

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Categorical Exclusion Checklist

PG&E License Amendment to Install Electrical Service near Friant Dam

CEC-14-062

Prepared by:


Stacy L. Holt
Natural Resources Specialist
South-Central California Area Office


Date: 07/22/2015

Concurred by:

See Attachment A
Archaeologist
Mid-Pacific Regional Office

Date: See Attachment A

Concurred by:


Shauna McDonald
Wildlife Biologist
South-Central California Area Office


Date: 7/22/15

Concurred by:


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

Date: 07/22/2015

Approved by:


Michael Jackson
Area Manager
South-Central California Area Office

Date: 7/29/2015



Background

In November 2012, the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) issued a license to the Friant Power Authority and Orange Cove Irrigation District to construct and maintain a new powerhouse at the toe of Friant Dam (CEC-09-095). This was part of the Friant Power Authority and Orange Cove Irrigation District's license renewal process with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, which analyzed the construction and operation of the new powerhouse in Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's Environmental Assessment (EA), Project No. 11068-014.

As part of the previous action, Reclamation issued a license to PG&E to install electrical service for the new powerhouse; however, the scope for Reclamation's review and FERC's EA did not include analysis for electrical utility modifications required for the new powerhouse.

Nature of the Action

Reclamation proposes to amend PG&E's existing license to allow for extended electrical service over and across Reclamation land for the new powerhouse.

Under this amendment, PG&E will install the following:

- Five 50' and one 60' wooden poles
- New pole anchors
- An underground conduit
- A new service box/vault
- Lines and associated infrastructure

The new infrastructure would supply electrical service to the powerhouse from PG&E's existing distribution system. Each pole would require a 20-30 inch diameter hole dug with an auger (7.5-9' deep). The underground conduit would be 250' long and 44' deep. The box/vault would be 6.5' x 10.5', and 8.5' deep. Equipment that will be used to perform the work include 3 Line Trucks (Auger), 3 Bucket Trucks, 1 Foreman truck, 1 "Pittman" (small tractor), and 2 Pulling and Breaking Rigs with wire reel. The entire project would take approximately 30 days to complete and will be installed in line with PG&E's existing lines, poles, and related appurtenances (see Figure 1).

Location: Sections 5 and 8, Township 11S, Range 21E, Mount Diablo Base & Meridian as depicted on the Friant Dam 7.5" U.S. Geological Survey topographic quadrangle.

Environmental Commitments

PG&E shall implement the following environmental protection measures to avoid and/or reduce environmental consequences associated with the Proposed Action (Table 1). Environmental consequences for resource areas assume the measures specified would be fully implemented.

Table 1. Environmental Commitments

Resource	Protection Measures
Biological	PG&E would need to follow the Services' 2011 (Service 2011) San Joaquin kit fox measures.
Biological	PG&E would need to survey for Western Burrowing Owls at the same time the kit fox survey

	is done, and avoid the owls sufficiently to avoid any take (as defined under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act).
Biological	PG&E would need to have a qualified biologist ensure that no Hartweg's Golden Sunburst is found at the southernmost pole location. PG&E would need to avoid the Golden Sunburst population

