

Categorical Exclusion Checklist

Cachuma 2014 Drought Contingency Plan

CEC-14-012

Prepared by:

Natural Resources Specialist

South-Central California Area Office

Concurred by:

See Attachment A

Archaeologist

Mid-Pacific Regional Office

Concurred by:

See Attachment B

Native American Affairs Specialist

Mid-Pacific Regional Office

Concurred by:

Biology Technician

South-Central California Area Office

Approved by:

Michael Jackson Area Manager

South-Central California Area Office

Date: See Attachment A

Date: See Attachment B

Date: 06/13/2014

Date: 06/13/14



Background

The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) constructed the Cachuma Project between 1950 and 1956. The Project stores floodwaters of the nearby Santa Ynez River, a highly variable Southern California stream, for the historically water deficient communities of the South Coast area. Primary facilities of the Cachuma Project include: Bradbury Dam, which formed Lake Cachuma; Tecolote Tunnel, which delivers water from Lake Cachuma to the South Coast; and the South Coast Conduit, which connects to the Tecolote Tunnel and distributes water across the South Coast.

Santa Barbara County Water Agency (Agency) has a long-term contract with Reclamation for up to 25,714 acre-feet (AF) per year of Cachuma Project water, as well as any surplus water available in Lake Cachuma. Pursuant to this contract, the Agency provides water to the following Member Units: Carpinteria Valley Water District, the City of Santa Barbara, Goleta Water District, Montecito Water District, and the Santa Ynez River Water Conservation District Improvement District No. 1. These five water districts comprise the Member Units of the Cachuma Operation and Maintenance Board (COMB) which operates and maintains the Cachuma Project pursuant to an operating agreement (Contract No. 14-06-200-5222R) with Reclamation.

Lake Cachuma is currently at less than 37.6 percent capacity (as of April 25, 2014) due to three consecutive years of drought. The ability to gravity feed the Intake Tower will be lost as the lake level falls below the inlet gates to the Intake Tower. COMB has estimated that this would occur by September 2014. As such, COMB has requested permission from Reclamation to install an emergency pumping system in order to continue flows into the Intake Tower once water levels fall below the inlet gates. A similar facility was temporarily installed and operated during the 1990 and 1991 drought.

Purpose and Need for Action

An emergency pumping system is needed in order to provide continual flows to the Intake Tower once water levels fall below the inlet gates and gravity feed can no longer be maintained.

Proposed Action

COMB, pursuant to its operating agreement with Reclamation, proposes to install and operate an emergency pumping system at Lake Cachuma. Specific project activities would include the following: (1) clearing an existing access road and preparing a staging area (Staging Yard), (2) maintenance activities on the Intake Tower gates, (3) installation of a pumping station and power supply, (4) installation of a water transmission pipeline, and (5) pump operation. Specific details for each activity are included below. Design for the project is being finalized with construction anticipated to begin in mid-May. Some fixtures would remain in case of future drought conditions.

Access Road and Staging Yard

The project area would be accessed through the Cachuma Lake Recreation Area as shown in Figure 1. All equipment would be transported through the Recreation Area, past the boat ramp and along a pre-existing asphalt road (Access Road 1) to the staging area (Staging Yard) all of which is currently on dry lake bed. This road would be the primary access road for the project. A second access point (Access Road 2) is a well maintained asphalt and dirt road located just south of Access Road 1 that was used during the 1990-91 drought project. This road would only be used if needed. Both roads would require minor grading in isolated locations with a bulldozer similar to what was done during the 1990-91 drought project. Some placement of gravel may be needed in spots in order to allow safe access to the lake.

