

Categorical Exclusion Checklist

License to Del Puerto Water District for New Discharge Point near Milepost 52.40L on the Delta-Mendota Canal

CEC-12-080

Prepared by:		_		
	1 -10	Curafia-	Date:	2/4/13
	1-012	Rain Healer Natural Resources Specialist South-Central California Area Office		
Concurred by:				
	-	Jennifer Lewis	Date:	Feb. 4,20B
		Wildlife Biologist		
Concurred by:		South-Central California Area Office		
,	4	Chuck Siek	Date:	2/4/13
		Supervisory Natural Resources Special South-Central California Area Office	alist	
Approved by:	, -	Roudy / Englis	Date:	2/6/13
	for	Michael P. Jackson Area Manager South-Central California Area Office		
	1			



Background

Del Puerto Water District (DPWD) provides irrigation water to over 45,000 acres of productive farm land in San Joaquin, Stanislaus and Merced Counties, much of it planted with high-value permanent crops. DPWD is a Delta Division Central Valley Project (CVP) contractor with the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) which receives surface water from the Delta-Mendota Canal (DMC). DPWD is also one of 30 member agencies within the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority (SLDMWA).

In 2012, SLDMWA, on behalf of seven of its member agencies, requested approval from Reclamation for two-year Exchange Agreements and/or Warren Act contracts to pump and convey groundwater in the DMC between March 1, 2012 through February 28, 2013, and for storage and conveyance of the pumped groundwater in San Luis Reservoir between March 1, 2012 through February 28, 2014. The two-year Exchange Agreements and/or Warren Act contracts were analyzed in Environmental Assessment (EA)-12-005 *Two-Year Exchange Agreements and/or Warren Act Contracts for Conveyance of Groundwater in the Delta-Mendota Canal – Contract Years 2012 through 2014 (March 1 2012 – February 28, 2014)* and a Finding of No Significant Impact was signed by Reclamation on May 8, 2012. FONSI/EA-12-005 was found to have no indirect, direct, or cumulative adverse impacts. A Warren Act contract (Contract No. 12-WC-20-4303) was issued to DPWD with an effective date of March 1, 2013 through February 28, 2014.

In October 2012, DPWD requested a license from Reclamation to install a pipeline across Reclamation right-of-way (ROW) near milepost (MP) 52.40L for a new discharge point on the DMC that would introduce groundwater which meets the water quality standards required for participation in the DMC groundwater pump in program as described in the Warren Act contract and EA-12-005.

Need for the Proposed Action

California has experienced severe droughts in recent years that have reduced water supplies to many water districts. South-of Delta (SOD) CVP water service contractors experienced reduced water supply allocations from 2007 to 2010 due to hydrologic conditions and/and or regulatory constraints. Following an above average water year in 2011, the hydrologic conditions for 2012 are dry, and DPWD needs to supplement its supplies in order to protect its high value crops.

Proposed Action

Reclamation proposes to issue a 25 year license to DPWD for the installation of a 10-inch diameter steel pipeline through approximately 280 feet of Reclamation ROW and a new discharge point near MP 52.40L on the DMC for discharge of up to 900 gallons per minute with an estimated annual quantity of 300 acre-feet. The Proposed Action area is within Section 21 of Township 7 South, Range 8 East, Mount Diablo Base and Meridian in Stanislaus County, California (Figure 1).

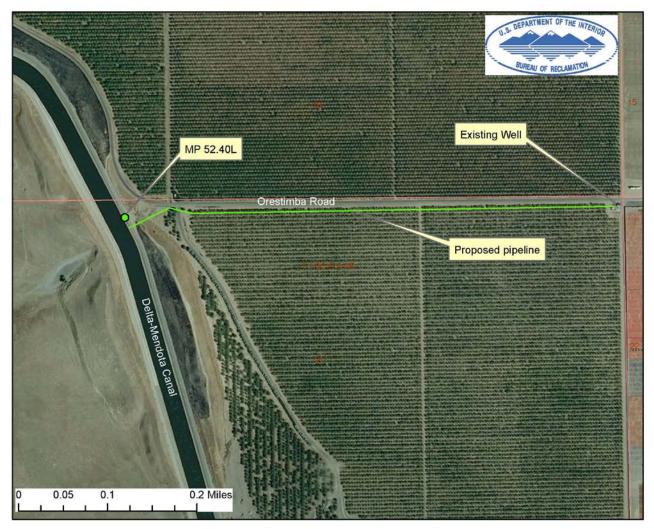


Figure 1 Proposed Action Area

Installation of the pipeline would require connecting to an existing well within an orchard located east of the DMC, trenching through 3,000 feet of the privately-owned almond orchard, and trenching through 280 feet of Reclamation ROW including the paved canal operation and maintenance (O&M) road (Figure 1). No almond trees would be removed during installation of the pipeline within the orchard as the pipeline would be placed within the watering channel between the rows.

