

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Categorical Exclusion Checklist

Western Area Power Administration Contra Costa Canal Switchyard Remediation Project

CEC-14-058

Prepared by:


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


Date: 04/02/2015

Concurred by:

See Attachment A
Architectural Historian
Mid-Pacific Regional Office


Date: See Attachment A

Concurred by:


Shauna McDonald
Wildlife Biologist
South-Central California Area Office

Date: 4/13/15

Approved by:

 See
Michael Jackson
Area Manager
South-Central California Area Office

Date: 4/13/15



Background

Western Area Power Administration (Western) is proposing to conduct remediation activities within three Contra Costa Canal (Canal) Pumping Plant switchyards located along the Canal in Contra Costa County. The three Pumping Plants and associated switchyards are collectively referred to as PP1, PP3, and PP4 and are located at different points along the Canal with PP4 located in Antioch and PP1 and PP3 in Oakley. The switchyards are identified as CC1, CC3, and CC4, respectively (see Figure 1). CC1 and CC4 are located on land owned by the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and CC3 is located on land owned by Western. Western owns the equipment within all three switchyards. The Contra Costa Water District, under an agreement with Reclamation, is responsible for the operation and maintenance of all equipment within CC1, CC3, and CC4 and would be conducting all remediation activities and the equipment upgrades on Western's behalf.