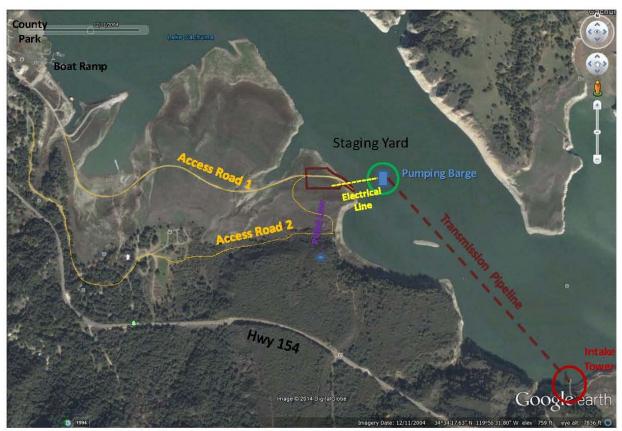


Figure 1 Overview of Project Details with Access Roads

The Staging Yard (Figure 2) would be less than an acre and would be cleared of any grass by mowing, then fenced to contain PG&E infrastructure, a backup diesel generator, a container for tools and spare parts, and a night watchman's trailer. There are no trees or shrubs on the access roads or within the Staging Yard that would be removed or substantially trimmed. Access to the water would be from Access Road 1 where it currently submerges under water. Some minor grading may be needed in this area along with placement of a small amount of gravel, just sufficient enough to provide safe equipment access to the lake.

Some construction materials may be launched from the County boat ramp (work barge, skiffs, possibly part of the transmission pipeline) depending on the lake level upon initiation of the project (Figure 1). Construction and maintenance of the Staging Yard would include Stormwater

Staging
Yard
Site Access

Pumping Barge

Transmission

Pipeline

Transmission

Best Management Practices (BMPs) for the protection of spills and elimination of erosion throughout the duration of the project.

Figure 2 Proposed Location for Staging Yard and Pumping Barge

Intake Tower Maintenance Activities

Aging gate assemblies, including stems and guides, used to operate the five gates to the Intake Tower would be replaced as they are severely corroded and in disrepair. In addition, the Intake Tower attachment box that was used for the emergency pumping system between the 1990-91 drought would be replaced with a new Tower Intake Box configured for a 36-inch diameter pipe connector.

Approximately 500 cubic yards of sediment would be removed from the lowest gate (Gate 5) on the Intake Tower, which has been covered with sediment since the 1990-91 drought. Sediment removal is estimated to take approximately two days and would require installing a 40-foot by 60-foot floating work barge from FlexiFloat barge sections. A crane would be walked onto the barge and would side-cast sediment with a clam-shell bucket. No water delivery into the Intake Tower would occur during this time to prevent water turbidity entering the system. COMB would coordinate with the Member Agencies to minimize water supply impacts.

Pumping Station and Power Supply

The work barge and crane would excavate approximately 150 cubic yards beneath the area where the pumping barge would be located (see Figure 1) in order to capture water as the lake level drops. The pumping barge would then be assembled using a Flexifloat and QuadraFloat system fixed with seven electrical pumps as shown in Figure 2.

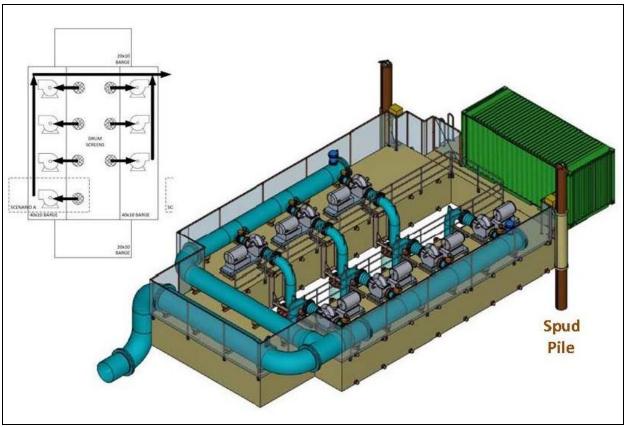


Figure 2 Pump System Schematic

The pumping barge would be held in place with 20 inch diameter steel pipes (Spud Piles) that go into the substrate. The steel pipes would be loosely collared to the pumping barge in order to allow up and down movement of the barge. The intake for each pump would be fixed with a drum fish screen with propeller driven automated mechanical cleaning brushes both inside and outside that conform to National Marine Fisheries Service fish screen criteria for impoundments and reservoirs.

As shown in Figure 1, PG&E would pull an overhead power line into the Staging Yard. COMB, or its designate, would then secure an electrical line out to the pumping barge either floated or on the bottom of the lake bed to power the pumping and transmission pipeline operation. A backup diesel generator with spill containment would be installed at the Staging Yard in case of interruption of PG&E grid-power to ensure continual water delivery.

