

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Categorical Exclusion Checklist

Contra Costa Water District Pumping Plant No. 1 Forebay Aquatic Vegetation Removal

CEC-12-066

Prepared by:



Ben Lawrence
Natural Resources Specialist
South-Central California Area Office

Date: 7-30-13

Concurred by:

See Attachment
Archaeologist/Architectural Historian
Mid-Pacific Regional Office

Date: See Attachment

Concurred by:

See Attachment
Native American Affairs Specialist
Mid-Pacific Regional Office

Date: See Attachment

Concurred by:



Ned Gruenhagen
Wildlife Biologist
South-Central California Area Office

Date: 7/30/2013

Concurred by:



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

Date: 7/30/13

Approved by:


for Michael Jackson
Area Manager
South-Central California Area Office

Date: 7/30/13



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

July 2013

Background

The Bay Delta has an ongoing problem with excessive growth of aquatic weeds, extending to the unlined Rock Slough Canal system immediately in front of and downstream of the new Rock Slough Fish Screen Structure. Of particular concern within the Canal and downstream of the Rock Slough Intake are the aquatic weeds Brazilian elodea (*Egeria densa*), Eurasian watermilfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*), and water hyacinth (*Eichhornia crassipes*).

In the past the rapid growth of these aquatic weeds has led to large buildups of debris on the intake bar racks at Pumping Plant #1 (PP1), the pumping station closest to the new Fish Screen Structure (see Figures 1 and 2). In some cases the buildup has been so severe that the bar rack automatic cleaning system was unable to keep up with the volume of weeds. This can lead to clogging of the pumps and ultimately water supply disruption. Contra Costa Water District (CCWD) has used various aquatic herbicides over time to control the growth of aquatic weeds in the Canal and mitigate these operational disruptions.

