

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Categorical Exclusion Checklist

Co-Location of National Weather Radio on Bear Mountain Radio Tower

CEC-12-076

Prepared by:



Nicholas Kilb
Natural Resources Specialist
South-Central California Area Office

Date: 2/26/13

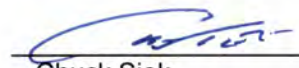
Concurred by:



Lisa Carlson
Wildlife Biologist
South-Central California Area Office

Date: 2/27/13

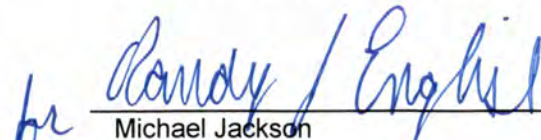
Concurred by:



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

Date: 2/27/13

Approved by:



Michael Jackson
Area Manager
South-Central California Area Office

Date: 3/8/13



Background

The National Weather Service (NWS) operates a nationwide network of radio stations that broadcast continuous weather information directly from the nearest NWS office. The stations broadcast official warnings, watches, forecasts and other hazard information 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

NWS currently operates station KIH62 (162.400 MHz), serving most of Fresno, Kings, Madera, and Merced counties, and parts of Kern and Tulare counties (Figure 1). KIH62 relies on a radio repeater installed on the KSEE-TV tower located on Bear Mountain, near Squaw Valley (Figure 2). NWS's lease for space on the KSEE-TV tower recently expired.

The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) owns and operates a communications tower on Bear Mountain (Figure 3), near the KSEE-TV tower. The NWS has requested permission to co-locate their repeater antenna and broadcasting equipment in the Reclamation facility.

Purpose and Need for Action

Due to expiration of their KSEE-TV lease, the NWS has a need to relocate their repeater antenna and broadcasting equipment. The purpose of Reclamation's action is to allow NWS to relocate their repeater antenna and equipment to Reclamation's facility.

Proposed Action

The proposed action is to allow the NWS to attach their repeater antenna on Reclamation's existing radio tower and to install 2 racks of radio equipment in Reclamation's existing equipment building adjacent to the tower.

Environmental Commitments

Reclamation and the NWS would implement the following environmental protection measures. Environmental consequences for resource areas assume the measures specified would be fully implemented.

Resource	Protection Measure
Biological / Traffic	All project-related vehicles shall remain on pre-established roads. Established roads include all pre-existing unimproved and improved roads.

Previous Environmental Review

The NWS previously completed an National Environmental Policy Act review and categorically excluded the Proposed Action based on a Department of Commerce categorical exclusion (Attachment A). The NWS also completed an Environmental Due Diligence Assessment of

Reclamation's tower and found no hazardous materials concerns at the site (Attachment B). Finally, the NWS obtained an Federal Communications Commission (FCC) license, indicating compliance with FCC regulations (Attachment C).

