


RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Categorical Exclusion Checklist (CEC)


Stony Gorge Reservoir – Installation of Sanitary Vaults – Orland Project

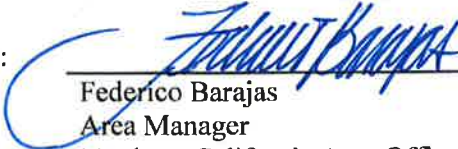
NCAO-CEC-15-11

Prepared by:  Date: November 17, 2015
Bon McElroy
Water and Lands Assistant
Willows Office of NCAO

Concurrence by: See Attachment 1 Date: November 3, 2015
Megan Simon
NCAO Designee for Tribal Trust Assets

Concurrence by: See Attachment 2 Date: November 16, 2015
Mark Carper
Archaeologist
Mid-Pacific Regional Office

Concurrence by:  Date: 11/18/2015
Rich Robertson
Supervisor Repayment Specialist
Willows Office of the NCAO

Approved by:  Date: 11/20/15
Federico Barajas
Area Manager
Northern California Area Office



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
Mid Pacific Region

November 2015

Proposed Action

Reclamation will install three modern, pre-fabricated, dry vault restrooms at three high-traffic campsite areas (Elk Creek Hill, Hidden Point, and Rocky Point) on the eastern shore of Stony Gorge Reservoir (Figure 1) in 2015/2016. These new restroom facilities will replace existing portable sanitation stations. Each new uni-sex restroom will consist of an Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)-compliant compartment (Figure 2). The installation of the new facilities will expand the waste capacity at each site to 1,000 gallons, and reduce overall maintenance frequency and costs, while improving the overall sanitary conditions.

At each location, a contractor will supply and operate an excavator to prepare the ground for construction. Excavation work will include grading each site and digging a hole to accommodate the storage receptacle (vault) for each restroom. The minimum dimensions of the hole needed to accommodate the vault portion of the building are 6.8 ft wide by 6.8 ft long by 4 ft deep, representing at least 6.9 cubic yards of material to be excavated for each vault. Locations and aspects of each restroom will be considered prior to excavation to assure feasibility of placement and to allow maximum ventilation potential, according to manufacturer specifications, as well as ease of access for the public.

Each restroom (building and vault) will be transported to the placement site by semi-truck along existing gravel and paved roads. A truck-mounted crane will hoist the vault, and then the building, from the tractor-trailer to the placement site. Efficient movement of these components will require the tractor-trailer and crane to be in close proximity to the placement site. Sand bedding may be used to level the bottom of each hole to assure a proper base for placement of the vault. The building will be attached to the vault structure following manufacturer's recommended procedures. Upon placement of the entire building structure, the excavated native soils would be placed around the vault and compacted for building support. Any excavated material not used in site restoration following completion of the installation would be hauled away for disposal at an approved site. After completion of vault restroom installation, a cement sidewalk, 4 ft to 6 ft wide, will be added at the entrance to each facility to help maintain cleanliness of the interior of the restrooms. Dimensions of the walkways could vary, but will not exceed 20 linear feet at any site.

Exclusion Categories

Bureau of Reclamation Categorical Exclusion – 516 DM 14.5, D (1): Maintenance, rehabilitation, and replacement of existing facilities which may involve a minor change in size, location, and/or operation.

Extraordinary Circumstances

Below is an evaluation of the extraordinary circumstances as required in 43 CFR 46.215.

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 <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; and 43 CFR 46.215 (g)). | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncertain <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <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)). | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncertain <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <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)). | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncertain <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> |

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; and 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 (l)). No ☒ Uncertain ☐ Yes ☐

Regional Archeologist concurred with Item 8 (email attached).

ITA Designee concurred with Item 11 (email attached).

NEPA Action Recommended

☒ CEC – This action is covered by the exclusion category and no extraordinary circumstances exist. The action is excluded from further documentation in an EA or EIS.

☐ Further environmental review is required, and the following document should be prepared.

☐ EA

☐ EIS

Environmental commitments, explanations, and/or remarks:

Excavation and installation of the vaults would be completed within a short period so that interference with recreational activities and ingress and egress from various sites around Stony Gorge Reservoir are minimized.

The areas of placement are denuded of any annual vegetation and subject to high disturbance from vehicles and foot traffic for many years. However, there are some larger oak trees present at the sites. Vaults will be placed to limit potential present and future impacts to both the trees and the new structures.

