

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

Acquisition of Lands for Inclusion in Pixley National Wildlife Refuge to Benefit Endangered Species

FONSI 13-23-MP

Recommended by:

Douglas Kleinsmith

Douglas Kleinsmith
Natural Resource Specialist
Mid-Pacific Regional Office

Date: 12/13/13

Concurred by:

Dan Strait

Dan Strait
Program Manager, Central Valley
Project Conservation Program
Mid-Pacific Regional Office

Date: 12/13/13

Approved by:

Anastasia Leigh

Anastasia Leigh
Regional Environmental Officer
Mid-Pacific Region

Date: 12/17/2013



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
Mid-Pacific Region

Background

The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) proposes to provide \$649,250 from the Central Valley Project Conservation Program (CVPCP) and the Central Valley Project Improvement Act Habitat Restoration Program (HRP) to the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to acquire two parcels of grassland and alkali scrub habitats in Tulare County to benefit federally endangered species. These parcels would be included within the Pixley National Wildlife Refuge (NWR).

The CVPCP and HRP help mitigate the past impacts of Reclamation's Central Valley Project (CVP) on threatened and endangered species, and minimize future impacts. The CVPCP and HRP also help meet mitigation required by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Decision 1641 (D-1641). D-1641 states that Reclamation will provide compensation and habitat values that mitigate for those associated with the delivery of CVP water to lands previously outside Reclamation's authorized place of use.

Alternatives Including the Proposed Action

No Action: Reclamation would not provide \$649,250 from the CVPCP and HRP to FWS to help purchase 275 acres of grassland and alkali scrub habitat on two parcels adjacent to Pixley NWR. FWS would need to obtain the \$649,250 from other public and/or private sources. If the funding cannot be secured, FWS would not be able to purchase the parcels.

Proposed Action: Reclamation would provide \$649,250 from the CVPCP and HRP to FWS to help purchase 275 acres of grassland and alkali scrub habitat on two parcels adjacent to Pixley NWR. The Hesse Tract is immediately east of the Horse Pasture Unit on the north side of Avenue 88. The Los Feliz Addition parcels are located immediately south of the Los Feliz Unit and north of Avenue 120.

Upon completion of the acquisition, the properties will immediately be included in the National Wildlife Refuge System as part of the Pixley NWR. The properties will be inventoried, fenced and managed under the refuge Comprehensive Conservation Plan.

Acquisition would provide protection for three federally listed endangered species (Tipton kangaroo rat, San Joaquin kit fox and blunt-nosed leopard lizard). Resident wildlife, including western burrowing owl and migratory and wintering species such as greater sandhill crane, mountain plover, and long-billed curlew will also benefit from protection of the site. Protection of these parcels from development by fee title acquisition would maintain an important habitat linkage between existing natural areas in a highly modified and fragmented landscape

Findings

Based on the attached environmental assessment (EA), Reclamation finds that the Proposed Action is not a major Federal action that will significantly affect the quality of the human environment. The attached EA describes the existing environmental resources in the Proposed Action area and evaluates the effects of the No Action and Proposed Action alternatives on the resources. This EA was prepared in accordance with National Environmental Policy Act, Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR 1500-1508), and Department of the Interior Regulations (43 CFR Part 46). Effects on several environmental resources were examined and found to be absent or minor. That analysis is provided in the attached EA, and the analysis in the EA is hereby incorporated by reference.

