD), pursuant to the 1956 agreement for the Ventura River Project. In 2010, Reclamation adopted Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD) 10-111 for the Lake Casitas Resource Management Plan (RMP). Reclamation subsequently entered into Management Agreement 11-LC-20-0216, to continue CMWD's management of the Park according to the RMP. This document tiers to the EIS/ROD/RMP, which are incorporated by reference.

The majority of the Park's facilities are located at the north end of Lake Casitas. The Park offers a variety of recreational opportunities, including: picnicking and day use areas, RV and group camping (413 campsites), individual campgrounds (12 campgrounds), two newly refurbished boat ramps, bike rentals, snack bar, bait and tackle shop, boat rentals, boat slips, camp store, and water park.

The existing, prefabricated bait shop and office building (Figures 2 through 4) was purchased in 1969 and subsequently moved on skids and placed on a concrete slab in its present location.

The building was sampled for asbestos-containing materials and lead-based paint during September 2012. The flooring, ceiling tiles, and roofing material were found to contain asbestos, and the exterior paneling, trim, and door were found to contain lead-based paint.

Purpose and Need for Action

Due to structure damage over the years caused by wind, rain, and sun, the current bait shop is in a state of decay with water damaged floors, moisture leaks in the subfloor, and general deterioration of the building's structure and wiring. The purpose of the Proposed Action is to rebuild the facility, in compliance with current building and electrical codes, in order to ensure safe, sanitary conditions for concession workers and the public.

Proposed Action

The current concessionaire proposes to tear down and rebuild the bait shop in order to bring it into compliance with current building and electrical codes.

Pursuant to Article 4 of Management Agreement 11-LC-20-0216, and in accordance with Section 2.5.3 of the RMP, Reclamation proposes to approve the concessionaire's plans for the demolition and rebuilding of the bait shop.

A local construction company would remove the existing building from the site and haul all debris to a landfill. Equipment needed for the removal of the existing building includes a backhoe and various hand tools. Following removal of the existing building, the concrete foundation would be cleaned, examined for structural defects, and repaired as necessary.

The new building would be slightly smaller than the original, but face in a more southern direction to take advantage of the early morning sun and view of the lake and boat launch ramps (Figure 5). The proposed building (Figure 6) would measure 46 feet wide by 20 feet long by 8 feet high, with a covered patio extending an additional 46 feet wide by 15 feet long by 7.5 feet high. In order to accommodate the new orientation, a slight extension to the existing foundation would be required: an approximately 50 square-foot triangular portion of previously disturbed ground on the east side of the existing foundation and an approximately 350 square-foot trapezoid on the northwest side of the building would be hand-leveled and a concrete extension would be poured to match the existing pad. Rebuilding would use hand tools, and would be completed by carpenter labor and utility hookups. Exterior wood and color would maintain the character of existing structures in the area. Due to anticipated carpenter foot traffic, the grounds may require some replanting of grass around the building. Existing disturbed gravel areas would remain gravel.

Proposed construction is expected to last 60 to 80 days. The project would be completed during the winter of 2012-2013, when there is low use of the Park facilities.

Environmental Commitments

The concessionaire and contractors shall implement the following environmental protection measures to reduce environmental consequences associated with the Proposed Action (Table 1). Environmental consequences assume the measures specified would be fully implemented.

Table 1 Environmental Protection Measures and Commitments

Resource	Protection Measure
Air Quality	Off-road vehicles (self-propelled diesel-fueled vehicles 25 horsepower and up that were not designed to be driven on-road) shall not be idled for 5 minutes or more.
Air Quality	Off-road vehicles used in demolition or construction shall be reported to the California Air Resources Board (CARB), and have both sides of their vehicles appropriately labeled with Equipment Identification Numbers prior to operation.
Air Quality	All trucks shall be required to cover their loads as required by California Vehicle Code §23114
Air Quality and Hazardous Materials	Pursuant to Ventura County Air Pollution Control District (VCAPCD) Rule 62.7, prior to removal of asbestos-containing materials, the contractor shall provide written notifications to the VCAPCD, postmarked or delivered at least 10 working days prior to starting demolition.
Air Quality and Hazardous Materials	Prior to removal and disposal, refrigerants shall be recovered by an EPA certified technician from all air conditioners, refrigerators, freezers, or other refrigerant-containing systems.
Air Quality and Visual	The area disturbed by clearing, grading, earth moving, or excavation operations shall be minimized to prevent excessive amounts of dust.
Air Quality, Noise, and Visual	All construction activities shall comply with VCAPCD Rule 55, Fugitive Dust, Rule 51, Nuisance and Rule 50, Noise.
Air Quality and Visual	Pre-grading/excavation activities shall include watering the area to be graded or excavated before commencement of grading or excavation operations. Application of water should penetrate sufficiently to minimize fugitive dust during grading activities.

