

# RECLAMATION


## *Managing Water in the West*

### Categorical Exclusion Checklist

## Lake Casitas Recreation Area – Entrance Station Retrofit

CEC-14-042

Prepared by:

  
Mike Inthavong  
Natural Resources Specialist  
South-Central California Area Office

Date: 12/23/2014

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:

  
Shauna McDonald  
Wildlife Biologist  
South-Central California Area Office


Date: 12/23/2014

Recommended by:

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

Date: 12/23/2014

Approved by:

  
for Michael P. Jackson  
Area Manager  
South-Central California Area Office

Date: 12/23/2014



## Nature of the Action

The entrance station into Lake Casitas Recreation Area in Ventura County, California needs to be retrofitted in order to provide safe and efficient public access. The entrance roof does not have the required clearance for taller recreational vehicles, existing kiosks and communication lines are outdated, and existing entry lanes cannot accommodate periods of high visitation causing traffic to back up and into the main street. On the Bureau of Reclamation's behalf, the Casitas Municipal Water District would perform the following activities (refer to Figures 1 and 2):

- Replace existing entrance station roof with new prefabricated roof that is approximately 75' wide and 60' long. New, longer roof support poles would be bolted onto existing stone/concrete bases.
- Replace two existing kiosks with two new prefabricated kiosks at approximately the same locations.
- Replace existing communication lines by trenching roughly 50' long by 1' wide to connect new kiosks with an existing source located at the office building adjacent to the entrance station.

A temporary detour lane will be provided around the construction area and into the lake for continued public access during construction. The detour lane is expected to occupy a landscaped area located just south of the existing entrance station and would involve (refer to Figure 3):

- Installing barriers and spike strip to direct/deter traffic;
- Installing new enter/exit signs on posts;
- Trimming bushes/trees, removing one tree in the median;
- Remove roughly 40' of median and reshape and replace with asphalt;
- Remove sections of fencing currently surrounding the landscaped area;
- Place temporary trailer/kiosk and supply power from existing source; and
- Create temporary enter, bypass, and exit lanes by placing roughly 140 cubic yards of decomposed granite.

Work is expected to take three weeks to complete and occur during the winter period when visitor use is low.

## Environmental Commitments

No environmental commitments are prescribed.

