

# RECLAMATION

## *Managing Water in the West*

### Categorical Exclusion Checklist

## Contra Costa Water District Automated Screen Replacement at Milepost 25.02

CEC-14-010

Prepared by:

  
Ben Lawrence  
Natural Resources Specialist  
South-Central California Area Office

Date: 11-6-14

Concurred by:

See Attachment  
Architectural Historian  
Mid-Pacific Regional Office

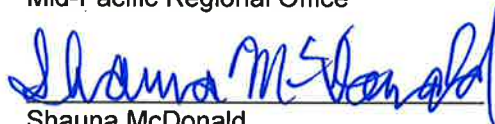
Date: See Attachment

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: 11/6/14

Concurred by:

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

Date: 11/14/2014

Approved by:

  
for Michael Jackson  
Area Manager  
South-Central California Area Office

Date: 11-14-14





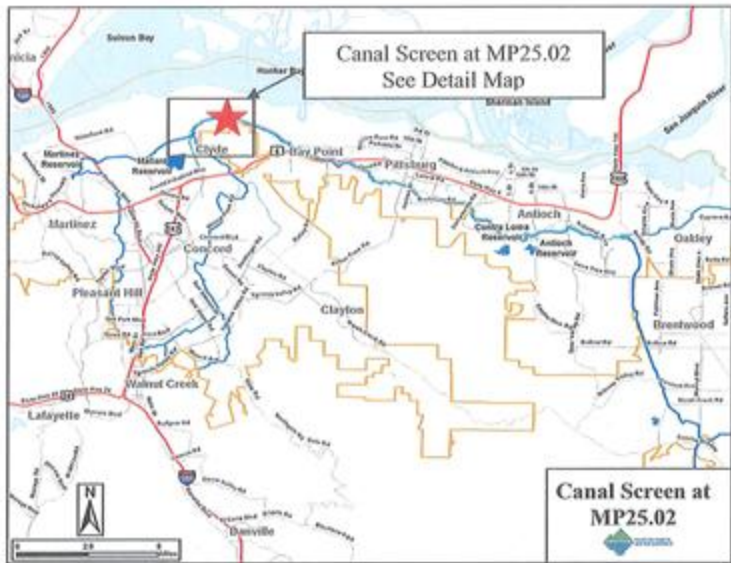
## Background

The lined portion of the Contra Costa Canal (Canal) in Contra Costa County, California, has been plagued by heavy infestations of algae (*Egeria densa* and filamentous algae) that can be very difficult to remove. Any algae that are not removed from the canal can be carried to Mallard and Martinez Reservoirs, resulting in taste and odor problems for downstream water users.

Contra Costa Water District (Contra Costa WD) treats the algae with aquatic pesticides, but this is not sufficient to eliminate the nuisance weeds. Algae continue to block bar racks in front of siphons, and must be removed using hand tools. This can be a safety hazard for maintenance personnel.

Contra Costa WD also installed a set of mechanical bar screens from an existing bridge across the Canal at milepost 25.02 (MP 25.02; see location in Figure 1). The screen set includes two sections designed to lift weeds from the Canal for removal and disposal by maintenance crews (see Figure 2). However this method is labor-intensive, and one of the sections is no longer functioning.

Contra Costa WD investigated repairing the existing bar screens, but determined that a newer system would better serve their operational needs. Contra Costa WD is now proposing to install a new automated traveling screen system at the location of the existing bar screens. Contra Costa WD needs permission from the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) before modifying the Canal.



**Detail Map**

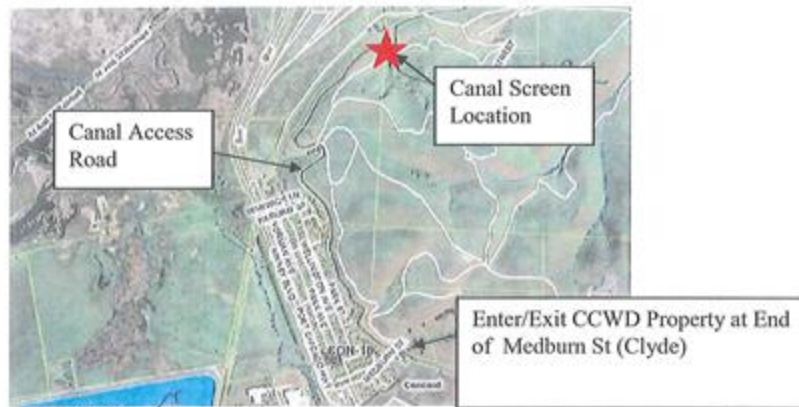


Figure 1 - Project Location (Figure by Contra Costa WD)



Figure 2 - Existing Bar Screen (Figure by Contra Costa WD)

## Proposed Action

Reclamation proposes to issue an MP-620 permit, a mid-Pacific Region permit for modification of federal facilities. This would authorize Contra Costa WD to install and operate a new traveling screen at MP 25.02 on the Canal.

The new traveling screen would be 5-feet 8-inches wide and 19-feet 6-inches long, and would be powered by a portable generator installed on the bank. The generator would also power an automatic screen pump and spray system to clean collected debris from the screen. A typical installation of this system is shown in Figure 3.



Figure 3 - Similar Equipment Installation (Figure by Contra Costa WD)

The work would take place over 3 to 5 days, during which the Canal would remain in service. The installation would proceed in the following steps:

- Workers would remove and dispose of the existing bar screen.
- Underwater divers would drill into the existing concrete walls of the Canal and install anchor bolts.
- The new conveyor screen would be put into place.
- Wiring and pipes would be installed for the conveyor screen and spray system.

