

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Categorical Exclusion Checklist

Madera Canal Low-Flow Valve Replacement

CEC-15-050

Prepared by:

Molly Burns

Molly Burns
Natural Resources Specialist
South-Central California Area Office

Date: 1/13/2016

Concurred by:

See Attachment A

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: 01/13/2016

Concurred by:

R. 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: 01/13/2016

Approved by:

for Michael P. Jackson

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

Date: 1/14/16



Background

The Madera Canal, a component of the Central Valley Project Friant Division, is located approximately 20 miles north of Fresno, California (see Figure 1). Completed in 1945, the canal is owned by the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and operated by the Madera and Chowchilla Water and Power Authority.



Figure 1 Proposed Action Area

Nature of the Action

Reclamation will replace the existing Madera-1 headworks valve (see Figure 2) with a new 60-inch valve and reducing adapter that will connect to the existing Madera-1 penstock. No ground disturbance would be needed to complete this project. All staging will take place on existing concrete and asphalt slabs currently being used for operations and maintenance (O&M).

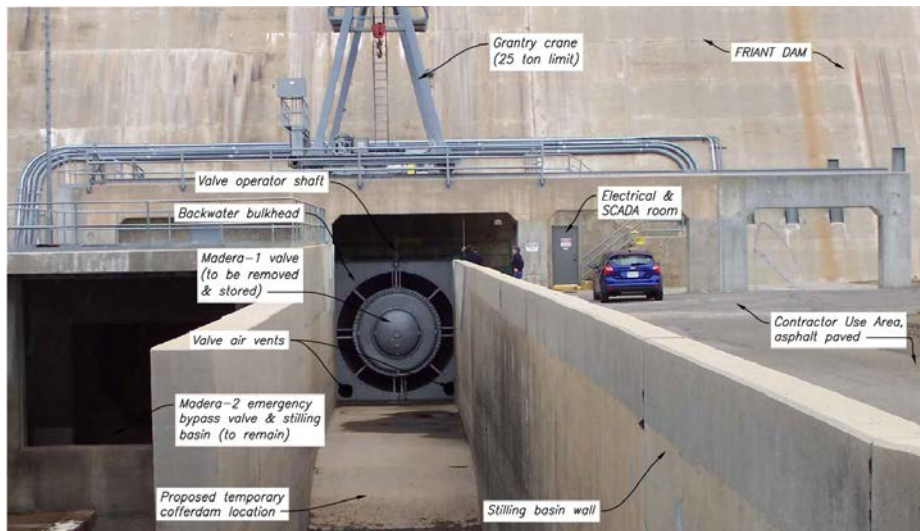


Figure 2 Existing Madera-1 Headworks Valve

The fixed-wheel gate on Madera -1 penstock will be lowered to restrict flow in order to access the existing valve for replacement. If necessary, a cofferdam will be installed in the stilling basin which will contain any water spillage. All electrical power and control will be disconnected for removal of the existing valve, reducing adapter, trunnion block, and valve support assembly. The concrete pedestals will remain intact for use with the new valves and reducing adapters. The valve that is currently in place will be disassembled and transported to the Friant Dam O&M facility.

The new 60 inch valve and reducing adapter will be fabricated off site then delivered and assembled on site. The removal and installation will require the use of currently existing gantry cranes, additional crane support, semi-truck and trailer, and necessary hand tools. Once valve removal and replacement has been completed, the electrical power and controls will be reconnected, a backwater bulkhead will be installed to seal valve vault from canal flows. If a cofferdam was needed during removal of old equipment and installation of new equipment it will be removed. Upon completion of these steps, the fixed wheel gate will be re-opened and Madera-1 penstock will be refilled.

Environmental Commitments

Reclamation 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

Biological	All equipment will be maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's directions so there will be no leaks of fluids such as gasoline, oils, or solvents.
Biological	If work must occur during the migratory bird breeding season (February 1 st to August 31 st), a qualified biologist shall survey the Proposed Action Area for nesting cliff swallows and other migratory birds. If cliff swallows, or other migratory birds, are found nesting in the Action Area, no work on the project shall begin until the young have fledged or until a qualified biologist determines that nesting is no longer actively occurring. All survey documentation shall be submitted to Reclamation prior to the start of work on the Proposed Action. No nesting bird surveys are required if work occurs outside of the bird breeding season.

Exclusion Category

516 DM 14.5 C (3). Minor construction activities associated with authorized projects which correct unsatisfactory environmental conditions 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"/> |
|---|---|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|

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

- | | No | Uncertain | Yes |
|--|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 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 RESOURCES COMPLIANCE
Mid-Pacific Region
Division of Environmental Affairs
Cultural Resources Branch (MP-153)

MP-153 Tracking Number: 16-SCAO-026

Project Name: Madera Canal Low-Flow Valve Replacement Project, Madera County, California

NEPA Document: CEC-15-050

NEPA Contact: Molly Burns

MP-153 Cultural Resources Reviewer: Kevin (Lex) Palmer, Architectural Historian

Date: January 8, 2016

The proposed undertaking by Reclamation would involve replacing the existing Madera Canal 1 headworks valve with a new 60-inch valve and reducing adapter that will connect to the existing Madera-1 penstock. No ground disturbance would be required for this project, and all staging would take place on existing hard surfaced areas.

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).

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 this action. Should the proposed action change, additional review under Section 106, possibly including consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer, may be required.