

# RECLAMATION

## *Managing Water in the West*

### Categorical Exclusion Checklist

## Contra Costa Water District Installation of a Dewatering Well at Rose Avenue

CEC-14-038

Prepared by:

*R. Emerson*  
Rain L. Emerson  
Supervisory Natural Resources Specialist  
South-Central California Area Office

Date: 07/28/2014

Concurred by:

See Attachment A  
Archaeologist/Architectural Historian  
Mid-Pacific Regional Office

Date: See Attachment A

Concurred by:

See Attachment B  
Native American Affairs Specialist  
Mid-Pacific Regional Office

Date: See Attachment B

Concurred by:

*For* *Shauna McDonald*  
Shauna McDonald  
Wildlife Biologist  
South-Central California Area Office

Date: 7/28/2014

Approved by:

*For* *Rena Balleu*  
Michael Jackson  
Area Manager  
South-Central California Area Office

Date: 7/28/2014





# Background

The Contra Costa Canal (Canal) was constructed by the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) between 1937 and 1948. The Canal originates at Rock Slough, 4 miles southeast of Oakley, California, where it intercepts natural flow from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Contra Costa Water District (CCWD) pursuant to an operating agreement (Contract No. 14-06-200-6072A) operates and maintains (O&Ms) the Canal on behalf of Reclamation.

A resident adjacent to the Canal, between Rose and Cypress Avenues in the City of Oakley, has complained that the Canal is leaking resulting in raised groundwater elevations and property damage. As a result, CCWD conducted an investigation and determined that installation of a dewatering well could mitigate any water leaking from the Canal to adjacent property until a longer term solution (underground encasement and/or replacement in kind) can be implemented.

The location of the proposed project is shown at approximate milepost (MP) 4.4 of the Canal in Figure 1.

