

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Categorical Exclusion Checklist

Water Year 2016 Friant Division 215 Contracts

CEC-15-048

Prepared by:

Kelly Baker
Kelly Baker
Natural Resources Specialist
South-Central California Area Office

Date: 10/1/15

Concurred by:

See Attachment A
Archaeologist/Architectural Historian
Mid-Pacific Regional Office
Regional Archeologist concurred with Item 8. Their determination has been placed within the project file.

Date: See Attachment A

Concurred by:

Lisa Carlson
Lisa Carlson
Wildlife Biologist
South-Central California Area Office

Date: 10/1/15

Concurred by:

Rain L. Emerson
Rain L. Emerson
Supervisory Natural Resources Specialist
South-Central California Area Office
ITA Designee concurred with Item 11. Their determination has been placed within the project file.

Date: 10/7/15

Approved by:

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

Date: 10/8/15



Background

Section 215 of the Reclamation Reform Act, Public Law 97-293 authorizes the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) to provide temporary water service contracts (215 contracts) for unstorable flood flows (Section 215 water) as a result of (1) an unusually large water supply not otherwise storable for project purposes; or (2) infrequent and otherwise unmanaged flood flows of short duration.

Nature of the Action

Reclamation proposes to execute 215 contracts during Contract Year 2016 (March 1, 2016 through February 28, 2017) for temporary supply of Section 215 water to CVP and non-CVP contractors located within the Friant Division's CVP Place of Use (see Table 1 for potential recipients). Additionally, temporary supply would be given to CVP and non-CVP contractors located around Mendota Pool. Water delivery would be from Millerton Lake through the San Joaquin River to the Mendota Pool (Figure 1).

Table 1: List of Potential Recipients

Friant Division Contractors	
Arvin-Edison Water Storage District	Chowchilla Water District
City of Fresno	City of Lindsay
City of Orange Cove	County of Madera
Delano-Earlimart Irrigation District	Exeter Irrigation District
Fresno County Waterworks #18	Fresno Irrigation District
Garfield Water District	Gravelly Ford Water District
Hills Valley Irrigation District	International Water District
Ivanhoe Irrigation District	Kaweah Delta Water Conservation District
Kern-Tulare Water District ¹	Lewis Creek Water District
Lindmore Irrigation District	Lindsay-Strathmore Irrigation District
Lower Tule River Irrigation District	Madera Irrigation District
Orange Cove Irrigation District	Porterville Irrigation District
Saucelito Irrigation District	Shafter-Wasco Irrigation District
Southern San Joaquin Municipal Utility District	Stone Corral Irrigation District
Tea Pot Dome Water District	Terra Bella Irrigation District
Tri-Valley Water District	Tulare Irrigation District
Cross Valley Contractors	
Kern-Tulare Water District ¹	County of Tulare ³
County of Fresno ²	Lower Tule River Irrigation District
Pixley Irrigation District	Tri-Valley water District
Hills Valley Irrigation District	
¹ Previously combined with Rag Gulch Water District.	
² Including its subcontractors: Fresno County Service Areas #5, #10, and #14 and Fresno County Water Works #34.	
³ Including its subcontractors: Alpaugh Irrigation District, Atwell Island Water District, City of Lindsay, Hills Valley Irrigation District, Saucelito Irrigation District, Stone Corral Irrigation District, Strathmore Public Utilities District, Styrotek, Inc., and City of Visalia.	