Biological	<p>Before any ground disturbing activities for the Proposed Action are begun, the person in charge of work at the site shall slowly walk the area that is subject to potential disturbance (including areas where heavy equipment or vehicles may operate) and the adjacent land within 25 feet of all such areas, visually canvassing it for frogs. If any litter, debris, or rocks could obscure a frog, the area shall be inspected. If any frog is observed, its length from snout to vent shall be estimated, general coloration and any distinguishing characteristics (i.e. pattern and distribution of spotting, coloration, particularly at base of hind legs, stripes or mask through eye, etc.) shall be noted and recorded. If possible, photographs shall be taken. If photographs are taken, an identifiable object near the frog and wholly with the frame of the photograph shall be measured with a ruler.</p> <p>Documentation for an observation shall be transmitted to Reclamation environmental staff and no work shall commence until that information is reviewed and notification of permission to proceed is provided by a Reclamation biologist. If the identity of the frog cannot be determined to be a species other than California Red-legged frog, no action may commence and consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service would be required.</p>
Biological	<p>If the project will occur during the Least Bell's Vireo's nesting season (February 15- July 31), a preconstruction survey shall be conducted to determine if there are any active nests in the project area. If an active Least Bell's Vireo nest is found, a 500 foot buffer will be established around the nest and no work will be allowed within the buffer until the end of the nesting season or until a qualified biologist determines that the nesting cycle in that nest is complete.</p>
Biological	<p>Surveys shall be conducted prior to demolition or construction, to determine if rare plants, sensitive habitats, or oak trees occur at the project site. If rare plants, sensitive habitats, or oak trees occur, the site would be relocated or modified so that rare plants, sensitive habitats, and oak trees can be fully avoided.</p>
Biological	<p>All food-related trash items such as wrappers, cans, bottles, and food scraps will be disposed of in closed containers and removed at least once a week from the project site.</p>
Biological	<p>If any listed species are observed in the project area, the project shall be rescheduled to avoid all impacts to species.</p>
Biological	<p>Carcasses of medium to large mammals (deer, cattle, etc) should be removed from the action area immediately to discourage foraging by condors.</p>
Biological	<p>Project workers should avoid all interaction with condors and immediately report any condor sightings in the project area to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.</p>
Hazardous Materials	<p>Prior to demolition, an abatement plan shall be developed by a California Department of Public Health (CDPH) lead-related construction (LRC) certified Lead Supervisor or Project Monitor. All demolition work shall be performed by CDPH LRC certified Lead Supervisors and/or Lead Workers. The contractor shall notify the California Department of Industrial Relations at least 24 hours prior to beginning work. All lead-based paint chips and dust shall be contained and the site shall be cleaned following demolition.</p>
Hazardous Materials	<p>All waste shall be evaluated to determine if it qualifies as hazardous waste, based on EPA and California Department of Toxic Substances Control regulations. Materials classified as hazardous wastes shall be handled and disposed based on those regulations.</p>
Recreation, Noise, and Visual	<p>Demolition and construction shall occur during the off-season in order to avoid creating a nuisance to visitors.</p>
Water Quality	<p>The contractor shall develop and implement a Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan, including BMPs for the construction project</p>
Water Quality	<p>Construction will be scheduled during periods of low water or the dry season, thereby increasing the distance to the shoreline.</p>
Water Quality and Soils	<p>Silt fencing, water bars, or straw bales and wattles will be used during construction to prevent erosion/runoff.</p>

Exclusion Categories

516 DM 14.5 paragraph C (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.*

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"/> |

- | | | | | | | |
|--|----|-------------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------|-----|--------------------------|
| 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 Indian Trust Assets (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.