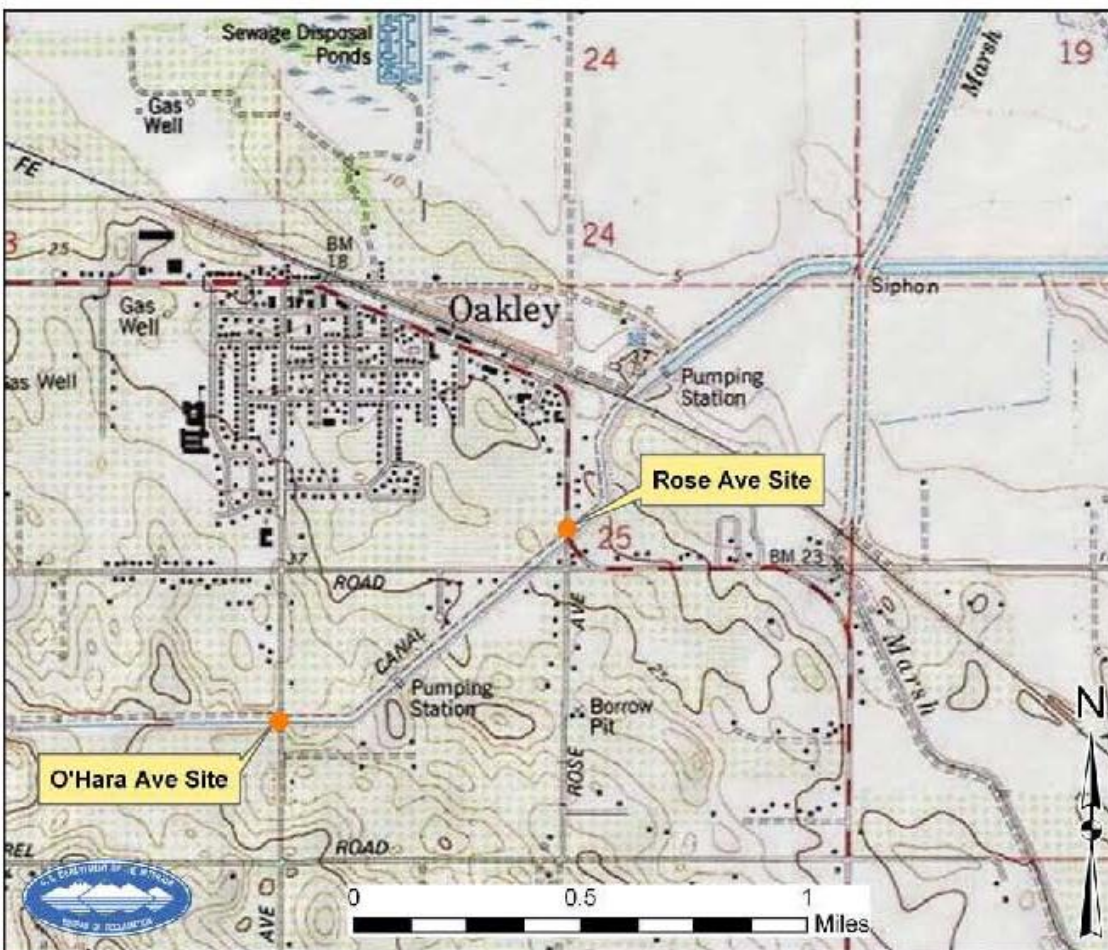


Figure 1 Proposed Action Area

## **Purpose and Need for Action**

A dewatering well is needed to provide a means to mitigate the effects of leakage from the Canal until Canal encasement at the location of the leak can be completed.

## **Proposed Action**

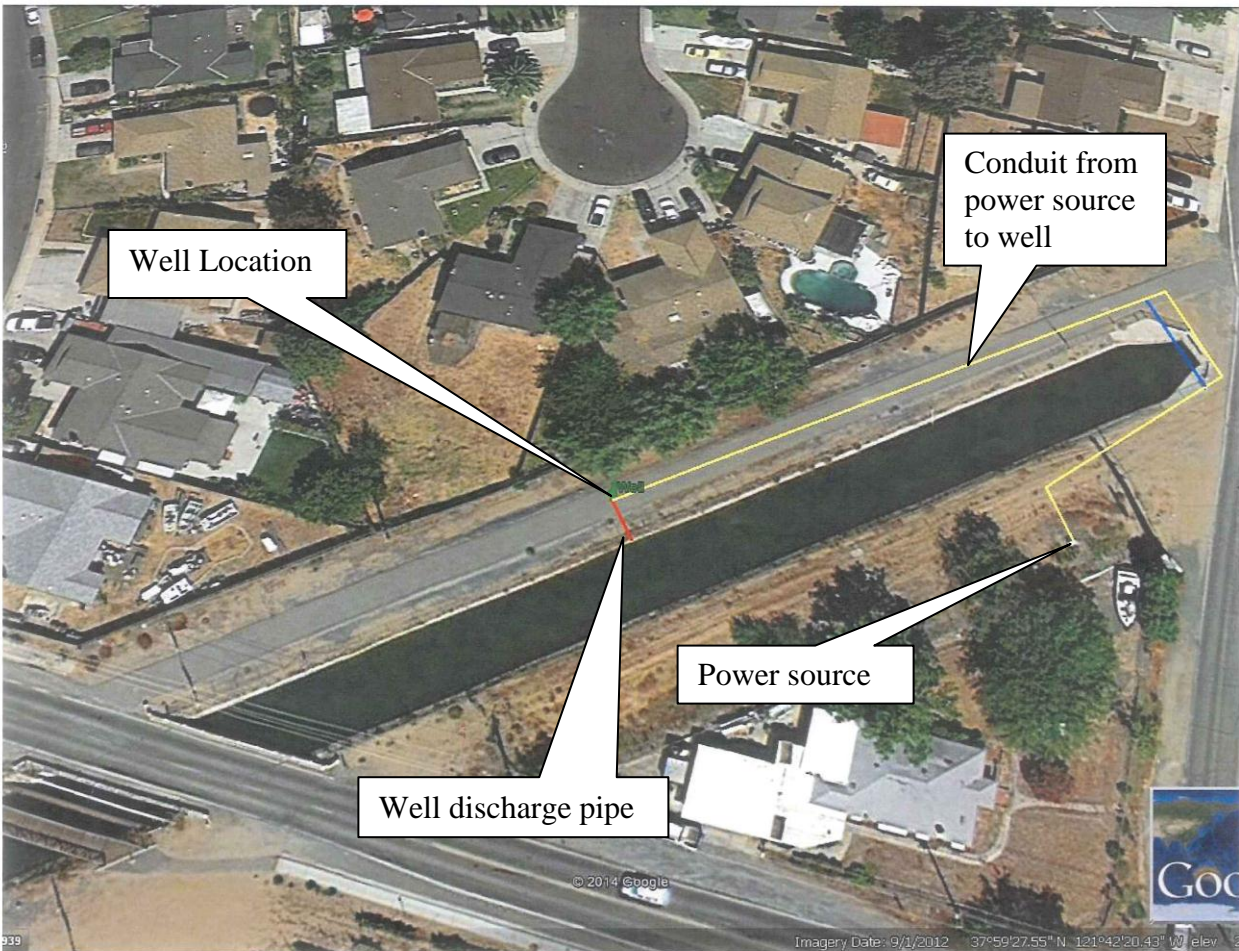
Reclamation proposes to authorize CCWD, pursuant to their operating agreement, to install a dewatering well, pump and discharge pipe within Reclamation rights-of-way (ROW) at approximately MP 4.4 of the Canal. The dewatering well would remain in place for approximately 5 years or until a long term solution could be implemented to repair the Canal section between Rose and Cypress Avenues. Any long-term solution would require additional environmental review and approval prior to implementation.