During regular operations, a timer would activate the screen conveyor at a frequency determined by the expected amount of algae. This could vary from once per hour when debris loading is low to once every 20 minutes when debris loading is higher. When activated, the motor would drive the screen belt, and the automated sprayer would dislodge debris into a trough on the bridge deck. Contra Costa WD personnel would periodically collect the debris for disposal.

## Environmental Commitments

Contra Costa WD 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
Water Quality	The generator shall be placed in containment to limit the potential for impacts from fuel spills.
Biological Resources	Maximum vehicle speed in the work area shall be 20 miles per hour when off of county-maintained roads.
Biological Resources	Work shall be conducted during the daytime, when the work area is dry (no sooner than 24 hours after rain).

## 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.*



## 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    Cultural Resources Determination**

# **CULTURAL RESOURCES COMPLIANCE**

## **Division of Environmental Affairs**

### **Cultural Resources Branch (MP-153)**

**MP-153 Tracking Number:** 14-SCAO-139

**Project Name:** Contra Costa Water District (CCWD) to Replace an Existing Screen with an Automated Traveling Screen on the Contra Costa Canal (CCC) at Milepost (MP) 25.02

**NEPA Contact:** Ben Lawrence, Natural Resource Specialist

**MP 153 Cultural Resources Reviewer:** BranDee Bruce, Architectural Historian

**Date:** November 5, 2014

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Reclamation proposes to approve CCWD's replacement of an existing mechanized screen system that captures aquatic weeds and debris in the CCC with an automated, traveling screen at MP 25.02 in Contra Costa County, California. This action constitutes an undertaking with the potential to cause effects to historic properties, assuming such properties are present, requiring compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) as amended.

Based on historic properties identification efforts conducted by Reclamation, the only historic property within the area of potential effects is the Contra Costa Canal. Reclamation has previously consulted with, and received concurrence from, the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) on the eligibility of the CCC as a historic property. For this current undertaking, a finding of no adverse effect to historic properties pursuant to 36 CFR §800.5(b) was determined.

Reclamation submitted the consultation package to SHPO on September 23, 2014. SHPO responded on October 29, 2014, concurring with Reclamation's findings (see attached letter BUR\_2014\_0925\_001).

Consultation correspondence between Reclamation and the SHPO has been provided with this cultural resources compliance document for inclusion in the administrative record for this action. This document serves as notification that Section 106 compliance has been completed for this undertaking. Please note that if project activities subsequently change, additional NHPA Section 106 review, including further consultation with the SHPO, may be required.

**Attachments:**

Letter: Reclamation to SHPO dated September 23, 2014

Letter: SHPO to Reclamation dated October 29, 2014

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

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calshpo@parks.ca.gov  
www.ohp.parks.ca.gov



October 29, 2014

Reply in Reference To: BUR\_2014\_0925\_001

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

RE: Project to replace an existing screen with an Automated Traveling Screen on the Contra Costa Canal, Milepost 25.02, Contra Costa County, California; (14-SCAO-139).

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.

Reclamation proposes to replace an existing mechanized screen system in the Contra Costa Canal (CCC) with an automated traveling screen to capture aquatic weeds and debris within the canal. This project is a pilot installation to test the effectiveness of this new type of screen. This will involve the installation of the new screen which is 5-feet, 8-inches wide and 19-feet, 6-inches long, frame, new conveyor screen, debris trough and generator.

The Area of Potential Effects (APE) is confined to the existing prism of the CCC at milepost 25.2 which includes portions of the lined CCC, pedestrian bridge, staging adjacent to the bridge, existing access road and turnaround area. No improvements to existing access routes will be needed.

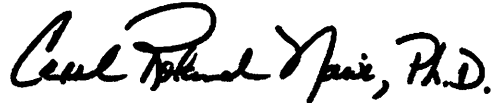
Reclamation has provided a letter report, mapping and photographs dated September 23, 2014 as evidence of your efforts to identify and evaluate historic properties in the project APE. The only cultural resource within the APE is the CCC which has been determined eligible to the NRHP by consensus. Pursuant to 36 CFR §800.5(b) Reclamation has determined a *Finding of No Adverse Effect* to historical properties by the proposed project.

Based on the information provided, 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. 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 that reads "Carol Roland-Nawi, Ph.D." The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Carol Roland-Nawi, PhD  
State Historic Preservation Officer

# **Attachment B Indian Trust Assets Determination**



Lawrence, Benjamin &lt;blawrence@usbr.gov&gt;

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## Request for Determinations, SCCAO CEC 14-010, Contra Costa Canal Automated Screen Replacement

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

Fri, Mar 21, 2014 at 7:00 PM

To: "Lawrence, Benjamin" &lt;blawrence@usbr.gov&gt;, Kristi Seabrook &lt;kseabrook@usbr.gov&gt;

Ben,

I reviewed the proposed action as described below.

Nuisance algae/weed growth in the Contra Costa Canal is an ongoing problem. The existing mechanical screen system has failed, and herbicide application is not providing adequate control. In the meantime, Contra Costa Water District has had maintenance staff remove the growth using hand tools, but the work is difficult and has resulted in worker injuries. CCWD has asked to install an automated screen system at milepost 25.02 which would be safer and more reliable.

Reclamation proposes to issue a permit to modify the canal by installing a new automated screen system.

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

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Kristi log in please-this is admin.