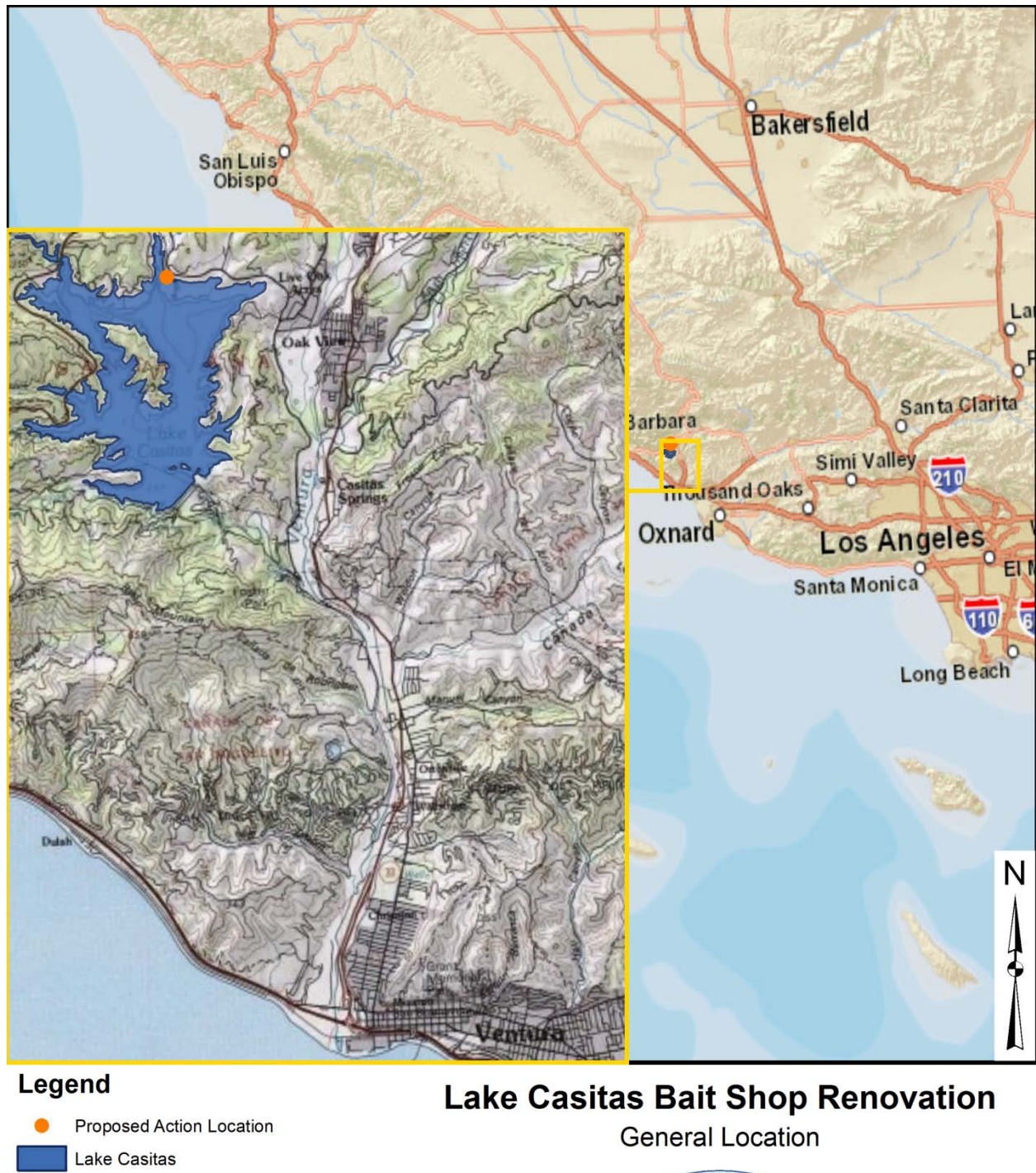


Figure 1 General Location Map



Figure 2 Current Bait Shop, Southwest Side









Figure 3 Current Bait Shop, Southeast Corner



Figure 4 Current Bait Shop, Northeast Side



Legend

-  Staging Area
-  Old Building
-  Old Patio
-  New Building
-  New Patio
-  Chain Link Fence

Lake Casitas Bait Shop Renovation Construction Plan (measures approximate)