The dewatering well and discharge pipe would be constructed on the Canal berm which is above grade within a previously disturbed location. An 8-inch diameter well bore would be constructed to a depth of 25 feet for installation of the well. Outside dimensions of the bore would be 18-inches. A 2-foot square concrete pad would be installed around the well.

The discharge piping would require trenching 12 to 24 inches wide by 24 to 36 inches deep. In addition, 2-inch electrical conduit would be placed in a 3-foot deep by 6 to 12 inch wide trench for approximately 800 feet in order to connect a 5-horsepower pump to the existing power source located near the Rose Avenue siphon. See Figure 2 for trenching locations.

Construction, vehicle parking and equipment laydown would take place via the Canal access road as shown in Figure 2. Duration of construction is expected to last approximately 1 week. Construction equipment would include a small drilling rig, flatbed truck and a small front loader. Approximately 2.5 cubic yards of excavated material would be spread along the unimproved Canal ROW.





**Figure 2 Project Details**

## Environmental Commitments

CCWD would implement the following avoidance measures to protect migratory birds and other wildlife.

1. A pre-construction survey for western burrowing owls and other raptors such as Swainson's hawks and white-tailed kites would be completed prior to the start of the project.
2. Any burrows used by western burrowing owls need to be avoided so as to prevent injuring or killing an owl. The California Department of Fish and Game<sup>1</sup> Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation (CDFG 2012) would be consulted for applicable measures when owls are found to be present.

<sup>1</sup> Now the California Department of Fish and Wildlife

3. If other raptors are found to be nesting in the trees within the Action area, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife would be consulted for measures needed to prevent any nest abandonment.
4. If the survey efforts determine that migratory bird avoidance is necessary, a biologist shall provide environmental awareness training to all workers on these species and the need to protect them. The biologist would also periodically check the work site to insure that migratory birds are being properly avoided.
5. Pipes, and culverts greater than four inches in diameter, would be covered or otherwise stored so as to prevent wildlife from taking refuge if possible. If this is not possible, a biologist would need to be consulted to develop an alternative. An inspection would occur prior to moving the materials. Given the possibility of burrowing owls in the project area, pipes would need to be capped at the end of each day to prevent owls from entering.
6. To prevent inadvertent entrapment of listed species or other wildlife during the construction phase of the project, all excavated, steep-walled holes or trenches more than 2-feet deep should be covered at the close of each working day by plywood or similar materials. If the trenches cannot be closed, one or more escape ramps constructed of earthen-fill or wooden planks shall be installed. Before such holes or trenches are filled, they should be thoroughly inspected for trapped animals.
7. All food scraps, wrappers, food containers, cans, bottles and other trash from the work area must be disposed in closed trash containers. Trash must be removed completely from the work area at the end of each working day.

Environmental consequences assume the measures specified will be fully implemented.

