

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Categorical Exclusion Checklist

Robles Casitas Canal Pipeline Relocation near Mile Post 1.5

CEC-14-014

Prepared by:


Ben Lawrence
Natural Resources Specialist
South-Central California Area Office

Date: 5-15-14

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:

FOR 
Shauna McDonald *Acting Supervisory Biologist*
Wildlife Biologist
South-Central California Area Office

Date: 05/18/2014

Concurred by:


Ben Lawrence
Acting Supervisory Natural Resources Specialist
South-Central California Area Office

Date: 5-15-14

Approved by:

FOR 
Michael Jackson
Area Manager
South-Central California Area Office

Date: 5/19/14



Background

The Robles-Casitas Canal (RCC) carries water from Robles Diversion Dam to Lake Casitas. The canal is about 4.5 miles long with a capacity of 500 cubic feet per second. There are 4.5 miles of concrete canal, and 0.9 mile of 78-inch reinforced concrete pipe, called the Robles-Casitas Diversion Conduit. The open canal has a width at the top of 27 feet, sloping to a bottom width of 7 feet.

When Reclamation condemned property to construct the RCC, a property owner with land on each side of the canal reserved an easement for an irrigation pipeline underneath it. Since that time, the original pipeline washed out and could not be salvaged. The property owner has now requested a new easement for a replacement pipeline, approximately 300 feet north of the original location. The general location is shown in Figure 1.

