

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Categorical Exclusion Checklist

Contra Costa Canal Komeen Application

CEC-13-066

Prepared by:



Ben Lawrence
Natural Resources Specialist
South-Central California Area Office

Date: 3-4-15

Concurred by:

See Attachment A
Archaeologist
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:



Ned M. Gruenhagen, Ph.D.
Wildlife Biologist
South-Central California Area Office

Date: 3/4/2015

Concurred by:



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

Date: 03/04/2015

Approved by:



Michael Jackson
Area Manager
South-Central California Area Office

Date: 3/6/15



Background

Uncontrolled growth of aquatic weeds, particularly water hyacinth (*Eichornia crassipes*) and egeria (*Egeria densa*), is an ongoing problem in the Contra Costa Canal (Canal). If left untreated, the vegetation clogs water bodies and canals, impeding flow. It also contributes organic carbon to the water, which is a component of harmful disinfection byproducts and can lead to taste and odor problems. The Contra Costa Water District (Contra Costa WD) manages weed growth in the Canal through routine application of various aquatic herbicides to prevent both short-term buildups and longer term nuisance conditions.

In the past, Contra Costa WD has used a copper-based aquatic herbicide, trade name Komeen®, applied early in the spring and on an as-needed basis throughout the summer and fall months. Contra Costa WD staff has reported that this product is effective for the treatment of the aquatic weeds found in the area. It has the advantages of being approved for drinking water supplies, and is not toxic to agricultural customers' crops or other beneficial vegetation. It is also faster-acting than other herbicides, resulting in a shortened period of limited Canal operations.

On July 30, 2013 the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) issued Categorical Exclusion Checklist 12-066 for the application of Komeen® by Contra Costa WD to control vegetation in the forebay of Pumping Plant 1 (see Figures 1 and 2). The unlined portion of the Canal, between the Flood Isolation Structure and Sellers Avenue, is now also experiencing weed growth. Therefore, Contra Costa WD is requesting additional authorization for application of Komeen® to that portion of the Canal.