Following are the reasons why the impacts of the proposed action are not significant:

1. The proposed action will not significantly affect public health or safety (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(3)).
2. The proposed action will not significantly impact natural resources and unique geographical characteristics such 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 (Executive Order (EO) 11990); flood plains (EO 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(3) and 43 CFR 46.215(b)).
3. The proposed action will not have possible effects on the human environment that are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(5)).
4. The proposed action will not establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects or represents a decision in principle about a future consideration (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(6)).
5. There is no potential for the effects to be considered highly controversial (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(4)).
6. The proposed action will not have significant cumulative impacts (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(7)).
7. The proposed action has no potential to affect historic properties (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(8)).
8. The proposed action will not affect listed or proposed threatened or endangered species (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(9)).
9. The proposed action will not violate federal, state, tribal or local law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(10)).
10. The proposed action will not affect any Indian Trust Assets. (512 DM 2, Policy Memorandum dated December 15, 1993).
11. Implementing the proposed action will not disproportionately affect minorities or low-income populations and communities (EO 12898).
12. The proposed action will not 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 and 512 DM 3).
13. The proposed action will not 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 and EO 13112).

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Environmental Assessment

Acquisition of Lands for Inclusion in Pixley National Wildlife Refuge to Benefit Endangered Species



Mission Statements

The mission of the Department of the Interior is to protect and provide access to our Nation's natural and cultural heritage and honor our trust responsibilities to Indian Tribes and our commitment to island communities.

The mission of the Bureau of Reclamation is to manage, develop, and protect water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the American public.

List of Abbreviations and Acronyms

BNLL	Blunt-nosed leopard lizard
CCP	Comprehensive Conservation Plan
CEQ	Council on Environmental Quality
CFR	Code of Federal Regulations
CVP	Central Valley Project
CVPCP	Central Valley Project Conservation Program
DOC	Department of Conservation
DOI	Department of the Interior
EA	Environmental Assessment
FWS	Fish and Wildlife Service
HRP	Habitat Restoration Program
ITA	Indian Trust Assets
LTR/PID	Lower Tule River and Pixley Irrigation Districts
NEPA	National Environmental Policy Act
NHPA	National Historic Preservation Act
NWR	National Wildlife Refuge
SJKF	San Joaquin kit fox
SWRCB	State Water Resources Control Board
TKR	Tipton kangaroo rat

Section 1 Introduction

1.1 Background

In conformance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 CFR 1500-1508), and DOI Regulations (43 CFR Part 46), the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) has prepared this Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate and disclose any potential environmental impacts associated with providing \$649,250 from the Central Valley Project Conservation Program (CVPCP) and the Central Valley Project Improvement Act Habitat Restoration Program (HRP) to the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS) to acquire two parcels of grassland and alkali scrub habitats to benefit federally endangered species. These parcels would be included within the Pixley National Wildlife Refuge (NWR).