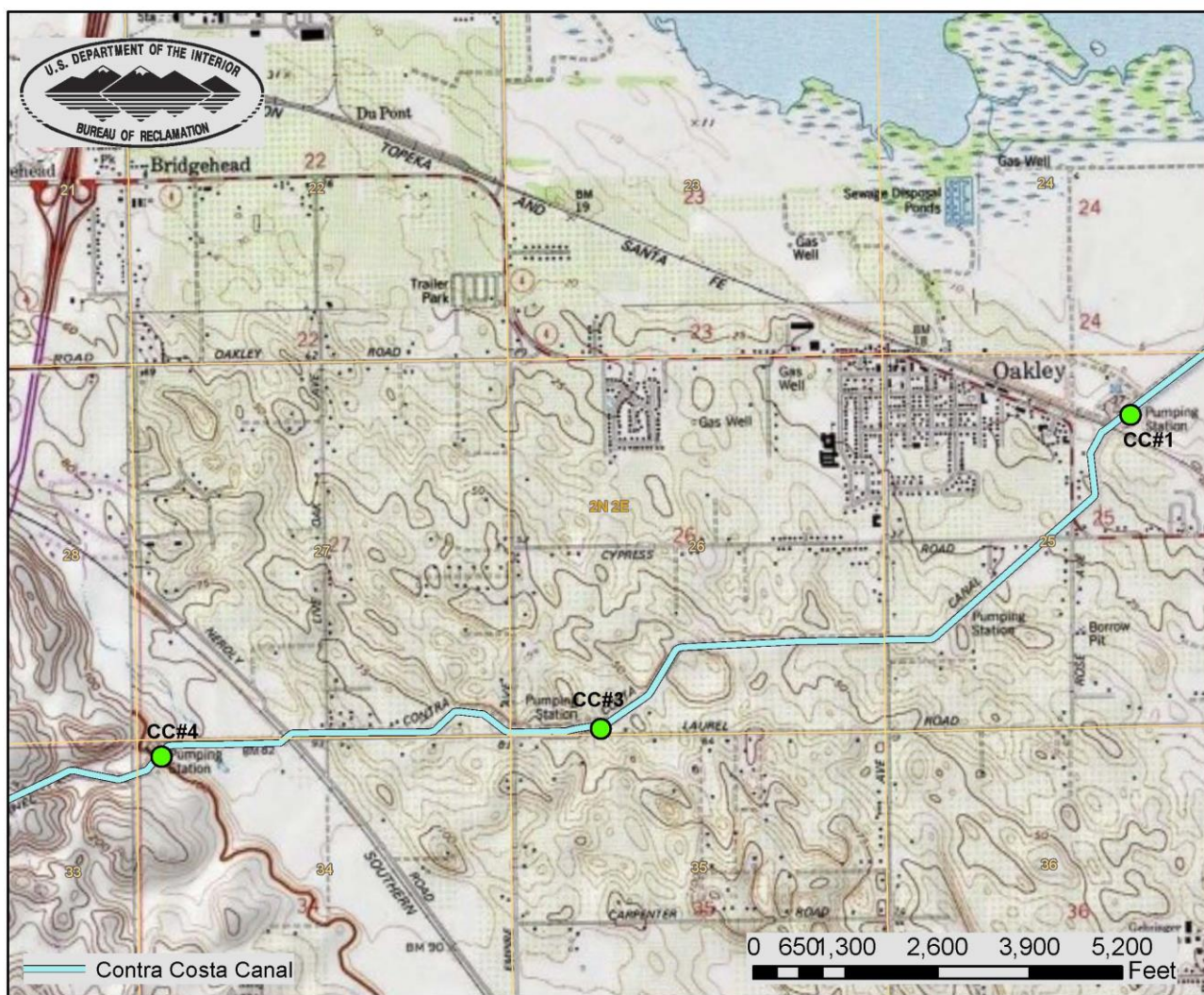


Figure 1 Switchyard Locations

Need for the Proposal

Western needs to replace old and worn equipment within the three switchyards in order to keep the switchyards functioning properly.

Proposed Action

Contra Costa Water District, pursuant to its operating agreement (Contract No. 14-06-200-6072A) with Reclamation, would implement the following remediation activities and equipment upgrades at the three switchyards:

- CC3 Switchyard
 - Removal of the existing oil circuit breaker and foundation.
 - Removal of the existing transformers and foundations (there are a total of 4-single phase transformers, 3 are in use and 1 is a spare).
 - Removal of the overhead bus between the circuit breaker and transformer.
 - Installation of a new 3-phase transformer and foundation with secondary oil containment.
 - Installation of a new circuit breaker or fused disconnect switch and foundation.
 - Clean emergency backup service connection from CC3 to PP1 will remain as emergency backup service connection.
- CC1 and CC4 Switchyards
 - Upgrade or replace the existing fused disconnect switches.
 - Removal of the existing transformers and the existing transformer foundations.
 - Installation of new 3-phase transformers and foundations, with secondary oil containment at each of the switchyards.
- Replace disturbed ground mats and gravel surfacing (similar to existing yard rock) at all switchyards.

The switchyards may require excavation and removal of visible mineral oil-contaminated soil above the switchyard ground mat to an extent that the oil is no longer detectable visually or by odor. Ground mats control electrical ground currents within a switchyard and are placed approximately 18” to 24” below the surface when facilities are initially constructed. Contaminated soil would be disposed of off-site within applicable waste disposal facilities.

Before any of the above activities begin, soil borings will be taken to determine the soil strength and composition within (or under) the switchyards. Soil boring activities would entail two hand-augured bore holes at each of the switchyards (see Figures 2 through 4 below). Bores will be 4 inches in diameter and up to 10 feet deep. Each bore hole would remove up to 0.872 cubic feet of soil, for a total of up to 5.24 cubic feet of soil. Removed soil will be tested at a laboratory to determine soil performance properties (density, bearing capacity, etc.). Bore holes will be backfilled with slurry cement.

During construction, equipment and material staging will take place in the available space adjacent to the switchyards.