Trenching would be 3 feet deep by 1-foot wide. Native soil removed during excavation would be used to fill the trench. Pavement for the canal O&M road would be saw-cut during installation of the pipeline and removed offsite for disposal. The removed portion of the O&M road would be backfilled with 95% ASTM fill material before being repayed with asphalt.

The new discharge point would surface for 15 feet along the DMC canal bank for discharge of groundwater over and into the DMC. A 1-foot by 1-foot by 6-inch concrete pad would be placed under the pipeline, 1-foot in from the canal liner, to insure that the pipe does not rest on the canal

liner. There would be no modification to the DMC as the pipeline would cross above the DMC to discharge groundwater.

Construction would begin in February 2013 and take approximately three days to complete. Construction equipment would include a backhoe and portable soil compactor. No temporary or staging areas would be needed for construction of the project. Access to the site would be through existing access roads to the orchard and the DMC.

Discharge of groundwater from the existing well into the DMC was included in FONSI/EA-12-005 as long as the groundwater met water quality requirements. Any subsequent Warren Act Contracts, other than that analyzed under FONSI/EA-12-005, would require additional environmental review.

Environmental Commitments

DPWD shall implement the following environmental protection measures:

Resource	Protection Measure
Biological Resources	Project-related vehicles should observe a daytime speed limit of 20-mph throughout the site in all project areas, except on county roads and State and Federal highways; this is particularly important at night when kit foxes are most active. Night-time construction should be minimized to the extent possible. However if it does occur, then the speed limit should be reduced to 10-mph. Off-road traffic outside of designated project areas should be prohibited.
Biological Resources	To prevent inadvertent entrapment of San Joaquin kit foxes or other animals during the construction phase of a project, all excavated, steep-walled holes or trenches more than 2-feet deep should be covered at the close of each working day by plywood or similar materials. If the trenches cannot be closed, one or more escape ramps constructed of earthen-fill or wooden planks shall be installed. Before such holes or trenches are filled, they should be thoroughly inspected for trapped animals. If at any time a trapped or injured kit fox is discovered, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife ¹ (CDFW) shall be contacted as noted below.
Biological Resources	San Joaquin kit foxes are attracted to den-like structures such as pipes and may enter stored pipes and become trapped or injured. All construction pipes, culverts, or similar structures with a diameter of 4-inches or greater that are stored at a construction site for one or more overnight periods should be thoroughly inspected for kit foxes before the pipe is subsequently buried, capped, or otherwise used or moved in any way. If a kit fox is discovered inside a pipe, that section of pipe should not be moved until the USFWS has been consulted. If necessary, and under the direct supervision of the biologist, the pipe may be moved only once to remove it from the path of construction activity, until the fox has escaped.
Biological Resources	All food-related trash items such as wrappers, cans, bottles, and food scraps should be disposed of in securely closed containers and removed at least once a week from a construction or project site.
Biological Resources	No firearms shall be allowed on the project site.
Biological Resources	No pets, such as dogs or cats, should be permitted on the project site to prevent harassment, mortality of kit foxes, or destruction of dens.
Biological Resources	Use of rodenticides and herbicides in project areas should be restricted. This

¹ California Department of Fish and Wildlife was formally known as the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) but has changed their name to better reflect their responsibilities, as mandated by AB 2402.