Transmission Pipeline

Once work has been completed at the Intake Tower and pumping station, the work barge would be reconfigured into a small maintenance barge outfitted with a smaller crane. The smaller crane would be used to set 35 one-foot diameter steel anchor piles between the Intake Tower and the pumping barge to anchor a floating 3,600 foot transmission line (see Figure 1). The piles would be driven approximately 15 feet into the lake bottom substrate with an impact hammer. The anchor piles would be removed upon project completion. The transmission line would consist of fused 36-inch diameter high density polyethylene (HDPE) pipe segments that connect the new Intake Box at Gate 5 on the Intake Tower to the pumping barge discharge pipe. The transmission line would float on the water surface with approximately 90 percent of it submerged. The maintenance barge would be left in the water for the duration of the project to assist in maintenance or contingency tasks that may arise, including but not limited to pump replacement, anchor pile replacement, clam-shell excavating, pipe repair, etc.

Pump Operation

The emergency pumping system would operate continuously in order to provide 45 million gallons per day to the Intake Tower. In the event of a prolonged drought, the pumping barge may need to be moved approximately 5,000 feet further to the west (towards Bradbury Dam) in order to connect to the deeper parts of the lake (see Figure 3).



Figure 3 Potential Second Pumping Barge Location

If a second location is needed, the pumping barge would be moved and a new Staging Yard established within the developed areas of the Recreation Area. Additional HDPE pipe would be fused and attached to the floating transmission line. Power would be established from nearby Recreation Area facilities. This location would be used until water diversions must cease.

Environmental Permits

Prior to start of the project, COMB would provide Reclamation all appropriate permits for working within a waterway including:

- California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) Streambed Alteration Agreement
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 404
- California Regional Water Quality Control Board CWA Section 401

Environmental Commitments

COMB, or its designate, would implement the following environmental commitments to avoid any environmental consequences associated with the Proposed Action (Table 1). Environmental consequences for resource areas assume the measures specified will be fully implemented.

Table 1 Environmental Commitments

Resource	Protection Measure
Biological Resources	To avoid potential impacts to nesting migratory birds, a qualified biologist shall survey the access roads, staging area(s), and any other areas that will be subjected to vegetation clearing/trimming or grading, plus a 20-foot buffer around these areas, for ground-nesting migratory birds such as Killdeer. If any trees or shrubs need to be trimmed, they shall also be surveyed for nesting migratory birds prior to trimming. If an active nest is found during the survey(s), no ground-disturbing activities, trimming or removal of vegetation shall occur within 300 feet of the nest until the young have fledged or until the nest is no longer active. All equipment will be maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's directions so there will be no leaks of fluids such as gasoline, oils, or solvents.
Various	The generator and all fuel repositories would be placed in containment vessels and follow established best management practices (BMPs) for spill containment. Construction and maintenance of the Staging Yard would include Stormwater BMPs for the prevention of spills and elimination of erosion throughout the duration of the project. All float sections and skiffs would be inspected for Quagga and Zebra mussels prior to mobilization to Lake Cachuma.

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 ✓	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
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	Uncertain	Yes
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 ✓	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)).	No ✓	Uncertain	Yes
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 ☑	Uncertain	Yes
11.	This action would affect ITAs (512 DM 2, Policy Memorandum dated December 15, 1993).	No ☑	Uncertain	Yes
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 ☑	Uncertain	Yes
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 ✓	Uncertain	Yes
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 (1)).	No ☑	Uncertain	Yes

Attachment A

Reclamation's Cultural Resources Determination

OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

1725 23rd Street, Suite 100 SACRAMENTO, CA 95816-7100 (916) 445-7000 Fax: (916) 445-7053 calshpo@parks.ca.gov www.ohp.parks.ca.gov

June 13, 2014



Reply in Reference To: BUR_2014_0612_001

Anastasia T. Leigh, Regional Environmental Officer Bureau of Reclamation Mid-Pacific Regional Office 2800 Cottage Way Sacramento, CA 95825-1898

RE: Emergency Pumping System Project, Lake Cachuma, Santa Barbara County, California (14-SCAO-180)

Dear Ms. Leigh:

Thank you for seeking my consultation regarding the above noted undertaking. Pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800 (as amended 8-05-04) regulations implementing Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) is seeking my comments regarding the delineation of the Area of Potential Effects (APE), adequacy of identification efforts, and a *Finding of No Adverse Effect to Historic Properties* for the project.