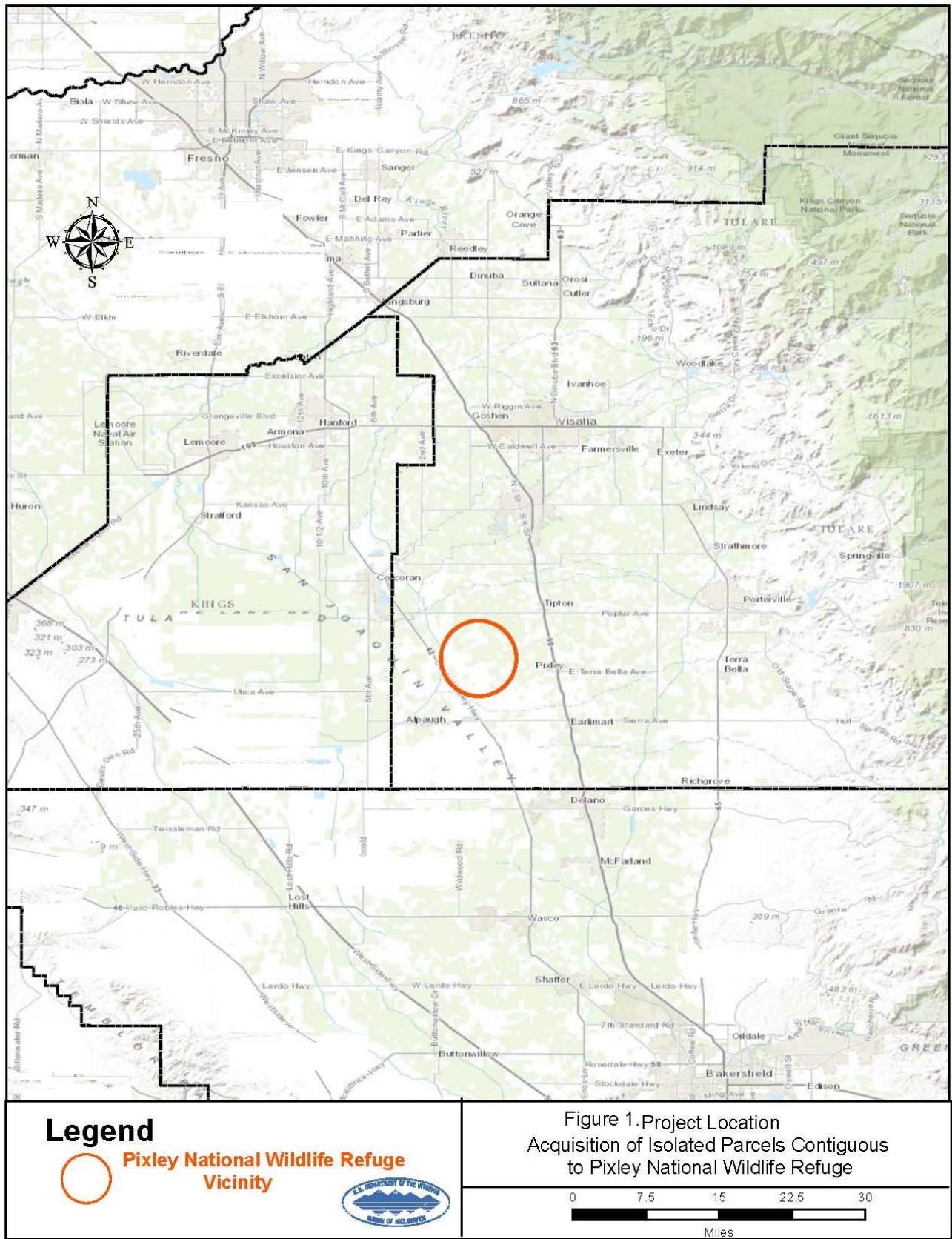
The parcels are located in the southern San Joaquin Valley in an unincorporated portion of Tulare County, adjacent to Pixley NWR. (See Figures 1 and 2). The Hesse Tract is 120 acres in size and is located immediately east of the Horse Pasture Unit of the NWR, on the north side of Avenue 88. The Los Feliz Addition, located immediately south of the Los Feliz Unit of the NWR and north of Avenue 120, consists of a number of parcels totaling approximately 155 acres. In total, the parcels to be acquired equal 275 acres.