Resource	Protection Measure
	is necessary to prevent primary or secondary poisoning of kit foxes and the depletion of prey populations on which they depend. All uses of such compounds should observe label and other restrictions mandated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, California Department of Food and Agriculture, and other State and Federal legislation, as well as additional project-related restrictions deemed necessary by the USFWS. If rodent control must be conducted, zinc phosphide should be used because of a proven lower risk to kit fox.
Biological Resources	A representative shall be appointed by the project proponent who will be the contact source for any employee or contractor who might inadvertently kill or injure a kit fox or who finds a dead, injured or entrapped kit fox. The representative will be identified during the employee education program and their name and telephone number shall be provided to the USFWS.
Biological Resources	An employee education program should be conducted for any project that has anticipated impacts to kit fox or other endangered species. The program should consist of a brief presentation by persons knowledgeable in kit fox biology and legislative protection to explain endangered species concerns to contractors, their employees, and military and/or agency personnel involved in the project. The program should include the following: A description of the San Joaquin kit fox and its habitat needs; a report of the occurrence of kit fox in the project area; an explanation of the status of the species and its protection under the Endangered Species Act; and a list of measures being taken to reduce impacts to the species during project construction and implementation. A fact sheet conveying this information should be prepared for distribution to the previously referenced people and anyone else who may enter the project site.
Biological Resources	Upon completion of the project, all areas subject to temporary ground disturbances, including storage and staging areas, temporary roads, pipeline corridors, etc. should be re-contoured if necessary, and returned to preexisting conditions.
Biological Resources	In the case of trapped animals, escape ramps or structures should be installed immediately to allow the animal(s) to escape, or the USFWS should be contacted for guidance.
Biological Resources	Any contractor, employee, or military or agency personnel who are responsible for inadvertently killing or injuring a San Joaquin kit fox shall immediately report the incident to their representative. This representative shall contact the CDFW immediately in the case of a dead, injured, or entrapped kit fox. The CDFW contact for immediate assistance is State Dispatch at (916)445-0045. They will contact the local wildlife officer or Mr. Paul Hoffman, the wildlife biologist, at (530)934-9309. The USFWS should be contacted at the numbers below.
Biological Resources	The Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office and CDFW shall be notified in writing within three working days of the accidental death or injury to a San Joaquin kit fox during project related activities. Notification must include the date, time, and location of the incident or of the finding of a dead or injured animal and any other pertinent information. The USFWS contact is the Chief of the Division of Endangered Species, at the addresses and telephone numbers below. The CDFW contact is Mr. Paul Hoffman at 1701 Nimbus Road, Suite A, Rancho Cordova, California 95670, (530) 934-9309.
Biological Resources	New sightings of kit fox shall be reported to the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB). A copy of the reporting form and a topographic map clearly marked with the location of where the kit fox was observed should also be provided to the USFWS at the address below. Any project-related information required by the USFWS or questions concerning the above conditions or their implementation may be directed in writing to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at:
	Endangered Species Division, 2800 Cottage Way, Suite W2605, Sacramento, California 95825-1846, (916) 414-6620 or (916) 414-6600

Resource	Protection Measure
Cultural Resources	In the event of an inadvertent cultural resource discovery, Reclamation must follow the Post Review Discovery portion of the regulations at 36 CFR §800.13. Although very unlikely, if human remains are identified on Reclamation lands during implementation of this action, the project shall be halted immediately and the Reclamation Mid-Pacific Regional Archaeologist contacted immediately to discuss how to proceed under the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, if applicable.

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

Exclusion Category

516 DM 14.5 paragraph D (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		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	\boxtimes	Uncertain	Yes	
3.	This action would have significant impacts on public health or safety (43 CFR 46.215(a)).	No	\boxtimes	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	\boxtimes	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	\boxtimes	Uncertain	Yes	
6.	This action would establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with	No	\boxtimes	Uncertain	Yes	

potentially significant	environmental	effects
(43 CFR 46.215 (e)).		

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	\boxtimes	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	\boxtimes	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	\boxtimes	Uncertain	Yes	
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	\boxtimes	Uncertain	Yes	
11.	This action would affect ITAs (512 DM 2, Policy Memorandum dated December 15, 1993).	No	\boxtimes	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	\boxtimes	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	\boxtimes	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 within the project file.





(no subject)

Carper, Mark <mcarper@usbr.gov>
To: Rain Healer <rhealer@usbr.gov>

Thu, Jan 31, 2013 at 3:45 PM

National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Section 106 Consultation for the Proposed License to Del Puerto Water District (DPWD) for a New Discharge Point near Milepost 52.40L on the Delta-Mendota Canal (DMC), Stanislaus County, California (13 SCAO-030)

Rain:

The proposed undertaking to to provide Federal funding to issue a 25-year license to the DPWD for the installation of a 10-inch-diameter steel pipeline was determined to be the type of undertaking that had the potential to cause effects to historic properties pursuant to 36 CFR §800.3. Stanislaus County is proposing the construction of a new pipeline which will connect from a pre-existing well and terminate at a new discharge point near MP 52.40L on the DMC. Reclamation's approval constitutes an undertaking as defined in Section 301(7) of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.), requiring compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA. As a result, Reclamation implemented the NHPA Section 106 process as outlined in the regulations at 36 CFR Part 800.