The Cachuma Operations and Maintenance Board proposes to install emergency pumping facilities to maintain water intake into the Cachuma Water Project distribution system as part of the Emergency Drought Contingency Plan. The project will occur on Reclamation land. A pump on a floating platform (Pumping Barge) is proposed that would pump water into a pipeline laid across the bottom of the lake that would connect to Gate 5 of the Intake Tower of the Tecolote Tunnel Complex. This will entail:

- 1. Anchoring of the Pump Barge to the lake bed with twenty-inch "spud piles;"
- 2. Modifications to Gate 5 of the Intake Tower;
- 3. Removal of silt buildup near Gate 5 and the previously submerged paved access road;
- 4. Grading/vegetation removal on lake bed for the staging area;
- 5. Modification of the fish rack and connection box to accommodate the new, larger pipeline;
- 6. Replacement of the stems and guides of the five gates on the Intake Tower;
- 7. Installation of a below-water pipeline on the lake bed with 35 one foot diameter anchor piles;
- 8. Installation of a power transmission line with two new and one replacement power pole; Project access will be on existing asphalt roads and the dry lake bed;

Reclamation has determined the Area of Potential Effects (APE) will lie in four discontinuous areas: Access road (15-foot corridor) and staging area, including the location of one utility pole; Thirty six-inch water pipeline (15-foot corridor) connected from a pumping barge to an intake gauge (20-foot buffer); and two Pacific Gas and Electric utility poles, each with a 20-foot buffer.

The vertical APE varies across the project area. Sediments covering the main access road vary in depth; removal would not exceed five feet. Installation of power poles will be approximately seven feet deep. Vegetation removal and vehicle traffic may disturb three to six inches of ground surface.

In addition to your letter received June 12, 2014, you have submitted the *Emergency Pumping System Project at Lake Cachuma Cultural Resources Inventory; Lake Cachuma Water Project, Santa Barbara County, CA (14-SCAO-180)* (Carper, June 2014), as evidence of your efforts to identify and evaluate historic properties in the project APE:

Archival research included a records search at the Central Coast Information Center on May 13, 2014 of the APE and a one mile radius. One previously identified historic property was located within the APE: the Tecolote Tunnel Complex, which includes the Intake Tower. The historic property was determined eligible to the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) by consensus in 2010, under Criterion C for its significance at the state level in engineering and for its method of construction. The Intake Tower was identified as a portion of the Tecolote Tunnel Complex and character defining features include the truss bridge, five-sided concrete tower, tower deck, five fish racks, and the metal crane hoist.

A portion of previously recorded San Marcos Road (CA-SBR-2685H) was also determined to lie within the APE. This portion appears to be a section of the original pre-1950 Highway 150 (now 154) that ran along the inundated portion of Santa Ynez River. The road was originally recorded in 1994 and divided into three features: the 1869-1880s stagecoach route (Feature 1); the 1880s-1930s second stagecoach road (Feature 2); and the modern highway (Feature 3). The early portions of the road (Feature 1 and 2) are located beneath the lake. Feature 3 was previously evaluated and recommended as ineligible to the NRHP due to lack of sufficient integrity. There is no evidence of a consensus determination for this finding.

Reclamation identified the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Mission Indians as having interests in the project area. Freddie Romero, tribal resources representative, expressed concerns about potential impacts to prehistoric sites in the vicinity of the project. During field review with Mr. Romero no cultural resources of concern to the tribe were identified. The tribe has requested that monitors be present for ground disturbing activities due to the sensitivity of the area and the potential for buried deposits; arrangements for monitoring have been made.

A pedestrian surface survey was conducted on June 3, 2014. Because the original ground surface is covered by lake sediments (up to ten feet) extra attention was paid to cut-banks and other surface disturbances. Site records were updated for the San Marcos Road which included a portion of the intact highway (Feature 3a) that deviated from that previously documented and a board formed concrete bridge along the road.

Reclamation has identified one historic property, the Tecolote Tunnel Complex, which includes the Intake Tower, located within the APE. Also within the APE, Reclamation has identified a previously unknown portion of the San Marcos Road (CA-SBR-2685H) and associated bridge. Due to these new discoveries, Reclamation has assumed the San Marcos Road eligible for purposes of this project only. Pursuant to 36 CFR §800.4(d)(1) Reclamation has determined a *Finding of No Adverse Effect to Historic Properties* by the proposed project. The project modifications required for the Intake Tower include replacement of the original stems and guides

for the gates and replacement of the Intake Tower Box assemblage installed in Gate 5 in 1991. These activities will not affect the character defining features referred to above and will not affect its eligibility to the NRHP. The work proposed along San Marcos Road entails removal of silt in order to use the road for access. These activities will not alter the integrity of the road and therefore are not adverse effects.

