

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Categorical Exclusion Checklist

Newman Wasteway Utility Relocation

CEC-13-006 Amended

Prepared by:


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Date: 7-9-13

Concurred by:

See Attachment
Archaeologist/Architectural Historian
Mid-Pacific Regional Office

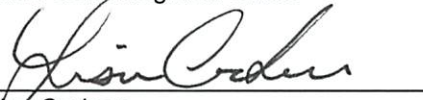
Date: See Attachment

Concurred by:

See Attachment
Native American Affairs Specialist
Mid-Pacific Regional Office

Date: See Attachment

Concurred by:


Lisa Carlson
Wildlife Biologist
South-Central California Area Office

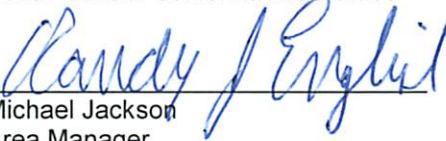
Date: 8/22/2013

Concurred by:


Chuck Siek
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South-Central California Area Office

Date: 8/26/13

Approved by:


for Michael Jackson
Area Manager
South-Central California Area Office

Date: 8/30/13



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

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Background

On September 18, 2012, the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) approved Categorical Exclusion Checklist (CEC) 12-035 for the replacement of the Canal School Road Bridge over the Newman Wasteway in northern Merced County. Following that approval, the proponent identified utility conflicts that need to be resolved in coordination with the bridge replacement. The affected utilities include:

- A six-inch gas line owned by Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E), currently attached to the existing bridge.
- An overhead electric line owned by PG&E, currently located adjacent to Canal School Road.
- An overhead telecommunication line owned by AT&T, currently located adjacent to Canal School Road.

The proponent requested permission to relocate the affected utilities onto Reclamation right of way west of the bridge, and Reclamation issued CEC 13-006 approving the relocation on May 24, 2013. However, PG&E was unable to negotiate an easement with the property owner west of the bridge and now proposes to install the replacement pipe to the east. Overhead line placement would still be west of the bridge. This document supersedes the previous version.

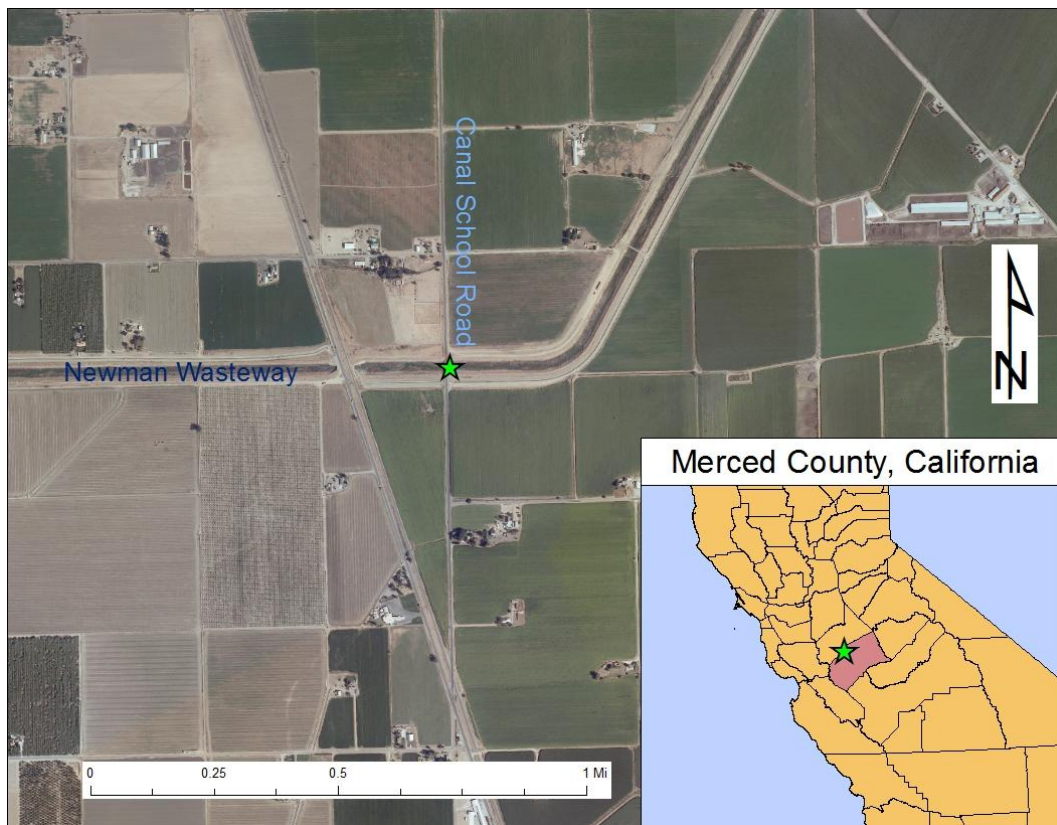


Figure 1 - Project Location

Purpose and Need for Action

Planned bridge construction will cause disruption of existing utilities. In order to continue service to customers, PG&E and AT&T will need to relocate their lines. Due to required safety clearances, the only available location for the lines is within Reclamation right of way.

