

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Categorical Exclusion Checklist

Cal Sierra Financial, Inc. to McClatchy Partners, LLC and Riverby Ranches, LLC Assignment

NCAO-CEC-15-03

Prepared by: Natalie L Wolder Date: 2-23-15
Natalie Wolder
Repayment Specialist
Northern California Area Office

Concurrence by: See Attachment 2 Date: February 20, 2015
Richard Stevenson
Native American Affairs Program Manager
Mid-Pacific Regional Office

Concurrence by: See Attachment 3 Date: February 20, 2015
BranDee Bruce
Architectural Historian
Mid-Pacific Regional Office

Concurrence by: Paul Zedonis Date: 2-23-2015
Paul Zedonis
Supervisory Natural Resource Specialist
Northern California Area Office

Approved by: Federico Barajas Date: 2/23/15
Federico Barajas
Area Office Manager
Northern California Area Office



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
Mid Pacific Region

February 2015

Proposed Action

Voluntary Full Assignment of Sacramento River Settlement Contract, Contract No. 14-06-200-934A-R-1, from Cal Sierra Financial, Inc. to McClatchy Partners, LLC and Riverby Ranches, LLC. The assignment parcel is shown in Attachment 1.

Exclusion Categories

Bureau of Reclamation Categorical Exclusion - D(14): Approval, renewal, transfer, and execution of an original, amendatory, or supplemental water service or repayment contract where the only result will be to implement an administrative or financial practice or change

Extraordinary Circumstances

Below is an evaluation of the extraordinary circumstances as required in 43 CFR 46.215.

1. This action would have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment (40 CFR 1502.3). No ☒ Uncertain ☐ Yes ☐
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 ☒ Uncertain ☐ Yes ☐
3. This action would have significant impacts on public health or safety (43 CFR 46.215(a)). No ☒ Uncertain ☐ Yes ☐
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 ☒ Uncertain ☐ Yes ☐
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 ☒ Uncertain ☐ Yes ☐
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 ☒ Uncertain ☐ Yes ☐

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|--|----|-------------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------|-----|--------------------------|
| 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; and 43 CFR 46.215 (g)). | No | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain | <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes | <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 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain | <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes | <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 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain | <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 11. This action would affect ITAs (512 DM 2, Policy Memorandum dated December 15, 1993). | No | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain | <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 12. This action would have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (EO 12898; and 43 CFR 46.215 (j)). | No | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain | <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes | <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 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain | <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes | <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 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain | <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> |

Regional Archeologist concurred with Item 8 (email attached).

ITA Designee concurred with Item 11 (email attached).

NEPA Action Recommended

☒ CEC – This action is covered by the exclusion category and no extraordinary circumstances exist. The action is excluded from further documentation in an EA or EIS.

☐ Further environmental review is required, and the following document should be prepared.

☐ EA

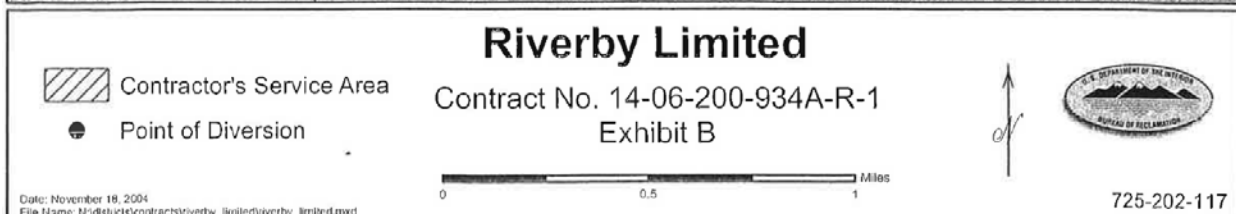
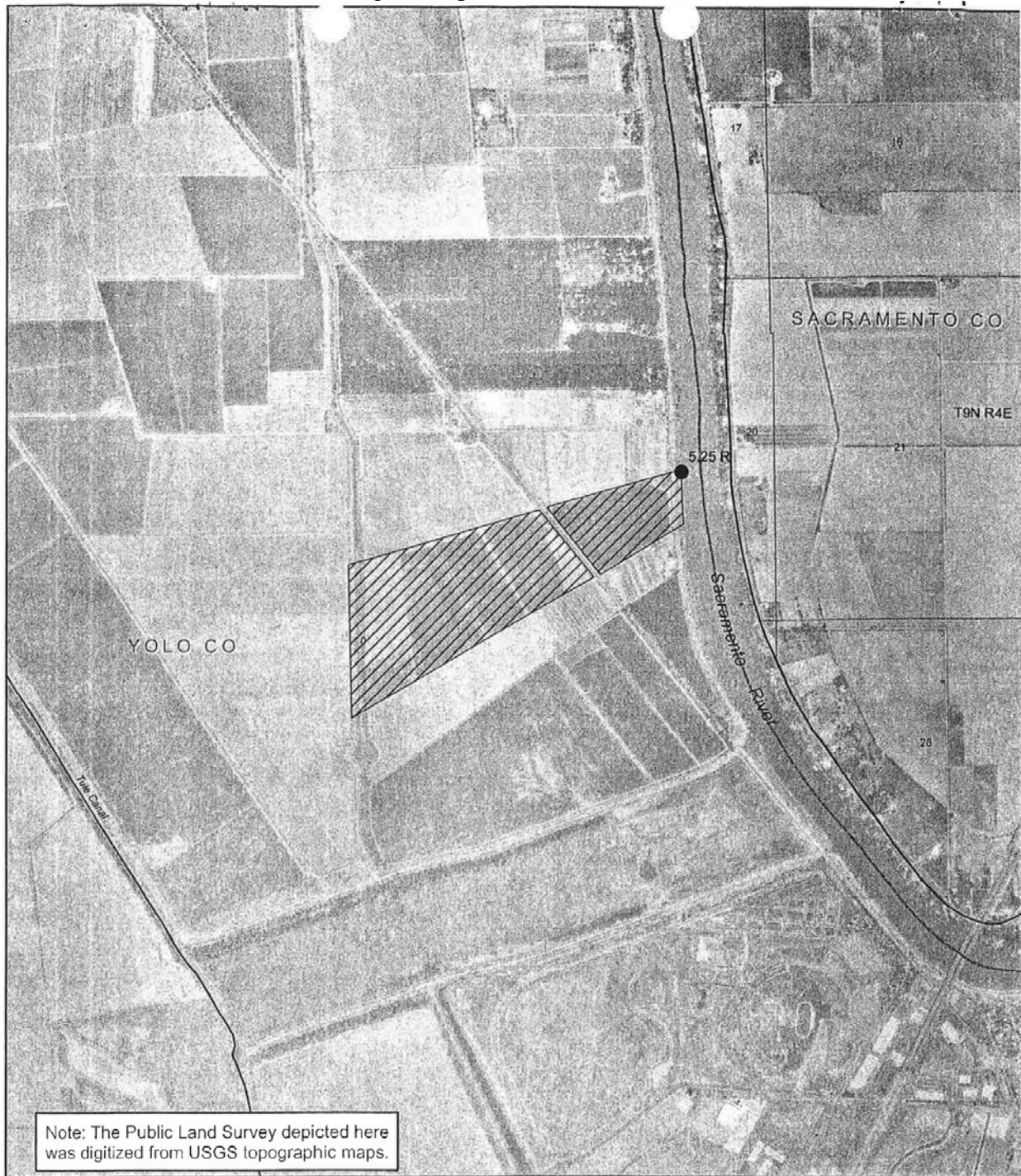
☐ EIS