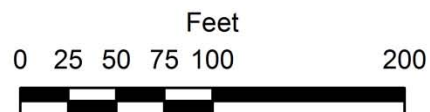


Figure 5 Conceptual Site Plan

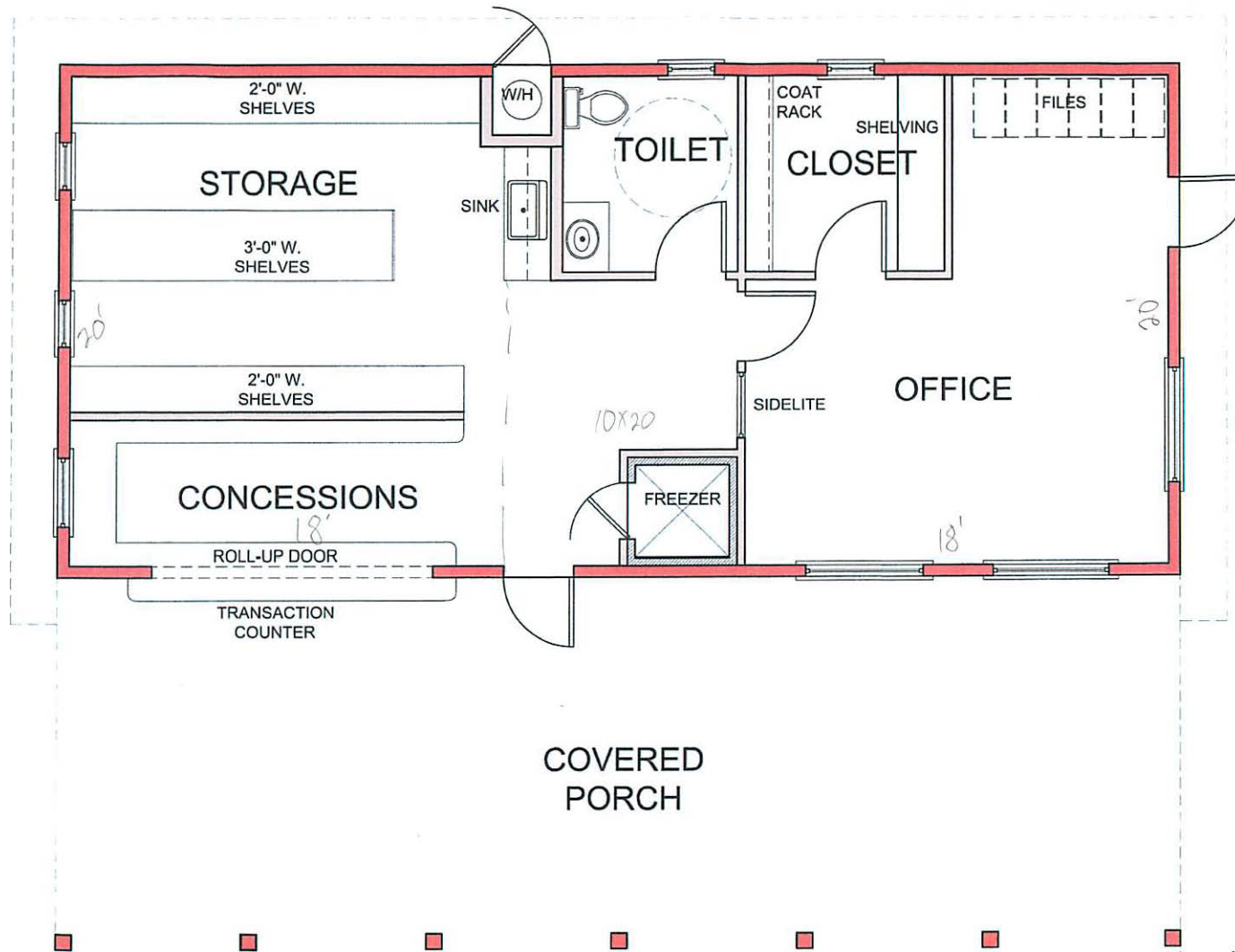


Figure 6 New Building Plan

Kilb, Nicholas D

From: Bruce, Brandee E
Sent: Friday, September 07, 2012 1:20 PM
To: Kilb, Nicholas D
Cc: BOR MPR Cultural Resources Section
Subject: RE: CR-Resp on Request for determinations: Lake Casitas Bait Shop Renovation

Tracking No: 12-SCAO-255

Project: Lake Casitas Bait Shop Renovation

Location: North End of Lake Casitas, off Santa Ana Road, Ventura County, California.

