RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Categorical Exclusion Checklist

Hilton Creek Emergency Backup Water Supply System

CEC-14-040

Prepared by: _____ Date: 08/11/2014
Rain L. Emerson
Supervisory Natural Resources Specialist
South-Central California Area Office

Concurred by: See Attachment A Date: See Attachment A
Archaeologist
Mid-Pacific Regional Office

Concurred by: See Attachment B Date: See Attachment B
Native American Affairs Specialist
Mid-Pacific Regional Office

Concurred by: _____ Date: 8/6/2014
Ned Gruenhagen
Acting Supervisory Wildlife Biologist
South-Central California Area Office

Approved by: _____ Date: 8/11/2014
Michael Jackson
Area Manager
South-Central California Area Office

Background

Hilton Creek is an ephemeral creek that joins the Santa Ynez River approximately 1,000 feet downstream from the bottom of the Bradbury Dam spillway structure. In 1997, the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) agreed to permanently supply water to Hilton Creek via a water line from Lake Cachuma as mitigation for impacts to the Santa Ynez River occasioned by the construction of a seismic upgrade to Bradbury Dam. Since 2000, operation of this water supply system has been subject to a Biological Opinion issued by the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) for affects to a population of steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*) listed under the Endangered Species Act. Mechanical (non-electrical) elements of the current Hilton Creek watering system (HCWS) are shown in Figure 1. Figure 1 identifies the following features of the existing Hilton Creek watering system: Intake, pumps, and piping connecting to the Chute Release Point (CRP), Lower Release Point (LRP), Lower Bifurcation (LB), Upper Bifurcation (UB), and Upper Release Points (URP).

Figure 1 Hilton Creek's Current Water Supply System

Between March 1, 2013 and May 25, 2014, several incidents related to operational, mechanical, or to electrical problems with the commercial power source have led to the reduction or cessation of flows in Hilton Creek. Four incidents occurred in March 2014, alone, three of which resulted in *O. mykiss* mortality. Following the latest incident on May 25th, continuous flow from the HCWS was deemed restored on June 12, 2014.

Purpose and Need for Action

An emergency backup water supply system is needed to provide necessary flows in the event the existing HCWS fails.

Proposed Action

Reclamation, and/or its designee, proposes to install, operate, and maintain an Emergency Backup Water Supply System (Backup System) for the HCWS (Figure 2). The Backup System will connect the 10-inch outlet works located in the River Outlet Works at Bradbury Dam to the existing CRP flow meter vault. From the existing CRP flow meter vault the water would be distributed using existing piping among the URP, LRP, and CRP. Construction of a pipeline and the footprint from two pumps and a fuel tank will occur in the area of flat earthen roadway adjacent to the River Outlet House and the stability berm. The systems operation will distribute water such that it would benefit listed *O. mykiss* and/or their designated critical habitat.

The Backup System consists of at least one primary pump and one auxiliary pump of the same capacity (e.g. Rain for Rent DV -200 or equivalent). The auxiliary pump will automatically start and run if the primary backup pump fails. The pumps will be powered by diesel engines. Fuel storage with spill containment will be provided to enable the Backup System to operate a minimum of 100 hours between fuel deliveries. The system would be available to operate 24 hours a day, 7 days per week, and will start automatically upon failure of the existing pumps, or it can be run manually on an as-required basis. Capable of delivering up to 4 cubic feet per second (cfs), the Backup System will provide a minimum of 2 cfs to Hilton Creek (until conditions become Critical Drought Year Operations, as described in the biological opinion).

From the River Outlet House to the Backup Pump Station a portion of the approximately 50 feet of pipeline will be buried in a trench 24-inches wide by 42-inches deep (Figure 3). Once the pipeline is in place the trenched areas will be resurfaced to match preexisting conditions. The 8-inch diameter HDPE pipeline will be floated across the stilling basin. Aboveground supports and anchors will be installed to safely secure the section of pipeline that crosses the stilling basin. Anchors would consist of deadweights such as precast concrete Caltrans K-rails and no ground disturbance would be required. Shore anchors and piping connections for the floating pipe will be flanged in order to allow rapid disconnection.