In an effort to identify historic properties Reclamation conducted a records search from the Central California Information Center and an intensive pedestrian survey. The record search identified and the pedestrian survey, conducted on December 19, 2012, confirmed the presence of the DMC within the APE. The DMC, completed in 1951, is approximately 117 miles long and comprises a major component of the Central Valley Project (CVP). The DMC, as part of the CVP, has been previously found eligible for inclusion in the NRHP under Criterion A for its association with irrigation and the agricultural development of California. No other historic properties were identified within, adjacent to, nor in the vicinity of the project APE.

The installation of a 10-inch-diameter steel pipeline at a discharge point on the DMC was determined not to alter the characteristics of water delivery which lead to the NRHP eligibility of the DMC, nor the larger CVP as a whole. Consequently, the association with irrigation and agricultural development in California which makes this system eligible for the NRHP remains unchanged. Further, the APE consists of disturbed soils to a minimum of 5 feet with little to no potential for buried cultural deposits. Therefore, Reclamation has reached a finding of no adverse effects to historic properties under 36 CFR § 800.5(b) for the current undertaking.

Pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.3(f)(2) Reclamation identified the Tule River Indian Tribe and the Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians as Indian tribes likely to have knowledge of historic properties or attach religious and cultural significance to historic properties within the APE. Reclamation sent letters to these tribes requesting their participation in the Section 106 process and their assistance in the identification of sites of religious and cultural significance or historic properties pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.4(a)(4). To date Reclamation has received no responses.

Reclamation initiated consultation with the California State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) on January 11, 2012 seeking concurrence with a finding of No Adverse Effect for the undertaking. The SHPO responded with a letter dated January 16, 2013 stating concurrence with Reclamations determination of No Adverse Effect for the undertaking.

This email memo conveys the conclusion of the NHPA Section 106 process for this undertaking. In the event of an inadvertent cultural resource discovery, Reclamation must follow the Post Review Discovery portion of the regulations at 36 CFR §800.13. Although very unlikely, if human remains are identified on Reclamation lands during implementation of this action, the project shall be halted immediately and the Reclamation Mid-Pacific Regional Archaeologist contacted immediately to discuss how to proceed under the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, if applicable.

Please retain a copy of this memo with the administrative record for this project. This memo fulfills our obligations and commitments to NHPA Section 106 with a

Finding of No Adverse Effect for this undertaking.

Sincerely,

Mark

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Mark A. Carper - Archaeologist - M.A.

Bureau of Reclamation, Mid-Pacific Region 2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, CA 95825

Phone: 916.978.5552 - Fax: 916.978.5055

Cell: 916.396.6144

13SCAO030 SHPO concur.pdf 599K

OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

1725 23rd Street, Suite 100 SACRAMENTO, CA 95816-7100 (916) 445-7000 Fax: (916) 445-7053 calshpo@parks.ca.gov / www.ohp.parks.ca.gov

January 16, 2013

Reply in Reference to: BUR_2

_2013_0114_00°

EDMUND G. BROWN, JR., Governor

Anastasia Leigh - Regional Environmental Officer United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Reclamation, Mid-Pacific Regional Office 2800 Cottage Way Sacramento, CA 95825-1898

Re: Continued Section 106 consultation for the *Proposed License to Del Puerto Water District (DPWD) for a New Discharge Point near Milepost 52.04 on the Delta-Mendota Canal (DMC), Stanislaus County, California* (13-SAO-030)

Dear Ms. Leigh:

Thank you for your letter of 11 January 2013 consulting pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800 (as amended 8-05-04) regulations implementing Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). You have requested my comments on the Area of Potential Effect (APE), historic property identification efforts, and your finding of "No Adverse Effect."

