

# RECLAMATION

## *Managing Water in the West*

### Categorical Exclusion Checklist

## State of California, Department of Transportation (Caltrans) Bridge Deck Replacement over the San Luis Canal at approximate Milepost 152.76

**CEC-15-033**

Prepared by:

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


Date: 05 JANUARY 2016

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  
Wildlife Biologist  
South-Central California Area Office

Date: 01/06/2016

Concurred by:

  
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: 01/13/2016

Approved by:

for   
Michael Jackson  
Area Manager  
South-Central California Area Office

Date: 1/14/16





## Background

In 2009, Caltrans inspected Bridge No. 42-0270 that crossed over the San Luis Canal/California Aqueduct at Highway 198 and determined that the bridge was in need of repair. Caltrans has requested permission from the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) to access federal right-of-way in order to repair the bridge.

## Nature of the Action

Reclamation proposes to issue a land use authorization to Caltrans for the proposed rehabilitation of Bridge No. 42-0270. The bridge is located on Highway 198 between mileposts 35.3 and 35.6 of the San Luis Canal in Fresno County. Project activities would include: replacing the bridge deck; installing a new concrete barrier bridge rail; removal of an existing Metal Beam Guard Rail (MBGR); installation of a crash cushion at the ends of the bridge rails; and paving to conform bridge approaches. A crash cushion was selected because MBGR with the flared-end section would prohibit access to the existing maintenance road servicing the San Luis Canal.

Per Caltrans, the construction is scheduled to start around July 2016 and should be completed by December 2016.