Figure 2 CC#4 Bore Locations

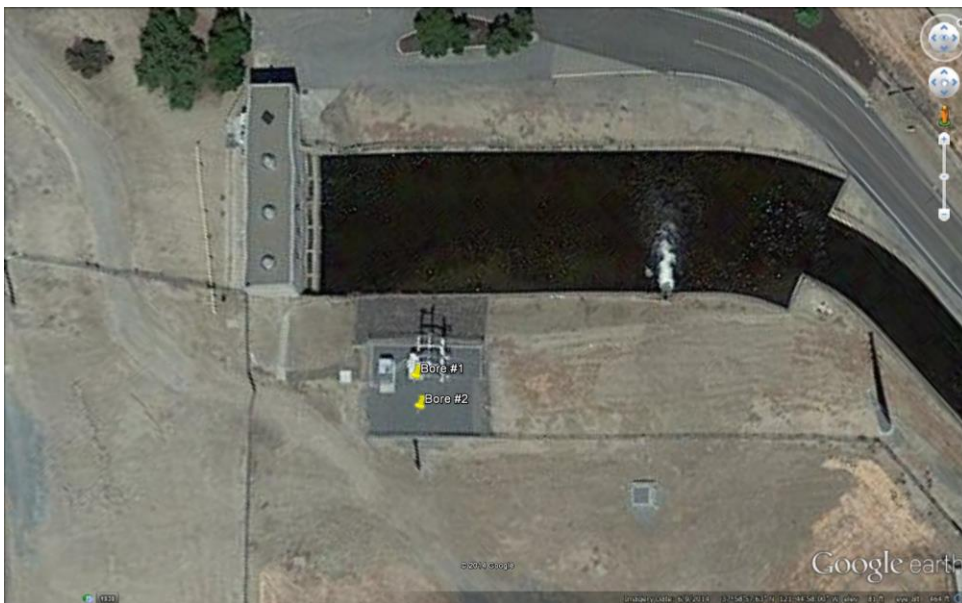


Figure 3 CC#3 Bore Locations

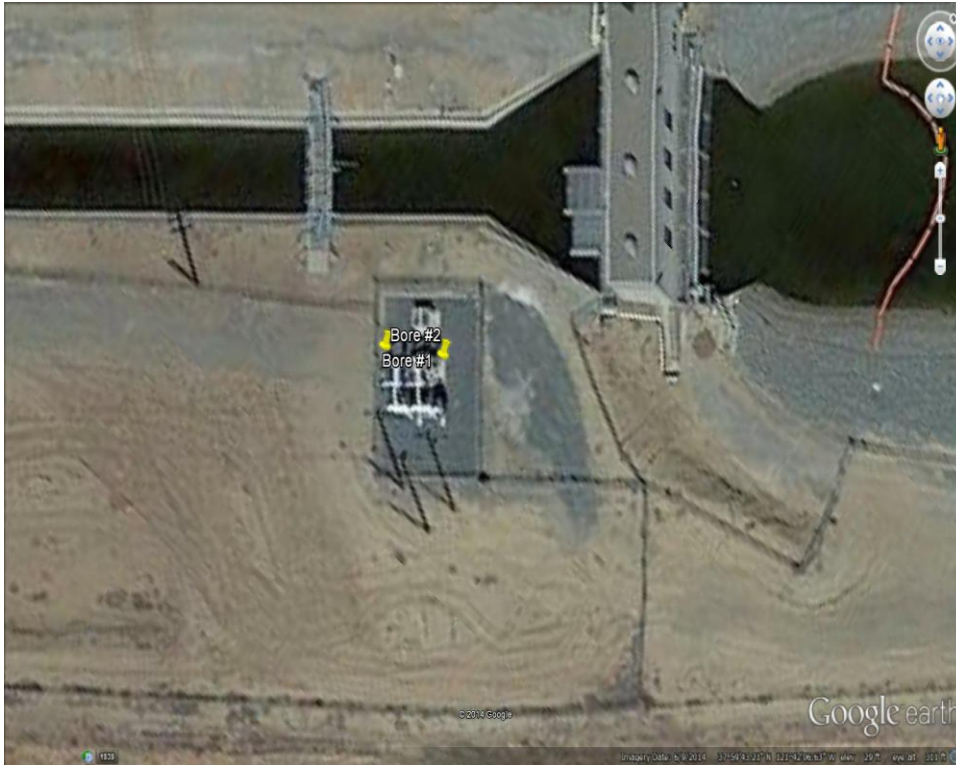


Figure 4 CC#1 Bore Locations

Environmental Commitments

Western and Contra Costa Water District will implement the following avoidance measure to prevent take of migratory birds:

- If project activities occur during the nesting season (February 1 to August 31), Western and/or Contra Costa will survey the project area for migratory bird nests prior to project activities and establish appropriate buffers around any active nests that may potentially be disturbed. If work must be conducted within these buffers, a Western supplied biological monitor will be on site for project activities within the buffers. If the biological monitor determines that activities are likely to cause nest impacts or nest abandonment, then project activities in the area shall be postponed or adjusted until nestlings have fledged, the nest is no longer active, or the activities are not likely to cause nest impacts or nest abandonment.

Exclusion Category

516 DM 14.5 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 <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"/> |

- | | 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

Division of Environmental Affairs

Cultural Resources Branch (MP-153)

MP-153 Tracking Number: 15-SCAO-021

Project Name: National Historic Preservation Act Compliance for Western Area Power Administration (Western) Contra Costa Canal (CCC) Substations Remediation Project, Contra Costa County, California.