Based on your identification and analysis efforts, I concur there will be no adverse effect to the Tecolote Tunnel Complex. I agree the San Marcos Road (CA-SBR-2685H) should be assumed eligible to the NRHP for purposes of this project and concur there will be no adverse effects from the project. I concur with Reclamation's *Finding of No Adverse Effect to Historic Properties* for the project. Identification efforts are sufficient and I also have no objections to the delineation of the APE, as depicted in the supporting documentation.

Thank you for considering effects to historic properties in your project planning. Be advised that under certain circumstances, such as unanticipated discovery or a change in project description, Reclamation may have additional future responsibilities for this undertaking under 36 CFR Part 800. Thank you for seeking my comments and considering historic properties as part of your project planning. If you have any questions or concerns regarding archaeological resources, please contact Associate State Archaeologist, Kim Tanksley at (916) 445-7035 or by email at kim.tanksley@parks.ca.gov. Any questions concerning the built environment should be directed to State Historian, Amanda Blosser at (916)445-7048 or by email at amanda.blosser@parks.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Carol Roland-Nawi, PhD

State Historic Preservation Officer

Cent Tokand Your, Ph.D.

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

MP-153 Tracking Number: 14-SCAO-180

Project Name: Cachuma Drought Plan Emergency Pumping System Project at Lake Cachuma,

Santa Barbara County, California

NEPA Document: CEC 111213

Project Manager/NEPA Contact: Rain Emerson

MP 153 Cultural Resources Reviewer: Mark Carper

Date: 6/13/2014

This proposed undertaking by Reclamation is the approval for Cachuma Operations and Maintenance Board (COMB) to install emergency pumping facilities to maintain water intake into the Cachuma Project distribution system. This proposed project would occur on Reclamation lands. Federal approval of the 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 entails the placement of a pump on a floating platform (pumping barge) to pump water into a pipeline that would connect to Gate 5 of the Intake Tower.

Reclamation's identification efforts included archival research through the Central Coast Information Center (June 2014) and a pedestrian cultural resource survey (June 2014). Two historic resources were identified within the area of potential effects (APE). These are the San Marcos Road (pre-1951 segment) and the Intake Tower to the Tecolote Tunnel Complex. The Intake Tower is eligible for listing in the NRHP and given the scale and scope of the project Reclamation determined that the road segment be considered eligible for the NRHP for its association with early transportation along the Santa Ynez River. Reclamation further determined that the proposed project would have no adverse effect to either historic property.

Reclamation identified the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Mission Indians as having interests in the project area and consulted pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.4(a)(4). Mr. Freddie Romero, tribal cultural resources representative, contacted Reclamation with concerns regarding potential impacts to prehistoric sites along the lake and in the vicinity of proposed activities. Reclamation archaeologists met with Mr. Romero at the project location and he accompanied them during the survey. Further, the Tribe contracted with COMB to provide monitoring services for the project.

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

Reclamation initiated consultation with the California State Preservation Office (SHPO) by letter on June 11, 2014. SHPO responded by letter on June 16, 2014 concurring with Reclamation's determination of no historic properties affected by the undertaking.

Reclamation has concluded the NHPA Section 106 process for this undertaking. This memo serves as concurrence with item #8 on CEC 14-012 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

Reclamation's Indian Trust Assets Determination



Emerson, Rain <remerson@usbr.gov>

Re: Project description for review (CEC-14-012)

RIVERA, PATRICIA <pri>privera@usbr.gov>
To: Rain Emerson <remerson@usbr.gov>

Mon, May 12, 2014 at 12:30 PM

Rain.

I reviewed the proposed action to approve the Cachuma Operation and Maintenance Board's (COMB), proposal to install and operate an emergency pumping system at Lake Cachuma. Specific project activities would include the following: (1) clearing an existing access road and preparing a staging area, (2) maintenance activities on the Intake Tower gates, (3) installation of a pumping station and power supply, (4) installation of a water transmission pipeline, and (5) pump operation. Design for the project is being finalized with construction anticipated to begin in mid-May.

The proposed action does not have a potential to impact Indian Trust Assets. The nearest Indian Trust Asset is a Public Domain Allotment, approximately 6 miles Southwest of the project location.

Patricia Rivera
Native American Affairs Program Manager
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