Minor and temporary ground disturbance may occur near the vault sites and road shoulders of select sharp curve sections of roadways leading in and out of Stony Gorge Reservoir due to maneuvering the tractor-trailer and crane truck, which have large turning radii. Road inspections

or site visits by the contractor and driver prior to delivery will be used to limit any impacts to the roadways or shoulders.

Installation of modern, permanent facilities would alleviate periodic issues with the existing portable toilet system which requires frequent servicing, is susceptible to spillage and unsanitary conditions, and can emit foul odors. These improvements would enhance the user experience at the recreation area.

Thirteen Federally-listed Rare, Threatened and Endangered (RTE) species are recognized by the US Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) as having the potential to inhabit the project vicinity. None of these listed species have Critical Habitat designated in the project vicinity. No Federally-listed RTE species occurrences were reported in the California Natural Diversity Database within a mile of the project site.

The majority of the aforementioned, Federally-listed species, reported by USFWS as having the potential to inhabit the project vicinity, are fully aquatic. Exceptions include the Northern spotted owl and California red-legged frog. Waste from the facilities will be fully contained. In addition, the modernization and increased capacity of the facilities, in comparison to existing facilities, will assist in preventing spillage. Therefore, the project is not anticipated to have an adverse impact on surface water or aquatic species that utilize surface water as habitat. The facilities will not be located immediately adjacent to water (e.g. along the reservoir bank or a wetland or vernal pool). Therefore, the action is not anticipated to adversely affect amphibious species, such as the California red-legged frog, or their habitats. There will be no clear-cutting or change in contiguous forest cover associated with the project. Therefore, avian species, such as the Northern spotted owl, and their habitats, are not anticipated to be adversely affected by the action.

