

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION CHECKLIST

Mid-Pacific Region
Lahontan Basin Area Office

Project Name: Lahontan Reservoir Weather Station

CEC Number: LO-2013-1027

Cost Authority: Denver Cost Authority No. 14XR0680A1-RY1541CA201327662 (8)

Date: 12/19/2013

Exclusion Category: *516 DM 14.5 D.10* – Issuance of permits, licenses, easements, and crossing agreements which provide right-of-way over Reclamation lands where the action does not allow for or lead to a major public or private action.

Nature of Action: LBAO's action is to issue a revocable special land use permit to authorize Reclamation's Water Resources Planning and Operations Support Group, in cooperation with the Desert Research Institute (Permittee), to place a weather station buoy containing instrumentation for meteorological data collection on Lahontan Reservoir. The buoy will have a weather station measuring net radiation, windspeed, humidity, temperature, and water temperature. The Permittee will be responsible to insure compliance with all Federal, State, and local requirements.

As shown on the attached DRI Evaporation Buoy specification, the weather station buoy will be approximately 60-inches (5') in diameter, with a thermocouple wire hanging from the bottom (>5m) of the buoy. The buoy will be in the water anchored with a chain. The anchor is a custom welded anchor, which is made from scrap steel. The steel is a 3ft section of I-beam, with welded angle iron cross members so that it won't drag and will dig in to the soil. The weather station and buoy will be fully maintained, operated, monitored, and dismantled by the Permittee. The station is temporary and the buoy will be left in place in the Reservoir for a period of three (3) years to collect data.

Timeline: The weather station buoy will be installed in Lahontan Reservoir between January – March 2014 and will be in place for a minimum of 2 years.

Location: NW¼SE¼, Section 4, T. 18N, R. 26 E., M.D.M., Churchill County, Nevada. The exact location of the buoy will be determined at a later date based on water levels, reservoir operations, and accessibility. A map of the Lahontan Reservoir area with an approximate location of the buoy is attached and marked as 'Exhibit A'. Within seven (7) days of the determination of the buoy location, the Permittee will provide Reclamation with the coordinates (lat/long).

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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 will 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 principle drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (E.O. 11990); floodplains (E.O. 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas (43 CFR 46.215 (b)).	☒ No ☐ Uncertain ☐ Yes
5.	The action would have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risk (43 CFR 46.215 (d)).	☒ No ☐ Uncertain ☐ Yes
6.	This action would establish a precedent for future actions 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 the bureau (in coordination with a Reclamation cultural resources professional, RM LND 02-01 D(1)(a)) (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, State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for protection of the environment (43 CFR 46.215 (i)).	☒ No ☐ Uncertain ☐ Yes
11.	This action would affect ITAs (to be completed by Reclamation official responsible for 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 (E.O. 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 (E.O. 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, E.O. 13112, and 43 CFR 46.215 (l)).	☒ No ☐ Uncertain ☐ Yes

NEPA Action Recommended: Categorical Exclusion ☒ EA ☐ EIS ☐

Environmental commitments, explanation, and/or remarks:

See the attached correspondence from the Mid-Pacific Region Cultural Resources Division regarding concurrence with Item 8 (cultural resources), and from Patricia Rivera regarding Item 13 (Indian Trust Assets).

Reclamation concludes that a Biological Evaluation, Under Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act, is not required for this action. Reclamation determines that this Federal action would have no effect on Threatened or Endangered species.

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Prepared by:


Jennifer Birn
Water and Lands Specialist

12/20/2013
Date

Recommended:


Julia Long
Natural Resource Specialist

12-19-13
Date

Concurrence:


Robert Edwards
Resource Division Manager

12/23/2013
Date

Approved:


