

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION CHECKLIST

Mid-Pacific Region
Lahontan Basin Area Office

Project Name: NDOW CLP Rice Drain Install Water Control Structures

CEC Number: LO-2013-1023

Cost Authority: 14XR0680A2 RX191249991000000

Date: 1/9/2014

Exclusion Category: *516 DM 14.5 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.*

Nature of Action: Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) proposes to install two new water control structures (WCS) in the Rice Drain in Carson Lake and Pasture that will be used to pass irrigation water from the Rice Drain into the adjacent “Rice” and “York” wetland management units. Presently, along the approximately 9,700 linear feet on the Rice Drain that runs past these two units, there are only two WCSs, with one feeding the Rice unit and one feeding the York unit. The addition of one more WCS for each unit will significantly improve NDOW’s water delivery and drainage capability to these units. The proposed locations where the new WCSs will be installed along with project site access routes and staging areas are shown on Figure 1.

The new WCSs will be made of concrete and fitted with high density polyethylene (HDPE) pipe which does not corrode. The WCSs will be approximately three-feet wide and five-feet high (see Figure 3); the HDPE pipe will be 24-inches in diameter and approximately 40-feet long. The WCSs will be installed using a backhoe or excavator to dig a four-foot wide trench through the Rice Drain ditch bank to a depth of approximately one foot deeper than the Rice Drain bottom. In the bottom of the trench, twelve inches of aggregate road base will be placed in the trench in two six-inch lifts and compacted in place to 90% compaction using a vibratory compactor. After this process is completed, the WCS will be placed in the trench with the attached HDPE pipe (Figure 4). Once this is accomplished, the trench will be back-filled using the earthen material that was originally excavated from the trench. This material will be placed in approximate six-inch lifts that are compacted; this process continues until the trench is backfilled to existing ground level.

Reclamation’s action will be to review and authorize the installations.

Location: T 17 N, R 17 E section 13 NW ¼ NW ¼ Mt. Diablo Meridian; Carson Lake USGS quad. (Figure 2)

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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

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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, 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.

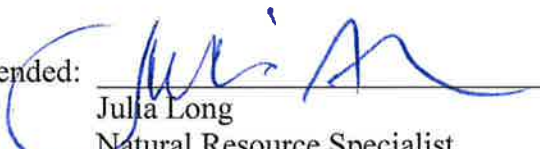
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Prepared by:


Peter Neugebauer
Water & Lands Specialist

01/09/2014
Date

Recommended:


Julia Long
Natural Resource Specialist

1-9-14
Date

Concurrence:


Robert Edwards
Resource Division Manager

1/13/2014
Date

Approved:


Terri Edwards
Deputy Area Manager

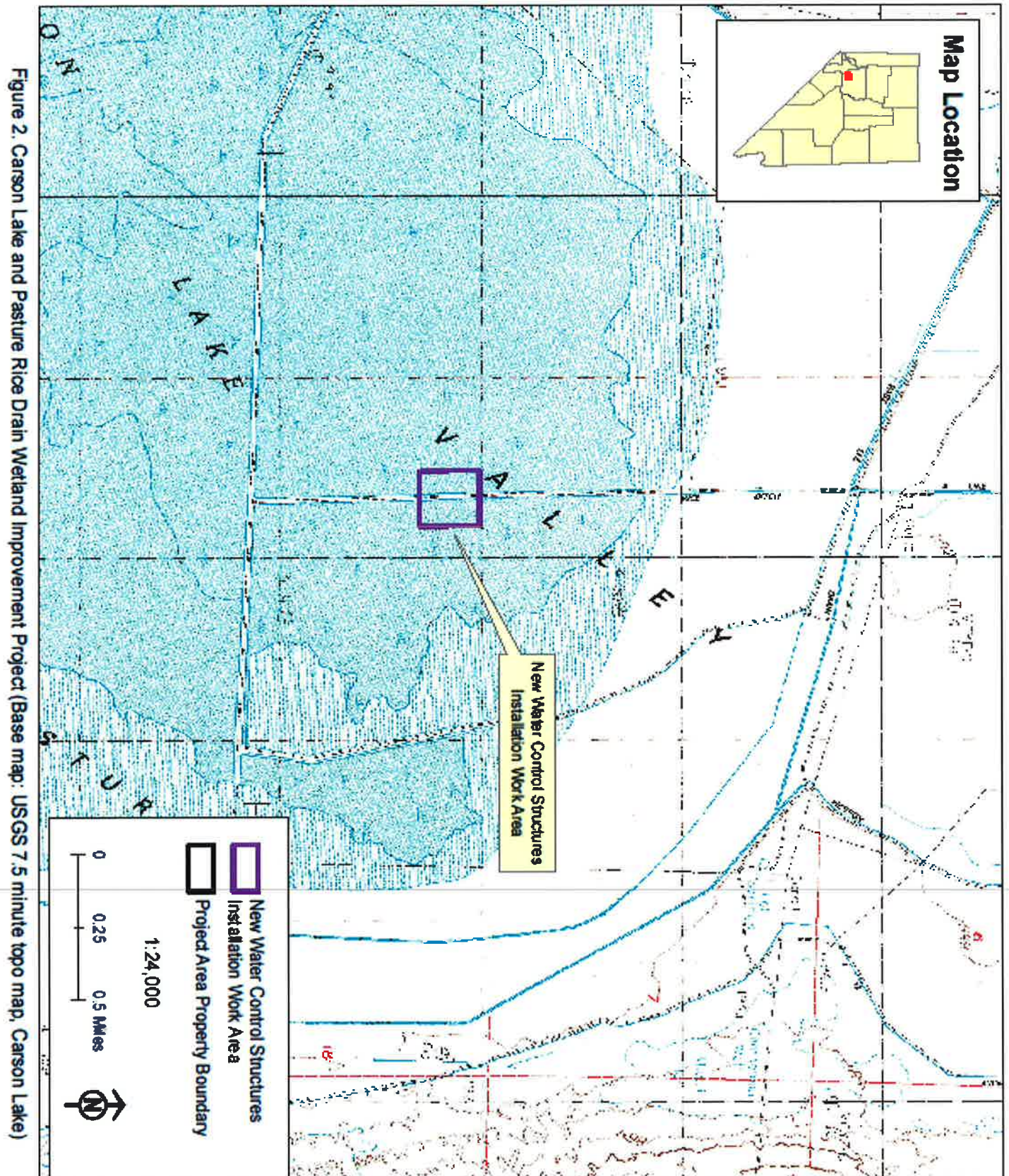
1/13/14
Date

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The map displays the Carson Lake and Pasture area, outlined in black. A purple line indicates the project area property boundary. The map includes a legend, a scale bar (0 to 3 miles), and a north arrow. An inset map shows the location of the project area within the state of Nevada. The map also shows the Carson Lake and Pasture area, with the Carson Lake and Pasture area outlined in black. The map includes a legend, a scale bar (0 to 3 miles), and a north arrow. An inset map shows the location of the project area within the state of Nevada.

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Figure 3 – Water Control Structures