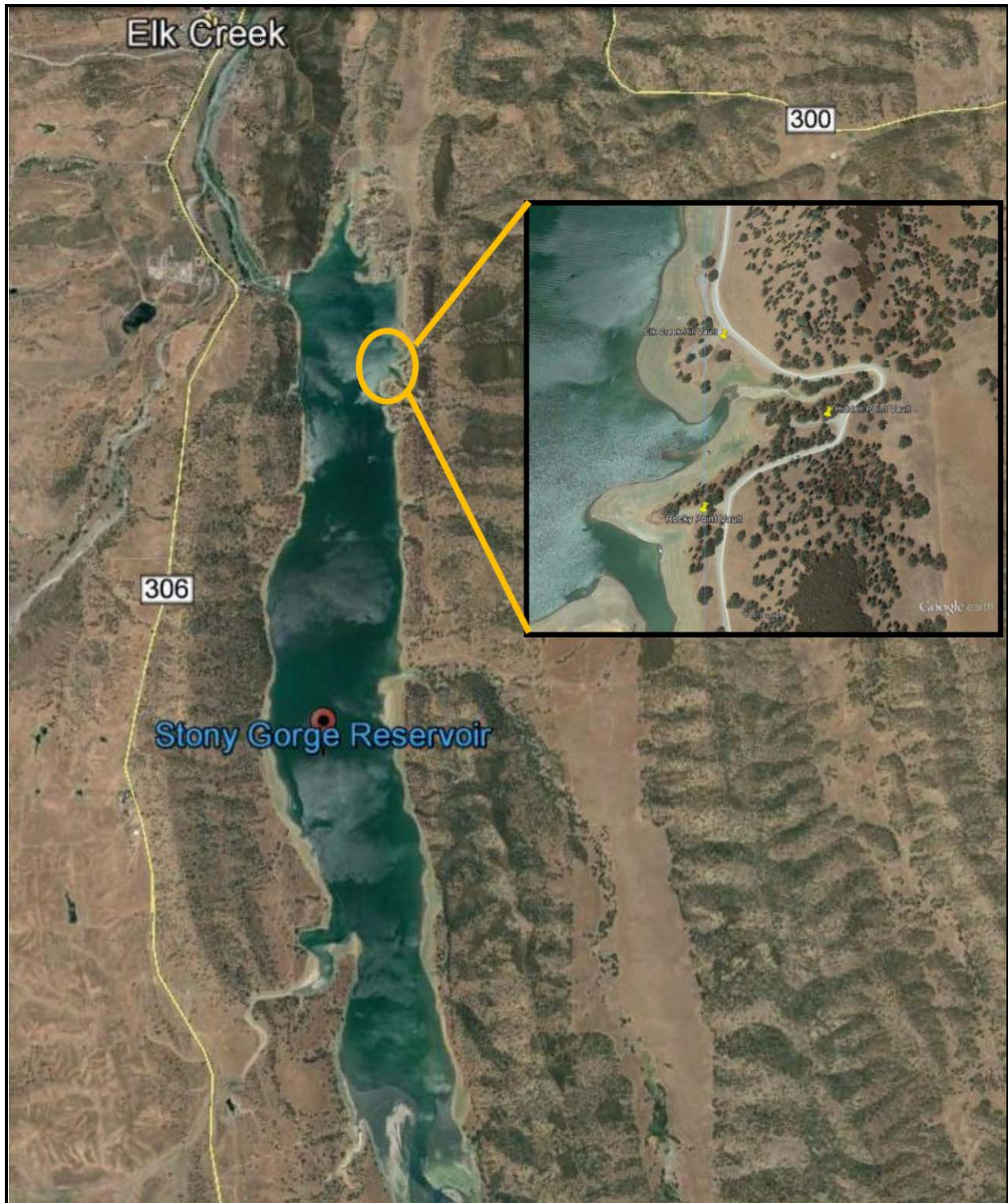


Figure 1. Area map and proposed locations of the new vault facilities.



Figure 2. Single dry vault restroom style contemplated for placement at Stony Gorge Reservoir in 2015/2016 (representation only).