BUR will provide funding to the Del Puerto Water District (DPWD) for constructing a new pipeline between an existing water well and a discharge point near MP 52.04 on the Delta-Mendota Canal (DMC). The new pipeline will involve 280-ft of BUR right-of-way (ROW) and 3000-ft of adjacent orchard. The pipeline trench will measure 1-ft wide by 3-ft (maximum) deep. No staging areas are required for project implementation. The APE was determined by BUR to include a 3280-ft long by 20-ft wide corridor encompassing the aforementioned trench. Located in Stanislaus County, the APE is depicted in Figure-1 and -2 of the letter report and following study submitted as evidence of historic property identification and evaluation efforts:

 Reclamation, Managing Water in the West, Cultural Resources Inventory for License to Del Puerto Water District for New Discharge Point near Milepost 52.04L on the Delta-Mendota Canal, Stanislaus County, California (BUR/Carper 2012)

The above study involved a CHRIS search, consultation with BUR identified Native American (NA) contacts, and field-survey. This work identified the NRHP eligible DMC as the only historic property in the APE. The DMC was constructed in the early 1950s and is a component of the Central Valley Project (CVP). BUR will address NA concerns if identified by pertinent contacts.

Based on a review of submitted materials, I have the following comments:

1. Pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800.4(a)(1), I have no objections to the APE but have the one following remark;

Project 214
Control No. 13002391
Folder I.D. 1222172

ENV-

Date Input & Initials 1-17-13 RA

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SCANNED

- Though the APE is appropriately drawn for taking direct effects of project work into account, BUR should consider including the DMC as it represents the historic property potentially affected by the proposed undertaking.
- 2. Pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800.4(b)(1), the *Level of Effort* identifying historic properties in the APE is appropriate but have the one following remark;
 - BUR should obtain a sacred sites and contacts list from the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) and consult with their identified parties.
- 3. Pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800.5(b), I concur with "No Adverse Effect" as the proposed undertaking will not alter the alignment of the NRHP eligible DMC and it is consistent with the function, maintenance and use of a contemporary water delivery system.

Be aware you may have additional future responsibilities for Section 106 for conditions such as changes in project scope or unanticipated discoveries. Thank you for including historic properties and my comments as part of your project planning. Please direct questions to Jeff Brooke of my staff at (916) 445-7003/Jeff.Brooke@parks.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Carol Roland-Nawi, Ph.D.

State Historic Preservation Officer

Susan H Stratton for

Healer, Rain L

From: Rivera, Patricia L

Sent: Friday, November 30, 2012 9:55 AM

To: Healer, Rain L

Subject: RE: CEC-12-080 Del Puerto License

Rain,

I reviewed the proposed action to issue a 25 year license to DPWD for the installation of a 10-inch diameter steel pipeline through approximately 280 feet of Reclamation ROW and a new discharge point near MP 52.40L on the DMC for discharge of up to 900 gallons per minute with an estimated annual quantity of 300 acre-feet.

Installation of the pipeline would require connecting to an existing well within an orchard located east of the DMC, trenching through 3,000 feet of the privately-owned almond orchard, and trenching through 280 feet of Reclamation ROW including the paved canal operation and maintenance (O&M) road (Figure 2). No almond trees would be removed during installation of the pipeline within the orchard as the pipeline would be placed within the watering channel between the rows.

Trenching would be 3 feet deep by 1-foot wide. Native soil removed during excavation would be used to fill the trench. Pavement for the canal O&M road would be saw-cut during installation of the pipeline and removed offsite for disposal. The removed portion of the O&M road would be backfilled with 95% ASTM fill material before being repayed with asphalt.

The new discharge point would surface for 15 feet along the DMC canal bank for discharge of groundwater over and into the DMC. A 1-foot by 1-foot by 6-inch concrete pad would be placed under the pipeline, 1-foot in from the canal liner, to insure that the pipe does not rest on the canal liner. As the water to be discharged is non-CVP water, an MP620 permit (Reclamation Mid-Pacific Region-specific permit for additions or alterations to Reclamation-owned conveyance and distribution facilities) is not required. Additionally, there would be no modifications to the DMC as the pipeline would cross above the DMC to discharge groundwater.

Construction would begin in February 2013 and take approximately three days to complete. Construction equipment would include a backhoe and portable soil compactor. No temporary or staging areas would be needed for construction of the project. Access to the site would be through existing access roads to the orchard and the DMC.

Discharge of groundwater from the existing well into the DMC was included in FONSI/EA-12-005 as long as the groundwater met water quality requirements. Any subsequent Warren Act Contracts, other than that analyzed under FONSI/EA-12-005, would require additional environmental review.

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

Pa	tri	ci	a	

Ellie will provide the nearest ITA location-wanted to respond quickly in case you needed the determination. Can use this determination.