Terri Edwards
Deputy Area Manager

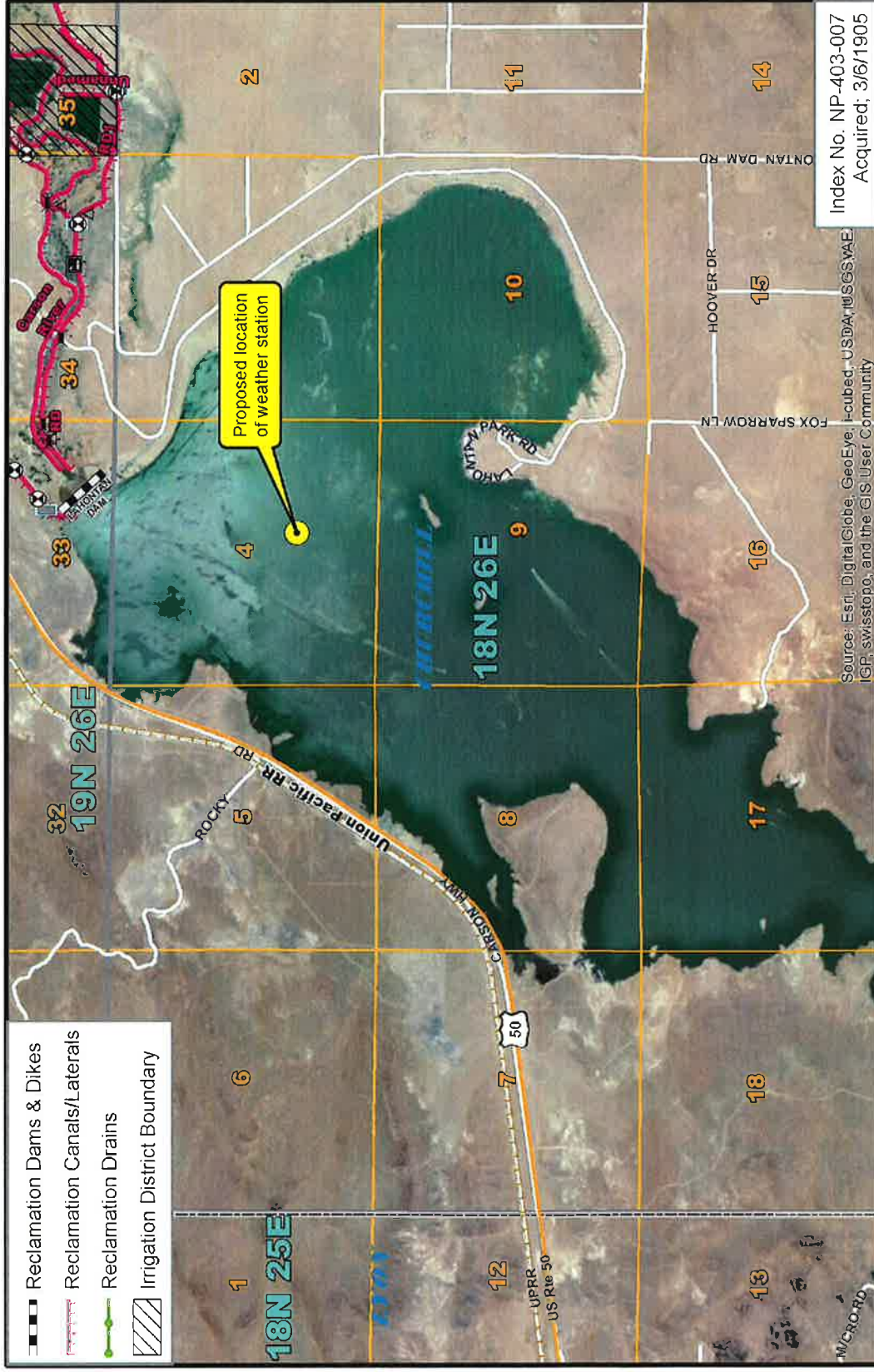
12/24/13
Date

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Lahontan Basin Area Office

EXHIBIT A

V:\LBAO Activity\LO-2013-1027 Lahontan Reservoir Weather Sites - DRI_Denver\GIS\LO-2013-1027_Lahontan_Buoy.mxd | Printed On: 9/10/2013 | JBiri



RECLAMATION
Managing Water in the West



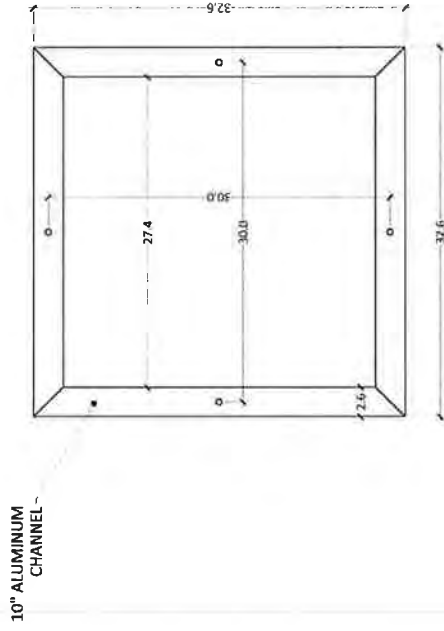
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Lahontan Basin Area Office
705 N. Plaza Street, Carson City, NV 89701