## 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.*

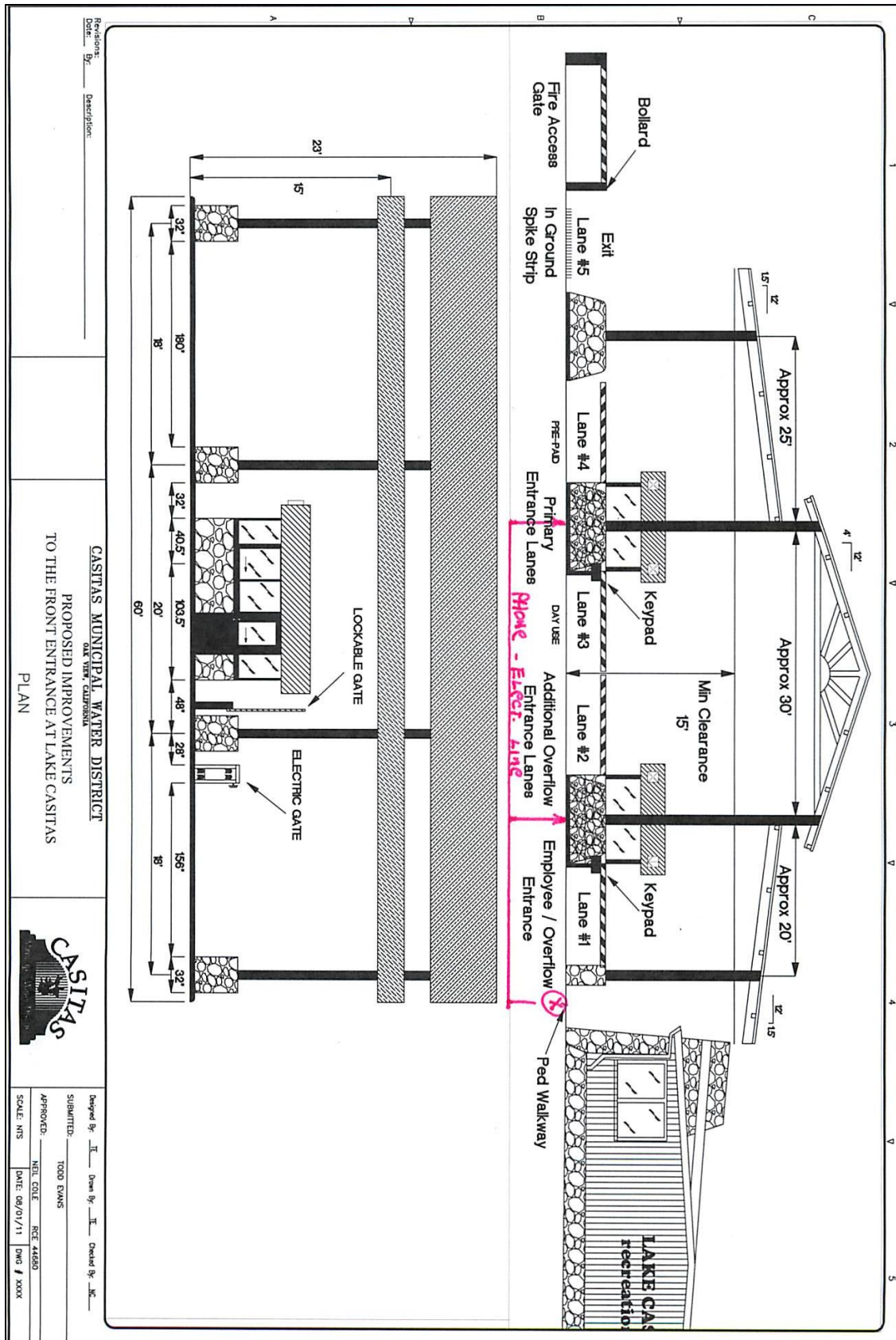


Figure 1. Entrance Station Retrofit Measurements

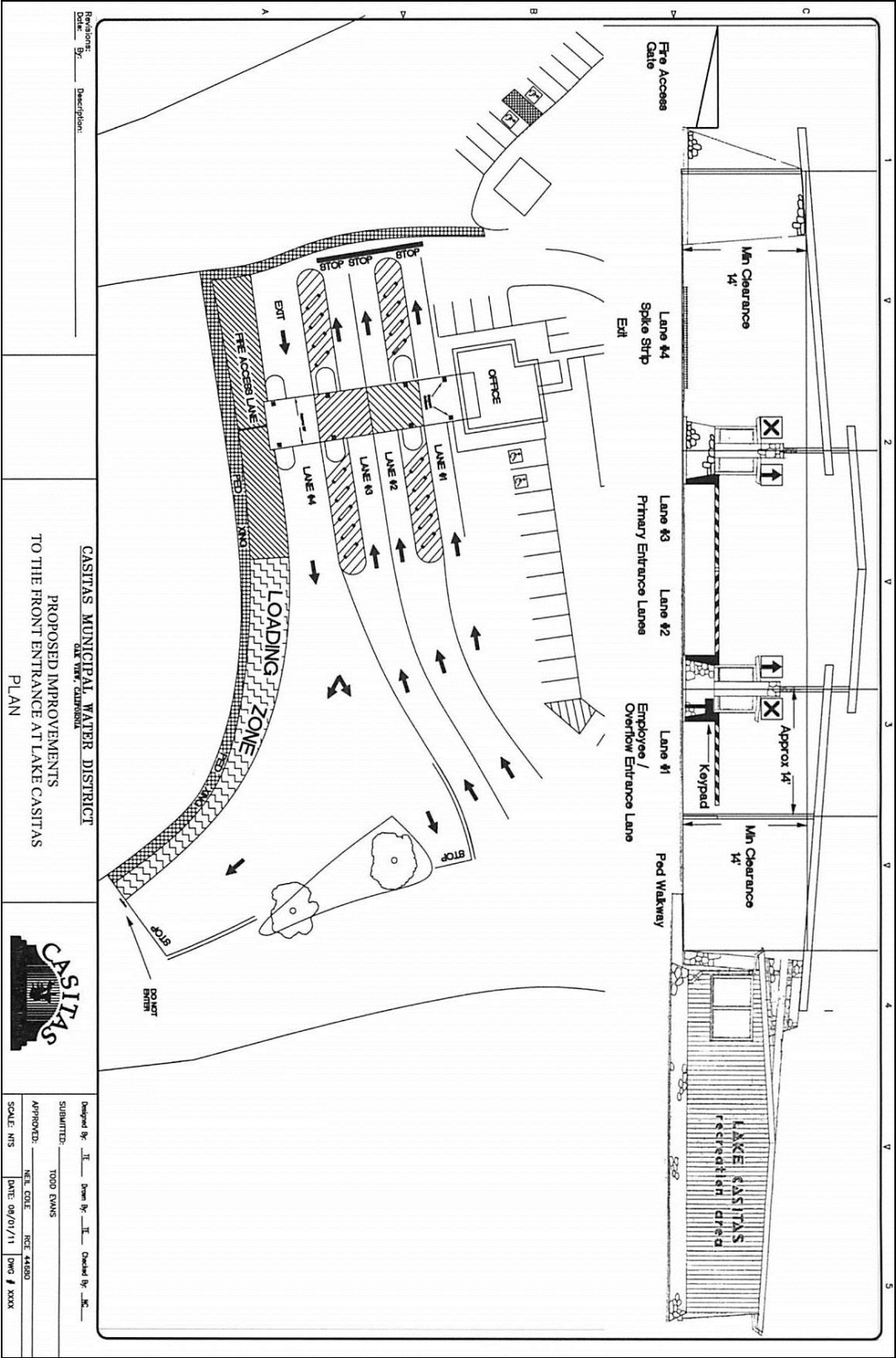


Figure 2. Entrance Station Overview

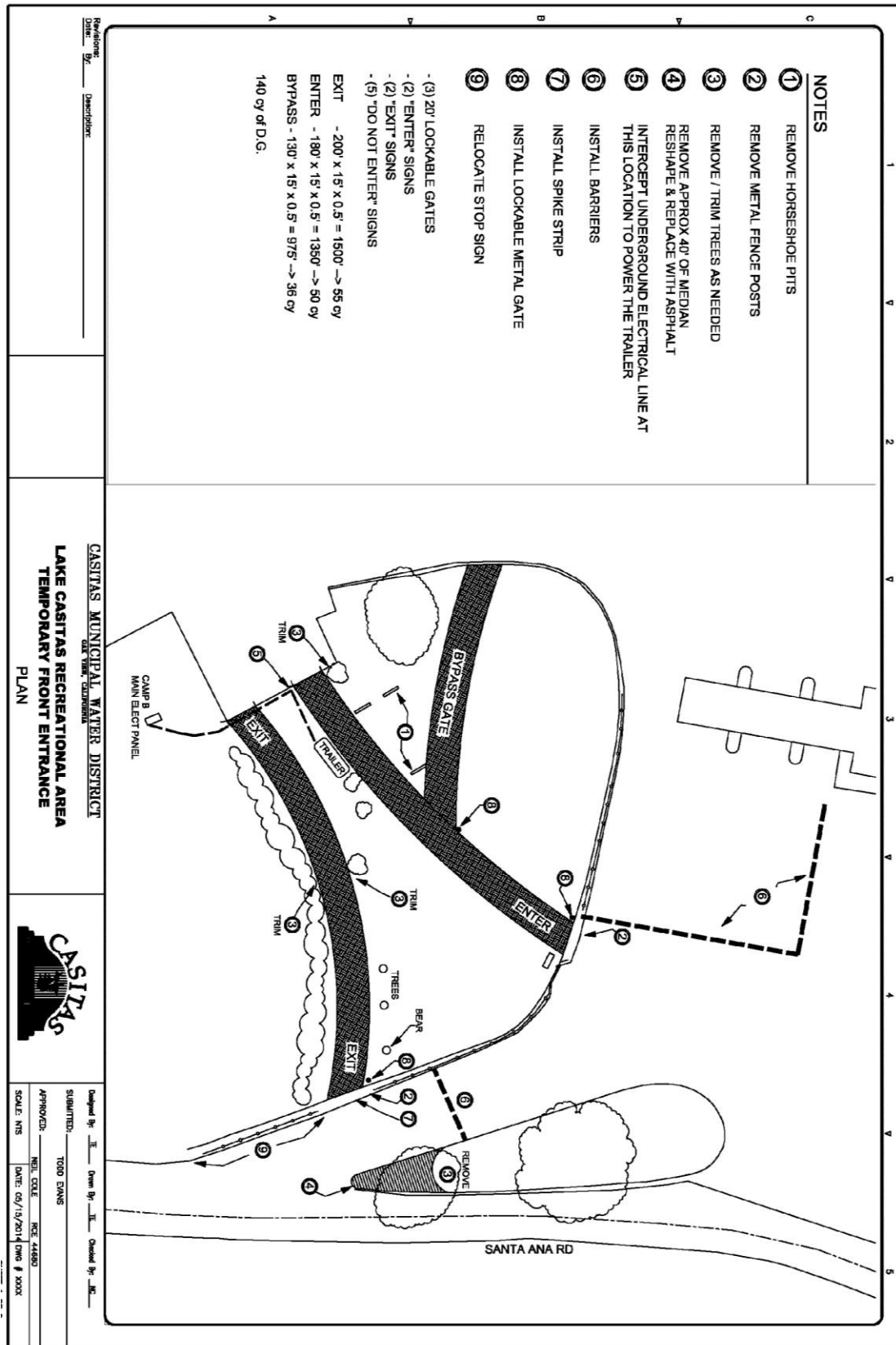


Figure 3. Temporary Access Location

## 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"/> |

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

**MP-153 Tracking Number:** 15-SCAO-014

**Project Name:** Lake Casitas Recreation Area (LCRA) Entrance Station Retrofit Project, Ventura County, California

**NEPA Document:** CEC-14-042

**Project Manager/NEPA Contact:** Michael Inthavong

**MP 153 Cultural Resources Reviewer:** BranDee Bruce/Mark Carper

**Date:** 12/22/2014

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This proposed undertaking by Reclamation is to authorize funding to the Casitas Municipal Water District (CMWD) to retrofit the entrance station to the LCRA in Ventura County, California. CMWD manages the Reclamation-owned land and entrance station at the LCRA. Federal approval and funding of the proposed project constitutes an undertaking pursuant to Section 301(7) of the NHPA (16 U.S.C. 470), as amended, which requires compliance with Section 106 of the NHPA. Reclamation conducted consultations under 36 CFR Part 800, the implementing regulations for Section 106 of the NHPA.