NEPA Document: CEC 14-058

NEPA Contact: Rain Emerson, Natural Resource Specialist

MP 153 Cultural Resources Reviewer: BranDee Bruce, Architectural Historian

Date: March 31, 2015

Western proposes to conduct remediation activities within three CCC pumping plant substations (CC1, CC3, and CC4) along the CCC in Contra Costa County. The CCC was constructed and is owned by the Bureau of Reclamation. CC1 and CC4 are located on land owned by Reclamation, while CC3 is located on land owned by Western. Western owns all the equipment at the substation locations and Contra Costa Water District (CCWD), under an agreement with Reclamation, is responsible for all operations and maintenance at the three substations. Under that same agreement, CCWD would conduct all remediation activities and the equipment upgrades on Western's behalf. The proposed 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 NHPA as amended. Western was designated lead federal agency to act on behalf of Reclamation for purposes of compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) for this undertaking (see attached email).

Based on historic properties identification efforts conducted by Western, with Reclamation's input, the CCC was the only historic property identified within the area of potential effect (APE). Western determined that CC3 was a contributor to the CCC and CC1 and CC4 were non-contributors. For this current undertaking, Western proposed a finding of no adverse effect to historic properties pursuant to 36 CFR §800.5(b). Western consulted with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) by sending a consultation package on February 25, 2015. SHPO concurred with all their findings on March 9, 2015 (see attached letters). Reclamation accepts the findings in the letter report and the outcome of the consultation for the proposed activities on Reclamation land.

Consultation correspondence between Western and the SHPO, and Reclamation's email designating Western as lead federal agency 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: Western to SHPO dated February 24, 2015

Letter: SHPO to Western dated March 9, 2015

Email: Reclamation to Western dated December 8, 2014



Department of Energy
 Western Area Power Administration
 Sierra Nevada Region
 114 Parkshore Drive
 Folsom, California 95630-4710

FEB 24 2015

Ms. Carol Roland-Nawi, Ph.D.
 State Historic Preservation Officer
 California Office of Historic Preservation
 1725 23rd Street
 Sacramento, CA 95816

Ms. Roland-Nawi:

The Western Area Power Administration (Western), Sierra Nevada Region (SNR), in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), is proposing to conduct remediation activities within the three Contra Costa Canal (Canal) Pumping Plant (PP) switchyards located along the Canal in Contra Costa County. The Canal was constructed and is owned by Reclamation. The Contra Costa Water District (CCWD) is responsible for the operations and maintenance of the Canal. The Canal is a historic property determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) in concurrence with your office in March of 2005. Most of the structures associated with the Canal are considered contributors to its historical significance as well. The proposed remediation activities will include soil boring tests, soil removal, and equipment upgrades within the perimeter fencing of the three switchyards (undertaking). The three Pumping Plants and associated switchyards are collectively referred to as PP1, PP3, and PP4 and are located at different points along the Canal with PP4 located in Antioch and PP1 and PP3 in Oakley (**enclosure 1**). The switchyards alone are identified as CC1, CC3, and CC4 respectively. No work is proposed for the Pumping Plant facilities themselves.

CC1 and CC4 are located on land owned by Reclamation and CC3 is located on land owned by Western. Western owns the equipment within CC1, CC3, and CC4. CCWD under an agreement with Reclamation, is responsible for the operation and maintenance of all equipment within CC1, CC3, and CC4 and would be conducting all remediation activities and the equipment upgrades on Western's behalf.

Because the proposed undertaking is required by Western and being conducted on Western's behalf, Western and Reclamation agree that Western is the Lead Federal agency for this undertaking pursuant to 800.2(a)(2) of 36 CFR Part 800 (as amended 8-05-04) (**enclosure 2**).

At this time we consult with you pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act regarding the proposed remediation activities at CC1, CC3, and CC4. Pursuant to §800.5(b) of 36 CFR Part 800 (as amended 2004), Western has determined that no historic properties will be adversely affected by the proposed undertaking. Pursuant to 800.3(g) of 36 CFR Part 800, Western believes that an expedited review is appropriate for this determination.