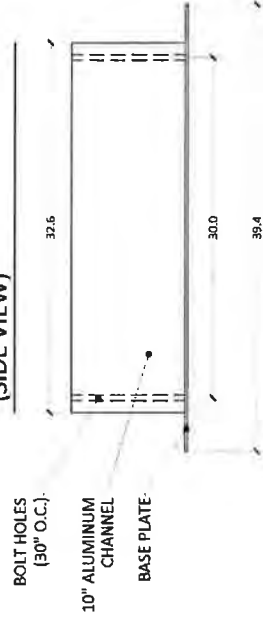
Tracking No. LO-2013-1027
Contract No. 13-LC-20-0429
Denver TSC/DRI
Lahontan Reservoir Weather Station
NWSE of Section 4, T. 18 N. R. 26 E
M.D.M., Churchill County, Nevada

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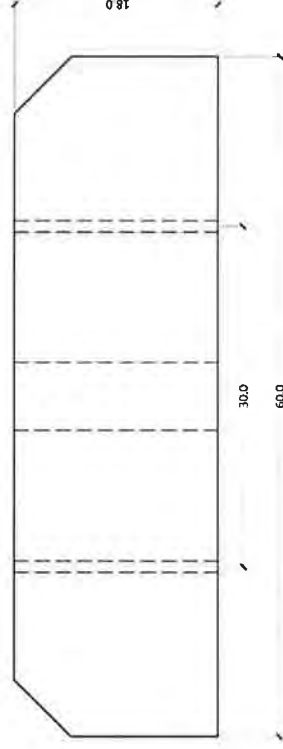
**ELECTRONICS HOUSING
(TOP/BOTTOM VIEW)**



**ELECTRONICS HOUSING
(SIDE VIEW)**



**BUOY
(SIDE VIEW)**

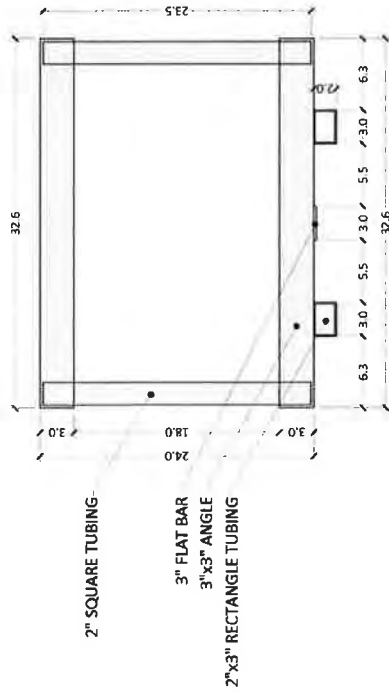


NOT TO SCALE

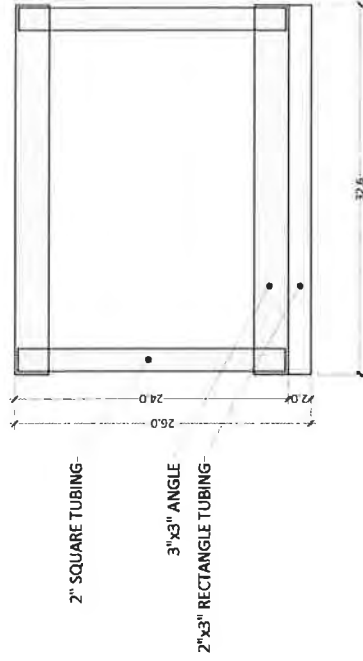
DRI EVAPORATION BUOY
ELECTRONICS HOUSING & BUOY
 SEPTEMBER 13, 2013

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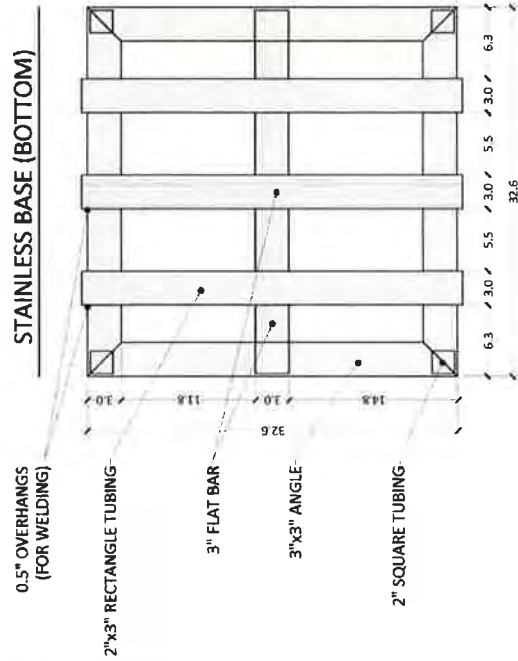
STAINLESS BASE (SIDE VIEW A)