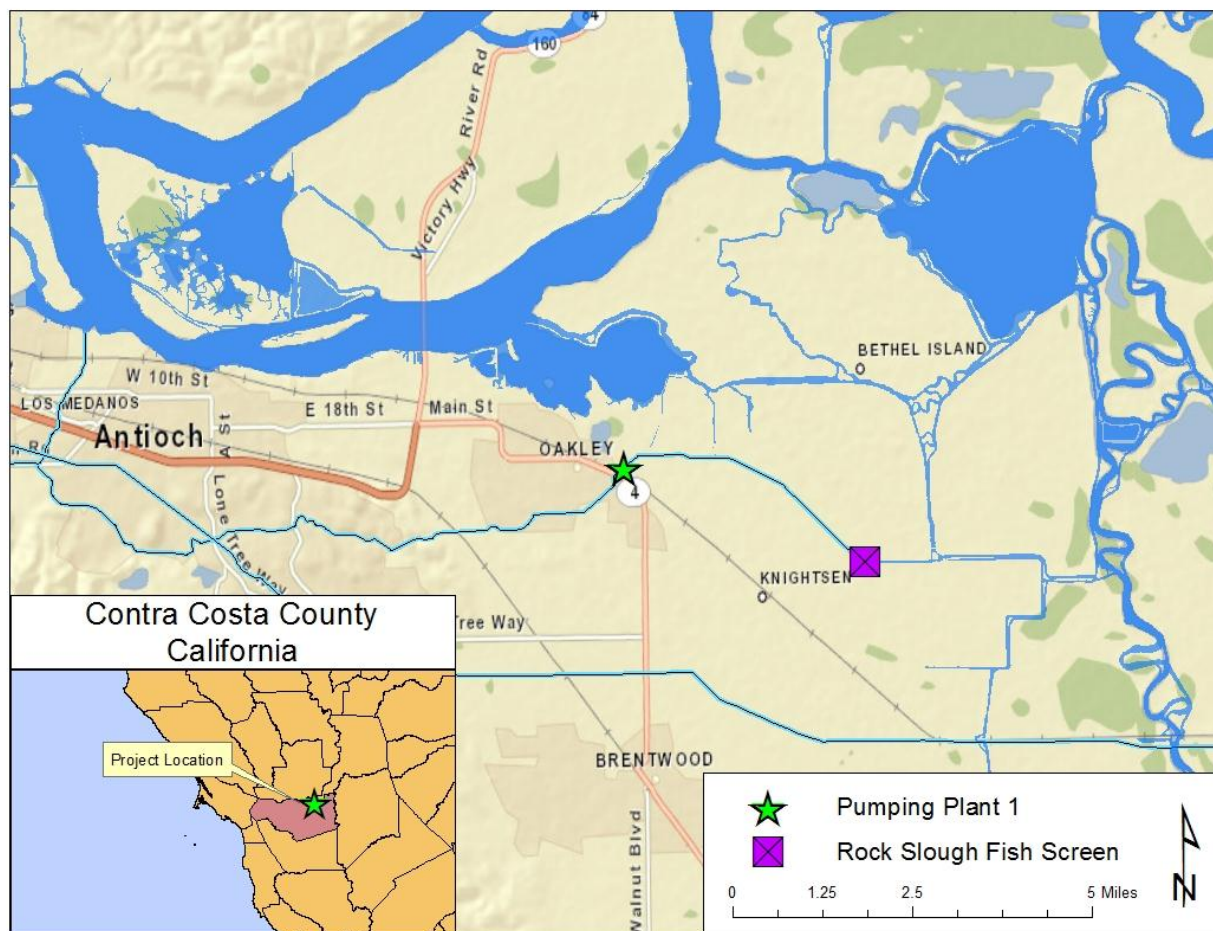


Figure 1 – Project Location (Streets and Waterways)



Figure 2 - Project Location (Aerial)

An underwater inspection of the forebay in front of PP1, completed on May 25, 2012, revealed plant growth up to eight feet tall between the intake pipeline and the intake pumps. The inspector recommended the plants be removed from the forebay to limit the potential for interference with pumping operations. CCWD operations staff identified the weed as *Egeria densa* and believes that the most effective way to remove this weed is to spray with the aquatic herbicide Komeen®. Komeen® is approved for potable water usage.

Purpose and Need for Action

There is a need to prevent water supply disruptions caused by clogging of intake pumps in the forebay at PP1. The purpose of this project is to control growth of aquatic weeds in the Contra Costa Canal at the forebay directly in front of the pumping plant.

Proposed Action

Reclamation proposes to authorize CCWD's application of the aquatic herbicide Komeen® to control the growth of aquatic weeds in the forebay of the pumping plant.

The herbicide would be applied in concentrations consistent with the manufacturer's recommendations. CCWD operations staff would apply the product from the banks of the forebay and from the walkway on the upstream side of PP1. Pumping would be suspended during application and for 50 to 75 hours afterward. The exact contact time would be selected to maximize herbicide effectiveness while ensuring that the plume of Komeen® would be recaptured by the pumping before it can leave the canal.

Environmental Commitments

CCWD shall implement the following environmental protection measures:

Resource	Protection Measure
Biological	Herbicide application shall take place between July 1 and November 1.
Biological	Herbicide dosing shall be in accordance with label instructions.
Biological	24 hours prior to application of herbicide, a qualified biologist familiar with the habits and identification of giant garter snake shall survey the unlined CCC for this species.

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

Exclusion Category

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:

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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 is attached.

ITA Designee concurred with Item 11. Their determination is attached.

Area Office Biologist concurred with Item 9. Their determination is in the project file.