1. DESCRIPTION OF THE UNDERTAKING.

Switchyards CC1, CC3, and CC4, are connected to Western's existing Tracy-Contra Costa 69-kilovolt (kV) transmission line and function to reduce the 69-kV power to 2.4-kV power before supplying power through a connection to each of their respective Pumping Plants. **Enclosure 3** provides you with aerial and ground view photos of each of the switchyards and their proximity to each Pumping Plant. CC3 was constructed in 1940 and was the sole source of interconnecting power for all 4 Canal Pumping Plants. In 1965, CC1 and CC4 were newly constructed to supply power to PP1 and PP4. The connection from CC3 to Pumping Plant 1 remains as an emergency backup service connection but is not normally used and the connection from CC3 to Pumping Plant 4 was completely removed as part of the Highway 4 Bypass Project. CC3 still provides power to Pumping Plant 2 as well as Pumping Plant 3 (there is no "CC2" switchyard). Due to age and wear and tear, the equipment inside the switchyards needs to be upgraded (replaced).

As part of the proposed remedial actions for this undertaking, the three switchyards will undergo the following:

- CC3 Switchyard
 - Removal of the existing oil circuit breaker and foundation.
 - Removal of the existing transformers and foundations (there are a total of 4-single phase transformers, 3 are in use and 1 is a spare).
 - Removal of the overhead bus between the circuit breaker and transformer.
 - Installation of a new 3-phase transformer and foundation with secondary oil containment.
 - Installation of a new circuit breaker or fused disconnect switch and foundation.
 - Clean emergency backup service connection from CC3 to Pumping Plant 1 to remain as emergency backup service connection
- CC1 and CC4 Switchyards
 - Upgrade or replace the existing fused disconnect switches.
 - Removal of the existing transformers and the existing transformer foundations.
 - Installation of new 3-phase transformers and foundations, with secondary oil containment at each of the switchyards.
- Replace disturbed ground mats and gravel surfacing (similar to existing yard rock) at all switchyards.

Please refer to the photos in **enclosure 4** for visual identification of each structure described above. **Enclosure 4** also provides photos of the new switchyard equipment.

The switchyards may require excavation and removal of visible mineral oil-contaminated soil above the switchyard ground mat to an extent that the oil is no longer detectable visually or by odor. Ground mats control electrical ground currents within a switchyard and are placed approximately 18 inches to 24 inches below the surface when facilities are initially constructed.

Before any of the above activities begin, soil borings will be taken to determine the soil strength and composition within (or under) the switchyards. This is necessary in order to properly design

the new foundations and check the stability of the soil to support the new equipment.

The soil boring activities would entail two hand-augured bore holes at each of the switchyards. Hand augers are hand operated and remove soil in a cylinder for laboratory testing. Bores are 4 inches in diameter and up to 10 feet deep. Each bore hole would remove up to 0.872 cubic feet of soil, for a total of up to 5.24 cubic feet of soil. Removed soil will be tested at a laboratory to determine soil performance properties (density, bearing capacity, etc.). Bore holes will be backfilled with slurry cement. **Enclosure 5** provides you with the locations of the bore holes and the type of auger to be used.

During construction, equipment and material staging will take place in the available space adjacent to the switchyards. Please refer again to **enclosure 3** for locations of staging areas.

2. AREA OF POTENTIAL EFFECTS

The Area of Potential Effects (APE) for the undertaking is defined in accordance with §800.16(d). For the purposes of §800.4, Western defines the potential direct effects (DE) to be structural components within the 60 foot x 60 foot perimeter fencing of the three switchyards and adjacent staging areas. Western defines a vertical APE to a maximum depth of 10 feet during boring activities within the perimeter fencing.

Potential indirect effects (IE) include visual and noise intrusions that could diminish the historic or aesthetic values of certain types of cultural resources within the purview of the proposed undertaking. The APE for IE is defined as extending up to the Canal and the Pumping Plants.