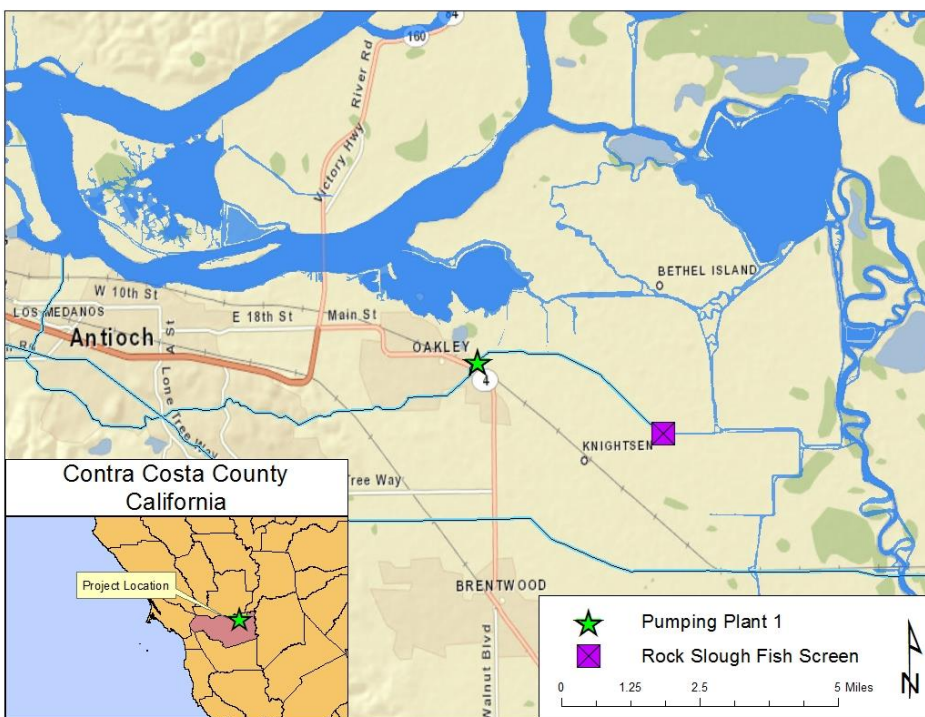


Figure 1 - Project Location, Overall Area

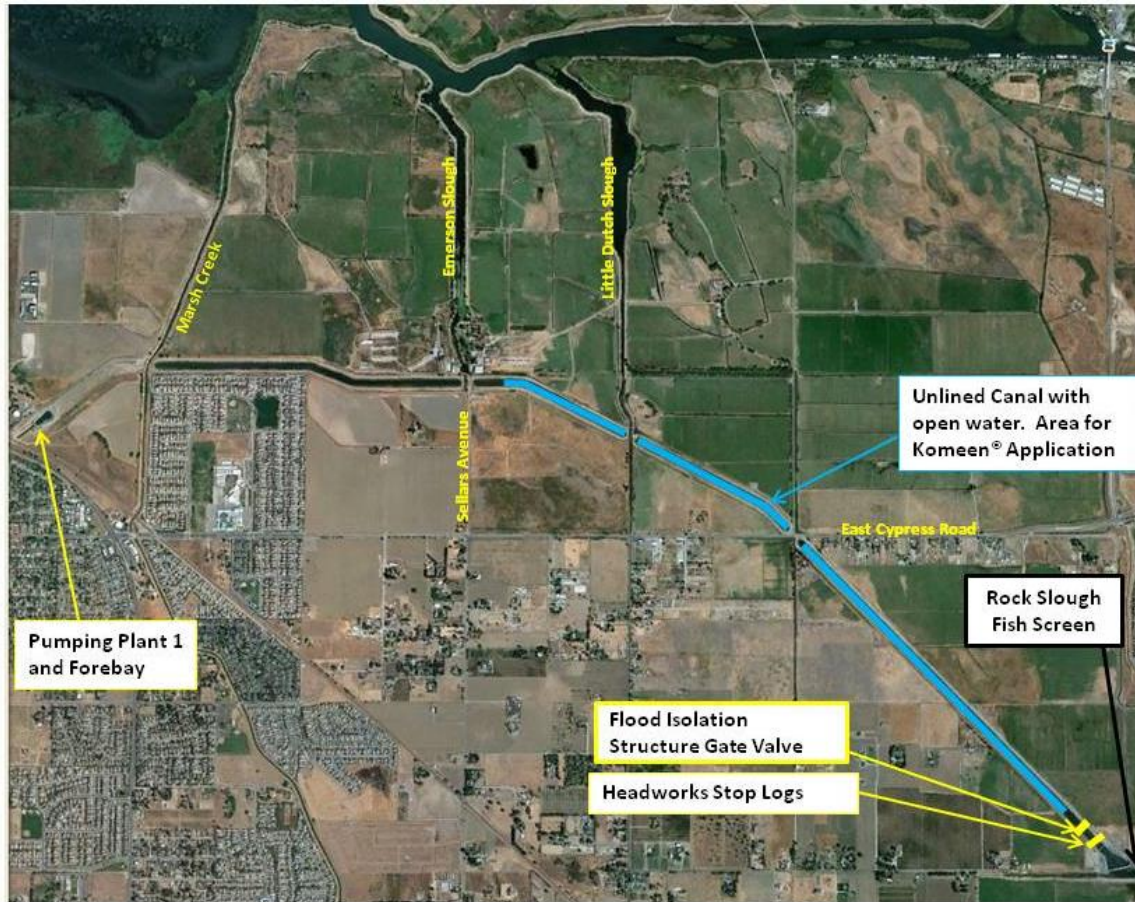


Figure 2 - Project Location, Canal Sections
(Figure by Contra Costa WD)

Purpose and Need for Action

There is a need to maintain flow and function of the Canal. The purpose of the project is to control the growth of aquatic weeds in the unlined portion of the Canal.

Proposed Action

Reclamation proposes to authorize Contra Costa WD's application of the aquatic herbicide Komeen® to a 12,000-foot section of the Canal between the Flood Isolation Structure and the western extent of the unlined portion of the Canal, near Sellers Avenue. Herbicide would be applied on an as-needed basis over a period of three years.

Before herbicide application, Contra Costa WD would isolate the Canal from the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta using the gate valve at the Flood Isolation Structure. Operations and Maintenance staff would apply the herbicide from a flat-bottom skiff. The boat would travel approximately 15 feet from the bank while the Komeen® solution is applied to the Canal using submerged nozzles suspended from a boom (see Figure 3 showing previous application). One application pass would be required in each direction. Contra Costa WD staff would monitor

copper concentrations in the Canal throughout, to confirm that harm to protected species is avoided.



Figure 3 - Typical Aquatic Herbicide Application Method
(Picture by Contra Costa WD)

Because the Canal would be completely isolated from the Delta, application would not be subject to seasonal restrictions. Based on previous experience with the product, Contra Costa WD has determined that Komeen® is no longer present in the water column 7 days after application. Therefore, the Canal would remain isolated from the Delta with no pumping for 7 days following treatment. After the 7-day period, Pumping Plant 1 would begin pumping at 30 cubic feet per second for two days, to draw down the treated water volume in the Canal. Following this drawdown period, the gate valve of the isolation structure would be opened and normal Canal operations would resume.