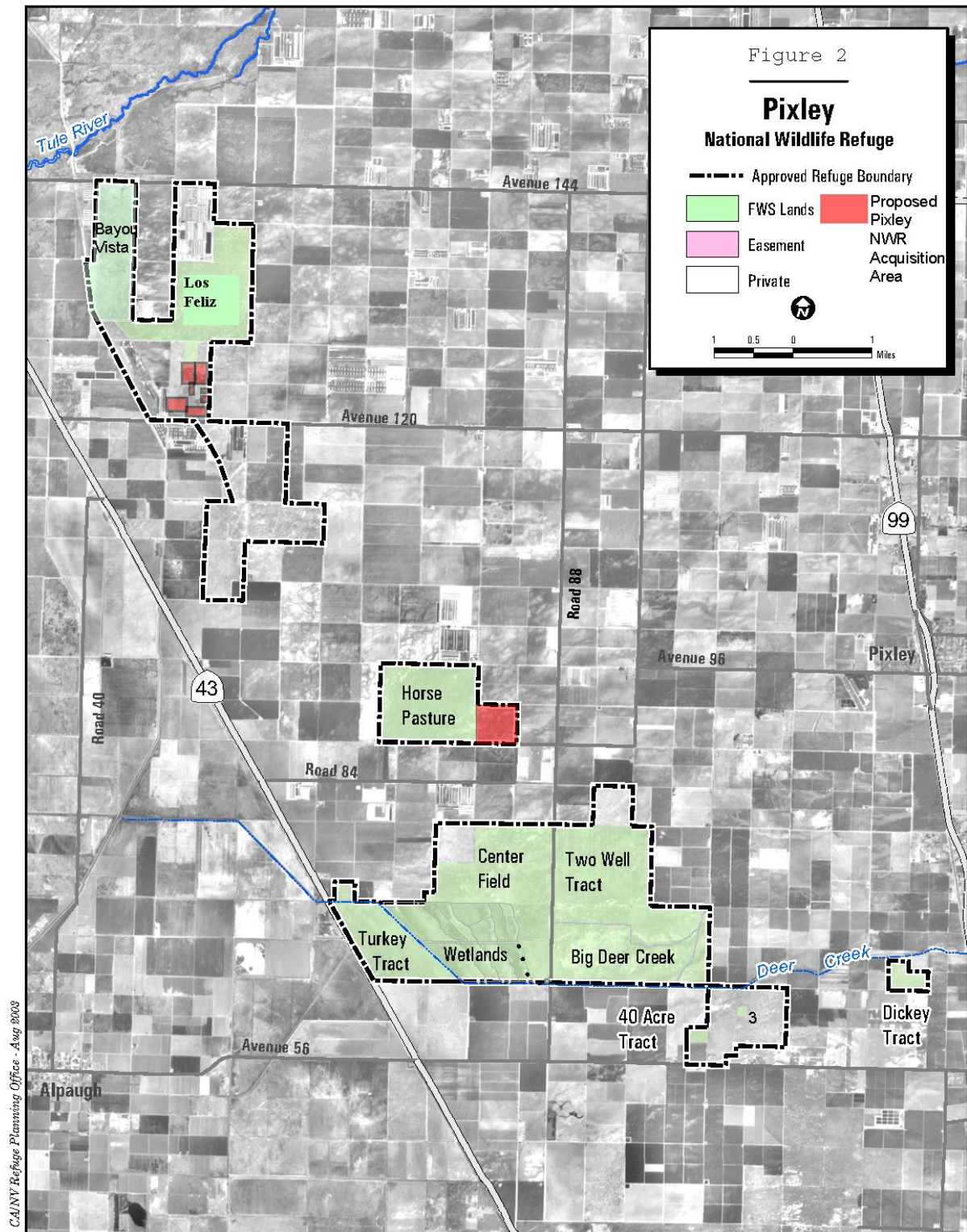
1.2 Need for the Proposal

The Lower Tule River and Pixley Irrigation Districts (LTR/PID) own the parcels proposed to be acquired. Cultivated agricultural land and active dairy operations within the LTR/PID surround the Pixley NWR and subject parcels. LTR/PID could easily dispose of these lands for uses that are not compatible with management by the NWR of existing conserved lands in the area. Purchase of the parcels by the FWS would ensure that the lands are conserved to benefit CVP impacted federally listed species.

The potential for future conversion or adverse impacts to the subject parcels as part of the prevailing regional agricultural industry is uncertain. Conversion of native habitats to residential properties, dairy operations, permanent tree crops, and other agricultural uses in the region in recent years makes parcels containing unique native habitat even more valuable for endangered species conservation, with the need to establish habitat linkages to maximize benefits to those species all the more critical.

The CVPCP and HRP help mitigate the past impacts of Reclamation's Central Valley Project (CVP) on threatened and endangered species, and minimize future impacts. The CVPCP and HRP also help meet mitigation required by the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) Decision 1641 (D-1641). D-1641 concurred with a Reclamation petition to expand Reclamation's authorized place of use to include certain areas already receiving CVP water. D-1641 also states that Reclamation will provide compensation and habitat values that mitigate for those associated with the delivery of CVP water to lands previously outside the authorized place of use. The CVPCP and the related Habitat Restoration Program are the main programs which provide mitigation to meet D-1641 requirements.