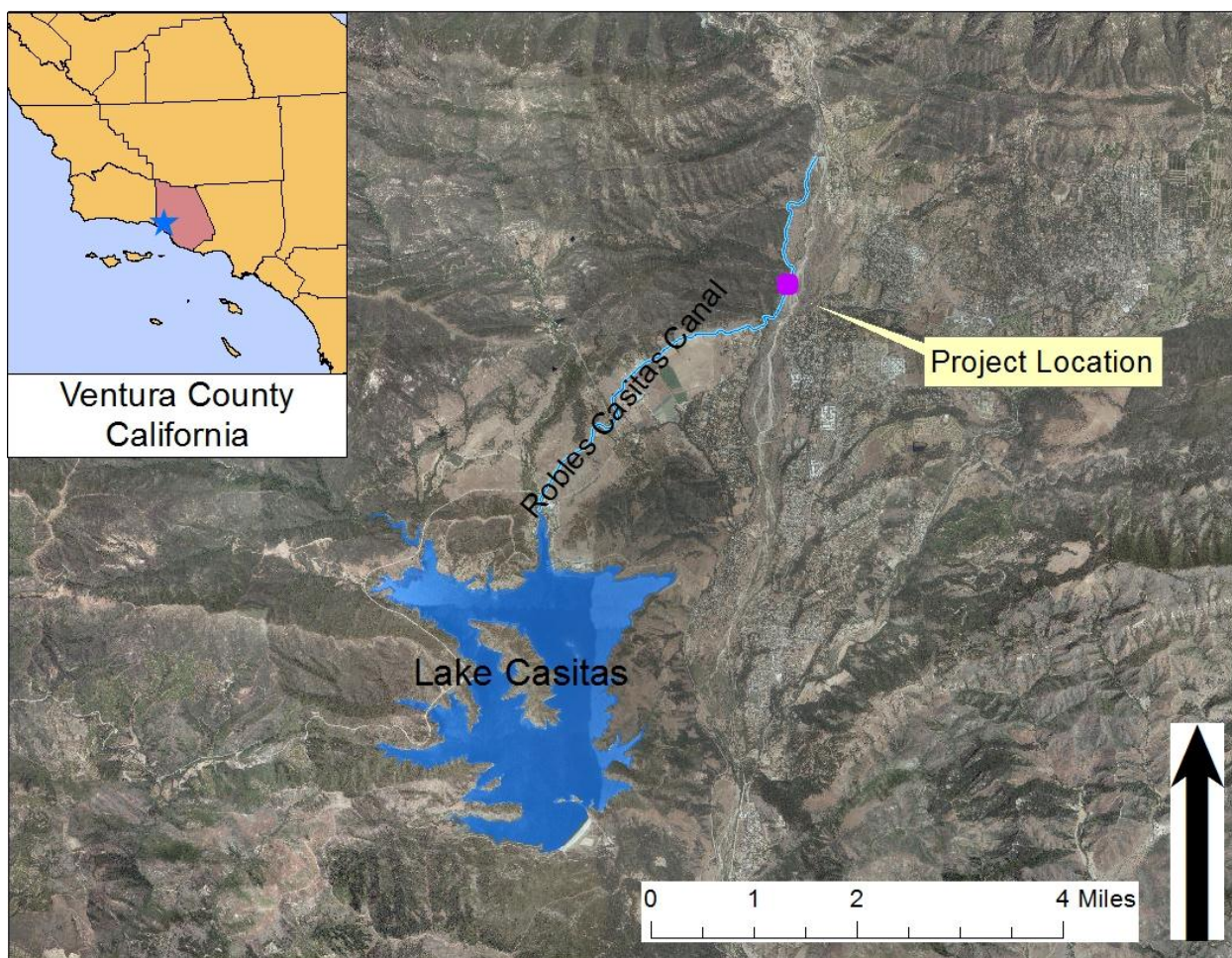


Figure 1 Project Location

Purpose and Need for Action

The property owner has a need to deliver groundwater from an existing well located on the east side of the RCC to permanent crops planted on the west side. The existing pipe has failed and needs to be replaced. Without a source of water, these permanent crops could be lost. The purpose of Reclamation's action is to provide a new easement for a replacement pipe.

Proposed Action

Reclamation proposes to issue a new easement to the affected property owner and vacate the existing easement. The new easement would be 10 feet wide, approximately 300 feet north of the current easement. The exact location is shown in Figure 2.

Following issuance of the easement, the property owner would bore a new 12-inch PVC pipe directionally from boring pits on private property on each side of the canal. The pipe would transmit water from existing wells on private property to the east, to existing crops to the west.