The proposed project involves the replacement of the existing entrance gate roof, the replacement of two kiosks, and the replacement of existing communication lines. Reclamation reviewed our files and identified the Casitas Recreation Area Entrance Gate (Casitas Gate) as previously recorded and evaluated for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (National Register) in 2010 as part of a larger evaluation of the Ventura River Project. During that consultation with SHPO it was concurred that they gate was not eligible. No other cultural resources from that previous survey were identified within the current project APE.

Pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.3(f)(2), Reclamation identified the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians as a tribe likely to have knowledge of historic properties or attach religious and cultural significance to historic properties within the APE. Reclamation sent a letter to the tribe requesting their participation in the Section 106 process and assistance in identifying sites of religious and cultural significance pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.4(a)(4). To date, there has been no formal written response from the identified tribe. In addition, Reclamation contacted Mr. Freddy Romero, Cultural Preservation Consultant for the tribe, by phone to discuss the project. No concerns were expressed during the phone conversation.

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

Based on our identification efforts Reclamation has made a determination of no historic properties affected by the proposed undertaking. Reclamation initiated consultation with SHPO requesting concurrence with this finding of no historic properties affected.

Reclamation has concluded the NHPA Section 106 process for this undertaking. This memo serves as concurrence with item #8 on CEC-14-042 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.

## **Attachment B**



Inthavong, Michael &lt;minthavong@usbr.gov&gt;

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**Re: ITA Request Form - CEC-14-042 Casitas Entrance Station Retrofit**

1 message

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

Fri, Oct 31, 2014 at 5:22 AM

To: Michael Inthavong &lt;minthavong@usbr.gov&gt;

Michael,

I reviewed the proposed action to retrofit the existing entrance station to Lake Casitas. The proposed actions to be undertaken are

Replace existing entrance station roof with new prefabricated roof that is approximately 75' wide and 60' long. New, longer roof support poles would be bolted onto existing stone/concrete bases.

- Replace two existing kiosks with two new prefabricated kiosks at approximately the same locations.
- Replace existing communication lines by trenching roughly 50' long by 1' wide to connect new kiosks with an existing source located at the office building adjacent to the entrance station.

A temporary detour lane will be provided around the construction area and into the lake for continued public access during construction. The detour lane is expected to occupy a landscaped area located just south of the existing entrance station. Work is expected to be completed during the winter period when visitor use is low.

The proposed action does not have a potential to impact Indian Trust Assets. The nearest ITA is a Public Domain Allotment approximately 41 miles West of the project location.

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