The Backup System is expected to require routine maintenance so that the pumps remain operable. On-site maintenance would include commonly practiced actions required to maintain diesel pumps. Activities such as changing lubricants and filters and supplying fuel will be conducted with secondary containment in place and spill prevention being practiced. If maintenance requires a pump to be moved temporarily off site, the remaining pump would remain for use should disrupted flows from the HCWS be detected.

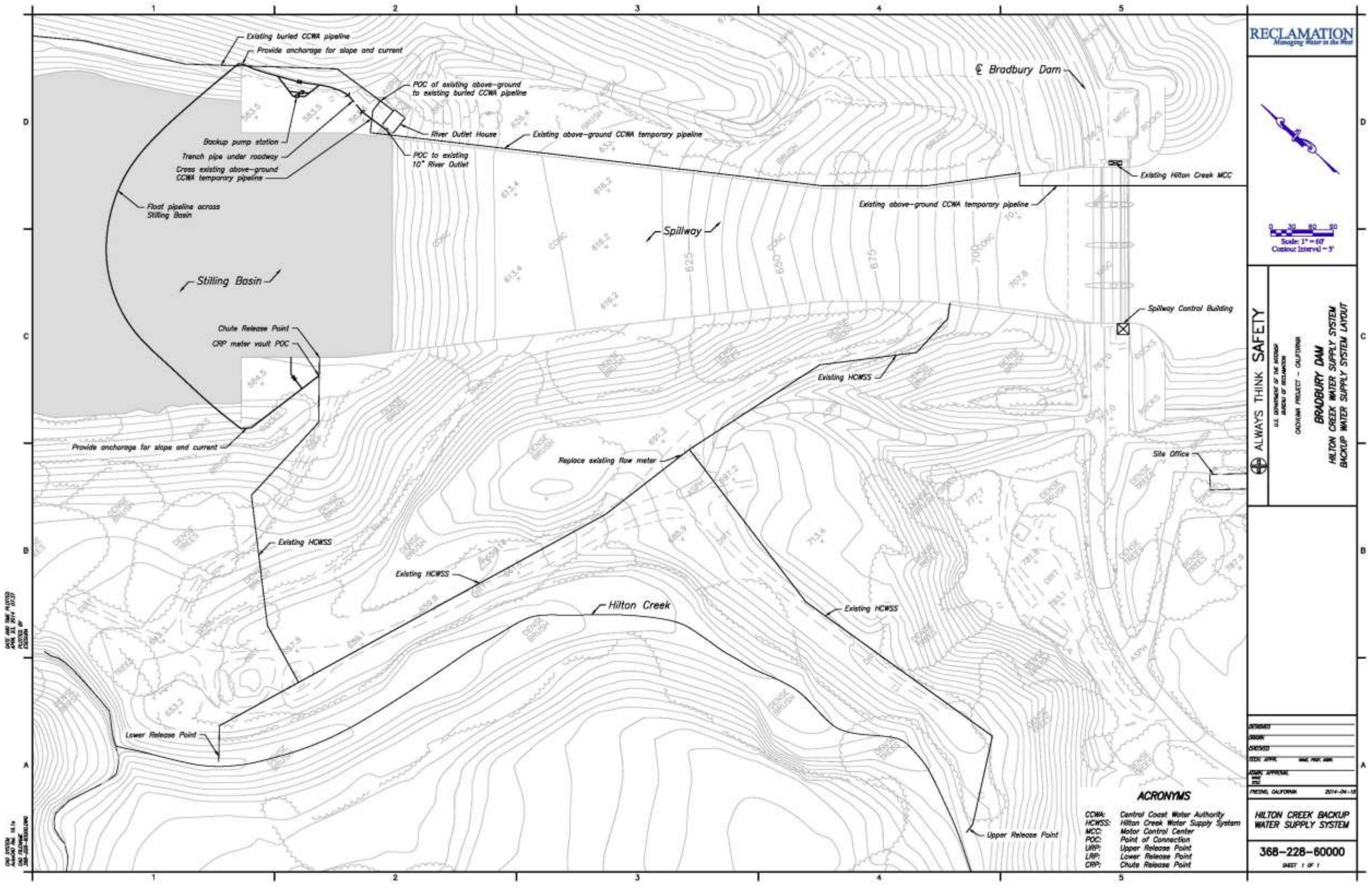

Figure 2 Project Details

Figure 3 Pipeline Trenching Details

Environmental Commitments

Reclamation, or its designate, will implement the following environmental commitments to avoid any environmental consequences associated with the Proposed Action (Table 1). Environmental consequences assume the measures specified will be fully implemented.