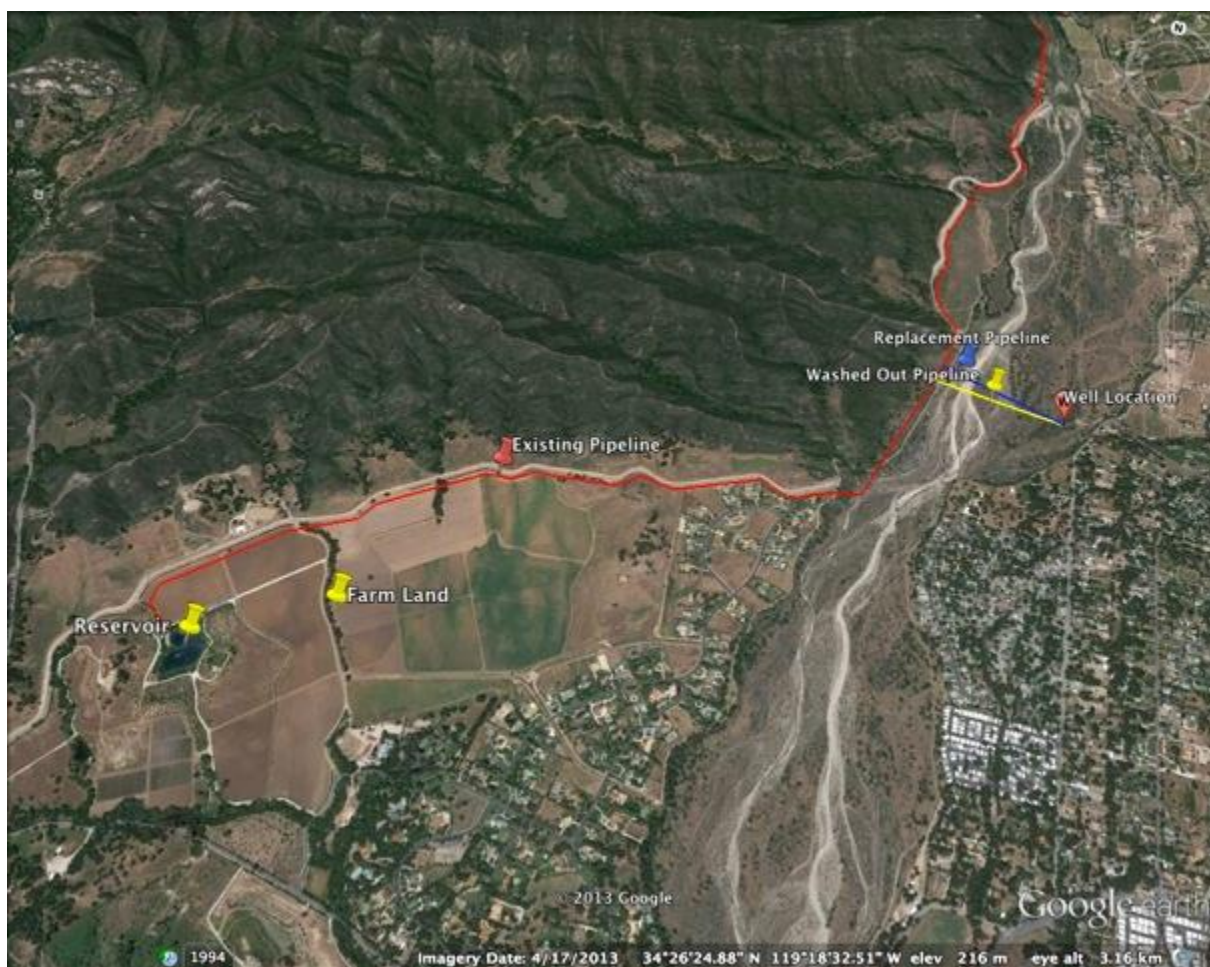


Figure 2 - Location of Proposed Crossing Relative to Well and Existing Pipeline
(Graphic provided by property owner)

Environmental Commitments

The property owner 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
Biological (Migratory Birds)	If work must occur between March 1 and August 15, a qualified biologist shall conduct surveys for nesting birds. If listed bird species are found, a 500 foot buffer shall be established around the nest area.

Exclusion Category

516 DM 14.5 paragraph 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.*

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"/> |

- | | 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)). | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <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)). | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 11. This action would affect ITAs (512 DM 2, Policy Memorandum dated December 15, 1993). | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <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)). | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <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)). | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <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)). | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Attachment A Cultural Resources Determination

CULTURAL RESOURCE COMPLIANCE

Reclamation Division of Environmental Affairs

MP-153

MP-153 Tracking Number: 14-SCAO-113

Project Name: Robles Casitas Canal Pipeline Relocation MP 1.5 Rancho Matilija

NEPA Document: CEC-14-014

NEPA Contact: Ben Lawrence, Natural Resource Specialist

MP 153 Cultural Resources Reviewer: William Soule, Archaeologist

Date: 03/04/2014

The undertaking by Reclamation is to approve an easement for the construction of a replacement irrigation water pipeline across the Robles Casitas Canal (RCC). 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).

When Reclamation condemned property to construct the RCC, the proponent reserved an easement for an irrigation pipeline across the RCC. The original pipeline washed out and can't be salvaged, so the proponent has asked for the original easement to be abandoned and a new one executed. The new easement would be approximately 300' north of the existing location. 12-inch PVC pipe would be bored directionally from boring pits on private property on each side of the canal. The pipe would transmit water from existing wells on private property to the east, to existing crops to the west.

After reviewing the materials submitted by SCAO, I concur with item 8 in CEC-14-014 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 B Indian Trust Assets Determination



Lawrence, Benjamin <blawrence@usbr.gov>

Request for Determinations, SCCAO CEC 14-014 Robles Casitas Canal Crossing Relocation

RIVERA, PATRICIA <privera@usbr.gov>

Tue, Mar 4, 2014 at 4:27 PM

To: "Lawrence, Benjamin" <blawrence@usbr.gov>

Ben,

I reviewed the proposed action as described below:

When Reclamation condemned property to construct the Robles Casitas Canal (RCC), the proponent reserved an easement for an irrigation pipeline across the RCC. The original pipeline washed out and can't be salvaged, so the proponent has asked for the original easement to be abandoned and a new one executed. The new easement would be 10', approximately 300' north of the existing location. 12 inch PVC pipe would be bored directionally from boring pits on private property on each side of the canal. The pipe would transmit water from existing wells on private property to the east, to existing crops to the west. Crops are in jeopardy if the action is not executed quickly.

The proposed action does not have a potential to affect Indian Trust Assets. The nearest ITA is the Tule River Reservation, some 109 miles north of the project site.

Patricia Rivera
Native American Affairs Program Manager
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