## **Exclusion Category**

516 DM 14.5 paragraph D (1): *Maintenance, rehabilitation, and replacement of existing facilities which may involve a minor change in size, location, and /or operation.*

## 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<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain<br><input type="checkbox"/> | Yes<br><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<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain<br><input type="checkbox"/> | Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. This action would have significant impacts on public health or safety (43 CFR 46.215(a)).  | No<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain<br><input type="checkbox"/> | Yes<br><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<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain<br><input type="checkbox"/> | Yes<br><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<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain<br><input type="checkbox"/> | Yes<br><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<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain<br><input type="checkbox"/> | Yes<br><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<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain<br><input type="checkbox"/> | Yes<br><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<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain<br><input type="checkbox"/> | Yes<br><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<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain<br><input type="checkbox"/> | Yes<br><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<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain<br><input type="checkbox"/> | Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> |
| 11. This action would affect ITAs (512 DM 2, Policy Memorandum dated December 15, 1993).   | No<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain<br><input type="checkbox"/> | Yes<br><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<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain<br><input type="checkbox"/> | Yes<br><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<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain<br><input type="checkbox"/> | Yes<br><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<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain<br><input type="checkbox"/> | Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> |



## **Attachment A**

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### Reclamation's Cultural Resources Determination

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

**MP-153 Tracking Number:** 14-SCAO-200

**Project Name:** Installation of a Dewatering Well at Rose Avenue, Contra Costa County, California

**NEPA Document:** CEC-14-038

**Project Manager/NEPA Contact:** Rain L. Emerson

**MP 153 Cultural Resources Reviewer:** Mark Carper

**Date:** 7/28/2014

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This proposed undertaking by Reclamation is to authorize the Contra Costa Water District (CCWD) to install a dewatering well within the Contra Costa Canal's right of way in the vicinity of Rose Avenue in contra Costa County. Currently, water seepage is affected homes in the vicinity. The proposed project would be conducted on Federal land owned by Reclamation, which constitutes an undertaking as defined in Section 301(7) of the NHPA (16 U.S.C. 470), as amended, requiring compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA.

Specifically, the project will include an 8-inch diameter bore constructed to a depth of 25 feet for installation of the well. The discharge piping would require trenching 12- to 24-inches wide by 24- to 36-inches deep for a placement of a 12-inch discharge pipe. In addition, a 2-inch electrical conduit would be placed in a 3-foot deep by 6- to 12-inch wide trench for approximately 800 feet to connect a 5-horsepower pump to the existing power source located near the Rose Avenue siphon. All activities will be conducted in areas previously disturbed by construction of the canal and its access road.

Reclamation has determined the area of potential effects (APE) to include all project components: well, discharge pipe, and power conduit. A 3-foot buffer was added to all construction elements. The only ground disturbing activity that extends out of the canal's built environment is the well bore. At its location the bore will go below the bottom of the berm by approximately 10 feet. The APE is located in Section 25, T. 2 N., R. 2 E., Mount Diablo Meridian, as depicted on the Brentwood 7.5' U.S. Geological Survey topographic quadrangle map. The vertical APE extends to a maximum depth of 25 feet for the well, 2 feet for the discharge pipe, and 3 feet for the power conduit trench. The total APE area is less than 0.02 acres.

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

Reclamation initiated consultation with the California State Preservation Office (SHPO) by letter on July 18, 2014 seeking their concurrence with our finding of no adverse for the proposed project pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.5. Reclamation identified the Ione Band of Miwok Indians as having interests in the project area. Pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.4(a)(4), Reclamation contacted the tribe inviting their participation in the Section 106 process. Reclamation received a letter concurring with our determination from SHPO on July 25, 2014.

Reclamation has concluded the NHPA Section 106 process for this undertaking. This memo serves as concurrence with item #8 on CEC-14-038 that the proposed action will have no significant impacts on historic properties. If project activities change or circumstances are altered after the date of this memo, additional NHPA Section 106 consultations or other cultural resources compliance review may be required.

**OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION**

1725 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, Suite 100  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95816-7100  
(916) 445-7000 Fax: (916) 445-7053  
calshpo@parks.ca.gov  
www.ohp.parks.ca.gov



July 25, 2014

Reply in Reference To: BUR\_2014\_0722\_001

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

RE: Installation of a Dewatering Well at Rose Avenue, Contra Costa County, California;  
(14-SCAO-200)

Dear Ms. Leigh:

Thank you for seeking my consultation regarding the above noted undertaking. Pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800 (as amended 8-05-04) regulations implementing Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) is seeking my comments regarding the effects that the above named project will have on historic properties.

