

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Categorical Exclusion Checklist

Pacific Gas and Electric New Power Line over San Luis Drain

CEC-13-064

Prepared by:


Ben Lawrence
Natural Resources Specialist
South-Central California Area Office

Date: 4-2-14

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:


Shauna McDonald
Wildlife Biologist
South-Central California Area Office

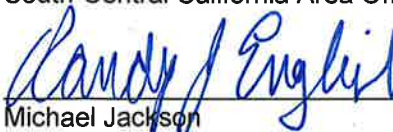
Date: 4/2/14

Concurred by:


Acting Rain Emerson
Supervisory Natural Resources Specialist
South-Central California Area Office

Date: 04/04/2014

Approved by:


for Michael Jackson
Area Manager
South-Central California Area Office

Date: 04/16/14



Background

The San Luis Drain (SLD), a Federal facility, conveys and disposes of subsurface irrigation return flows from the San Luis Unit service area. The SLD was designed to collect subsurface drainage from 8,000 acres in the San Luis Unit service area and transport the water for disposal in the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta. The SLD's design capacity is 300 cubic feet per second.

The Santa Fe Sierra Duck Club is located northwest of Dos Palos, California, adjacent to the SLD at approximately milepost 99.19. The Duck Club is converting from a diesel generator to standard electric service, which will require a new service connection from Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E). The nearest service connection is on the east side of the SLD, so PG&E needs to cross the SLD to provide power to their customer. Approval from the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) is required to make this crossing.

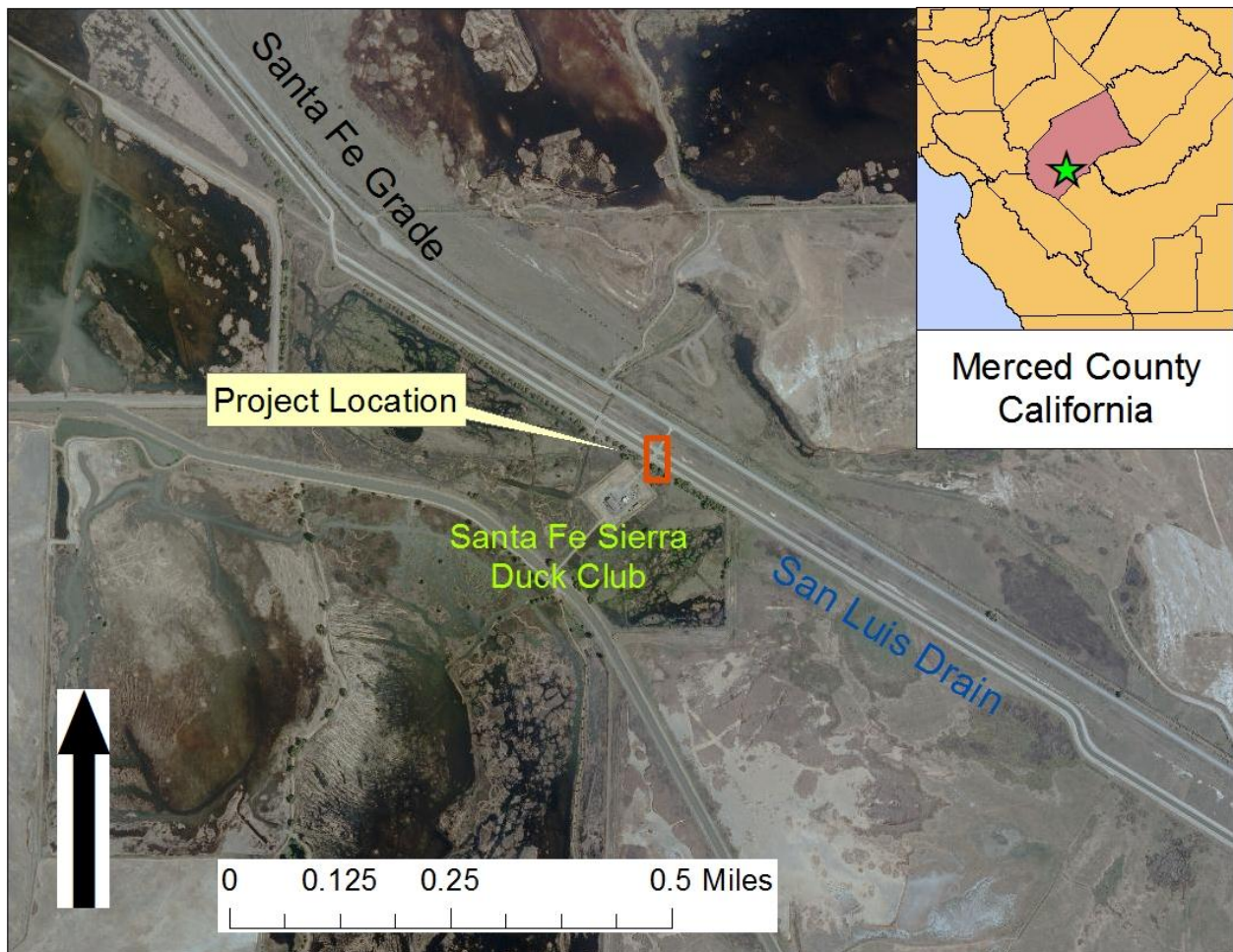


Figure 1 - Project Location

Purpose and Need for Action

The Santa Fe Sierra Duck Club is converting from a diesel generator to standard electric power. The most convenient place to bring in new power is from the east side of the SLD, while the Duck Club is located to the west of the SLD. PG&E needs Reclamation's permission to cross the SLD with a new power line to serve their customer.

