

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Categorical Exclusion Checklist

Antioch Service Center Utility Trench

CEC 13-074

Prepared by:



Chuck Siek
Natural Resources Specialist
South-Central California Area Office

Date: 4/9/14

Concurred by:

See Attachment

Archaeologist/Architectural Historian
Mid-Pacific Regional Office

Date: See Attachment

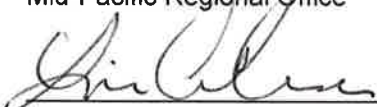
Concurred by:

See Attachment

Native American Affairs Specialist
Mid-Pacific Regional Office

Date: See Attachment


Concurred by:



Lisa Carlson
Wildlife Biologist
South-Central California Area Office

Date: 4/9/2014

Approved by:



Michael Jackson
Area Manager
South-Central California Area Office

Date: 5/13/14



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

April 2014

Background

The Antioch Service Center (ASC) is a satellite service yard for the Contra Costa Water District (CCWD) located on Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) property in Contra Costa County. CCWD pursuant to an operating agreement (Contract No. 14-06-200-6072A) operates and maintains the Contra Costa Canal (Canal) on behalf of Reclamation.

Purpose and Need for Action

The buried phone lines that run parallel to the access road within Reclamation property between Milepost (MP) 6.7 and MP 7.1 of the Canal are no longer reliable and need to be replaced.

Proposed Action

CCWD, pursuant to its operating agreement (Contract No. 14-06-200-6072A) with Reclamation, proposes to replace the phone lines within Reclamation rights-of-way.

The Proposed Action would consist of trenching from the ASC administration building to the front gate followed by the installation of two 2-inch conduits and one 3-inch conduit (as shown in Figure 1). One conduit would be used for the installation of new phone lines; one would be used to run emergency power to the front gate using existing infrastructure only; and the third would be used as a spare for future needs.

The trench would be 24-inches wide, 36-inches deep and 1,500-feet long. The trench would be back filled with native soils. None of the materials removed from the trench would be taken off site.

The Proposed Action is expected to take approximately 2-weeks and would commence as soon as this Categorical Exclusion is approved. The primary equipment to be used would be a backhoe. Since the trench is on the north side of the road not directly adjacent to the Canal no debris from the trenching would get into the Canal.



Figure 1- Project Location Details

Environmental Commitments

CCWD would implement the following environmental commitments to avoid any environmental consequences associated with the Proposed Action. Environmental consequences for resource areas assume the measures specified will be fully implemented.

Resource	Protection Measure
Biological Resources	To prevent inadvertent entrapment of listed species and other wildlife during construction, all excavated steep-walled holes or trenches more than 1 foot deep shall be covered at the close of each working day by plywood or similar materials, <i>or</i> provided with one or more escape ramps constructed of earth fill or wooden planks. Before such trenches or holes are filled, they must be thoroughly inspected for trapped animals. If federally protected species are found in any of the holes or trenches, work shall stop and Reclamation shall be contacted immediately for further guidance. The proponent shall also contact Reclamation no more than two weeks after the project is completed to report on which animals, if any, were trapped during the project.
	All food-related trash items such as wrappers, cans, bottles, and food scraps must be disposed of in closed containers and removed at least once every day from the action area.
	A qualified biologist shall conduct pre-construction nesting bird surveys at the project site. All survey information shall be documented and submitted to Reclamation. If nesting birds are found at, or directly adjacent to a project site, work shall be postponed until the young have fledged and until the nest is no longer active, or until Reclamation biologists have determined an appropriate non-disturbance buffer.
	Before any ground-disturbing construction activities for the proposed action begin on the site, a qualified biologist shall conduct focused surveys for burrowing owls <i>in areas of suitable habitat</i> on and within 250 feet of the project construction footprint. Surveys shall be repeated if a two-day or longer lapse in project construction activities occurs. Surveys shall be conducted as detailed in the California Department of Fish and Wildlife staff report and Burrowing Owl Consortium Guidelines to avoid direct take. A letter report documenting survey methods and findings will be submitted to Reclamation at least 5 days before construction.
	If occupied burrowing owl burrows are found, Reclamation shall be notified and work on the proposed action shall not begin until a qualified biologist has established a non-disturbance buffer of 160 feet during the non-breeding season (September 1 through January 31) or 250 feet during the breeding season (February 1 through August 31). The biologist shall remain on-site during construction to monitor the burrow, and may stop construction at any time to avoid impacts to the owls. The buffer shall remain in place until the biologist determines the nest is no longer active.
	If a burrowing owl is observed at the construction site at any time during construction, a temporary non-disturbance buffer of approximately 160 feet shall be observed to establish a safe area for the animal until it leaves the construction area at its own volition.