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.*

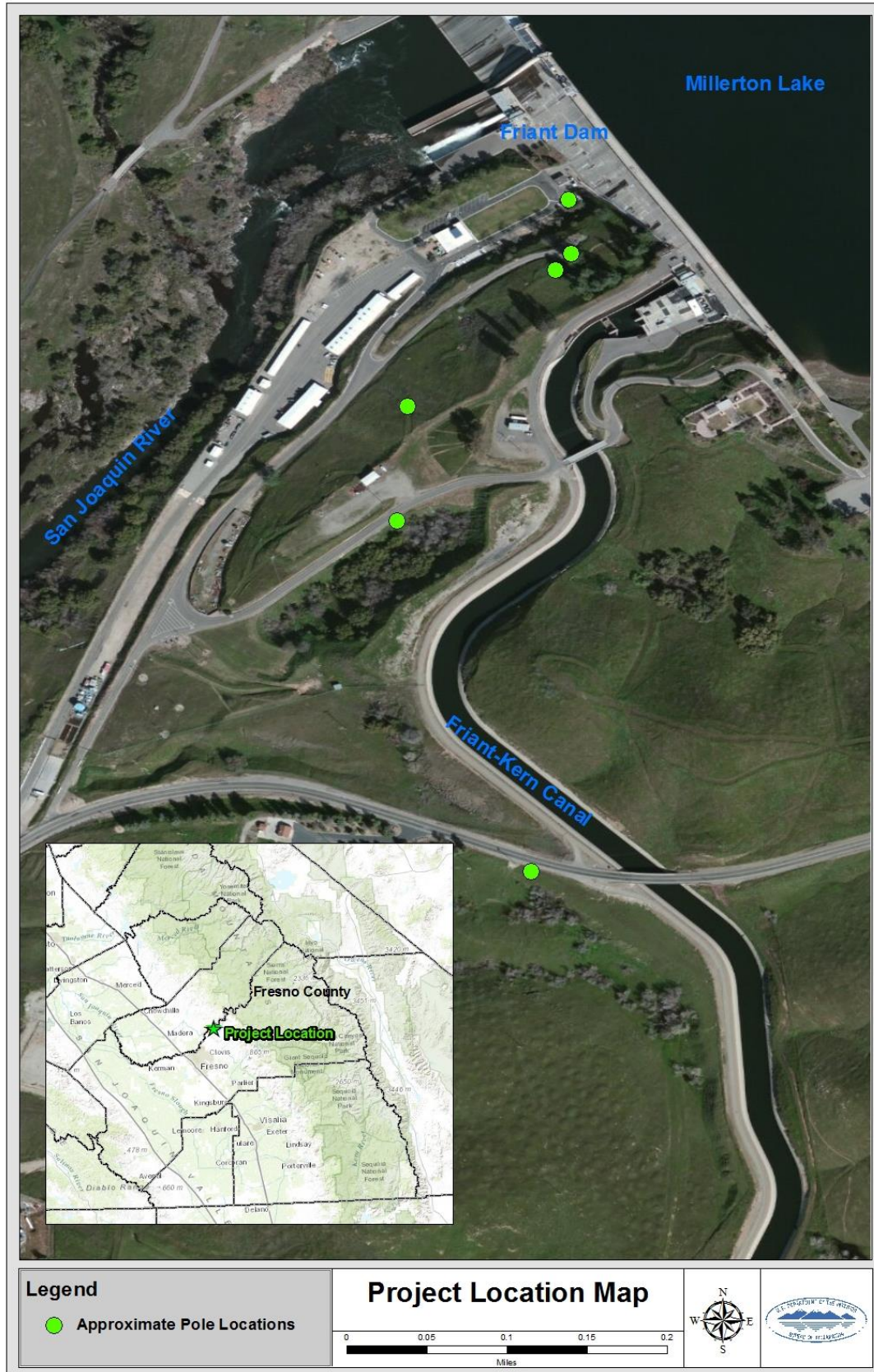


Figure 1. Project Location Map

Evaluation of Criteria for Categorical Exclusion

- | | No | Uncertain | Yes |
|---|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 1. This action would have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment (40 CFR 1502.3). | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <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)). | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. This action would have significant impacts on public health or safety (43 CFR 46.215(a)). | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <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)). | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <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)). | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <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)). | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <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)). | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <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)). | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <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"/> |

NEPA Action: Categorical Exclusion

The Proposed Action is covered by the exclusion category and no extraordinary circumstances exist. The Action is excluded from further documentation in an EA or EIS.

Attachment A: Cultural Resources Determination

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

MP-153 Tracking Number: 15-SCAO-086

Project Name: Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) Service License Amendment and Power Pole Installation Project

NEPA Document: CEC-14-062

Project Manager/NEPA Contact: Rain Emerson, Supervisory Natural Resources Specialist

MP 153 Cultural Resources Reviewer: Joanne Goodsell

Date: July 15, 2015

Reclamation proposes to amend an existing license to PG&E that allows for the construction and maintenance of a new powerhouse at the toe of Friant Dam. The amended license would allow PG&E to extend electrical service from its existing distribution system across Reclamation land for the new powerhouse. This would require the installation of new power poles, lines, and associated infrastructure. Reclamation determined that the proposed action constitutes a Federal undertaking requiring compliance with 54 U.S.C. § 306108, commonly known as Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA).

PG&E contracted with Garcia and Associates to conduct historic properties identification efforts in the area of potential effects (APE) for this undertaking. Reclamation identified and sought information from Indian tribes that may attach religious and cultural significance to historic properties in the APE in accordance with 36 CFR § 800.3(f)(2) and § 800.4(a)(4). No historic properties were identified within the APE through any of these identification efforts. Through correspondence dated June 9, 2015, Reclamation notified the California State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) of a finding of no historic properties affected, pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.4(d)(1). In correspondence dated July 14, 2015, the SHPO responded with no objection to Reclamation's finding.