Exclusion Category

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.*

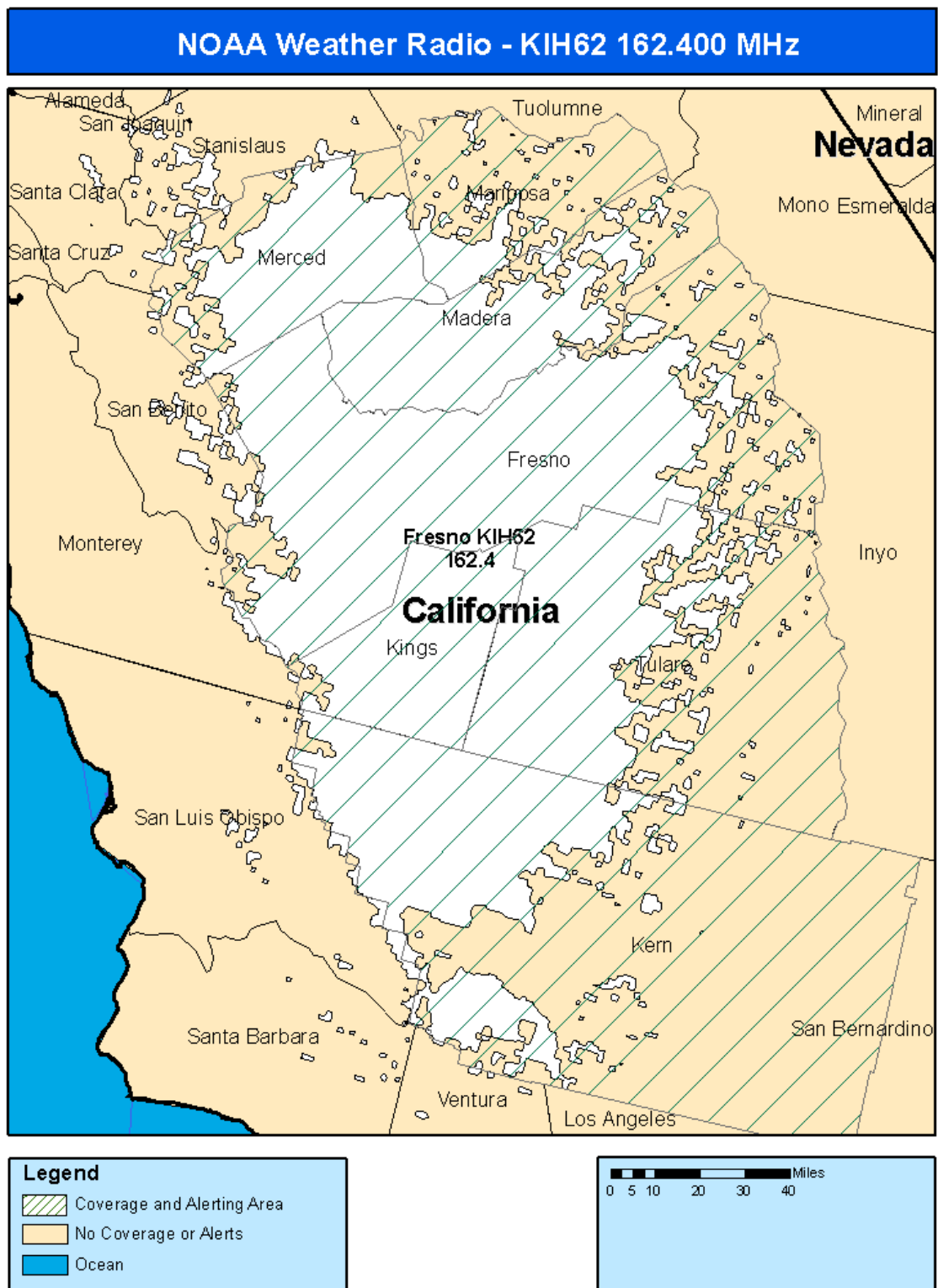
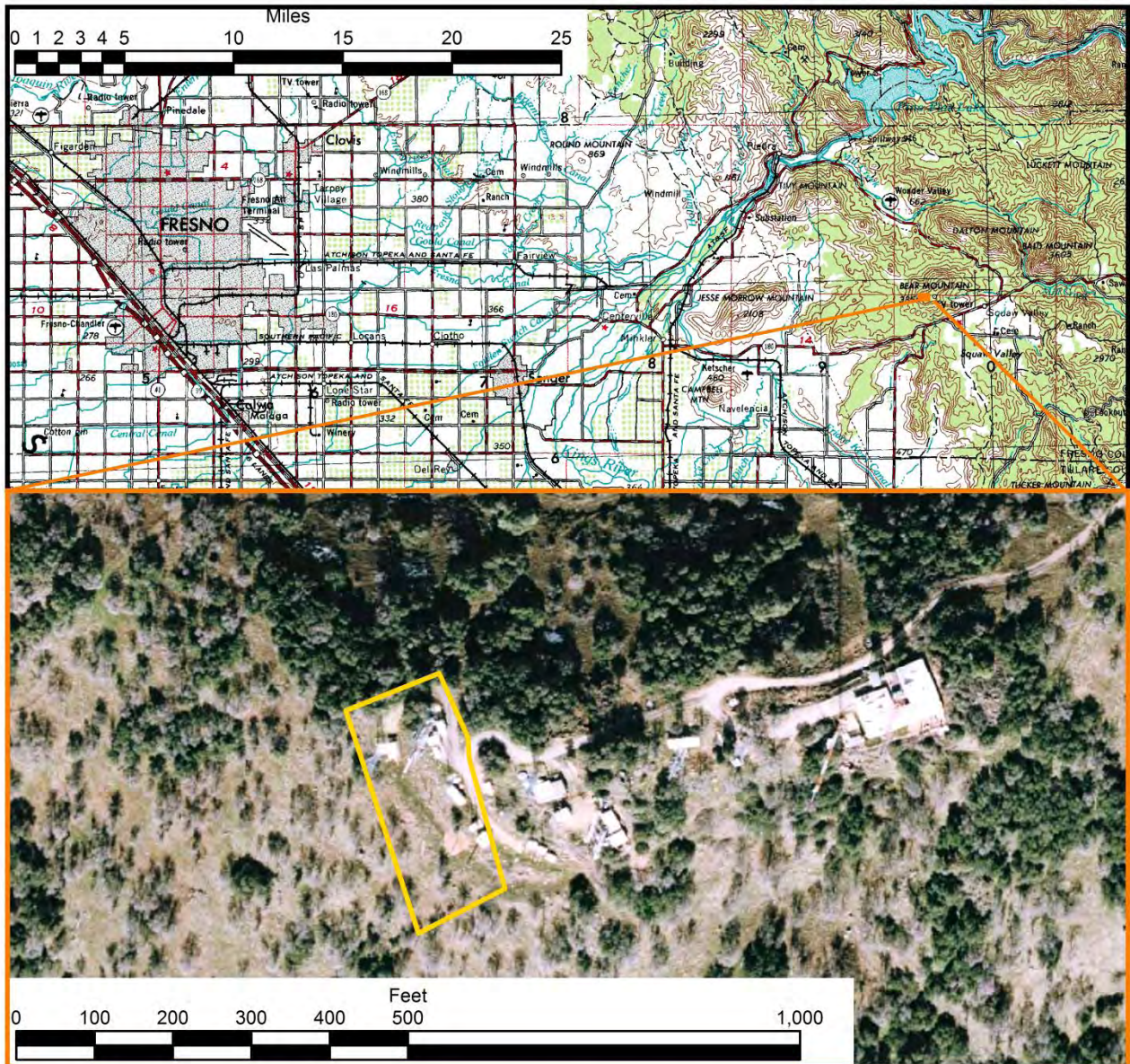