Water seepage from the Contra Costa Canal (canal) is affecting homes in the immediate vicinity of Rose Avenue. In response, the Contra Costa Water District (CCWD) proposes to construct a dewatering well within the canal's right-of-way and install a discharge pipe through its berm to temporarily capture and return water leaked from the canal. This will involve drilling an 8-inch diameter bore hole to a depth of 25 feet for installation of the well. The discharge piping would require trenching 12- to 24-inches wide by 24- to 36-inches deep for a placement of a 12-inch discharge pipe. In addition, a 2-inch electrical conduit would be placed in a 3-foot deep by 6- to 12-inch wide trench for approximately 800 feet to connect a pump to the existing power source located near the Rose Avenue siphon. All activities will be conducted in areas previously disturbed by construction of the canal and its access road.

For delineation of the Area of Potential Effects (APE), a three-foot buffer was added to all construction elements described above. The vertical APE for trenching will range from 24 inches to three feet in depth. The well will extend to approximately 25 feet in depth.

Your letter report dated July 18, 2014 states Reclamation conducted a records search at the Northwest Information Center. The only cultural resource identified within the APE was the Contra Costa Canal itself (P-07-002648). No other resource is documented within 0.25 miles of the APE. As the lateral extent of the project APE is completely contained by the canal's built environment, Reclamation determined that no in-field survey was necessary.

Reclamation identified the Ione Band of Miwok Indians as having interests in the project area. Pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.4(a)(4), Reclamation contacted the tribe inviting their participation in

the Section 106 process. No sites of religious or cultural significance were identified through consultation efforts.

In 2005, the Contra Costa Canal was found eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) as a contributing feature to the Central Valley Project (CVP); under Criterion A. The canal contributes to the historic development of the CVP as the first operational component and to the economic development of eastern Contra Costa County. Reclamation applied the criteria of adverse effects of the proposed canal project and determined the proposed construction activities would be minimal and will not alter those characteristics that make the Contra Costa Canal eligible for the NRHP. Such modifications, specifically the well and discharge pipe, are consistent with the themes from which the canal's significance is derived and consistent with the use of the canal. Pursuant to 36 CFR §800.5(b) Reclamation has determined a *Finding of No Adverse Effect* to historical properties by the proposed project.

Based on your identification efforts, I concur with the *Finding of No Adverse Effect*. Identification efforts are sufficient and I also have no objections to the delineation of the APE, as depicted in the supporting documentation.

Thank you for considering effects to historic properties in your project planning. Be advised that under certain circumstances, such as unanticipated discovery or a change in project description, Reclamation may have additional future responsibilities for this undertaking under 36 CFR Part 800. Thank you for seeking my comments and considering historic properties as part of your project planning. If you have any questions or concerns regarding archaeological resources, please contact Associate State Archaeologist, Kim Tanksley at (916) 445-7035 or by email at [kim.tanksley@parks.ca.gov](mailto:kim.tanksley@parks.ca.gov). Any questions concerning the built environment should be directed to State Historian, Kathleen Forrest at (916)445-7022 or by email at [kathleen.forest@parks.ca.gov](mailto:kathleen.forest@parks.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Carol Roland-Nawi, Ph.D." in a cursive script.

Carol Roland-Nawi, PhD  
State Historic Preservation Officer

## **Attachment B**

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### Reclamation's Indian Trust Assets Determination





Emerson, Rain &lt;remerson@usbr.gov&gt;

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**Re: CEC-14-038 for Review**

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**RIVERA, PATRICIA** <privera@usbr.gov>

Tue, May 27, 2014 at 8:30 AM

To: "Emerson, Rain" &lt;remerson@usbr.gov&gt;

Cc: Kristi Seabrook &lt;kseabrook@usbr.gov&gt;, "Williams, Mary D (Diane)" &lt;marywilliams@usbr.gov&gt;

Rain,

I reviewed the proposed action proposes to authorize Contra Costa Water District (CCWD), pursuant to their operating agreement (Contract No. 14-06-200-6072A), to install a dewatering well, pump and discharge pipe within Reclamation rights-of-way at approximately milepost 4.4 of the Contra Costa Canal. The dewatering well would remain in place for approximately 5 years or until a long term solution could be implemented to repair the Canal section between Rose and Cypress Avenues. Any long-term solution would require additional environmental review and approval prior to implementation.

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