Nick,

The proposed project to replace the bait shop on the northern end of Lake Casitas has no potential to effect historic properties pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800.3(a)(1). The bait shop was built in 1969 on a concrete pad and is situated on a terraced hill. The bait shop is a pre-fabricated building. The new bait shop will be slightly smaller than the existing and will be constructed in the same location with less than 6-inches of ground disturbance anticipated, all located in a previously disturbed area from construction activities in the area that included the original bait shop, other recreation facilities, and a paved parking lot.

As the proposed action has no potential to cause effects to historic properties, no additional consideration is required under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. This email serves as notification of the completion of the Section 106 process for this undertaking. Note that if the project description changes, Reclamation may have additional considerations under Section 106. Please retain a copy of this concurrence with the administrative file.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

BranDee

BranDee Bruce
Architectural Historian
Bureau of Reclamation
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Fax: (916) 978-5055

Kilb, Nicholas D

From: Rivera, Patricia L
Sent: Monday, August 20, 2012 6:54 AM
To: Kilb, Nicholas D
Subject: RE: Request for determinations: Lake Casitas Bait Shop Renovation

Nick,

I reviewed the proposed action to approve the concessionaire's plans for the demolition and rebuilding of the bait shop.

A local construction company would remove the existing building from the site and haul all debris to a landfill. Equipment needed for the removal of the existing building includes a backhoe and various hand tools. Following removal of the existing building, the concrete foundation would be cleaned, examined for structural defects, and repaired as necessary.

The new building would be slightly smaller than the original, but face in a more southern direction to take advantage of the early morning sun and view of the lake and boat launch ramps (Figure 5). The proposed building would measure 45' x 20' x 8', with a covered patio extending an additional 45' x 15' x 7.5'. In order to accommodate the new orientation, a slight extension to the existing foundation would be required. An approximately 50 square-foot triangular portion of previously disturbed ground on the east side of the existing foundation and an approximately 350 square-foot trapezoid on the northwest side of the building would be hand-leveled and a concrete extension would be poured to match the existing pad. Rebuilding would use hand tools, and would be completed by carpenter labor and utility hookups. Exterior wood and color would maintain the character of existing structures in the area. Due to anticipated carpenter foot traffic, the grounds may require some replanting of grass around the building. Existing disturbed gravel areas would remain gravel.

Proposed construction is expected to last 60 to 80 days. The project would be completed during the winter of 2012-2013, when there is low use of the Park facilities. The concessionaire sent out a proposal to bid to local Contractors, and an award would be expected by October 1, 2012.

The proposed action does not have a potential to affect Indian Trust Assets.

Patricia

ESA Effects Analysis

CEC-12-063: Lake Casitas Bait Shop Renovation

1. Background

Lake Casitas Recreation Area (Park) and surrounding Open Space Lands have been managed since 1959 by Casitas Municipal Water District (CMWD), pursuant to the 1956 agreement for the Ventura River Project. In 2010, Reclamation adopted Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and Record of Decision (ROD) 10-111 for the *Lake Casitas Resource Management Plan* (RMP). Reclamation subsequently entered into Management Agreement 11-LC-20-0216, to continue CMWD's management of the Park according to the RMP.

The majority of the Park's recreation facilities are located at the north end of Lake Casitas. The Park offers a variety of recreational facilities, including picnicking and day use areas, RV and group camping (413 campsites), individual campgrounds (12 campgrounds), two newly refurbished boat ramps, bike rentals, snack bar, bait and tackle shop, boat rentals, boat slips, camp store, and a water park.

The prefabricated bait shop and office building was purchased in 1969 and subsequently moved on skids and placed on a concrete slab in its present location. Due to structure damage over the years caused by wind, rain, and sun, the current bait shop is in a state of decay with water damaged floors, moisture leaks in the subfloor, and general deterioration of the building's structure and wiring. The current concessionaire proposes to tear down and rebuild the bait shop in order to bring it into compliance with current building and electrical codes and to ensure safe, sanitary conditions for concession workers and the public.

2. Description of the Proposed Action

Pursuant to Article 4 of Management Agreement 11-LC-20-0216, and in accordance with Section 2.5.3 of the RMP, Reclamation proposes to approve the concessionaire's plans for the demolition and rebuilding of the bait shop.

A local construction company would remove the existing building from the site and haul all debris to a landfill. Equipment needed for the removal of the existing building would include a backhoe and various hand tools. Following removal of the existing building, the concrete foundation would be cleaned, examined for structural defects, and repaired as necessary.

