

# RECLAMATION

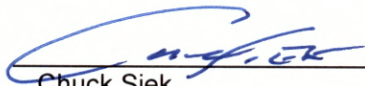
*Managing Water in the West*

## Categorical Exclusion Checklist

# National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration Precipitation Trailer at San Luis Reservoir

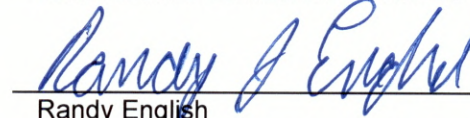
CEC 12-071

Prepared by:

  
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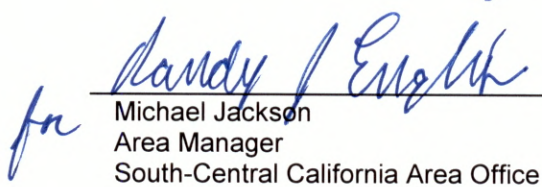
Date: 10/16/12

Concurred by:

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

Date: 10/16/12

Approved by:

  
for Michael Jackson  
Area Manager  
South-Central California Area Office

Date: 10/16/12



## Background

California's Department of Water Resources (DWR) operates and maintains the State Water Project, provides flood protection, develops and updates the California Water Plan and provides protection and restoration to the state's natural resources.

The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) oversees several agencies including the National Weather Service and Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research that conduct field research projects at dozens of locations in the United States and other countries. Several of these projects involve precipitation monitoring systems.

## Purpose and Need for Action

There is a need to collect and analyze meteorological information for flood forecasting. The purpose of the proposed action is placement of a precipitation monitoring system to provide site specific information at the San Luis Reservoir, a component of the Central Valley Project.

## Proposed Action

DWR has requested that NOAA place a precipitation monitoring system adjacent DWRs administration building at San Luis Reservoir. The system would be in place for 5-years with funding for placement, operations and maintenance provided by DWR.

Reclamation proposes to allow DWR and NOAA the approval to locate a small precipitation radar trailer near DWRs administration building at San Luis Reservoir as part of a state-wide program to monitor precipitation. The 10-foot long wheeled trailer would be connected to a 6-foot tall tripod with data logger, solar panel, and a tripod-mounted Global Positioning System receiver. The trailer would occupy a 10-foot x 8-foot space and the two tripods would occupy about 100 square feet. No ground disturbance or construction would be performed.

## Environmental Commitment Measures

|                      |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Biological Resources | To prevent mortality of listed species from vehicle strikes, immediately before parking the precipitation trailer and immediately before removing the trailer from the site, the area shall be checked to ensure that no lizards, or other wildlife, are in the path of the trailer. This will be accomplished by walking and visually surveying the area on-site where the trailer will be driven and parked, and checking around the rock foundation. If any listed species are in the path of the trailer, the placement of the trailer shall be postponed until the animal(s) leave the area at their own volition. |
|----------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

# Exclusion Category

A. General Activities. (3) Research activities, such as nondestructive data collection and analysis, monitoring, modeling, laboratory testing, calibration, and testing of instruments or procedures and non-manipulative field studies.

D. Operation and Maintenance Activities. (10) Issuance of permits, licenses, easements, and crossing agreements which provide right-of-way over Bureau lands where the action does not allow for or lead to a major public or private action.

## 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"/> |

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|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 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 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.