Figure 1 NWS Broadcast Area



Legend

Reclamation Antenna Site



CEC-12-076 NOAA Bear Mountain Antenna

Figure 2 Location Map



Background Map: USGS (2012)
Aerial Photo: Fresno County (2007)

Figure 2 Location Map and Aerial View of Site



Figure 3 Reclamation's Radio Tower and Equipment Buildings

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 | ☒ | 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 | ☐ |

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

Attachment A NWS Categorical Exclusion

15 March 2012

MEMORANDUM: Project File 

FROM: Harold Knoche,
DOC/NOAA/NWS

SUBJECT: Obtaining a succeeding lease for National Weather Service (NWS)
Use space at Bear Mountain, Fresno, CA for Weather Radio
Transmitter Station.

This memorandum is prepared to comply with the NEPA requirements with respect to environmental consequences on the human environment as outlined in NOAA Administrative Order 216-6, Environmental Review Procedures.

The proposed real estate action, the acquisition of a succeeding lease for improved land on which the NWS has a Weather Radio Transmitter Station as described below:

Purpose: NOAA's National Weather Service located in Salt Lake City operates Weather Radio Transmitter Sites at multiple leased land locations in the United States.

Proposed Action: To satisfy NEPA requirements relative to the acquisition of Lease No. 12 WS W 0210 C from KSEE-TV for the space for two racks of radio equipment in the KSEE-TV transmitter building and space on the KSEE-TV tower for a National Weather Service antenna to be used for a NOAA Weather Radio Transmitter Station. The site is located at the top of Bear Mountain, Fresno, CA, accessed by privately owned Bear Mountain Road.

Proposed Execution Schedule: October, 1 2012

Environmental Impact: The proposed action described above is considered minor and the environmental impact is non-significant.

NEPA Determination: Based on the proposed action description, it is determined that the proposed action is categorically excluded per NAO 216-6, paragraph 6.03 c 3(e), as a lease extension, renewal or succeeding license. No further action is required.

Cc: Steve Kokkinakis - NOAA NEPA office

Jennifer Melton - NOAA SECO, Supervisory, Environmental Engineer, Western Region

Attachment B NWS Environmental Due Diligence Assessment

NOAA Screening Questionnaire for Environmental Due Diligence Assessment

Requesting LO: National Weather Service LO POC: Harold Knocke

Proposed Real Property Action (lease, license, permit, etc.): Lease

Subject Property: Bear Mountain , Fresno, CA

Subject Property Current Use: Weather Radio Transmitter Station

Subject Property Past Use: Communication site

Will the proposed real property action involve any of the following activities:	Yes	No	*Comment
a. Use of hazardous material in quantity greater than the typical consumer packaged products?		X	
b. Use of emergency power generator greater than 100 kW?		X	
c. Generate hazardous waste in quantity greater than 100 kg a month?		X	
d. Discharge of wastewater?		X	
e. Use of injection wells?		X	
f. Use of paint booth?		X	
g. Installation of underground storage tank?		X	
h. Installation of aboveground storage tank with storage capacity greater than 1320 gallons?		X	
i. Transfer, handling, process, or storage of petroleum products for purposes other than on-site consumptive use?		X	

*If necessary, use additional pages to continue comments

If NO was checked for ALL questions, the proposed real property action poses minimal exposure to environmental liability. Only a photo log is recommended to be established prior to executing the lease. No further action required.

If YES was checked for ANY question, please contact the NOAA SECO Environmental Compliance Office @ 301-713-2870 to determine if the ASTM 1528 or ASTM 1527 will be used to determine the baseline of the subject property.

Any questions, please contact the Safety and Environmental Compliance Office (SECO), Environmental Compliance Officer in Silver Springs, MD at (301) 713-2870 ext. 101.

Harold Knocke

Signature (Action Proponent, i.e. LO)

5 JUNE 2012

Date

Upon completion (including signature) email a scanned copy to Carol Pereira, RPMD for real estate file and a copy will be provided to NOAA SECO.



Attachment C NWS FCC License

Radio Frequency Authorization

This Authorization is granted pursuant to Chapter 1 Part 1.1 Section 6.i of the NTIA Manual by authority of the US Department of Commerce.

This Authorization must be updated by: March 14, 2016. For continued use of this equipment, YOU MUST SUBMIT a request to your Frequency Manager by December 15, 2015.