Mendota Pool Contractors	
Fresno Slough Water District	San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors
Tranquillity PUD	Central California Irrigation District
James Irrigation District	San Luis Canal Company
Laguna Water District	Firebaugh Canal Company
Reclamation District No. 1606	Columbia Canal Company
Coelho Family Trust	Marvin & Patricia Meyers
Tranquillity Irrigation District	Dudley & Indart
Westlands Water District Distribution Districts 1 and 2	
Non-CVP Contractors	
Buena Vista Water Storage District	Kings River Conservation District ⁴
Consolidated Irrigation District	Lakeside Irrigation District
Cawelo Water District	Liberty Water District
Corcoran Irrigation District	North Kern Water Storage District
Hermosa Water Company	Root Creek Water District
Kaweah Delta Water Conservation District ⁵	Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water Storage District
Kern County Water Agency ⁶	Semitropic Water Storage District
Kern Water Bank Authority ⁷	Tulare Lake Basin Water Storage District
⁴ Including its subcontractors: Corcoran Irrigation District, Lakeside Irrigation District, and Kings County Water District. ⁵ Including its subcontractors: Kern Delta Water District, Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water Storage District, Henry Miller Water District, and Buena Vista Water Storage District. ⁶ Including its subcontractors: Kern County Water Agency, Westside Mutual Water Company, and Semitropic Water Storage District. ⁷ Including its subcontractors: Alta Irrigation District, Clark's Fork Reclamation District No. 2069, Consolidated Irrigation District, Corcoran Irrigation District, Empire West Side Irrigation District, Fresno Irrigation District, James Irrigation District, Kings County Water District, Kings River Water District, Laguna Irrigation District, Lakeside Irrigation Water District, Liberty Water District, Mid-Valley Water District, Raisin City Water District, Riverdale Irrigation District, Salyer Water District, Stratford Irrigation District, Tulare Lake Basic Water Storage District, Tulare Lake Reclamation District No. 761, Tulare Ditch Company, Corcoran Irrigation Company, Crescent Canal Company, John Heinlen Mutual Water Company, Last Change Water Ditch Company, Lemoore Canal and Irrigation District, Liberty Canal Company, Liberty Mill Race Company, Lovelace Water Corporation, Peoples Ditch Company, Reed Ditch Company, Southeast Lake Water Company, Stinson Canal and Irrigation Company, Upper San Jose Water Company, and Tranquillity Irrigation District.	