The new building would be slightly smaller than the original, but face in a more southern direction to take advantage of the early morning sun and the view of the lake and boat launch ramps. The proposed building would measure 45' x 20' x 8', with a covered patio extending an additional 45' x 15' x 7.5'. In order to accommodate the new orientation, a slight extension to the existing foundation would be required. An approximately 50 square-foot triangular portion of previously disturbed ground on the east side of the existing foundation and an approximately 350 square-foot trapezoid on the northwest side of the building would be hand-leveled and a concrete extension would be poured to match the existing pad. Rebuilding would be done with the use of

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hand tools, and would be completed by carpenter labor and utility hookups. Exterior wood and color would maintain the character of existing structures in the area. Due to anticipated carpenter foot traffic, the grounds may require some replanting of grass around the building. Existing disturbed gravel areas would remain gravel.

Proposed construction is expected to last 60 to 80 days. The project would be completed during the winter of 2012-2013, when there is low use of the Park facilities. The concessionaire sent out a proposal to bid to local Contractors, and an award would be expected by October 1, 2012.

3. Environmental Baseline and Status of the Species

The project site is located on the northern edge of Lake Casitas in Ventura County. The project site is covered with gravel, paved walking surfaces, maintained lawns, and landscaped areas and contains the current bait shop/snack bar building. The site is bordered on its western side by the shore of Lake Casitas and is bordered by a paved parking lot to the north, east, and south. Riparian scrub and freshwater marsh habitats are located about .14 miles to the southeast of the project site. The habitat surrounding the rest of the project site consists of non-native grasslands with some scattered trees.

On August 28, 2012 Reclamation requested an official species list from the USFWS via the Sacramento Field Office's website, http://www.fws.gov/sacramento/es/spp_list.htm, (document number: 120828041715). The list is for Ventura County. The CDFG California Natural Diversity Database was also queried for records of protected species within 10 miles of the proposed project location (CNDDDB, 2012). The information collected above, in addition to information within Reclamation's files, was combined to determine the likelihood of protected species occurrence within the project area. Many of the special-status species have no potential to be present in the project area due to a lack of suitable habitat. Federally protected species with the potential to be in the project area include the California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*), the least bell's vireo (*Vireo bellii pusillus*), and the California condor (*Gymnogyps californianus*).

California Red-Legged Frog

The California Red-legged frog is federally listed as a threatened species. Their diet consists mainly of invertebrates, but larger red-legged frogs also eat small amphibians and mammals. Red-legged frogs live near the standing or slow moving waters of ponds, streams, marshes, stock ponds or reservoirs. They require the shelter of tall grasses, cattails, downed trees, leaf litter or small animal burrows to protect them from predators and desiccation (AFWO 2011). Although shrubs, cattails and grasses provide optimal habitat, red-legged frogs have also been found in areas with no vegetation at all. They have been known to travel up to two miles in response to changing water levels and precipitation. (USFWS 2005). Primary reasons for the species decline include predation, pesticide use and habitat loss (AFWO 2011).

Least Bell's Vireo

The least Bell's vireo is federally listed as an endangered species. Their diet consists primarily of insects. The least Bell's vireo lives in dense riparian habitats with abundant understory vegetation and forages for food in nearby chaparral and riparian scrub habitats. They usually nest in willows, but may also nest in a variety of other shrubs, vines or trees. The least Bell's vireo is

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a migratory bird that stays in the area from March to late August and winters in Mexico. Primary reasons for the species decline include habitat loss and brood parasitism by the brown-headed cowbird (USFWS 1986).

California Condor

The California condor is federally listed as an endangered species. They are opportunistic feeders with a diet consisting solely of animal carcasses. California condors find their food by sight instead of smell and may travel up to 150 miles from their nests in search of food. They forage in open areas like foothill grassland and oak savannah habitats. California condors select nest sites between December and Spring and generally nest in rock crevices and under rock ledges. Condors lay one egg between late January and early April, which typically hatches in about 56 days. It is uncertain what the primary reasons are for the species decline, but research suggests that lead poisoning may account for a large portion of California condor fatalities (USFWS 1996).