Table 1 Environmental Commitments

Protection Measure
All construction equipment will be cleaned to remove dirt, vegetation, and other organic material to prevent introduction of noxious weeds, and invasive plant and animal species before being brought on site. Cleaning procedures shall result in equipment being cleaned as well or better than the procedures described in the Reclamation Cleaning Manual "Inspection and Cleaning Manual for Equipment and Vehicles to Prevent the Spread of Invasive Species" (Technical memorandum No. 86-68220-07-05), 2012 Edition, available online at: http://www.usbr.gov/mussels/prevention.
Secondary containment will be provided for all diesel powered pumps, fuel tanks, and fuel lines. The secondary containment system shall be manufactured for use with diesel fuel and meet all regulatory requirements.

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

		No	Uncertain	Yes
1.	This action would have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment (40 CFR 1502.3).	☑	☐	☐
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)).	☑	☐	☐
3.	This action would have significant impacts on public health or safety (43 CFR 46.215(a)).	☑	☐	☐
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)).	☑	☐	☐
5.	This action would have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks (43 CFR 46.215(d)).	☑	☐	☐
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)).	☑	☐	☐
7.	This action would have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects (43 CFR 46.215 (f)).	☑	☐	☐
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	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)).	☑	☐	☐
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)).	☑	☐	☐
11. This action would affect ITAs (512 DM 2, Policy Memorandum dated December 15, 1993).	☑	☐	☐
12. This action would have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (EO 12898) (43 CFR 46.215 (j)).	☑	☐	☐
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)).	☑	☐	☐
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)).	☑	☐	☐

Attachment A

Reclamation's Cultural Resources Determination

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

MP-153 Tracking Number: 14-SCAO-223

Project Name: Drought-Related Hilton Creek Emergency Backup Water Supply System, Santa Barbara County, California

NEPA Document: CEC-14-040

Project Manager/NEPA Contact: Rain L. Emerson

MP 153 Cultural Resources Reviewer: Mark Carper

Date: 7/18/2014

This proposed undertaking by Reclamation is to install, operate, and maintain an emergency backup system for the Hilton Creek Watering System in Santa Barbara County, California. Reclamation would conduct the project on Federal land and modify Federal property, 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.

The proposed project will install, operate, and maintain an emergency backup system for the Hilton Creek Water Supply System. The system will be connected to the Bradbury Dam River Outlet Works and the chute release point (CRP). The backup system will be capable of delivering a minimum of 4 cubic feet per second (cfs) of water from the existing 10-inch gate valve at the river outlet works into the existing CRP flow meter vault, and from there water can be distributed using existing piping. The system would be available to operate 24-hours-a-day, 7-days-per-week, and will start automatically upon failure of the existing pumps, or it can be run manually on an as-required basis.

Specific project components include the following (Figure 2 enclosed):

- the installation of a backup pump station between the River Outlet House service road and the Stilling Basin
- connection to the existing10-inch river outlet works and the CRP metering vault
- trenching across the existing service road for installation of pipeline between the River Outlet House and the Backup Pump Station
- placement of floating 8-inch diameter HDPE pipe across the Stilling Basin connecting the Backup Pump Station and the CRP
- replacement of an existing propeller meter with a meter capable of measuring full, partial and reverse flows

- and the connection to an existing SCADA system

Bradbury Dam is the only cultural resource in the area of potential effects. The Bradbury Dam was evaluated and determined ineligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) in 2010 with SHPO consensus.