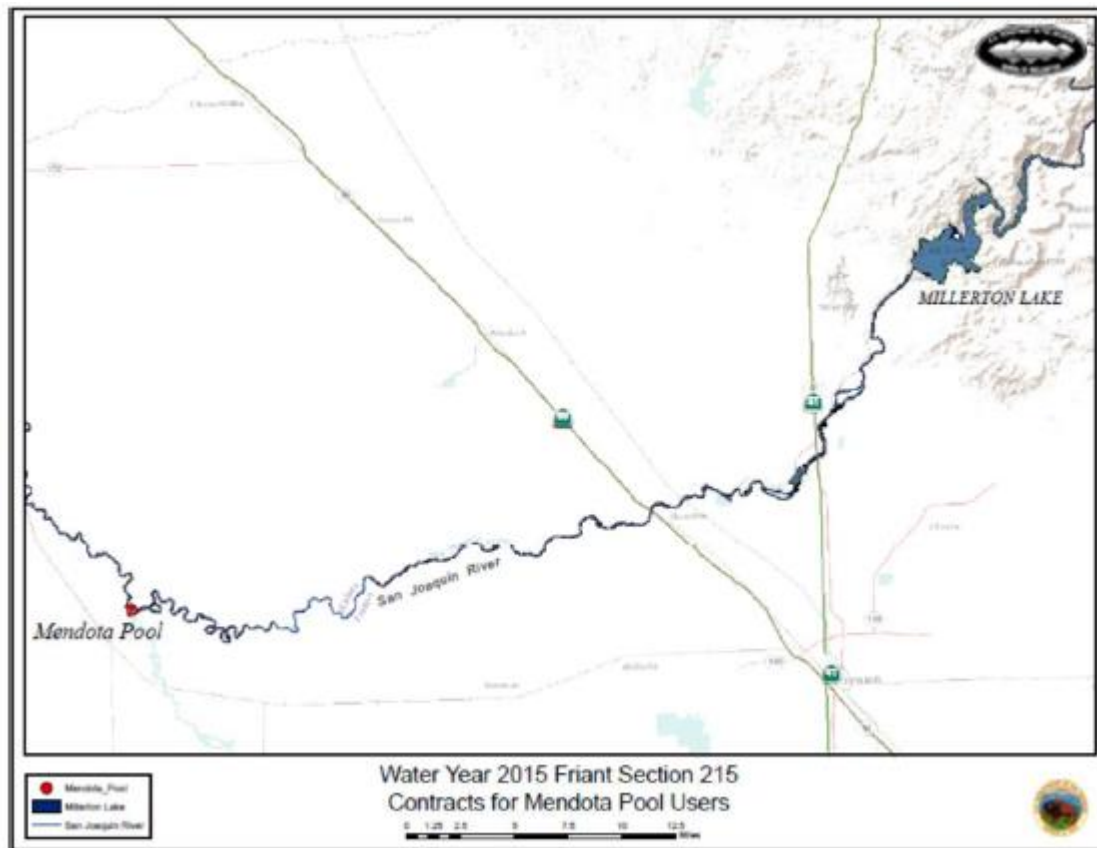


Figure 1 Proposed Action Area

The availability of this Section 215 water would be at Reclamation's discretion and dependent on reservoir capacity and operations, hydrologic conditions, and Friant operating guidelines. The priority for the provision of temporary water is specified by the Friant Operational Guidelines.

Temporary water must be used within the eligible contractor's water service boundary identified in their interim and long-term contracts. No banking, transferring, or exchanging of Section 215 water is allowed unless otherwise approved by Reclamation.

Water provided through this action will only be permitted to those lands within the Friant Division's CVP Place of Use.

Environmental Commitments

The CVP and non-CVP contractors 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.

Resource	Protective Measure
Biological Resources	No new facilities would be constructed to convey this water.
Biological Resources	Lands that have never been tilled or irrigated shall not be tilled or put into agricultural production using this water.
Biological Resources	Lands that have been fallowed for three consecutive years, or more, shall not be irrigated with this surplus water.

Exclusion Category

516 DM 14.5 D (4): *Approval, execution and implementation of water service contracts for minor amounts of long-term water use or temporary or interim water use where the action does not lead to long-term changes and where the impact are expected to be localized.*

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"/> |

- | | 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)). | <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"/> |
| 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"/> |

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|--|---|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 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 (I)). | No
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain
<input type="checkbox"/> | Yes
<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.

Appendix A

Cultural Resources Determination

CULTURAL RESOURCES COMPLIANCE
Division of Environmental Affairs
Cultural Resources Branch (MP-153)

MP-153 Tracking Number: 15-SCAO-263

Project Name: Water Year 2016 Friant Division 215 Contracts

NEPA Document: CEC-15-048

NEPA Contact: Kelly Baker, Natural Resources Specialist

MP-153 Cultural Resources Reviewer: Joanne Goodsell, Archaeologist

Date: September 21, 2015

Reclamation proposes to execute temporary water service contracts, effective March 1, 2016 through February 28, 2017, related to the temporary supply of unstorable flood flows, known as Section 215 water, to Central Valley Project (CVP) and non-CVP contractors located within the Friant Division's CVP Place of Use. The availability of Section 215 water would be at Reclamation's discretion and dependent on reservoir capacity and operations, hydrologic conditions, and Friant Division operational guidelines. No new facilities would be constructed to convey this water and it would not be used on lands that have not previously and recently been in agricultural production.

Reclamation has determined that 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, pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.3(a)(1). As such, Reclamation has no further obligations under 54 U.S.C. § 306108, commonly known as Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). Item 8 of CEC-15-048 is supported by this determination: The proposed action would have no significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places.

This document conveys the completion of the cultural resources review and NHPA Section 106 process for this undertaking. Please retain a copy with the administrative record for the proposed action. Should the proposed action change, additional review under Section 106, possibly including consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer, may be required.