Section 2 Alternatives Including Proposed Action

2.1 No Action Alternative

Reclamation would not provide \$649,250 from the CVPCP and HRP to FWS to help purchase 275 acres of grassland and alkali scrub habitat on two parcels adjacent to Pixley NWR. FWS would need to obtain the \$649,250 from other public and/or private sources. If the funding cannot be secured, FWS would not be able to purchase the parcels.

2.2 Proposed Action

Reclamation would provide \$649,250 from the CVPCP and HRP to FWS to help purchase 275 acres of grassland and alkali scrub habitat on two parcels adjacent to Pixley NWR. The Hesse Tract is immediately east of the Horse Pasture Unit on the north side of Avenue 88. The Los Feliz Addition parcels are located immediately south of the Los Feliz Unit and north of Avenue 120.

Upon completion of the acquisition, the parcels would immediately be included in the National Wildlife Refuge System as part of Pixley NWR. The properties will be inventoried, fenced, and managed under the Pixley NWR Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 2005).

As part of the NWR, the properties would be monitored and managed over the long term by FWS resource managers following the terms of the CCP. The properties consist primarily of self-sustaining alkali scrub and grassland habitats that should require little manipulation or improvement once conveyed to the NWR. Once the properties are acquired, FWS resource managers would determine when and if appropriate management treatments should be applied to the parcels.

Section 3 Affected Environment & Environmental Consequences

This section identifies the potentially affected environmental resources and the environmental consequences that could result from the Proposed Action and the No Action Alternatives.

3.1 Resources Not Analyzed in Detail

Department of the Interior Regulations, Executive Orders, and Reclamation guidelines require a discussion of the following items when preparing environmental documentation:

3.1.1 Cultural Resources

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 National Historic Preservation Act (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). (See Appendix A.)

The proposed action involves no ground disturbing activity, and constitutes solely the provision for funding from Reclamation to FWS toward acquisition of the land. Once obtained, and included in the Pixley National Wildlife Refuge, the USFWS will be the land managing agency of record and thus responsible for any further NHPA Section 106 obligations outside the scope of this undertaking.

3.1.2 Indian Trust Assets

Indian Trust Assets (ITAs) are legal interests in property or rights held in trust by the United States for Indian Tribes or individual Indians. Indian reservations, Rancherias, and Public Domain Allotments are common ITAs in California. The nearest ITA is the Santa Rosa Rancheria, about 20 miles northwest of the project location. The proposed action does not have a potential to affect ITAs. (See Appendix B.)

3.1.3 Indian Sacred Sites

Sacred sites are defined in Executive Order 13007 (May 24, 1996) as "any specific, discrete, narrowly delineated location on Federal land that is identified by an Indian tribe, or Indian individual determined to be an appropriately authoritative representative of an Indian religion, as sacred by virtue of its established religious significance to, or ceremonial use by, an Indian religion; provided that the tribe or appropriately authoritative representative of an Indian religion has informed the agency of the existence of such a site." The proposed action would not be located on or impact any Federal lands and therefore would not affect any Indian sacred sites. After ownership is transferred to FWS, FWS, as a federal agency, will be responsible for working with any tribes to ensure any activities do not impede use of sacred sites

3.1.4. Environmental Justice

Executive Order 12898 requires each Federal agency to identify and address disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects, including social and economic effects of its program, policies, and activities, on minority and low-income populations. Since the proposed action

would not affect any populations, there would be no adverse human health or environmental effects to minority or low-income populations.