Reclamation has concluded the NHPA Section 106 process for this undertaking. This document serves as concurrence with item #8 on CEC-14-062. The proposed action will have no significant impacts on historic properties. Please retain a copy of this document with the administrative record for this action. Should the proposed action change, additional NHPA Section 106 review, possibly including further consultation with the SHPO, may be required.

**OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION**

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July 14, 2015

In reply refer to: BUR_2015_0612_001

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

Re: National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Section 106 Consultation for the Proposed Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) Service License Amendment and Power Pole Installation Project in Fresno County, California (Project #15-SCAO-086)

Dear Ms. Leigh:

Thank you for your letter dated June 9, 2015, requesting my review and comment with regard to the proposed PG&E Service License Amendment and Power Pole Installation Project in Fresno County, California. The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) is consulting with me pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations found at 36 CFR Part 800 (as amended 8-05-04). Along with your consultation letter, you also provided the following documents:

- *Cultural Resources Constraints Report* (Garcia and Associates, May 26, 2015); and
- *Documentation of Native American consultation* (Reclamation, March 6, 2015).

In 2012, Reclamation issued a license to PG&E to provide electrical service to a new powerhouse located at the toe of Friant Dam. That license was issued without consideration for how the service would be provided. PG&E has requested an amendment to the 2012 license that would allow for the service through the completion of the following work: reconductoring 3,032 feet of overhead line, replacement of five wooden poles, installation of two new poles, new pole anchors, an underground conduit, a new service box/vault, and overhead capacitors, meters, and switches. All proposed work would take place in 20 discrete locations on Reclamation land in line with existing PG&E poles, lines, and related distribution structures.

Reclamation has determined that the 1.20-acre discontinuous area of potential effects (APE) for this undertaking (as depicted in the provided technical document) consists of all proposed work areas, staging locations, and access routes associated with the proposed undertaking. The vertical APE is up to 8 feet deep for pole installation work, 5 feet deep for box/vault construction, and 4 feet deep in areas where underground conduit is to be installed.

The cultural resources identification effort included a records search and cultural resources survey performed by Garcia and Associates (Consultant), and Native American consultation initiated by Reclamation. A records search completed on June 5, 2013, indicated that no previously recorded

cultural resources had been identified within the APE. However, Reclamation has identified the Friant Dam and the Friant-Kern Canal (FKC), Reclamation Facilities previously evaluated and recommended eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) under Criteria A and C, outside of, but immediately adjacent to the direct APE for the proposed undertaking. For the purposes of the current undertaking, Reclamation is proposing to treat the Central Valley Project, Friant dam, and the FKC as eligible for the NRHP.

A cultural resource pedestrian survey conducted on May 19, 2015, did not result in the identification of cultural resources within the APE. Reclamation initiated consultation with the Big Sandy Rancheria, Cold Springs Rancheria, North Fork Rancheria, Picayune Rancheria, Table Mountain Rancheria, the Dumna Wo-Hah Tribal government, Dunlop band of Mono Indians, North Fork Mono Tribe, and Mr. Keith Turner on March 6, 2015 to request their assistance in the identification of sites of religious or cultural significance or historic properties that may be affected by the proposed undertaking. Native American consultation efforts did not result in the identification of potential historic properties within the APE.

While Reclamation has identified properties *adjacent* to the APE that they propose to treat as eligible for the NRHP, no historic properties were identified in the APE and, pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4(d)(1), Reclamation has found that no historic properties will be affected by the proposed undertaking. Reclamation is requesting my review and comment on the delineation of the APE and their efforts to identify historic properties. After reviewing your submission I have the following comments:

- Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4(a)(1), I have no objections to the APE as defined.
- Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4(b), I find that Reclamation has made a reasonable and good faith effort to identify historic properties within the area of potential effects.
- Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4(d)(1)(i), **I do not object with your finding of no historic properties affected for this undertaking.**

Thank you for seeking my comments and considering historic properties as part of 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. If you have any questions, please contact Patrick Riordan of my staff at (916) 445-7017 or Patrick.Riordan@parks.ca.gov or Kathleen Forrest at (916) 445-7022 or Kathleen.Forrest@parks.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Jenan Saunders

Deputy State Historic Preservation Officer