Serial Number	FOI	MSD	BUR	NET	RVD	AUS	EXD
C 760642			NWS		110314	J0722641	

FRQ	BIN	TME	SPD	STC	Bandwidth	Emission	Power
162.4 MHz		1		FX	16.00 kHz	F3E	300 Watt(s)
				FL	16.00 kHz	F3E	300 Watt(s)
				FX	14.00 kHz	F2D	300 Watt(s)
				FL	14.00 kHz	F2D	300 Watt(s)
				FX	5.00 kHz	F2D	300 Watt(s)
				FL	5.00 kHz	F2D	300 Watt(s)

XAL, XSC	XRC	XLA, XLG	XCL	XAP	XAZ
BEAR MOUNTAIN, CA	HANFORD	364445N1191653W	KIH 62		ND

XAD
10GDIPOLEARRY01025H0018T

RAL, RSC	RRC	RLA, RLG	ACL	RAP	RAZ
BEAR MOUNTAIN, CA		364445N1191653W			

RAD

Remarks

- *RAD, 0064, R
- *EQT, C, ARMG300
- *AGN, TV TOWER KMJ-CH4
- *MFI, WEATHER
- *IFI, NOAA WEATHER RADIO
- *AGN, WRMO040122
- *AGN, WRMO110117

Restrictions (NTS, *NTS, SUP)

Supplementary Details - A 1.5 TO 2 SECOND BURST OF DATA AT 14K00F2D WILL ACTIVATE NWR RECEIVERS ON STANDBY IN A SPECIFIC PART OF THE COVERAGE AREA TO RECEIVE ITS SEVEREWEATHER WARNING AND THEN RETURN THEM TO STANDBY. ADDITIONALLY THERE WILLBE A 5 SECOND BURST OF DATA AT 5K00F2D AT THE END OF EACH 5 TO 6 MINUTE VOICE PROGRAM CYCLE. THAT BURST WILL CONTAIN A COMPRESSED PRINT VERSION OF THE PROGRAM FOR THE HEARING IMPAIRED. BOTH ARE WITHIN THE 16-KHZ CURRENTLY AUTHORIZED.

COPY

***** U N C L A S S I F I E D *****

Attachment D Cultural Resources Determination



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Mid-Pacific Regional Office
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, California 95825-1898

IN REPLY
REFER TO:
MP-153
ENV-3.00

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL ONLY

February 15, 2013
MEMORANDUM

To: Nicholas Kilb
Natural Resource Specialist – South Central California Area Office

From: BranDee Bruce /S/
Architectural Historian – Division of Environmental Affairs

Subject: CEC-12-076 Co-Location of National Weather Radio on Bear Mountain Radio Tower, 13-SCAO-096.

This proposed undertaking by Reclamation is to allow the National Weather Service (NWS) to attach an antenna on an existing Reclamation-owned radio tower and install broadcasting equipment in an existing Reclamation-owned building. This is the type of undertaking that does not have the potential to cause effects to historic properties, should such properties be present, pursuant to the NHPA Section 106 regulations codified at 36 CFR § 800.3(a)(1). Reclamation has no further obligations under NHPA Section 106, pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.3(a)(1).

After reviewing CEC-12-076, dated February 2013, I concur with item #8 which states that this action would not have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places.

This memorandum is intended to convey the completion of the NHPA Section 106 process for this undertaking. Please retain a copy in the administrative record for this action. Should changes be made to this project, additional NHPA Section 106 review, possibly including consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer, may be necessary. Thank you for providing the opportunity to comment.

CC: Cultural Resources Branch (MP-153), Anastasia Leigh – Regional Environmental Officer (MP-150)

Attachment E Indian Trust Assets Determination



Kilb, Nicholas <nkilb@usbr.gov>

Kristi this is AdminRe: Request for Determinations, National Weather Service Antenna Co-Location on Bear Mountain

RIVERA, PATRICIA <privera@usbr.gov>
To: "Kilb, Nicholas" <nkilb@usbr.gov>
Cc: Kristi Seabrook <kseabrook@usbr.gov>

Thu, Feb 14, 2013 at 1:28 PM

Nick,

I reviewed the proposed action to approve the National Weather Service's request to attach an antenna on Reclamation's existing radio tower, and install 2 racks of radio equipment in Reclamation's existing equipment building adjacent to the tower.

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

Patricia Rivera
Native American Affairs Program Manager
US Bureau of Reclamation
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, CA 95825(916) 978-5194

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