Proposed Action

Reclamation proposes to issue a new 50-year land use authorization for PG&E to install, operate and maintain a new power line crossing over the SLD at approximately milepost 99.19. The new power line would serve the Santa Fe Sierra Duck Club adjacent to the west side of the SLD. This would require a series of new power poles to be installed along the east side of the canal from the southeast, with a crossing at the Duck Club's location. Plans are shown in Attachment A.

Environmental Commitments

PG&E would implement the following environmental commitments to avoid any environmental consequences associated with the Proposed Action (Table 1). Environmental consequences for resource areas assume the measures specified would be fully implemented.

Table 1 Environmental Commitments

Resource	Protection Measure
Biology	PG&E shall use their standard raptor framing measures to reduce the risk of large birds such as raptors coming into contact with conductors and being electrocuted.
Biology	PG&E shall conduct tailgate sessions with construction crews, advising them to remain on dirt roads and avoid disturbing natural vegetation.
Biology	Work on Reclamation Right of way shall take place during the giant garter snake active season (May 1st through September 30 th).

Exclusion Category

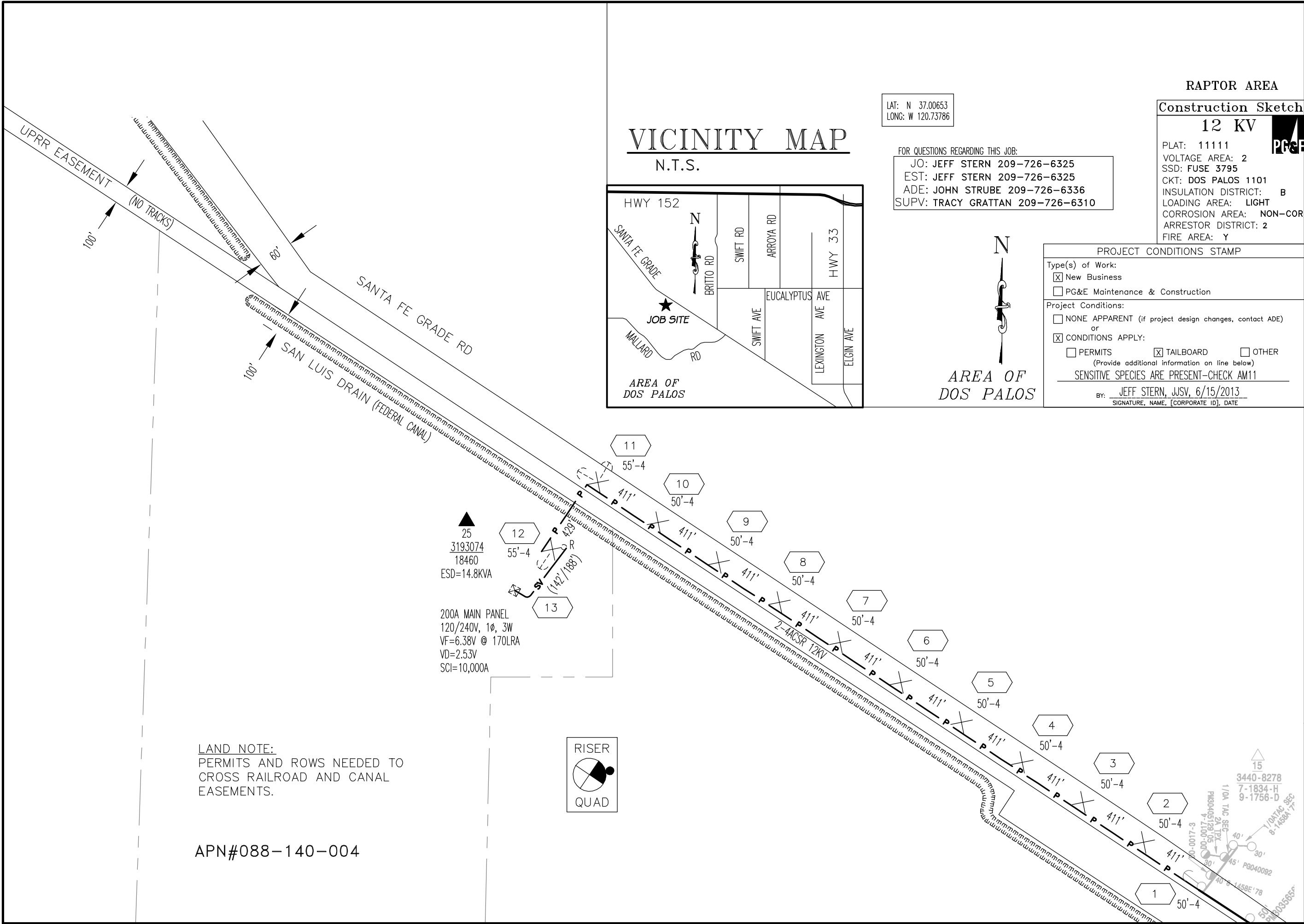
516 DM 14.5 paragraph D (10): *Issuance of permits, licenses, easements, and crossing agreements which provide right-of-way over Bureau lands where the action does not allow for or lead to a major public or private action.*