3.2 Biological Resources

3.2.1 Affected Environment

The Los Feliz Unit consists of approximately 20 acres of alkali scrub and 135 acres of grassland habitats. The Hesse Tract consists of approximately 110 acres of alkali scrub and 10 acres of grassland habitats. Table 1 lists Federally listed, State listed and other sensitive species which are known or could occur in the proposed Los Feliz and Horse Pasture additions.

The Tipton kangaroo rat (TKR), San Joaquin kit fox (SJKF) and blunt-nosed leopard lizard (BNLL) have been documented to be present on the Los Feliz and Horse Pasture units of the NWR, and at the Creighton Ranch (R. Hansen, Field Notes) approximately 2 miles north of the Los Feliz Unit. Therefore, the species are likely to also be present on the Los Feliz Addition parcel. BNLL have been documented by the FWS at the Hesse Tract.

Swainson's hawk, listed by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) as a threatened species, nests in riparian habitat along the Tule River approximately one mile north of the Los Feliz Unit. It is known to forage on grasslands in the area of the proposed action between the months of March and October (R. Hansen, Field Notes). Small numbers of greater sandhill cranes, listed by CDFW as a threatened species, are seen annually among large flocks (in excess of 5,000 individuals in some years) of lesser sandhill cranes that winter on and near Pixley NWR. Abundant ground squirrel burrows on the parcels provide ideal habitat for western burrowing owls, a California Species of Special Concern, which is a resident nesting species in the area of the proposed action (R. Hansen, Field Notes). Other California Species of Special Concern which are year-round residents in the area include northern harrier, California horned lark, and loggerhead shrike. Other special status species that have been observed in the area (R. Hansen, Field Notes) include ferruginous hawk, golden eagle, merlin, prairie falcon, mountain plover, long-billed curlew and short-eared owl.

3.2.2 Environmental Consequences

No Action

If Reclamation does not provide funding to FWS to purchase the parcels for inclusion in Pixley NWR, FWS would have to find the funds from other sources. If FWS were not able to purchase the parcels and the LTR/PID sold them to another party, the opportunity for its permanent conservation could be lost or jeopardized.

Proposed Action

Providing funding to FWS would permanently protect 275 acres of upland habitats for endangered species including the blunt-nosed leopard lizard, San Joaquin kit fox, and Tipton kangaroo rat, as well

Table 1. Verified and Potential Species at the Los Feliz and Hesse Basin Additions to Pixley National Wildlife Refuge

Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal Status ^a	State Status ^b	Other Designated Status ^c	Species Verified Presences ^d (Y/N)
<u>Plants</u>					
Heartscale	<i>Atriplex cordulata</i>			CNPS 1B	
crownscale	<i>Atriplex coronata</i> var. <i>coronata</i>			CNPS 4	
brittlescale	<i>Atriplex depressa</i>			CNPS 1B	
Earlimart orache	<i>Atriplex erecticaulis</i>			CNPS 1B	
recurved larkspur	<i>Delphinium recurvatum</i>			CNPS 1B	Y
<u>Invertebrates</u>					
vernal pool fairy shrimp	<i>Branchinecta lynchi</i>	T			Y
<u>Amphibians</u>					
western spadefoot	<i>Spea hammondi</i>			CSC	
<u>Reptiles</u>					
blunt-nosed leopard lizard	<i>Gambelia silus</i>	E	E	FP	Y
coast horned lizard	<i>Phrynosoma blainvillii</i>			CSC	Y
San Joaquin coachwhip (aka San Joaquin whipsnake)	<i>Masticophis flagellum ruddocki</i>			CSC	
<u>Birds</u>					
fulvous whistling-duck	<i>Dendrocygna bicolor</i>			CSC	Y (foraging only)
white-faced ibis	<i>Plegadis chihi</i>			CSC	
white-tailed kite	<i>Elanus leucurus</i>			nesting	Y (foraging only)
northern harrier	<i>Circus cyaneus</i>			nesting	Y (foraging only)
Swainson's hawk	<i>Buteo swainsoni</i>		T	WL	Y
ferruginous hawk	<i>Buteo regalis</i>			wintering	Y
golden eagle	<i>Aquila chrysaetos</i>			FP wintering	Y
Merlin	<i>Falco columbarius</i>			wintering	Y
peregrine falcon	<i>Falco peregrinus anatum</i>			FDL SDL	Y
greater sandhill crane	<i>Grus canadensis tabida</i>		T		Y
mountain plover	<i>Charadrius montanus</i>	P		CSC (wintering)W L	Y
long-billed curlew	<i>Numenius americanus</i>			WL	Y

Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal Status ^a	State Status ^b	Other Designated Status ^c	Species Verified Presences ^d (Y/N)
burrowing owl	<i>Athene cunicularia</i>			CSC	Y
short-eared owl	<i>Asio flammeus</i>			CSC	Y
loggerhead shrike	<i>Lanius ludovicianus</i>			CSC	Y
California horned lark	<i>Eremophila alpestris actia</i>			WL	Y
Oregon vesper sparrow	<i>Poocetes gramineus affinis</i>			CSC	Y
lark sparrow	<i>Chondestes grammacus</i>			nesting	Y
blue grosbeak	<i>Passerina caerulea</i>			RJV	Y
tricolored blackbird	<i>Agelaius tricolor</i>			CSC WL	Y
Lawrence's goldfinch	<i>Spinus lawrencei</i>			WL	Y
Mammals pallid bat	<i>Antrozous pallidus</i>			CSC	
Townsend's big-eared bat	<i>Corynorhinus townsendii</i>			CSC	
spotted bat	<i>Euderma maculatum</i>			CSC	
western mastiff bat	<i>Eumpos perotis californicus</i>			CSC	
San Joaquin kit fox	<i>Vulpes macrotis mutica</i>	E	E		Y
Tipton kangaroo rat	<i>Dipodomys nitratoides nitratoides</i>	E	E		Y
Tulare grasshopper mouse	<i>Onychomys torridus tularensis</i>			CSC	
American badger	<i>Taxidea taxus</i>			CSC	Y

^aE =federal listed as endangered, T=federally listed as threatened, P=federally proposed for listing

^bE=state listed as endangered, R=state listed as rare, T=state listed as threatened, C=state listed as candidate

^cC=federally listed as candidate, CSC=California species of special concern, FDL=Federally delisted, FP=California fully protected species, SDL=State delisted, RJV=Riparian Habitat Joint Venture Focal Species, WL=American Bird Conservancy (and National Audubon Society) US WatchList of Birds of Conservation Concern, CNPS=California Native Plant Society codes: 1B=Rare or Endangered in California and elsewhere, 4=Plants of limited distribution - Watch list

^dThis list should be on the actual property/parcel that is being proposed for protection and/or restoration, not just the general geographic area

as for other special status species. Endangered and other special status species expected to benefit from the project are listed in Table 1. Resident non-listed wildlife, including western burrowing owl and migratory and wintering species such as greater sandhill crane, mountain plover, and long-billed curlew would also benefit from protection of the site. Acquisition of the parcels would help create larger contiguous protected areas within the Pixley NWR. That would allow refuge staff to improve management and habitat enhancement, reduce habitat fragmentation and reduce impacts to listed species by increasing protected lands within the refuge. In addition, the proposed action would:

- support species recovery goals of the FWS' Recovery Plan for Upland Species of the San Joaquin Valley, California.
- help fulfill the goals of the Kern and Pixley NWR's Comprehensive Conservation Plan.
- provide habitat linkages between Pixley NWR and the nearby Allensworth Ecological Reserve, which supports similar habitats and species.
- improve opportunities for potential reintroduction and recovery of San Joaquin kit foxes to the region that includes Kern NWR, Pixley NWR, Allensworth Ecological Preserve, and the Reclamation/BLM Atwell Island Demonstration Project.
- help fulfill the goals of the HRP to restore and protect species and habitats impacted by the CVP.

