

# RECLAMATION

## *Managing Water in the West*

### Categorical Exclusion Checklist

## Land Use Authorization to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to Conduct California Tiger Salamander Surveys along the Friant-Kern and Madera Canals

CEC-15-017

Prepared by:

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

Date: 4-7-15

Concurred by:

See Attachment A  
Architectural Historian  
Mid-Pacific Regional Office


Date: See Attachment A

Concurred by:

See Attachment B  
Native American Affairs Specialist  
Mid-Pacific Regional Office

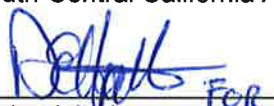
Date: See Attachment B

Concurred by:

  
Shauna McDonald  
Wildlife Biologist  
South-Central California Area Office

Date: 4/7/15

Approved by:

 *FOR*  
Michael Jackson  
Area Manager  
South-Central California Area Office

Date: 4/7/15





# Need for the Proposal

The California Department of Fish and Wildlife has requested permission to access Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) right-of-way in order to re-sample California tiger salamander (*Ambystoma californiense*) breeding pools along the Friant-Kern and Madera Canals.

Access is needed in order to re-sample breeding pools for federally funded molecular research of California tiger salamanders.

## Proposed Action

Reclamation proposes to issue a temporary land use authorization to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to conduct California tiger salamander surveys along the Friant-Kern and Madera Canals in 2015. Potential site locations are included in Figure 1.