Lawrence, Benjamin T

From: Nickels, Adam M
Sent: Tuesday, September 11, 2012 11:20 AM
To: Lawrence, Benjamin T
Cc: Hyatt, David E; Gruenhagen, Ned M; Barnes, Amy J; Bruce, Brandee E; Fogerty, John A; Goodsell, Joanne E; Leigh, Anastasia T; Perry, Laureen M; Soule, William E; Williams, Scott A
Subject: RE: Request for Determinations, SCCAO CEC 12-066, Contra Costa Water District Aquatic Vegetation Management

Project No. 12-SCAO-276

Ben:

The proposed undertaking to authorize Contra Costa Water District (CCWD) to conduct vegetation management through the application of aquatic vegetation pesticide Komeen[®] to manage vegetation buildup at the pump and lift station facilities along the Contra Costa Canal (CCC) has no potential to cause effects to historic properties pursuant to 36 CFR §800.3(a)(1).

The proposed action involves the application of the vegetation pesticide to the CCC and its facilities. The action involves no ground disturbance, modification existing or construction of new facilities.

After reviewing the CEC 12-066 prepared by CCWD titled *Contra Costa Water District Pumping Plant No. 1 Forebay Aquatic Vegetation Removal CEC*, I concur with line 8. Please advise if I should be concurring with line 4 as well.

Location: CCC Pump Station 1

This email memo is intended to convey the conclusion of the Section 106 process. Please retain a copy of this memo with the CEC file. Thank you for providing the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Adam M. Nickels - Archaeologist - M.S.
Phone: 916.978.5053 - Fax: 916.978.5055 - www.usbr.gov

~~DECLASSIFIED~~

-Mid-Pacific Regional Office MP-153 2800 Cottage Way - Sacramento, California 95825



From: Lawrence, Benjamin T
Sent: Tuesday, September 11, 2012 10:31 AM
To: BOR MPR Cultural Resources Section; Rivera, Patricia L; Robbins, Eleanor J (Ellie); Williams, Mary D (Diane); Gruenhagen, Ned M
Cc: Hyatt, David E
Subject: Request for Determinations, SCCAO CEC 12-066, Contra Costa Water District Aquatic Vegetation Management

Good morning! I have a request for determinations on a proposed action in Contra Costa County. The Water District would like to apply an herbicide to the forebay of pumping plant 1 to remove vegetation. I've attached the draft document that CCWD submitted, as well as the Indian Trust Assets form. They sent in a CEC, so that's how we're starting the project. There are biological concerns with the herbicide that they've proposed to use though, so it's possible it could get bumped up to an EA later on. Let me know if you have any questions.

- Request Date: September 11, 2012
- Requesting Office: SCCAO
- Requestor: Ben Lawrence
- Project Name: Contra Costa Water District Pumping Plant #1 Aquatic Vegetation Management
- Target Date for Completion: Proponent would like to remove vegetation in September/October
- Cost Authority: U1N-0863-8603-332-80-0-0
- Reclamation Point of Contact/Project Manager: Ben Lawrence
- Project Description: Reclamation would authorize Contra Costa Water District to apply an aquatic herbicide (Komeen) to control the growth of aquatic weeds in the Contra Costa Canal in the forebay of Pumping Plant 1.
- Other Federal Agencies Involved/Cooperating Agencies and Roles: None at this time.
- Level of NEPA Anticipated: Currently SCCAO CEC 12-066.
- Project Location on USGS Topo Map: Brentwood Quad, Township 2N, Range 2E, Section 25
- Additional information: Contra Costa Water District provided a draft CEC. Please see attached.

Ben Lawrence
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Lawrence, Benjamin T

From: Rivera, Patricia L
Sent: Wednesday, September 12, 2012 5:30 PM
To: Lawrence, Benjamin T
Subject: RE: Request for Determinations, SCCAO CEC 12-066, Contra Costa Water District Aquatic Vegetation Management

Ben,

I reviewed the proposed action to approve the Contra Costa Water District's request to apply an herbicide to the forebay of pumping plant 1 to remove vegetation.

The proposed action does not have a potential to affect Indian Trust Assets. The nearest ITA is Lytton Rancheria approximately 35 miles wsw of the project location.

Patricia