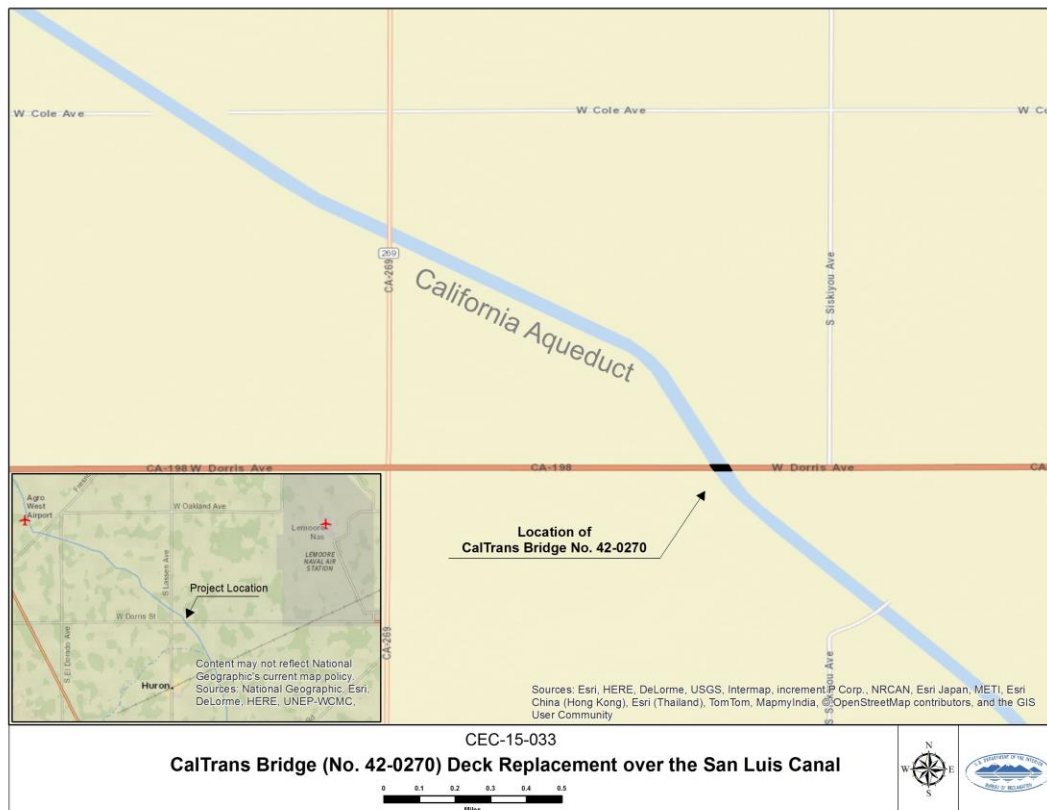


Figure 1: Location of Bridge No. 42-0270

## Environmental Commitments

Caltrans shall implement the following environmental protection measures to avoid and/or reduce environmental consequences associated with Caltrans' proposed bridge rehabilitation. Environmental consequences for resource areas assume the measures specified would be fully implemented.

- If work must occur during the migratory bird breeding season (February 1 to August 31), a qualified biologist shall survey the Proposed Project Area for nesting cliff swallows and other migratory birds. If cliff swallows, or other migratory birds, are found nesting in the Project Area, no construction on the Project shall begin until the young have fledged or until a qualified biologist determines that nesting is no longer actively occurring.

## 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.*

## 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<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain<br><input type="checkbox"/> | Yes<br><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<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain<br><input type="checkbox"/> | Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. This action would have significant impacts on public health or safety (43 CFR 46.215(a)).  | No<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain<br><input type="checkbox"/> | Yes<br><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<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain<br><input type="checkbox"/> | Yes<br><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<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain<br><input type="checkbox"/> | Yes<br><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<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain<br><input type="checkbox"/> | Yes<br><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<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain<br><input type="checkbox"/> | Yes<br><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)).   | No<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain<br><input type="checkbox"/> | Yes<br><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<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain<br><input type="checkbox"/> | Yes<br><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<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain<br><input type="checkbox"/> | Yes<br><input type="checkbox"/> |
| 11. This action would affect ITAs (512 DM 2, Policy Memorandum dated December 15, 1993).   | No<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain<br><input type="checkbox"/> | Yes<br><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)).  | No<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain<br><input type="checkbox"/> | Yes<br><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)).   | No<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain<br><input type="checkbox"/> | Yes<br><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)). | No<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain<br><input type="checkbox"/> | Yes<br><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 RESOURCES COMPLIANCE**

## **Division of Environmental Affairs**

### **Cultural Resources Branch (MP-153)**

**MP-153 Tracking Number:** 15-SCAO-163

**Project Name:** National Historic Preservation Act Compliance for Caltrans Bridge Number 42 0270 (FRE 198) Bridge Deck Replacement Project over the San Luis Canal, Fresno County, California

**NEPA Document:** CEC 15-033

**NEPA Contact:** Stacy Holt, Natural Resource Specialist

**MP 153 Cultural Resources Reviewer:** BranDee Bruce, Architectural Historian

**Date:** December 28, 2015

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The California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) proposes to replace a bridge deck on Bridge Number 42 0270 (FRE 198) that crosses the San Luis Canal (SLC) in Fresno County, California. In order to do this, Caltrans is required to obtain a land use authorization from Reclamation. This segment of the SLC is also considered part of the California Aqueduct (CA) at this location. The SLC/CA at this location was jointly constructed and owned by the Bureau of Reclamation and the California Department of Water Resources. The proposed action constitutes an undertaking with the potential to cause effects to historic properties, assuming such properties are present, requiring compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), as amended. Caltrans successfully concluded their NHPA Section 106 consultations before Reclamation was able to designate them as lead federal agency, therefore Reclamation's consultation was limited to only Reclamation's permitting action and not the project in its entirety.

Based on historic properties identification efforts conducted by Caltrans, the CA was identified as the only eligible historic property within the area of potential effect (APE), with the bridge identified as a contributing component to the CA. Caltrans applied the criteria of adverse effect to the CA/SLC and proposed a finding of No Adverse Effect with Standard Conditions - Rehabilitation pursuant to 36 CFR §800.5(b). Reclamation accepts the findings for the proposed activities on Reclamation land that involve Reclamation facilities. Reclamation, using the documentation provided by Caltrans, consulted with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) on a finding of no adverse effect by sending a consultation package on November 17, 2015 (received November 23, 2015). SHPO concurred with the findings in a letter dated December 22, 2015 (see attached concurrence letters).

