

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Categorical Exclusion Checklist

Delta-Mendota Canal Land Use Authorizations

CEC 12-085

Prepared by:



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Date: 1/3/12

Concurred by:



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South-Central California Area Office

Date: 1/3/13

Approved by:


For: Michael Jackson
Area Manager
South-Central California Area Office

Date: 1/23/13



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
South-Central California Area Office

January, 2013

Background

The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) previously issued land use authorizations to Water Districts for well discharge facilities along the Delta-Mendota Canal (DMC) right-of-way that either have expired or are about to expire.

Purpose for Action

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to allow those Water Districts with existing discharge facilities that meet water quality standards to discharge pumped groundwater into the DMC.

Proposed Action

The Proposed Action is to renew land use authorizations for existing well discharge facilities. All facilities currently exist; no new facilities or construction would be required. All discharge facilities are located between Milepost (MP) 3.32R to MP 116.40L2 on the DMC. Table 1 displays the Water Districts and well discharge locations that currently meet water quality standards and therefore could pump into the DMC.

Table 1 Discharge Locations That Currently Meet Water Quality Standards

Water District	2013 wells	2013 river	DMC Mile Post	Bank
Byron-Bethany Irrigation District		X	3.32	R1
		X	3.32	R2
Plain View Water District	X		12.75	R
	X		15.11	R
Banta-Carbona Irrigation District	X	X	20.42	L
	X		21.25	L
	X		21.86	L
Del Puerto Water District	X		30.43	L
	X		36.45	R
	X		36.68	L
	X		36.8	L
	X		37.1	L
	X		37.32	L
	X		51.66	L
	X		57.93	L
	X		58.6	L
	X		58.73	R

Table 2 displays well discharge locations that do not currently meet water quality standards and therefore cannot pump into the DMC. However if those wells meet water quality standards during the timeframe of this proposed action, they would be allowed to pump into the DMC.

Table 2 Discharge Locations That Do Not Currently Meet Water Quality Standards

Water District	DMC Mile Post
Byron-Bethany ID.	3.31R1 3.31R2
Del Puerto Water District	22.77R 23.41L 30.43L 31.60L 33.71L 32.36L 35.04L 35.73R 36.01L 36.80L 37.58L 45.78R 48.97L 49.40L 52.40L 36.45R 60.06R 64.32L 66.68L 66.71L 32.62R 33.71R 35.04R 35.63R 35.71L 35.71R 40.39R 42.50R 43.24L 47.37R 48.38L 49.54R 50.40L 57.73R 60.54R 28.70R 48.59L 48.60L 64.30L
Mercy Springs Water District	98.50R
Panoche Water District	92.72L 93.20L 93.27R 93.27L 94.26L 95.62L 115.84R 115.32 R 93.24 L 93.29 R 93.30L 94.14L
Patterson Irrigation District	42.53L
Plain View Water District	12.37L 12.69L 13.31L 14.26L 19.85R
San Luis Water District	79.60L 58.26L 81.08R 80.93R 80.62R 80.62L 80.03R 80.03L 79.67R 78.31L 79.13L 83.02R 83.08R 83.57L 84.39L 89.80R 90.18R 90.19 L1 & L2 90.60L 90.61R 90.91L 90.36L 91.15L 91.41L 91.57R 91.85L 92.14L 100.24L 100.54L 116.40L1 116.40L2 100.85L 101.27L 102.04R 113.72L 115.62L 98.55L 98.74L 58.28L 78.59L 79.13R 79.12R 79.37L 90.56L 79.54L 82.49R 91.80L 92.16R 99.82L 115.64R 116.40R 48.97L 48.97L Craven#1 48.97L Craven#5 48.97L Craven#6 Hollister#1 48.97L
West Stanislaus Irrigation District	31.31L 31.31L1 31.31L2 31.31L3 31.31L4
Widren WD	99.24L 100.65L

Environmental Commitments

Reclamation shall implement the following environmental protection measures:

Resource	Protection Measure
Water Resources	Any wells that do not meet water quality standards would be prohibited from pumping into the DMC.

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

Exclusion Category

Categorical Exclusion 516 DM 14.5 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:

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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 ITAs (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 attached.

ITA Designee concurred with Item 11. Their determination has been attached.

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

Soule, William wsoule@usbr.gov

December 4, 2012

Chuck:

Re: 13-SCAO-042 (CEC-12-085) Delta Mendota Canal Land Use Authorizations.

The proposed undertaking is for Reclamation to renew existing land use authorizations or issue new land use authorizations for existing well discharge facilities into the Delta-Mendota Canal (DMC). This is the type of action that does not have the potential to cause effects to historic properties, should such properties be present, pursuant to the Section 106 implementing regulations at 36 CFR Part 800.3(a)(1).

The purpose of the proposed action is to allow those water users who have had authorization to discharge into the DMC continued use of the canal as well as to authorize previously unauthorized discharge facilities. All discharge facilities are currently existing and no new facilities or other new construction will be required. All of the existing discharge facilities are located between Milepost (MP) 3.32R to MP 116.40L2 on the DMC.

This email is intended to convey the conclusion of the Section 106 process for this undertaking. After reviewing the draft of CEC-12-085, I concur with item 8. Please retain a copy of this email in the administrative record for this NEPA action. Thank you for providing the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Bill

Rivera, Patricia L PRivera@usbr.gov

December 4, 2012

Chuck,

I reviewed the proposed action to renew or issue new land use authorizations for existing well discharge facilities. All facilities currently exist; no new facilities or construction would be required. All discharge facilities are located between Milepost (MP) 3.32R to MP 116.40L2 on the DMC. The authorizations would be in effect 25-years.

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