3. IDENTIFICATION OF HISTORIC PROPERTIES WITHIN THE DIRECT APE

The Contra Costa Canal

The Canal has been determined eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places at the state level under Criterion A for its association with the construction and operation of the Central Valley Project, and at the local level under Criterion A for its association with the economic development of eastern Contra Costa County. The Canal has been subject to many inventories and evaluations over the years. The most recent study of the Canal was conducted by JRP Historical Consulting in 2006 as part of a mitigation report for the Contra Costa Canal Encasement Project (CCCEP). The report entitled, *Cultural Resource Report: Contra Costa Encasement Project, March 2006*, was prepared for CCWD by JRP and Far Western Anthropological Research Group (JRP Report). Reclamation and CCWD conducted extensive consultation with your office for the CCCEP during that time and Western assumes for the purpose of this consultation that this 2006 JRP report is currently on file with the Office of Historic Preservation along with the accompanying updated DPR form completed by JRP. Therefore, to reduce voluminous enclosures, we have not enclosed another copy of the report but will reference the conclusions and results of that report.

The purpose of the March 2006 JRP report was to more completely inventory the associated structures and linear features that comprise the entire canal system. The report concluded that many of the structures and linear features of the Canal should be regarded as contributing components to the historic quality of the canal. In addition, the report states that the period of

significance for the Canal and all of the associated components is 1937-1951, when construction began, to 1951 when the canal was finally completed and in full operation. You concurred with this assumption (**enclosure 6**). The report further states that “Only those *[components]* constructed during the period of significance should be considered contributing features of the historical resource [Canal]” (pg. 22 JRP report). Although the JRP report determines that all four Pumping Plant structures are contributing features, there was no evaluation of the three switchyards in this effort.

CC1, CC3, and CC4 function as components of the Canal. As discussed above, CC3 was constructed in 1940 and was the sole source of interconnecting power for all 4 Canal Pumping Plants (**enclosure 7**). CC3 falls within the period of significance for the Canal and retains its integrity of location, setting, materials workmanship, feeling and association. CC3, although retaining association with the Canal, no longer functions as originally designed, which was to generate power to all four Pumping Plants. The connection from CC3 to Pumping Plant 1 remains but only functions as emergency power if needed and the connection from CC3 to Pumping Plant 4 was completely removed as part of the Highway 4 Bypass Project. However, based on the date of construction, remaining integrity, and its function as part of the Canal system during the period of significance, Western believes CC3 could be considered a contributing feature to the historic nature of the Canal. By contrast, however, CC1 and CC4 were constructed much later than the Canal, fall outside of the period of significance, and were not part of the original function or elemental design of the Canal. We concur with the JRP report that only those features constructed during the period of significance should be considered as a contributing resource. Western determines that CC1 and CC4 do not meet the criteria to qualify as a contributing resource to the Canal. Although CC1 and CC4 are structures close to 50 years old, they do not possess any unique design or construction characteristics for switchyards from that era that would meet eligibility Criterion C and were constructed by local engineers working with CCWD and Reclamation eliminating their eligibility under Criterion B. These two switchyards do not yield or are not likely to yield information important in history (or prehistory) and do not meet eligibility under Criterion D.

The staging areas for the proposed undertaking are adjacent to the switchyards as denoted in **enclosure 3**. Impacts would be surficial only. These areas have been previously graded and disturbed and are void of any surface cultural material.

VERTICAL APE -GROUND DISTURBING ACTIVITIES

Ground disturbing activities for the proposed undertaking would include the removal and replacement of the current foundations, construction of a secondary oil containment, and the auger holes. All ground disturbing activities proposed for this undertaking will occur within the perimeter fencing of the three switchyards. The ground/surface is covered with several inches of yard rock as well as existing concrete foundation and equipment. No archaeological resources are present on the surface within the switchyards and it is not likely that any intact cultural resources would be present beneath the switchyards. All three switchyards were constructed after excavation of the Canal was complete. Excavated soils from the Canal created the high berms aligning the Canal today. All three switchyards are located near the edge of the Canal on

top of these berms. **Enclosure 3** demonstrates the elevation of these berms in relation to the surrounding areas, particularly for CC3 where the berm rises above the surrounding residential areas. In addition, early plans and profiles (P&P) of switchyard grading and foundation plans (**enclosure 8**) show that the existing foundations for switchyard CC1 and CC4 are currently 7.5 feet deep. Exploration logs from 1967 show that the top 7 to 10 feet of soil is fill – most likely from the original Canal construction. The 1939 plans and profiles of switchyard grading and foundation plans for CC3 show foundation depths down to 6 feet 6 inches from the gravel surface. The P&P also denote the location of the “waste bank” where the excavated spoils from the Canal were piled and formed the berms on either side of the Canal. The elevation of the berm at CC3 was brought to the same elevation of Laurel Road then graded flat on the surface.