Exclusion Category

516 DM 6 Appendix 9.4.D.1. Minor construction activities associated with authorized projects which correct unsatisfactory environmental conditions or which merely augment or supplement, or are enclosed within existing facilities.

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 | <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 | No | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain | <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> |

(43 CFR 46.215 (i)).

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|--|----|-------------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------|-----|--------------------------|
| 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"/> |

Regional Archeologist concurred with Item 8. Their determination has been placed within the project file.

Area Office Biologist concurred with Item 9. Their determination has been placed within the project file.

ITA Designee concurred with Item 11. Their determination has been placed within the project file.

Attachment A Cultural Resources Determination

CULTURAL RESOURCE COMPLIANCE Mid-Pacific Region Division of Environmental Affairs Cultural Resources Branch

MP-153 Tracking Number: 14-SCAO-055

Project Name: Antioch Service Center Utility Trench

NEPA Document: CEC 13-074

NEPA Contact: Chuck Siek, Natural Resource Specialist

MP 153 Cultural Resources Reviewer: Mark Carper, Archaeologist

Date: January 31, 2014

This proposed undertaking by Reclamation to authorize the Contra Costa Water District's (CCWD) proposal to excavate a trench and install two 2-inch and one 3-inch conduits between Milepost (MP) 6.7 and MP 7.1 of the Contra Costa Canal. 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 project is located in Contra Costa County, California and is on Reclamation lands. The project is linear and will extend a distance of approximately 1,500 feet from the facility's front gate to the service center. The route will run parallel to the Contra Costa Canal adjacent to, and on the opposite side of, the bermed access road. The proposed trench will be 24-inches wide and 36-inches deep but will be situated within fill and/or highly disturbed soils. The fill material is a result of the road berm and the artificial terraced landform upon which the service center is situated. The disturbed soils are due to adjacent buried utility lines, road construction, and canal construction. Project activities will not disturb intact soils.

After reviewing CEC-13-074, dated December 2013, I concur with item # 8 which states that this action would not have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places.

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.

Attachment B Indian Trust Assets Determination

Re: Request for determinations: Antioch Service Center Utility Trench

1 message

RIVERA, PATRICIA <privera@usbr.gov>

Mon, Dec 23, 2013 at 5:23 PM

To: "Siek, Charles" <csiek@usbr.gov>, Kristi Seabrook <kseabrook@usbr.gov>

Chuck,

I reviewed the proposed action to trench from the Antioch Service Center's administration building to the front gate and installing two 2-inch and one 3-inch conduits. One conduit would be used to facilitate the installation of new phone lines; one would be used to run emergency power to the front gate; and the third would be installed as a spare for future needs. The trench would be 24" wide and 36" deep and 1,500 feet in length. The trench would be back filled with native soils. None of the materials removed from the trench would be taken off site.

The project is expected to take approximately 2-weeks and would commence as soon as possible. The primary equipment to be used is a backhoe. Since the trench is on the north side of the road not directly adjacent to the Canal no debris from the trenching would get into the Canal.

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 please log into database. No other action necessary. Thanks