Figure 4 – Typical Installation of Water Control Structures

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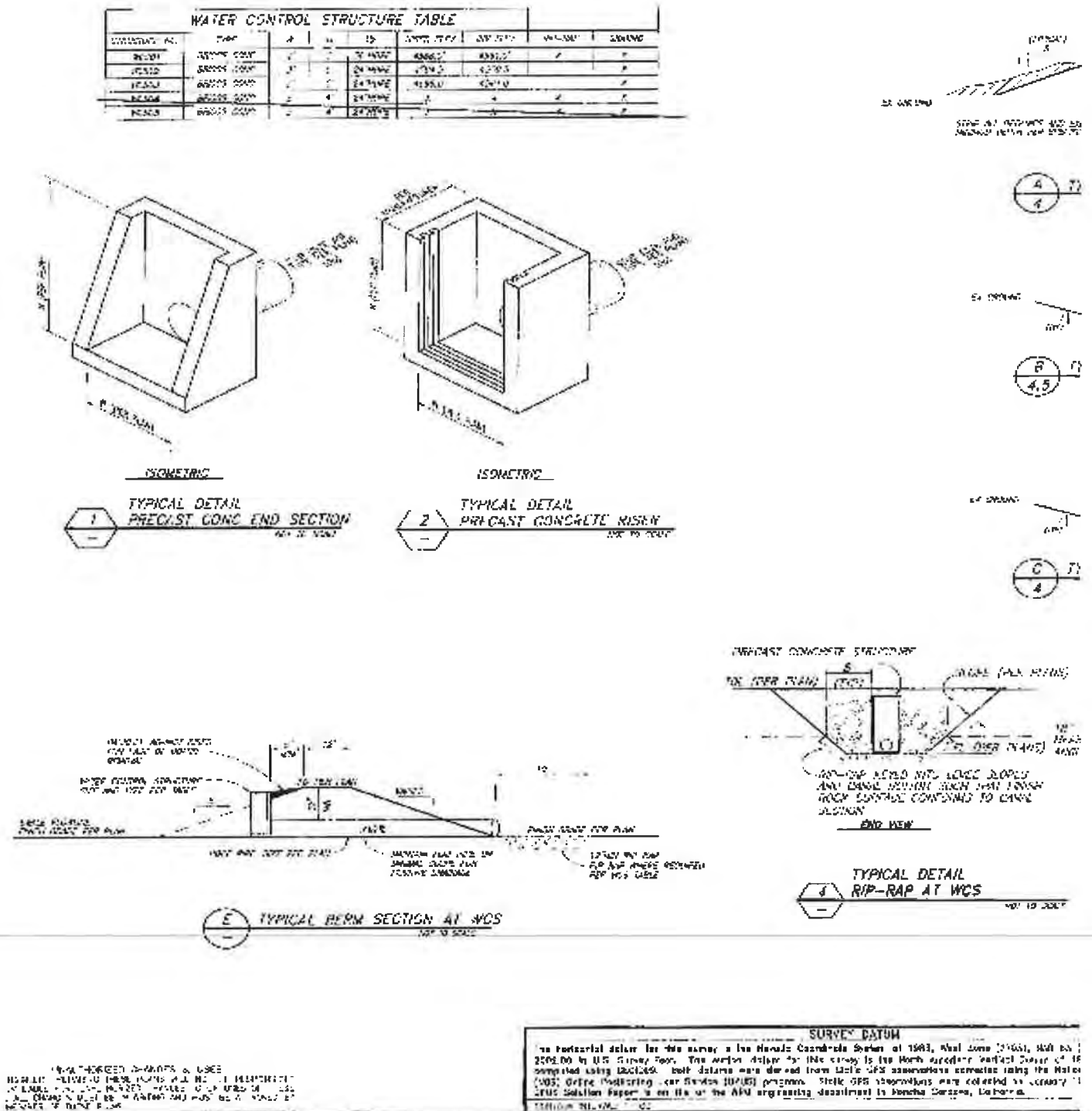


Figure 5 – Drawing of Pre-Cast Structure

CULTURAL RESOURCE COMPLIANCE
Reclamation Division of Environmental Affairs
MP-153

MP-153 Tracking Number: 13-LBAO-225

Project Name: NDOW CLP Rice Drain Install Water Control Structures

NEPA Document: CEC LO-2013-1023

NEPA Contact: Julia Long, Natural Resource Specialist

MP 153 Cultural Resources Reviewer: Mark Carper, Archaeologist

Date: 1/7/2014

Reclamation is proposing to authorize Nevada Department of Wildlife (NDOW) to install two new WCSs and an in-canal weir in Rice Drain within the Carson Lake and Pasture (CLP). Reclamation's approval of the proposed project constitutes an undertaking pursuant to Section 301(7) of the NHPA (16 U.S.C. 470), as amended, which requires compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA. Further, Reclamation determined that the proposed action is a type of activity that that has the potential to cause effects on historic properties pursuant to 36 CFR §800.3 (a). Reclamation is consulting with you in accordance with the regulations at 36 CFR Part 800 implementing Section 106 of the NHPA.

