

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Categorical Exclusion Checklist

California State Parks San Luis Reservoir Basalt Residence Yard Fencing Project

CEC-15-024

Prepared by:

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

Date: 10/13/15

Concurred by:

See Attachment A
Mark Carper
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:

Shauna McDonald
Shauna McDonald
Wildlife Biologist
South-Central California Area Office

Date: 10/13/15

Concurred by:

Rain L. Emerson
for 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: 10/13/15

Approved by:

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

Date: 11/2/2015



Nature of the Action

Pursuant to an operating agreement with the Bureau of Reclamation, the California Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks) proposes to install new hog-wire fencing around an existing residence next to the Basalt Campground within the San Luis Reservoir State Recreation Area (see Figure 1 and Figure 2). The residence is currently occupied by the supervising ranger and fencing is required for protection of state property, canine containment, and visitor safety.

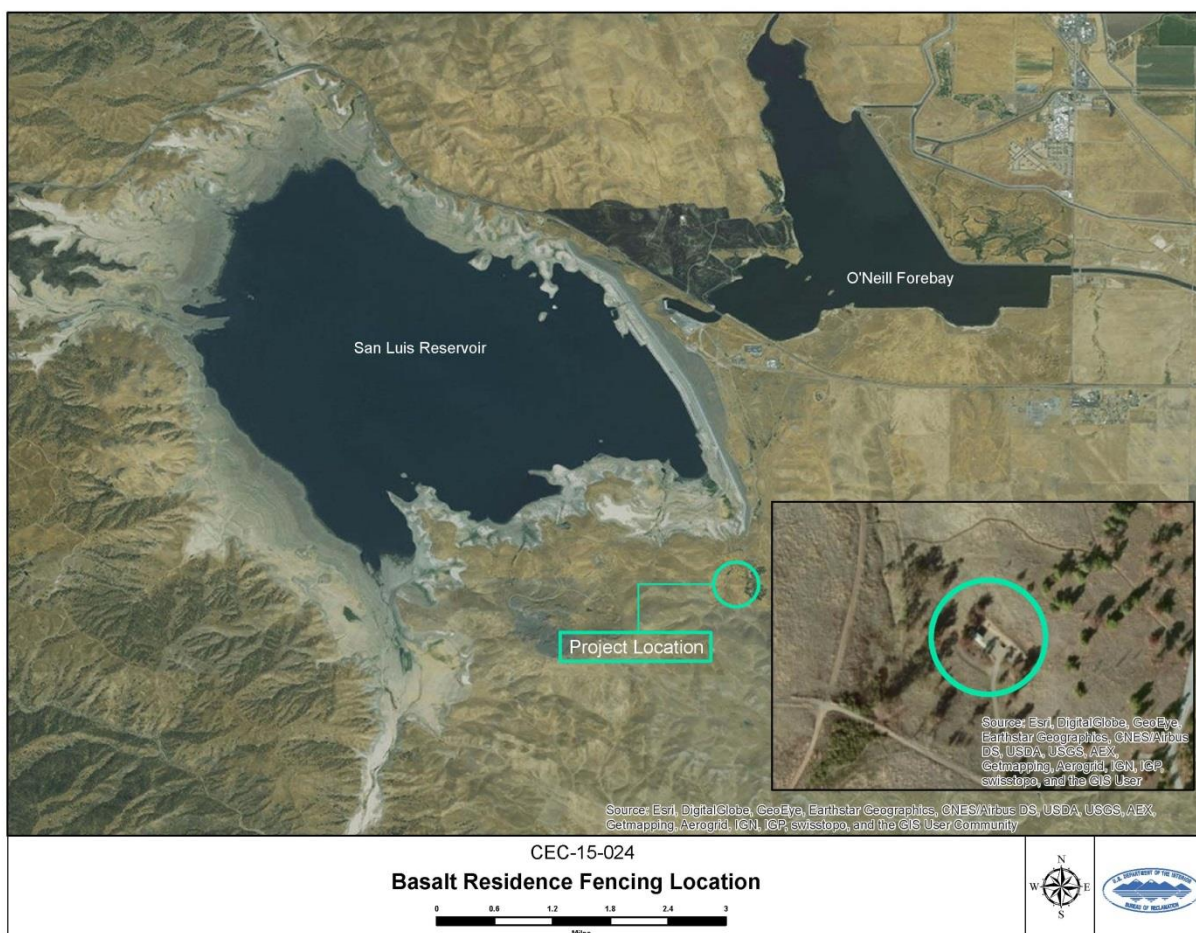


Figure: 1 Basalt Residence Fencing Project Location.