Proposed Action

Reclamation proposes to allow relocation of utilities within Reclamation right of way as described below.

PG&E Gas Line

The existing gas line attached to the Canal School Road Bridge is proposed to be relocated to the east, as shown in Figure 2. The new six-inch line would be directionally bored 35 feet beneath the Newman Wasteway, approximately 15 feet east of its current location on the bridge. A 150 foot by 75 foot pit would be excavated on the south side of the wasteway, and a 30-foot by 100 foot receiving pit would be needed on the north side, along with a staging and pipe assembly/pullback area extending to West Sanches Road.

Following completion of pipe installation, the grade and surface would be restored.

Overhead PG&E Electric Line

Four new 55-foot utility poles would be installed to maintain overhead electrical service. Two would be within Reclamation right of way, 30 feet west of the current location, as shown in Figure 3. The other two poles would be in county right of way along the existing utility alignment. The corresponding existing 45-foot poles would be removed.

Overhead AT&T Telecommunications Line

Following installation of the poles for the new overhead PG&E electric line, AT&T's telecommunication lines currently located adjacent to Canal School Road would be attached to the same poles.

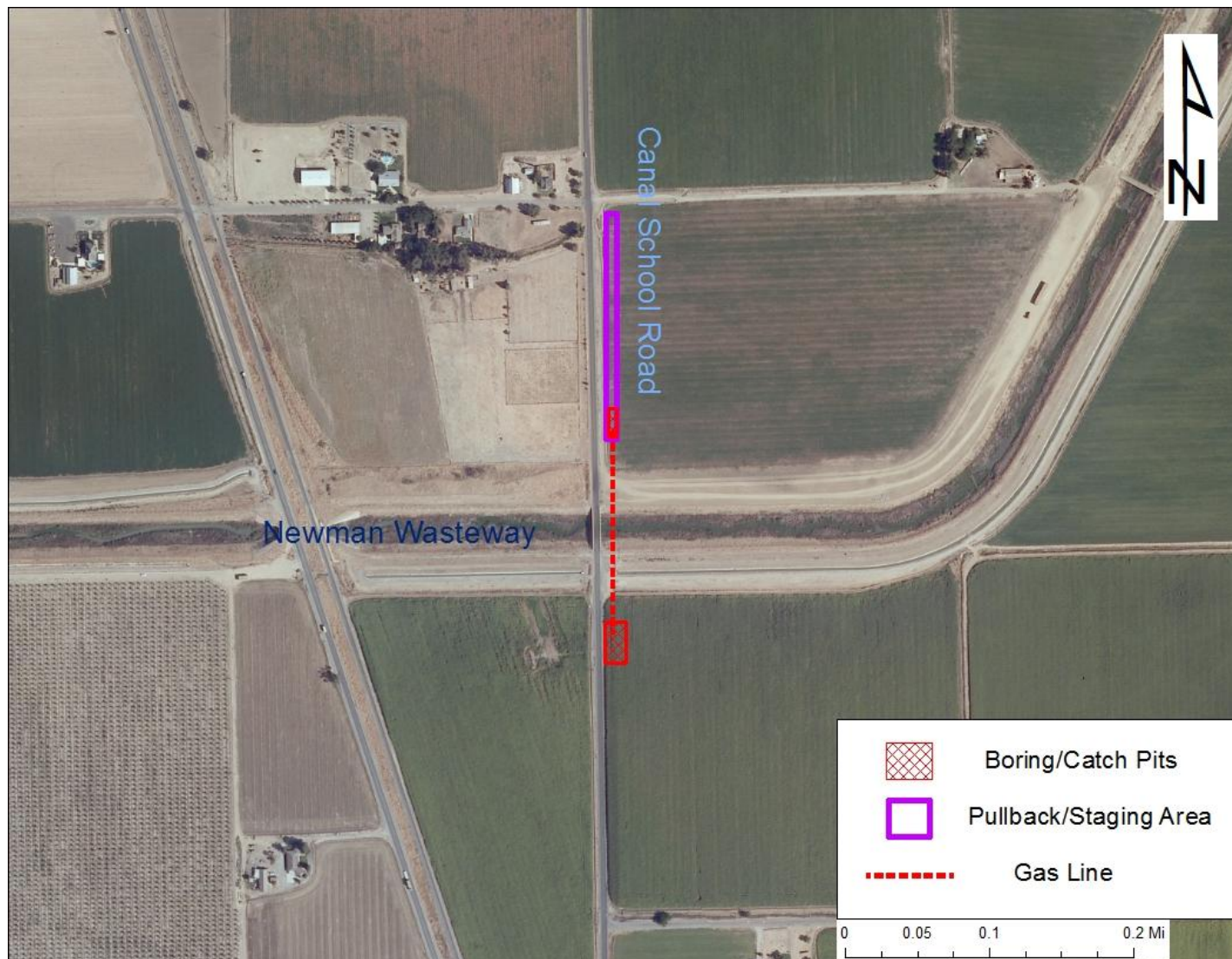


Figure 2 - Conceptual Gas Line Realignment

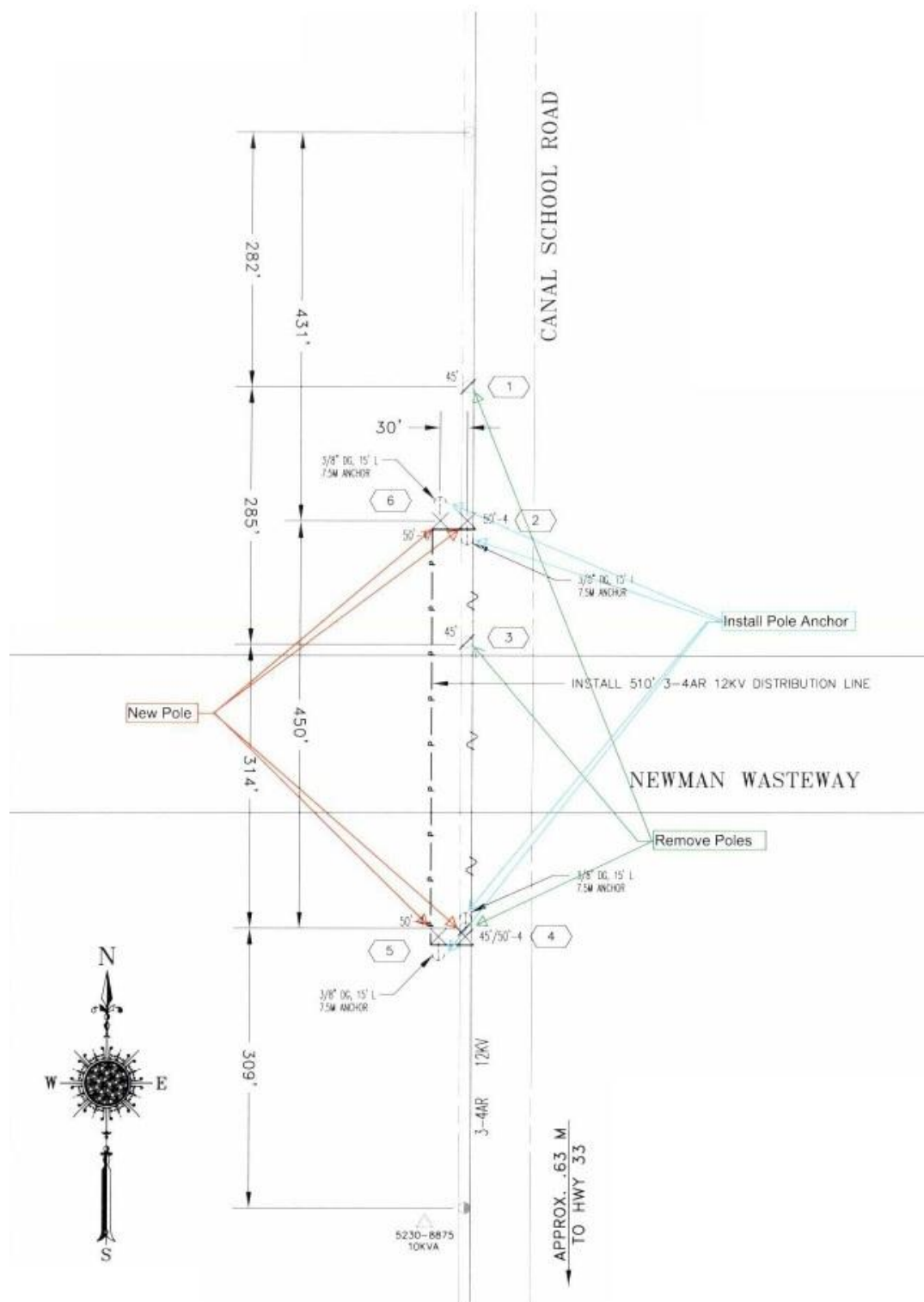


Figure 3 – Electrical Line Layout (Provided by PG&E)

Environmental Commitments

PG&E shall implement the following environmental protection measures:

Resource	Protection Measure
Biological	PG&E and AT&T shall comply with the stipulations of the approved Habitat Conservation Plan <i>Pacific Gas and Electric Company San Joaquin Valley Operations and Maintenance Habitat Conservation Plan</i> .

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

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.*

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:

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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.