Environmental Commitments

Contra Costa WD shall implement the following environmental protection measures:

Table 1 - Environmental Commitments

Resource	Protection Measure
Biological Resources	Contra Costa WD will isolate the section of the Canal being treated from the Delta.
Water Quality and Biological Resources	Contra Costa WD staff will handle and use herbicide in a manner which minimizes the chance of spill. In the event of a spill, appropriate response agencies will be contacted.

Water Quality and Biological Resources	Herbicides shall only be applied by qualified personnel, in accordance with the product's labeling. Pesticide Use Proposal forms will be submitted to Reclamation, including the Pest Control Advisor's recommendation, on an annual basis.
Water Quality and Biological Resources	Contra Costa WD will adhere to water quality monitoring protocols established by State Water Resources Control Board General Permit CAG 990005, National Pollution Discharge Elimination System Permit for Discharge of Aquatic Pesticides to Surface Waters of the United States.
Biological Resources	Monitoring for the presence of aqueous copper between the Flood Isolation Structure and the Rock Slough Fish Screen (i.e. between the Rock Slough Headworks and the Rock Slough Fish Screen) shall be conducted. A minimum of two "pre-application samples" of aqueous copper concentration shall be obtained as a standard against which the post-construction application samples can be compared. An additional two "pre-application samples" shall be obtained from upstream of the project in Rock Slough. The "pre-application samples" shall be collected to facilitate timely comparison with post-application samples.
Biological Resources	Post-application samples shall be obtained and processed to minimize delay in comparing results to the background concentration. Post-application samples shall be taken over a minimum of seven days (one week). A one day turn-around-time shall be required for laboratory analysis of the samples.
Biological Resources	If the post-application samples rise above 2 parts per billion, then the Flood Isolation Structure (gate) will be closed. Pumping Plant #1 will then pump at 30 cubic feet per second for two days to draw down water in the treated section of the Canal, before the gate would be reopened.
Biological Resources	Herbicide will not be applied if Contra Costa WD's Canal fish monitoring shows that listed species are present.

Environmental consequences for resource areas assume the measures specified would 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
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain
<input type="checkbox"/> | Yes
<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
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain
<input type="checkbox"/> | Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. This action would have significant impacts on public health or safety (43 CFR 46.215(a)). | No
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain
<input type="checkbox"/> | Yes
<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
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain
<input type="checkbox"/> | Yes
<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
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain
<input type="checkbox"/> | Yes
<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
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain
<input type="checkbox"/> | Yes
<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
<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) (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) (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"/> |

Attachment A: Cultural Resources Determination

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

MP-153 Tracking Number: 15-SCAO-054

Project Name: CCWD Application of Komeen to the Unlined Canal

NEPA Document: CEC

Project Manager/NEPA Contact: Ben Lawrence

MP 153 Cultural Resources Reviewer: Adam Nickels

AAU

Date: 12/29/14

The proposed undertaking to authorize Contra Costa Water District's application to apply an aquatic Vegetation herbicide called Komeen® in the Unlined portions of the Contra Costa Canal for the purpose of controlling the growth of aquatic vegetation has no potential to cause effects to historic properties pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800.3(a)(1).

The proposed action will involve the use of a skiff boat with a boom that will allow for the herbicide to be distributed into the water system. The application of the herbicide will be conducted in a wetted canal. There will be no ground disturbance or modification to existing facilities or construction of new facilities.

After reviewing the CEC titled "*Contra Costa Water District Application of Komeen® to the Unlined Canal CEC*" I am able to concur with line 8. There are no additional considerations for cultural resources required and the obligations for considering effects to potential historic properties resulting from this undertaking has been fulfilled.

This Section 106 conclusion statement is intended to convey the conclusion of the Section 106 process for this undertaking. Please retain a copy of this conclusion statement with the CEC file. Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Attachment B: Indian Trust Assets Determination



Lawrence, Benjamin <blawrence@usbr.gov>

Indian Trust Assets Determination Request: Herbicide Application in Contra Costa Canal

STEVENSON, RICHARD <rstevenson@usbr.gov>

Wed, Mar 4, 2015 at 9:59 AM

To: Benjamin Lawrence <blawrence@usbr.gov>

Cc: Charles Johnson <cjohnson@usbr.gov>

Ben;

I reviewed the proposed action to approve Contra Costa Water District;s proposal to apply the herbicide Komeen to a portion of the Contra Costa Canal in order to control invasive aquatic weeds. The application area would be approximately 12,000 feet of open canal between Sellers Avenue and the Flood Isolation Structure downstream of the Rock Slough Fish Screen. The herbicide would be applied beginning in January/February 2015, and in 2016 and 2017.

The proposed action does not have a potential to impact Indian Trust Assets.

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Richard M. Stevenson*Deputy Regional Resources Manager**2800 Cottage Way, MP-400**Sacramento, CA 95825-1898**(916) 978-5264**(916) 396-3380 iPhone**rstevenson@usbr.gov*