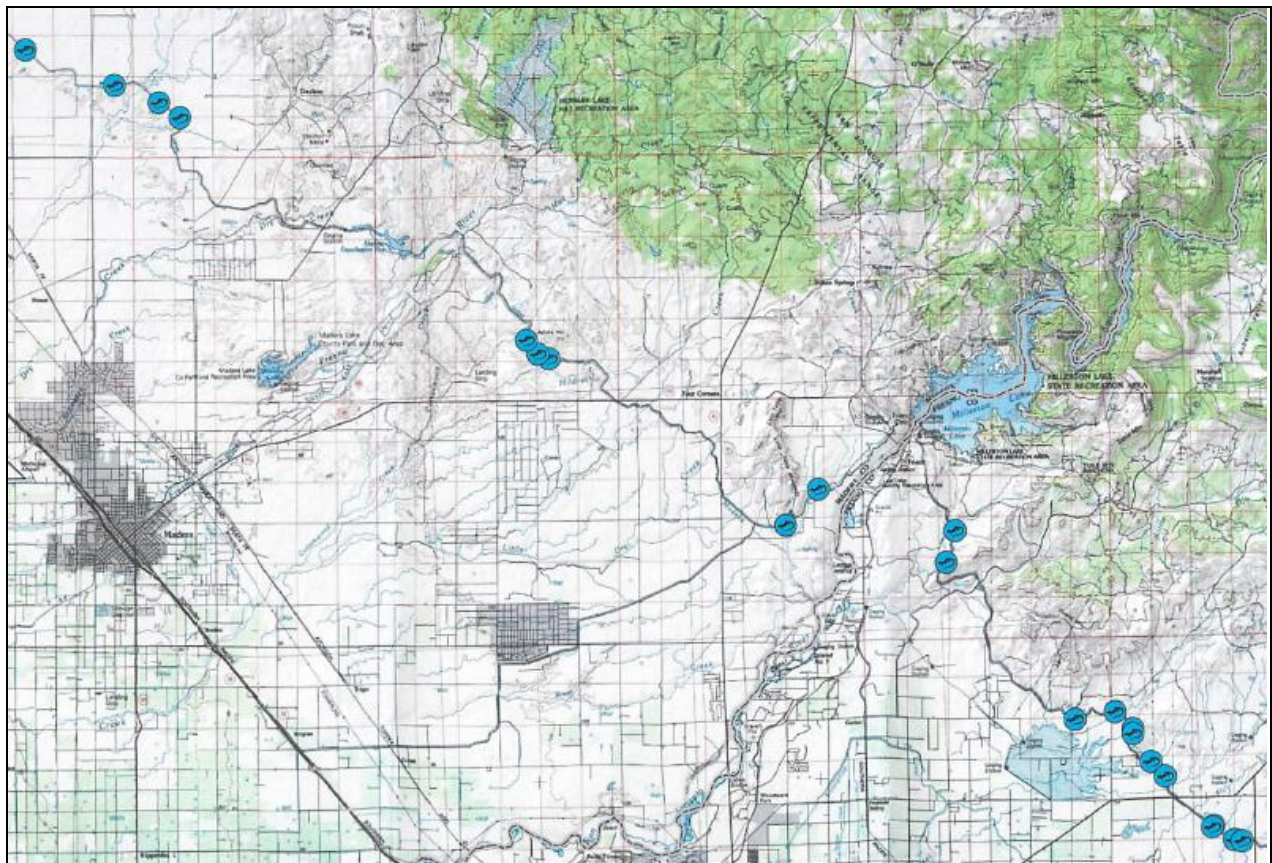


Figure 1 Potential Site Locations for California Tiger Salamander Sampling

Site access would be with one or two passenger vehicles on existing operations and maintenance roads. Dip and seine nets would be used to capture salamanders. A small amount of tissue would be snipped from the animals' tails and then they would be returned to the pools to complete their life cycle.

The project would involve intentional take of California tiger salamanders, and possibly other vernal pool-associated species, such as the vernal pool fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta lynchi*). However, the work would be conducted under a 10(a)(1)(A) “recovery permit” issued by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service.

## Exclusion Category

516 DM 14.5 paragraph D (10): *Issuance of permits, licenses, easements, and crossing agreements which provide right-of-way over Bureau lands where the action does not allow for or lead to a major public or private action.*

## 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 Resources Determination**



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

**MP-153 Tracking Number:** 15-SCAO-114

**Project Name:** Land Use Authorization to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to Conduct California Tiger Salamander Surveys along the Friant-Kern and Madera Canals

**NEPA Contact:** Rain Emerson

**NEPA Document:** CEC-15-017

**MP 153 Cultural Resources Reviewer:** Joanne Goodsell *js*

**Date:** April 7, 2015

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Reclamation proposes to issue a temporary land use authorization to the California Department of Fish and Wildlife to conduct re-sampling surveys of California tiger salamander breeding pools along the Friant-Kern and Madera Canals. Access to proposed survey locations would be via one or two passenger vehicles using existing operations and maintenance roads. Dip and seine nets would be used to capture salamanders for sampling.

The proposed action is the type of undertaking that does not have the potential to cause effects on historic properties, should such properties be present, as outlined in the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Section 106 implementing regulations at 36 CFR § 800.3(a)(1). As such, Reclamation has no further NHPA Section 106 compliance obligations.

This document conveys the completion of the NHPA Section 106 process for this undertaking. Please retain a copy with the administrative record for this action. If there are changes to the proposed action as described in CEC-15-017, additional NHPA Section 106 review, possibly including consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer, may be necessary.



## **Attachment B: Indian Trust Assets Determination**



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

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**Fwd: Expedited ITA Request Needed (15-017)**

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**Emerson, Rain** <remerson@usbr.gov>  
To: Benjamin Lawrence <blawrence@usbr.gov>

Tue, Apr 7, 2015 at 3:04 PM

Rain L. Emerson, M.S.  
*Supervisory Natural Resources Specialist*  
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Cell Ph: 559-353-4032

----- Forwarded message -----  
From: **STEVENSON, RICHARD** <rstevenson@usbr.gov>  
Date: Tue, Apr 7, 2015 at 11:59 AM  
Subject: Re: Expedited ITA Request Needed (15-017)  
To: "Emerson, Rain" <remerson@usbr.gov>

I have examine the ITA request for CEC-15-017 and have determined that at the indicated locations the closest ITA is at least 3 miles from the canals and that this project will have no adverse impact upon ITA.

Richard Stevenson  
Deputy Regional Resources Manager

On Tue, Apr 7, 2015 at 10:16 AM, Emerson, Rain <remerson@usbr.gov> wrote:

Good morning Dick,

Attached is an ITA request for review. This needs to be expedited as the researcher that would conduct the survey is in town this week only. Let me know if you have any questions. Thank you!

Rain L. Emerson, M.S.  
*Supervisory Natural Resources Specialist*  
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