Evaluation of Criteria for Categorical Exclusion:

- | | | | |
|---|---|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. This action would have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment (40 CFR 1502.3). | No
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain
<input type="checkbox"/> | Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> |
| 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
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain
<input type="checkbox"/> | Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. This action would have significant impacts on public health or safety (43 CFR 46.215(a)). | No
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain
<input type="checkbox"/> | Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> |
| 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
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain
<input type="checkbox"/> | Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> |
| 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
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain
<input type="checkbox"/> | Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> |
| 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
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain
<input type="checkbox"/> | Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> |
| 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
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain
<input type="checkbox"/> | Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> |
| 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
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain
<input type="checkbox"/> | Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> |

- | | | | |
|--|---|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 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
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain
<input type="checkbox"/> | Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> |
| 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
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain
<input type="checkbox"/> | Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> |
| 11. This action would affect ITAs (512 DM 2, Policy Memorandum dated December 15, 1993). | No
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain
<input type="checkbox"/> | Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> |
| 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
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain
<input type="checkbox"/> | Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> |
| 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
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain
<input type="checkbox"/> | Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> |
| 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
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain
<input type="checkbox"/> | Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> |

Attachment A Proposed Power Line Location



EST: JJSV		SCALE: 1"=500'	DATE: 6/15/13	 PG&E	SANTA FE SIERRA DUCK CLUB	
ADE: JHS8					INSTALL RES OH LINE EXTENSION W/ UG SVC	
SUPV: TLA8					19375 SANTA FE GRADE RD.	
REP: JJSV					DOS PALOS	
PLNR: SKA1						
					CO:	
					SD:	
					NOTIF.: 106688630	
					OTHER: 93032-47	
					SHT: 1 OF 1	
					SHEETS	
					PM:	31002184
					REV.	0

Attachment B Cultural Resources Determination

CULTURAL RESOURCE COMPLIANCE
Reclamation Division of Environmental Affairs
MP-153

MP-153 Tracking Number: 14-SCAO-027

Project Name: PG&E Power Line over San Luis Drain at Milepost 99.19

NEPA Document: SCCAO-CEC-13-064

NEPA Contact: Ben Lawrence, Natural Resource Specialist

MP 153 Cultural Resources Reviewer: William Soule, Archaeologist

Date: 04/01/2014

This undertaking by Reclamation is to approve the installation, by PG&E, of an overhead power line from an existing power line on the west side of the San Luis Drain to the eastern side of the canal to provide standard electric power to the Santa Fe Sierra Duck Club. This is the type of undertaking that does not have the potential to cause effects to historic properties, should such historic properties be present, pursuant to the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Section 106 regulations codified at 36 CFR Part 800.3(a)(1).

Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) proposes to install a new overhead power line over the San Luis Drain at milepost 99.19. The Santa Fe Sierra Duck Club, located on the west side of the drain, is converting from a diesel generator to standard electric power and requires a new service connection.

After reviewing the materials submitted by SCAO, I concur with item 8 in SCCAO-CEC-13-064 which states that this proposed action would not have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by Reclamation. With this determination, Reclamation has no further NHPA Section 106 obligations. 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.

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

Attachment C Indian Trust Assets Determination



Lawrence, Benjamin <blawrence@usbr.gov>

Request for Determinations, SCCAO CEC 13-064, PG&E New Power Line

RIVERA, PATRICIA <privera@usbr.gov>

Fri, Nov 8, 2013 at 8:50 AM

To: Benjamin Lawrence <blawrence@usbr.gov>

Ben,

I reviewed the proposed action to approve Pacific Gas and Electric's (PG&E) proposal to install a new power line over the San Luis Drain at [milepost 99.19](#). [The Santa Fe Sierra Duck Club, located on the west side of the drain, is converting from their diesel generator to standard electric power and needs a new service connection.](#)

The proposed action does not have a potential to impact Indian Trust Assets. The nearest ITA is a Public Domain Allotment approximately 40 miles West of the project locations.

Patricia Rivera
Native American Affairs Program Manager
Bureau of Reclamation-Mid-Pacific Region