Attachment 1. Indian Trust Asset review



Simon, Megan <msimon@usbr.gov>

ITA Review - Stony Gorge Sanitary Vaults - NCAO-CEC-15-11

Simon, Megan <msimon@usbr.gov>
To: Paul Zedonis <pzedonis@usbr.gov>

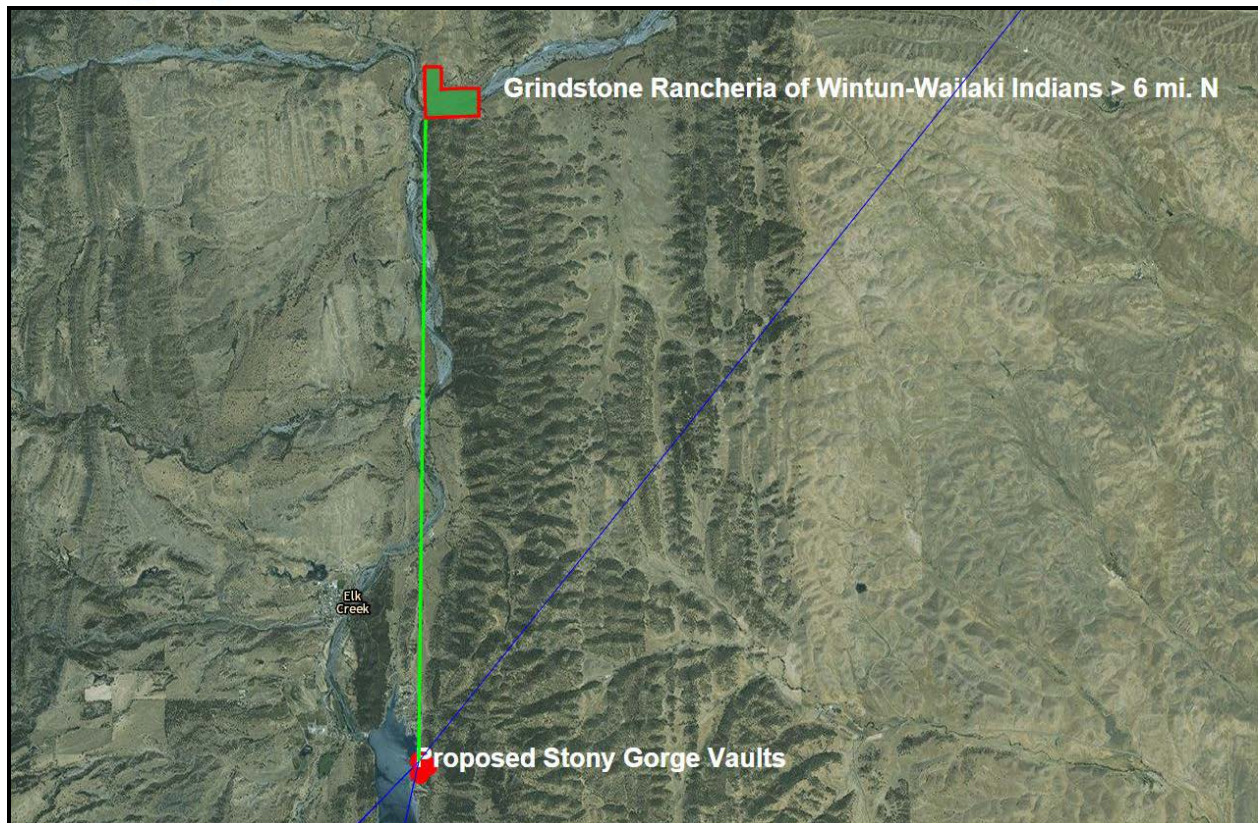
Tue, Nov 3, 2015 at 12:10 PM

I have examined the proposal for the Stony Gorge Reservoir Sanitary Vaults project and have determined that these facilities would be at least 6 miles from the closest Indian Trust Asset. I have determined that there is no likelihood that these facilities will adversely impact Indian Trust Assets.

--

Megan K. Simon

Natural Resources Specialist
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Northern California Area Office
16349 Shasta Dam Blvd.
Shasta Lake, CA 96019
(530) 276-2045
msimon@usbr.gov



Attachment 2. Cultural Resource Concurrence (page 1 of 2)

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

MP-153 Tracking Number: 15-NCAO-152

Project Name: Consultation for the Stony Gorge Reservoir Installation of Sanitary Vaults, Orland Project, Colusa County, California

NEPA Document: NCAO-CEC-15-11

MP 153 Cultural Resources Reviewer: Mark Carper

NEPA Contact: Megan Simon

Determination: No Historic Properties Affected

Date: November 16, 2015

This proposed undertaking by Reclamation is to install three modern single dry vault restrooms on Reclamation land at three high-traffic campsite areas (i.e., Elk Creek Hill, Hidden Point, and Rocky Point) on the eastern shore of Stony Gorge Reservoir. Reclamation owns and manages Stony Gorge Reservoir. Recreational Area is managed by Eastbay on behalf of Reclamation who owns the land. Reclamation determined that the action to construct the vault toilets on Federal land is an undertaking as defined in 36 CFR § 800.16(y) and a type of activity that has the potential to cause effects on historic properties under 36 CFR § 800.3(a).

The proposed new restroom facilities would replace existing portable land-based sanitation stations. Each new restroom would have one Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)-approved uni-sex section that expands the waste capacity (1,000 gallons) at each site to reduce overall maintenance frequency and costs while also improving the overall sanitary conditions. Installation of these accessible compliant facilities would occur in 2015/2016.

In an effort to identify historic properties, Reclamation Archaeologist Mr. Mark Carper reviewed the comprehensive records search for Stony Gorge Reservoir Recreation Area on file at Reclamation, which includes the current APE (IC#G06-18). The record search had been conducted in 2006 as part of a proposed grazing permit project and encapsulates the entire reservoir area. No resources were identified within or adjacent to the APE. Although the record search is nine years old, no new resources have been documented on

Attachment 2. Cultural Resource Concurrence (page 2 of 2)

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

the Reclamation managed lands since. In addition, a pedestrian survey of the APE was conducted by Mr. Carper and no cultural resources were identified.

Pursuant to the regulations at 36 CFR § 800.3(f)(2), Reclamation identified the Paskenta Band of Nomlaki Indians, the Enterprise Rancheria of Maidu Indians, the Cortina Band of Indians, and the Colusa Indian Community Council as an Indian tribes who might attach religious and cultural significance to historic properties within the APE. Reclamation sent a letter to the tribe on September 1, 2015, inviting their participation in the Section 106 process, and requesting their assistance in the identification of sites of religious and cultural significance or historic properties that may be affected by the proposed undertaking pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.4(a)(4). Reclamation received no responses from the notified tribes.

No historic properties were identified in the APE and, pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.4(d), Reclamation found no historic properties affected for the undertaking.

Reclamation initiated consultation with the California State Preservation Office (SHPO) by letter dated October 15, 2015 requesting concurrence with a finding of no historic properties affected for the proposed project. Pursuant to the regulations at 36 CFR §800.5(c), SHPO has 30 days from receipt to review an agency finding. The SHPO has yet to respond to Reclamation's finding of effect. If after 30 days the SHPO has not responded, the regulations state that "...the agency official shall then carry out the undertaking in accordance with paragraph (d)(1) of this section" [§800.5(c)(1)]. Because the SHPO has failed to comment on Reclamation's finding within the period of time provided to them pursuant to the Section 106 regulations, Reclamation may move on to the next step of the Section 106 process.

Reclamation has concluded the NHPA Section 106 process for this undertaking. After reviewing the CEC for the proposed project Reclamation concurs with item #8 and finds that this action would not have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places

This memorandum 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.