4. Special-Status Species Effects

California Red-Legged Frog

There are CNDDDB-recorded occurrences of California red-legged frogs within 3 miles of the project site. There is riparian scrub and marsh habitat about .14 miles southeast of the project site that may provide suitable habitat for this species; however it is unlikely that California red-legged frogs will occur here due to the presence of predators like largemouth bass, crayfish and bullfrogs. The nearest CNDDDB –recorded occurrences of this species were from 2001 and 2003 and no California red-legged frogs were observed during protocol surveys conducted near the site in 2003 and 2004 (BOR 2010). The project site itself contains manicured lawn, gravel and paved walking surfaces that do not provide high quality habitat for this species. There is a very low potential for California red-legged frogs to disperse through the project site. This species is not expected to occur on the project site. With the implementation of the provided avoidance measures, Reclamation has determined there would be *No Effect* to the California red-legged frog.

Least Bell's Vireo

There is a CNDDDB-recorded occurrence of the least bell's vireo from 1919 about 4 miles to the south of the project site. Although there is some riparian scrub and marsh habitat about .14 miles to the southeast of the project site, these habitats are not sufficiently dense enough to support least bell's vireos (BOR 2010). The project site does not contain suitable habitat for this species. This species is not expected to occur on the project site. With the implementation of the provided avoidance measures, Reclamation has determined there would be *No Effect* to the least bell's vireo.

California Condor

There are CNDDDB-recorded occurrences of California condors about 7 miles from the project site. There is no suitable nesting habitat on, or directly adjacent to the project site. There are

some open non-native grasslands and ruderal areas to the northeast of the project site that may provide suitable foraging habitat for this species. It is unlikely that California condors will occur on the project site due to frequent human disturbances from traffic and nearby recreational activities. This species is not expected to occur in the project area. With the implementation of the provided avoidance measures, Reclamation has determined there would be *No Effect* to the California condor.

5. Avoidance Measures

The following avoidance measures would be implemented by Reclamation and their representative(s) to avoid potential environmental consequences associated with the proposed project. The No Effect determination for the proposed project assumes the measures specified would be fully implemented.

- a. Before any ground disturbing activities for the Proposed Action are begun, the person in charge of work at the site shall slowly walk the area that is subject to potential disturbance (including areas where heavy equipment or vehicles may operate) and the adjacent land within 25 feet of all such areas, visually canvassing it for frogs. If any litter, debris, or rocks could obscure a frog, the area shall be inspected. If any frog is observed, its length from snout to vent shall be estimated, general coloration and any distinguishing characteristics (i.e. pattern and distribution of spotting, coloration, particularly at base of hind legs, stripes or mask through eye, etc.) shall be noted and recorded. If possible, photographs shall be taken. If photographs are taken, an identifiable object near the frog and wholly within the frame of the photograph shall be measured with a ruler. Documentation for an observation shall be transmitted to Reclamation environmental staff and no work shall commence until that information is reviewed and notification of permission to proceed is provided by a Reclamation biologist. If the identity of the frog cannot be determined to be a species other than California Red-legged frog, no action may commence and consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service would be required.
- b. If the project will occur during the Least Bell's Vireo's nesting season (February 15- July 31), a preconstruction survey shall be conducted to determine if there are any active nests in the project area. If an active Least Bell's Vireo nest is found, a 500 foot buffer will be established around the nest and no work will be allowed within the buffer until the end of the nesting season or until a qualified biologist determines that the nesting cycle in that nest is complete.
- c. All food-related trash items such as wrappers, cans, bottles, and food scraps will be disposed of in closed containers and removed at least once a week from the project site.
- d. If any listed species are observed in the project area, the project shall be rescheduled to avoid all impacts to species.
- e. Carcasses of medium to large mammals (deer, cattle, etc) should be removed from the action area immediately to discourage foraging by condors.

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- f. Project workers should avoid all interaction with condors and immediately report any condor sightings in the project area to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

6. Conclusion

Reclamation proposes to allow the demolition and rebuilding of the bait shop at Lake Casitas in Ventura County. The project site contains the old bait shop and consists of gravel, maintained lawn, paved surfaces, and landscaped areas. The project site is bordered by Lake Casitas, a parking lot and a boat ramp. The project is expected to take 60 to 80 days to complete. It is unlikely that any special-status species will occur on the project site. With the implementation of the provided avoidance measures Reclamation has determined there would be *No Effect* to proposed or listed species or critical habitat under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (16 U.S.C. §1531 et seq.), and no take of birds protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (16 U.S.C. §703 et seq.).

References

- AFWO (Arcata Fish and Wildlife Office) USFWS. 2011. California Red-legged Frog. Arcata, CA
- BOR (Bureau of Reclamation). 2010. Lake Casitas Final Resource Management Plan/ Environmental Impact Statement. Fresno, CA.
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