Environmental commitments, explanations, and/or remarks:

The property delineated on Exhibit B of Sacramento River Settlement Contract, Contract No. 14-06-200-934A-R-1, was purchased by McClatchy Partners, LLC and Riverby Ranches.

Article 23(a) of the Settlement Contract provides that the rights and obligations under the contract can be assigned in whole or in part with the approval of the United States. The new landowners have requested that the Settlement Contract be assigned to them. This is merely an administrative action. There will be no change in the land use; and no construction will take place.

Attachment 1. Location of the assignment parcel.



Attachment 2. ITA concurrence Letter.



Zedonis, Paul <pzedonis@usbr.gov>

CR and ITA review: CEC, McClatchy and Riverby Assignment

STEVENSON, RICHARD <rstevenson@usbr.gov>

Fri, Feb 20, 2015 at 1:38 PM

To: "Zedonis, Paul" <pzedonis@usbr.gov>

Cc: BOR MPR Cultural Resources Section <ibr2mprdculturalresources@usbr.gov>, Kristi Seabrook <kseabrook@usbr.gov>, Mary Williams <marywilliams@usbr.gov>, "Wolder, Natalie L" <NWolder@usbr.gov>

Paul,

I have reviewed the proposed federal action which is the administrative approval of an assignment of the Voluntary Full Assignment of Sacramento River Settlement Contract, Contract No. 14-06-200-934A-R-1, from Cal Sierra Financial, Inc. to McClatchy Partners, LLC and Riverby Ranches, LLC. This action will not impact any Indian Trust Assets.

Richard Stevenson

[Quoted text hidden]

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Richard M. Stevenson

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Attachment 3. Cultural Resources Concurrence email.

**CULTURAL RESOURCES COMPLIANCE
Mid-Pacific Region
Division of Environmental Affairs
Cultural Resources Branch (MP-153)**

MP-153 Tracking Number: 15-NCAO-082

Project Name: Cal Sierra Financial, Inc. to McClatchy Partners, LLC and Riverby Ranches, LLC Assignment

NEPA Document: CEC-15-03

NEPA Contact: Paul Zedonis, Supervisory Natural Resource Specialist

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

Date: February 20, 2015

Reclamation proposes to consent to the reassignment of Sacramento River Settlement Contract No. 14-06-200-934A-R-1 from Cal Sierra Financial, Inc. to the McClatchy Partners, LLC and Riverby Ranches. The new landowners have requested that the Settlement Contract be assigned to them. There will be no change in land use and no construction activities will occur.

Reclamation has determined that the proposed action is the type of undertaking that has no potential to cause effects on historic properties, pursuant to National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Section 106 regulations as codified at 36 CFR Part 800.3(a)(1). As such, Reclamation has no further obligations under Section 106. The proposed action would result in no impacts to cultural resources.

This document conveys the completion of the cultural resources review and NHPA Section 106 process for this undertaking. Please retain a copy in the administrative record for this action. Should the proposed action change, additional review under Section 106, possibly including consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer, may be required.