Work will include the following:

- Installation of seventy-five 6 feet high T-posts at a depth of 18 inches every 8 feet using a post pounder;
- Installation of six 4 inch by 6 inch by 9 feet tall and four 4 inch by 4 inch by 9 feet tall wooden hinge posts. Post holes will be dug by an auger and the holes around the posts will be filled in with concrete for stability;
- Installation of three 12 foot wide and one 6 foot wide swinging gates;
- Securing of hog-wire fencing to the installed posts.

The completed fence will measure 120 feet long by 80 feet wide and 95 feet long by 63 feet wide. Equipment and staging area would utilize existing paved area within the residence property. Work is proposed to start as soon as possible and be completed in two to three weeks.

Environmental Commitments

State Parks shall implement the following environmental commitments to avoid and/or reduce potential environmental consequences associated with the Proposed Action:

Table 1 Environmental Commitments

Resource	Protection Measure
Biological Resources	The project area would be surveyed by a qualified biologist prior to start of work for the presence of burrows/dens that may be used by California tiger salamander, burrowing owls, and/or kit foxes. No burrows will be collapsed during this project.
Biological Resources	No disturbance would occur within 50 meters (approximately 160 feet) of occupied burrowing owl burrows during the nonbreeding season of September 1 through January 31 or within 75 meters (approximately 250 feet) during the breeding season of February 1 through August 31. Avoidance also requires that a minimum of 6.5 acres of foraging habitat be preserved contiguous with occupied burrow sites for each pair of breeding burrowing owls (with or without dependent young) or single unpaired resident bird.
Biological Resources	Project locations would be surveyed for kit foxes prior to the start of work. Pre-construction surveys include surveying the project area and a 200-foot area outside the project area to minimize or avoid impacts. Preconstruction/preactivity surveys for kit foxes shall be conducted no less than 14 days and no more than 30 prior to the beginning of ground disturbance and/or construction activities or any project activity with the potential to impact the San Joaquin kit fox. If no habitat features or signs of kit fox are identified during the surveys, work may start. Otherwise, Reclamation and U.S Fish and Wildlife Service would be contacted prior to project implementation.
Biological Resources	To prevent trapping wildlife, all holes and trenches would be covered at the close of each workday with plywood or similar materials, or would include wooden escape ramps.
Biological Resources	Construction activities would occur only during daylight hours to avoid periods when tiger salamanders and kit foxes are usually active above-ground.
Biological Resources	Access routes and number and size of staging and work areas would be limited to the minimum necessary to achieve the project goals. Staging/storage of vehicles, equipment, and materials would be on paved surfaces to avoid any compaction of burrows or potential burrow sites.
Biological Resources	No pets shall be permitted on the project site during construction.

Environmental consequences for biological resources assume the measures specified will be fully implemented.

Exclusion Category

516 DM 14.5 paragraph C (4): *Minor construction activities associated with authorized projects which correct unsatisfactory environmental condition 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"/> |

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

Appendix A

Cultural Resources Determination

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

MP-153 Tracking Number: 15-SCAO-143

Project Name: California State Parks San Luis Reservoir Basalt Residence Yard Fencing Project

NEPA Document: CEC-15-024

Project Manager/NEPA Contact: Kelly Baker

MP 153 Cultural Resources Reviewer: Mark Carper

Date: 10/13/2015

California Department of Parks and Recreation proposes to install new hog-wire fencing around an existing residence next to the Basalt Campground at Reclamation owned San Luis Reservoir State Recreation Area. The proposed project is situated on an artificially terraced platform area created for the construction of the residential structure. This is the type of undertaking that does not have the potential to cause effects to historic properties, should such properties be present, pursuant to the NHPA Section 106 regulations codified at 36 CFR § 800.3(a)(1). Reclamation has no further obligations under NHPA Section 106, pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.3(a)(1).

After reviewing documentation provided within CEC-15-024, Reclamation has concluded this action would not have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places.

This document is intended to convey the completion of the NHPA Section 106 process for this undertaking. Please retain a copy in the administrative record for this action. Should changes be made to this project, additional NHPA Section 106 review, possibly including consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer, may be necessary. Thank you for providing the opportunity to comment.