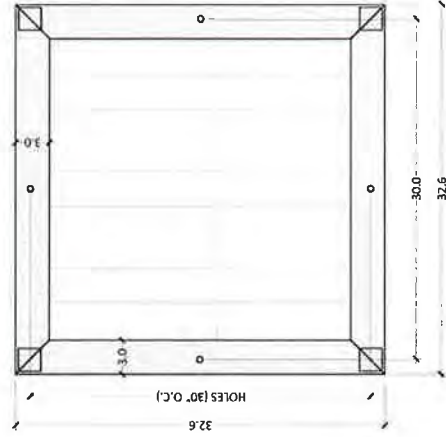
STAINLESS BASE (SIDE VIEW B)



STAINLESS BASE (BOTTOM)



STAINLESS BASE (TOP)



NOT TO SCALE

**BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
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Photograph of existing Stampede Reservoir weather station

CULTURAL RESOURCE COMPLIANCE
Reclamation Division of Environmental Affairs
MP-153

MP-153 Tracking Number: 14-LBAO-035

Project Name: Lahontan Reservoir Weather Station

NEPA Document: LO-2013-1027

MP 153 Section 106 Reviewer: Scott A. Williams 

Date: 12-03-2013

Julia,

The proposed undertaking for Reclamation to issue a revocable special land use permit to authorize the placement of a weather station buoy containing instrumentation for meteorological data collection on Lahontan Reservoir has no potential to cause effects to historic properties pursuant to the Section 106 implementing regulations at 36 CFR Part 800.3(a)(1).

The project is located in Churchill County, Nevada, in Lake Lahontan Reservoir in the NW¼ of the SE¼, Section 4, T. 18N, R. 26 E., M.D.M. The weather station buoy will be approximately 60-inches (5') in diameter, with a thermocouple wire hanging from the bottom (>5m) of the buoy. The buoy will be in the water anchored with a chain. The anchor is a custom welded anchor, that is made from scrap steel. The steel is a 3ft section of I-beam, with welded angle iron cross members so that it won't drag and will dig in. The weather station and buoy will be fully maintained, operated, monitored, and dismantled by the Permittee. The station is temporary and the buoy will be left in place in the Reservoir for a period of three (3) years to collect data. Any visual effects to the Lahontan Dam will be temporary in nature and does not have any potential to effect the location, setting, association, and feeling, and the structure will still be able to perform its historically significance function of moving and delivering water.

I concur with Evaluation Criteria for Categorical Exclusion, item 8, within CEC LO-2013-1027.

This concludes the Section 106 review process. Please retain a copy of this record of compliance with the administrative record for this action. If the project activities change or circumstances are altered after this review, there may be additional Section 106 review responsibilities up to and including consultation with the California State Historic Preservation Officer.



Long, Julia <jlong@usbr.gov>

Re: ITA review for Lahontan Reservoir Weather Station

1 message

RIVERA, PATRICIA <privera@usbr.gov> Wed, Nov 27, 2013 at 9:23 AM
To: "Long, Julia" <jlong@usbr.gov>
Cc: Kristi Seabrook <kseabrook@usbr.gov>, Mary Williams <marywilliams@usbr.gov>

Julia,

I reviewed the proposed action to issue a revocable special land use permit to authorize Reclamation's Water Resources Planning and Operations Support Group, in cooperation with the Desert Research Institute (Permittee), to place a weather station buoy containing instrumentation for meteorological data collection on Lahontan Reservoir. The buoy will have a weather station measuring net radiation, windspeed, humidity, temperature, and water temperature. The Permittee will be responsible to insure compliance with all Federal, State, and local requirements.

The weather station buoy will be approximately 60-inches (5') in diameter, with a thermocouple wire hanging from the bottom (>5m) of the buoy. The buoy will be in the water anchored with a chain. The weather station and buoy will be fully maintained, operated, monitored, and dismantled by the Permittee. The station is temporary and the buoy will be left in place in the Reservoir for a period of three (3) years to

collect data.

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

Patricia Rivera
Native American Affairs Program Manager
US Bureau of Reclamation
Mid-Pacific Region
2800 Sacramento, California 95825
(916) 978-5194

Kristi this is admin

Patricia Rivera
Native American Affairs Program Manager
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2800 Sacramento, California 95825
(916) 978-5194

On Wed, Nov 27, 2013 at 9:14 AM, Long, Julia <jlong@usbr.gov> wrote:

Hi All,

Attached is an ITA request for your review. Please let me know if you need additional information.

Happy Holidays!

Julia Long
Natural Resource Specialist
Lahontan Basin Area Office
Bureau of Reclamation
705 North Plaza St. Suite 320
Carson City, NV 89701

11/27/13

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR Mail - Re: ITA review for Lahontan Reservoir Weather Station

Ph: 775-884-8372
Fax: 775-882-7592
jlong@usbr.gov