JRP’s 2006 report included an archaeological study by Far Western Anthropological Research Group of that portion of the Canal impacted by the CCEP. Although only PP1 and CC1 are in the APE for that study, Far Western concluded that only dune sand deposits (soils) comprising Holocene and Pleistocene potential would have high archaeological sensitivity. Backhoe trenching was conducted at three locations along the CCEP study area. Two trenches went to a depth of 5 feet and one to 12 feet. Although the report states that the tests were “inconclusive”, it did state that the trenching determined several feet of fill in the areas and no archaeological deposits were detected during these tests. The JRP report states that project engineers with CCWD report that most of the Canal berm along both sides is covered with 11 feet of fill. **Enclosure 9** provides you with a historical photo of the excavation activities during the creation of the Canal and the creation of these berms.

EFFECTS DETERMINATION

Pursuant to §800.5(b) of 36 CFR Part 800 (as amended 2004), Western has determined that no historic properties will be adversely affected by any of the proposed remedial activities as described in this consultation for this undertaking. Our determination is based on the following.

As discussed, CC1 and CC4, though older than 50 years, do not meet any criteria under 36 CFR 60.4 for NRHP eligibility, cannot be associated with the period of significance with the Canal, and therefore, have no historical significance. CC3 meets criteria established for the Canal as a contributing feature to the historical nature of the Canal due to its date of construction (1940) and its role as the only switchyard constructed at that time to power all 4 Pumping Plants. It’s function for and association with the Canal is its significance. However, CC3 would not qualify individually as a historic property without this association to the historic Contra Costa Canal. Although retaining most of its integrity, CC3 is not at all unique in design or structure for switchyards of that period. Like CC1 and CC4, CC3 was constructed by local engineers working with CCWD and Reclamation eliminating its eligibility under Criterion B. Neither is CC3 likely to yield information important in history (or prehistory) nor does it meet eligibility under Criterion D. Although some of the structural appearance of CC3 will be altered, it will still retain integrity of location, setting and association with the Canal. The *Secretary of Interior Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties* recommends taking into account the historical use of a building or structure when applying modifications. The proposed equipment upgrade to CC3 does not alter the defining feature that contributes to its historical significance and association with the Canal. CC3 is significant in its function as a power source for the

Canal's Pumping Plants during original construction. This historical use will not be changed as it will still function as a switchyard for the Canal Pumping Plants (2 and 3).

The historic property within the APE of the proposed remedial undertaking is really the Contra Costa Canal itself. As JRP states; *The Canal's historical significance lies in its association with the CVP and the economic development of eastern CCC [Contra Costa County]. This significance is largely conveyed through the presence of the water-carrying canal and major associated features that retain historic integrity. The segment [to be encased] is not central to the canal's significance as a whole, but rather is among the many features along the canal that contribute to its historic significance* (JRP report Appendix C-Finding of Effect, pg. 13). JRP further points out that a number of the Canal's original structures have been replaced since the period of significance and that "setting" is not one of the Canal's character-defining features (JRP report Appendix C, pp. 5-11). The proposed equipment upgrade to CC3 does not impact any of the other character-defining features that contribute to the historical significance of the Canal. We have recorded CC3 on DPR form 523b as an update to the exiting DPR Form for the Contra Costa Canal as recorded by JRP in 2005 (**enclosure 10**)

Regarding the ground disturbing activities for the proposed undertaking, Western concludes that there is very little, if any, potential for the proposed boring activities or the foundation and secondary containment work to impact intact cultural resources. The soil under CC1 and CC4 is disturbed fill to a depth of at least 7 to 10 feet and CC3 to a depth of 6 feet 6 inches as the early grading plans and profiles show and the high berms aligning the Canal indicate. The fill most likely is excavated soils from the Canal construction. The excavation activities for the construction of the oil-containments and new foundations would occur in already disturbed soils within the switchyards as these activities would not exceed the earlier grading and foundation levels. CCWD estimates that CC3 resides on cut and fill given a review of the topography in the area and a review of the USGS topographical maps (Brentwood). It is believed that the CC3 site was first graded flat and then excavation work for the foundation began that could extend 10 feet down into the soil. It is uncertain; however, if CC3 is entirely within fill material from construction of the Canal.