Conserving more habitat and creating larger contiguous protected areas, and linkages among protected areas could aid in recovery of the species (Cypher et al. 2011). In addition, conservation of San Joaquin kit fox and Tipton kangaroo rat habitat at Pixley NWR would contribute to regional efforts to conserve habitats for these species at Kern NWR, Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Atwell Island Demonstration Project, and Allensworth Ecological Reserve (within one mile of Pixley NWR).

The proposed action would not affect any listed or proposed threatened or endangered species.

3.3 Cumulative Effects

According to CEQ regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of NEPA, a cumulative impact is defined as *the impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (Federal or non-Federal) or person undertakes such other actions*. Cumulative effects can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time.

There are no adverse impacts associated with implementing the Proposed Action, and therefore there are no cumulative effects to consider.

Section 4 Consultation and Coordination

CVPCP and HRP managers are guided by a Technical Team of biologists and natural resource specialists from Reclamation, the Service, and CDFW. During the period of December 22, 2012 through March 9, 2013, members of the Technical Team evaluated proposals submitted to the CVPCP/HRP for consideration for funding. The Pixley NWR acquisition ranked in the top tier of proposals, and was selected for funding following evaluation by the Team. On March 29, 2013, Reclamation and FWS management approved the proposal for funding pending the results of environmental analysis.

Section 5 References

- Cypher, Bryan et al, 2011. *Suitability of Potential Reintroduction Sites for San Joaquin Kit Foxes*. California State University, Stanislaus Endangered Species Recovery Program, Turlock, CA
- Hansen, R. 1981-2012. Unpublished Field Notes.
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2005. *Kern-Pixley Comprehensive Conservation Plan*. California/Nevada Refuge Planning Office, Sacramento, CA.

Appendix A

Cultural Resources Compliance



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

June 26, 2013
MEMORANDUM

To: Daniel Strait
Manager, CVP Conservation Program

From: Mark. A. Carper
Archaeologist – Division of Environmental Affairs

Subject: 13-MPRO-197 Acquisition of land for inclusion in the Pixley National wildlife Refuge Project

This proposed undertaking by Reclamation is to fund the acquisition of 275 acres on two parcels for inclusion in the Pixley National Wildlife Refuge. 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).

The proposed action involves no ground disturbing activity, and constitutes solely the provision for funding from the BOR to the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) toward acquisition of the land. Once obtained, and included in the Pixley National Wildlife Refuge the USFWS will be the land managing agency of record, and thus responsible for any further NHPA Section 106 obligations outside the scope of this undertaking.

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.

Mark A. Carper, M.A., Archaeologist
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Mid-Pacific Region, MP-153
2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, CA 95825
Phone: 916-978-5552 Email: mcarper@usbr.gov

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

Appendix B

Indian Trust Assets Compliance



KLEINSMITH, DOUGLAS <dkleinsmith@usbr.gov>

Re: ITA Request for Pixley NWR Addition for 2013

RIVERA, PATRICIA <privera@usbr.gov>
To: "KLEINSMITH, DOUGLAS" <dkleinsmith@usbr.gov>

Fri, Oct 25, 2013 at 6:57 AM

Doug,

I reviewed the proposed action to provide \$448,000 from the CVPCP and HRP to FWS to help purchase 265 acres of grassland and alkali scrub habitat on two parcels adjacent to Pixley NWR. The Hesse Basin Tract is immediately east of the Horse Pasture Unit on the north side of Avenue 88. The Los Feliz Addition parcels are located immediately south of the Los Feliz Unit and north of Avenue 120.

Upon completion of the acquisition, the properties will immediately be included in the National Wildlife Refuge System (NWRS) as part of the Pixley National Wildlife Refuge. The properties will be inventoried, fenced and managed under the refuge CCP.

The proposed action does not have a potential to impact Indian Trust Assets. The nearest ITA is the Santa Rosa Rancheria, approximately 20 Miles Northwest of the project locations.

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