I can now concur with Item #8 on CEC-15-033. Consultation correspondence between Reclamation and the SHPO for inclusion in the administrative record for this action. This document serves as notification that Section 106 compliance has been completed for this undertaking. Please note that if project activities subsequently change, additional NHPA Section 106 review, including further consultation with the SHPO, may be required.

Attachments:

Letter: Reclamation to SHPO dated November 17, 2015

Letter: SHPO to Reclamation dated December 22, 2015



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

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(916) 445-7000 Fax: (916) 445-7053  
calshpo@parks.ca.gov  
www.ohp.parks.ca.gov



December 22, 2015

Reply in Reference To: BUR\_2015\_1123\_003

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

RE: Land Use Authorization for a Proposed Bridge Deck Replacement Project, San Luis Canal, Fresno County, California (15-SCAO-163)

Dear Ms. Leigh:

Thank you for the letter received on November 23, 2015, initiating consultation with me for the above-referenced project to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (54 U.S.C. § 300101), as amended, and its implementing regulation found at 36 CFR § 800. The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) is seeking my comments regarding the effects that the undertaking described below will have on historic properties.

Reclamation is proposing to issue a land use authorization to the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) to allow access to Reclamation's right-of-way (ROW) over the San Luis Canal. Caltrans previously consulted on the rehabilitation of Bridge No. 42-0270 on Highway 98, between post miles 35.3 and 35.6 (FHWA\_2013\_0508\_001), where it crosses Reclamation's ROW. Caltrans determined that this undertaking would have no adverse effects to historic properties, and my office concurred with this finding on August 5, 2013. Reclamation's role in the undertaking was not previously noted.

Reclamation's Area of Potential Effect (APE) is within the Caltrans APE, and copies of the previous Caltrans documentation have been provided for the purposes of identification. Reclamation has determined that the issuance of a land use authorization for the undertaking will have no adverse effect to historic properties.

After reviewing the information submitted with your letter, I offer the following comments:

- I concur that the Area of Potential Effect (APE) as represented in the attachments to your letter is appropriate.
- I concur that Reclamation's identification and evaluation efforts are sufficient for this undertaking.
- I concur with your finding and agree that pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.5(b), a Finding of No Adverse Effect is appropriate for the undertaking as described.
- Please be advised that under certain circumstances, such as an unanticipated discovery or a change in project description, you may have future responsibilities for this undertaking under 36 CFR Part 800.

DEC 24 2015

BUR\_2015\_1123\_003

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 Kathleen Forrest, Historian, at (916) 445-7022 or by email at [kathleen.forrest@parks.ca.gov](mailto:kathleen.forrest@parks.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'J' followed by a horizontal line.

Julianne Polanco  
State Historic Preservation Officer



# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION  
Mid-Pacific Regional Office  
2800 Cottage Way  
Sacramento, CA 95825-1898

IN REPLY REFER TO:

NOV 17 2015

MP-153  
ENV-3.00

CERTIFIED – RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Ms. Julianne Polanco  
State Historic Preservation Officer  
Office of Historic Preservation  
1725 23rd Street, Suite 100  
Sacramento, CA 95816

Subject: National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Section 106 Consultation for the Issuance of a Land Use Authorization to the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) for a Proposed Bridge Deck Replacement Project over the San Luis Canal, Fresno County, California (Project Number: 15-SCAO-163)

Dear Ms. Polanco:

The Bureau of Reclamation is initiating consultation under Title 54 USC § 306108, commonly known as Section 106 of the NHPA, and its implementing regulations found at 36 CFR Part 800, for the issuance of a land use authorization for the subject project located near the City of Huron in Fresno County, California (Enclosure 1: Figure 1). Caltrans, through delegation by the Federal Highway Administration, previously consulted with the California State Historic Preservation Officer on the rehabilitation of this bridge, but did not identify Reclamation as another Federal agency with an undertaking for their project. Reclamation proposes to issue a land use authorization to Caltrans to allow access to Reclamation's right-of-way (ROW) for the San Luis Canal. Reclamation's issuance of this authorization 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). We are entering into consultation with you on this undertaking and asking for your concurrence on our finding of no adverse effect to historic properties.

Caltrans proposes to rehabilitate Bridge No. 42 0270 on Highway 198 between post miles 35.3 and 35.6 in Fresno County near the City of Huron, where it crosses Reclamation's ROW for the San Luis Canal. Activities associated with the Caltrans project includes replacing the bridge deck; installing a new concrete barrier bridge rail; removing an existing Metal Beam Guard Rail (MBGR); installing a crash cushion at the bridge rail ends; and paving the road at the bridge approaches. The replacement/repair will enhance the safety for local pedestrians and the travelling public. Reclamation's undertaking is confined to the issuance of a land use authorization within our ROW.



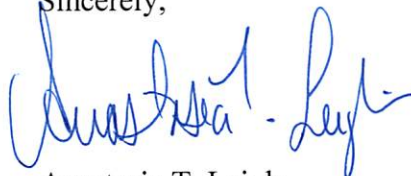
The area of potential effects (APE) for the undertaking is located in Section 23, T. 19 S., R. 17 E., Mount Diablo Baseline and Meridian, as depicted on the Califlax, California, 7.5' U.S. Geological Survey topographic quadrangle map (Enclosure 1: Figure 1). The APE consists of approximately 0.33 acres and lies completely within the San Luis Canal ROW (Enclosure 1: Figure 2).

On June 12, 2013, Caltrans submitted to SHPO a notification of a finding of No Adverse Effect with Standard Conditions-Rehabilitation for the FRE 198 Bridge Deck Replacement Project [California Aqueduct Bridge No. 42 0270]. This submission was continuing consultation between Caltrans and your office (OHP Project: FHWA\_2013\_0508\_001). For your convenience, we have enclosed the Caltrans consultation correspondence and supporting documentation (including a Historic Property Survey Report and a Finding of Effect). California Aqueduct Bridge No. 42 0270 was determined to be eligible, with consensus, as a contributor to the California Aqueduct, previously determined eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (National Register). This segment of the California Aqueduct is also the San Luis Canal, constructed and operated jointly by California's Department of Water Resources for the California State Water Project (SWP) and by Reclamation for the Central Valley Project (CVP). The San Luis Canal is part of the San Luis Unit of the CVP and has also been determined as eligible for the National Register under Criteria A and C, as a component of the SWP, with consensus dated January 22, 2015 (Enclosure 3).

As Caltrans has already consulted with you on their action and you have concurred with those findings, Reclamation is using the Caltrans submissions and their supporting documentation to meet our historic properties identification efforts. Reclamation's APE is within the Caltrans APE subject to the earlier surveys and consultations. In addition, Reclamation agrees with the Caltrans finding of no adverse effect on historic properties. The segment of the San Luis Canal within the APE is also the California Aqueduct segment identified by Caltrans.

Based on the above discussion and the enclosed Caltrans correspondence and supporting documentation, Reclamation finds no adverse effect to historic properties from our undertaking. Reclamation invites your comments on the delineation of the APE and the efforts to identify historic properties. We also request your concurrence on Reclamation's finding of no adverse effect to historic properties for this undertaking. If you have any questions or concerns about this project please contact Ms. BranDee Bruce, Architectural Historian, at 916-978-5039, or [bbruce@usbr.gov](mailto:bbruce@usbr.gov).

Sincerely,



Anastasia T. Leigh  
Regional Environmental Officer