The proposed auger holes would remove less than one cubic foot of soil per hole. Only two hand augured holes will be bored in each switchyard. Soil samples would be brought up in tubular shapes with a 4 inch diameter. The majority of the soil sample would be disturbed fill; however, should undisturbed soil be reached during the auguring at 10 feet, impacts to any subsurface cultural deposits would be minimal. No undetected sites would be exposed.

Pursuant to §800.5(b) of 36 CFR Part 800 (as amended 2004), Western has determined that no historic properties will be adversely affected by the proposed undertaking. Pursuant to 800.3(g) of 36 CFR Part 800, Western believes that an expedited review is appropriate for this determination. At this time we seek your comments on Western's No Adverse Effect determination for this undertaking.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or concerns during your review. I can be reached at 916-353-4035 or email: waldear@wapa.gov. Your continued assistance and cooperation are appreciated.

Sincerely,



Cherie Johnston-Waldear
Regional Preservation Official
Sierra Nevada Region

10 enclosures

Cc:
Mr. Mark Seedall
Principal Planner
Contra Costa Water District
P.O. Box H2O
Concord, CA 94524

Ms. Laureen Perry
2800 Cottage Way
MP-153
Sacramento, CA 95825

Rain Emerson
1243 N. St.
Fresno, CA 93721

**OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION
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March 09, 2015

Reply in Reference To: WAPA_2015_0225_001

Cherie Johnston-Waldeal
Regional Preservation Official
Department of Energy
Western Area Power Administration
Sierra Nevada Region
114 Parkshore Drive
Folsom, CA 95630-4710

Re: Section 106 Consultation for Remediation Activities at three Contra Costa Canal Pumping Plant Switchyards, Antioch and Oakley, Contra Costa County

Dear Ms. Johnston-Waldeal:

Thank you for initiating consultation regarding the Western Area Power Administration's (WAPA) efforts to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (54 U.S.C. § 306108), as amended, and its implementing regulation found at 36 CFR Part 800. It is my understanding that the Bureau of Reclamation has designated WAPA as the lead federal agency for this undertaking.

WAPA are proposing to conduct remediation activities within the boundaries of three pumping plant switchyards (CC1, CC3 and CC4) associated with the Costa Contra Canal. As stated in their 24 February 2015 letter, WAPA intend to perform soil tests and soil removal activities, equipment replacement and gravel surface improvements among other actions. All work will be performed within the established boundaries of the three switchyards.

The Contra Costa Canal was determined eligible for National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) inclusion through consensus with my office in 2005. As the characteristics and features rendering this property eligible for NRHP inclusion will not be affected by the undertaking as proposed, WAPA is requesting my concurrence with their determination of no adverse effects to historic properties. After reviewing the information provided, I concur this determination is appropriate pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800.5(b). Please be advised that under certain circumstances, such as an unanticipated discovery or a change in project description, you may have future responsibilities for this undertaking under 36 CFR Part 800.

Thank you for seeking my comments. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Ed Carroll of my staff at (916) 445-7006 / Ed.Carroll@parks.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Carol Roland-Nawi, Ph.D.".

Carol Roland-Nawi, PhD
State Historic Preservation Officer

Johnston-Waldear, Cherie

From: Goodsell, Joanne <jgoodsell@usbr.gov>
Sent: Monday, December 08, 2014 1:59 PM
To: Johnston-Waldear, Cherie
Cc: Rain Emerson; BOR MPR Cultural Resources Section
Subject: Contra Costa Water District Substation Soil Testing (15-SCAO-021)

Cherie,

This email concerns the designation of lead Federal agency for the Contra Costa Water District Substation Soil Testing Project, proposed in the vicinity of the substations of power plants 1, 3, and 4 on the Reclamation-owned Contra Costa Canal. Following early coordination with your agency, Reclamation hereby designates Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) as the lead Federal agency to act on behalf of Reclamation for the purposes of compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) for this undertaking.

When WAPA initiates SHPO consultation under Section 106 of the NHPA, please include a statement indicating that we have designated WAPA as the lead Federal agency and include a copy of this email, as appropriate. Please refer to tracking number 15-SCAO-021 in any future correspondence with Reclamation Cultural Resources Branch staff concerning the status of this project.

Best regards,
Joanne Goodsell

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