Reclamation's efforts to identify historic properties resulted in the identification of one historic property, the CLP Conveyance Unit, within the Area of Potential Effects (APE). The CLP Conveyance Unit is a grouping of water conveyance features that drain the end of the Newlands Project, a large-scale water storage, diversion, and conveyance project in west-central Nevada. The CLP Conveyance Unit has already been determined as eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (National Register) under Criterion A as a contributing element of the Newlands Project and its themes of reclamation and irrigation in the state of Nevada.

Reclamation applied the criteria of adverse effect to the Rice Drain for the proposed construction project. Installation of WCSs and a weir are consistent with the purpose and function of the Rice Drain and will not adversely affect any of the characteristics that make it eligible for listing. These features are also consistent with the historic use of the CLP Conveyance Unit and the Newlands Project conveyance features. As such, Reclamation made a determination of no adverse effect to historic properties, pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800.5(b), from the proposed project.

Reclamation initiated consultation with the Nevada State Preservation Office (SHPO) by letter on November 26, 2013. SHPO responded by letter on January 2, 2014, received on January 7,

LEO M. DROZDOFF, P.E.
Director
Department of Conservation and
Natural Resources

REBECCA L PALMER
State Historic Preservation Officer

ERIK SANDOVAL
Governor

STATE OF NEVADA



DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION AND NATURAL RESOURCES
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

January 2, 2014

Anastasia T. Leigh
Regional Environmental Officer
Bureau of Reclamation
Mid-Pacific Regional Office
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, CA 95825-1898

RE: *water to* Carson Lake and Pasture Rice Drain Installation of ~~Eater~~ Control Structures Project, Churchill
County, Nevada.
MP-153/ENV-3.00/ 13-LBAO-225/ Undertaking #2014-2971.

Dear Ms. Leigh:

The Nevada State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) has reviewed the subject undertaking in compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966, as amended.

The SHPO concurs with the Bureau of Reclamation's (BREC) determination of the area of potential effects (APE) for the above-mentioned undertaking.

The SHPO maintains the previous concurrences (provided August 30, 2013) with the BREC's determination that the Carson Lake and Pasture Conveyance Unit (S807) is contributing to the National Register of Historic Places property, Newlands Project (NPS #64000529), under the Secretary's criterion A.

The SHPO concurs with the BREC's determination that the Rice Drain/Ditch, which part of Carson Lake and Pasture Conveyance Unit (S807), is contributing to the National Register of Historic Places property, Newlands Project (NPS #64000529), under the Secretary's criterion A.

The SHPO concurs with the BREC's determination that the proposed undertaking will not pose an adverse effect to the identified historic properties.

Should you have any questions concerning this correspondence, please contact Jessica Axsom at (775) 684-3445 or by e-mail at jaxsom@shpo.nv.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rebecca Lynn Palmer".
Rebecca Lynn Palmer
State Historic Preservation Officer

Address Reply to:
901 S. Stewart St, Suite 5004
Carson City, NV 89701-5248
Phone: (775) 684-3448
Fax: (775) 684-3442
www.nvshpo.org

CONF	150	✓

SCANNED

Classification	ENV-3.00
Project	214
Control No.	14000667
Folder I.D.	1273246
Date Input & Initials	1/6/2014 J.S.

18841

RIVERA, PATRICIA
to me

August 6, 2013

Andrea,

I reviewed the proposed action to approve the Nevada Department of Wildlife's (NDOW) proposal to install two new water control structures (WCS) in the Rice Drain in Carson Lake and Pasture that will be used to pass irrigation water from the Rice Drain into the adjacent "Rice" and "York" wetland management units. Presently, along the approximately 9,700 linear feet on the Rice Drain that runs past these two units, there are only two WCSs, with one feeding the Rice unit and one feeding the York unit. The addition of one more WCS for each unit will tremendously improve NDOW's water delivery and drainage capability to these units.

Reclamation's action will be to review and authorize the installations.

The proposed action does not have a potential to impact Indian Trust Assets. The nearest ITA is the Fallon Reservation, approximately 10 Miles North 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