Reclamation initiated consultation with the California State Preservation Office (SHPO) by letter on July 9, 2014. All proposed activities will be conducted entirely within the constraints of the dam's built environment; therefore, there is little potential to encounter sites of religious and cultural significance pursuant to the regulations at 36 CFR § 800.3(f)(2) and 36 CFR § 800.4(a)(4). Reclamation did not consult with federally recognized Indian tribes for this undertaking. Reclamation received a letter concurring with our determination from SHPO on July 18, 2014.

Reclamation has concluded the NHPA Section 106 process for this undertaking. This memo serves as concurrence with item #8 on CEC-14-040 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 23rd Street, Suite 100
SACRAMENTO, CA 95816-7100
(916) 445-7000 Fax: (916) 445-7053
calshpo@parks.ca.gov
www.ohp.parks.ca.gov

July 17, 2014 Reply in Reference To: BUR_2014_0714_002

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

RE: Proposed Drought-related Hilton Creek Emergency Backup Water Supply System ; Santa Barbara County, California; (14-SCAO-223).

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), Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) is seeking my comments regarding the delineation of the Area of Potential Effects (APE) and a *Finding of No Historic Properties Effected* for the above listed project.

Reclamation proposes to install and maintain an emergency backup system for the Hilton Creek Watering System. The ephemeral Hilton Creek joins the Santa Ynez River approximately 1,000 downstream from the bottom of the Bradbury Dam spillway. The proposed backup system will be connected to the Bradbury Dam River Outlet Works and the chute release point (CRP) from the existing 10-inch gate valve at the river outlet works into the existing CRP flow meter vault so that water can be distributed through existing pipelines. The system is designed to start automatically upon failure of existing pumps or run manually when required. To do this a backup pump station will be installed between the River Outlet House service road and the Stilling Basin requiring a trench across the existing service road for installation of a water pipeline; placement of a floating eight inch diameter HDPE pipe across the Stilling Basin; replacement of an existing propeller meter; and connection to an existing SCADA system.

The APE is a fifty foot long, five foot wide area in which a two foot wide, 3 ½ foot deep trench across the dam road will be excavated to install the buried pipeline. The APE also includes the all the above mentioned project components.

Your letter received July 14, 2014 states that because the APE lies entirely within the Bradbury Dam no pedestrian survey or Native American consultation was conducted. The only cultural resource within the APE is the Bradbury Dam itself which was determined ineligible to the National Register of Historic Places by consensus on September 21, 2010.

Pursuant to 36 CFR §800.5(b), Reclamation has determined a *Finding of No Historic Properties Effected*. Based on the documentation provided, I concur with Reclamation's finding of *Finding*

of No Historic Properties Effected. 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. 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.

Sincerely,

Carol Roland-Nawi, PhD
State Historic Preservation Officer

Attachment B

Reclamation's Indian Trust Assets Determination

Emerson, Rain <remerson@usbr.gov>

Re: CEC-14-040 Hilton Creek Emergency Backup System

RIVERA, PATRICIA <privera@usbr.gov> Wed, Jul 9, 2014 at 5:25 AM
To: Rain Emerson <remerson@usbr.gov>

Rain,

I reviewed the proposed action where either Reclamation, and/or its designate, will install, operate, and maintain an emergency Backup System for the Hilton Creek watering system. The Backup System will be connected to the existing watering system at the River Outlet Works and the Chute Release Point (CRP). The Backup System will be capable of delivering a minimum of four cubic feet per second (cfs) of water from the existing 10 inch gate valve at the River Outlet Works to the existing CRP flow meter vault. Hours of operation will be 24 hours a day, 7 days per week, on an as-required basis. The Backup System will include at least one operational pump and one auxiliary (backup) pump of the same capacity (Rain for Rent DV-200 or equivalent). Fuel storage with spill containment will be provided to enable the Backup System to operate a minimum of 100 hours between fuel deliveries.

The proposed action does not have a potential to impact Indian Trust Assets. The nearest Indian Trust Asset is a Public Domain Allotment, approximately 5 miles southwest of the project location.

Patricia Rivera
Native American Affairs Program Manager
US Bureau of Reclamation
Mid-Pacific Region
2800 Sacramento, California 95825
(916) 978-5194