

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Categorical Exclusion Checklist

Lindsay-Strathmore Irrigation District Temporary Change in Point of Diversion

CEC-15-058

Prepared by:


Molly Burns
Natural Resources Specialist
South-Central California Area Office

Date: 1/20/2016

Concurred by:

See Attachment A
Archaeologist
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:


Jennifer L. Lewis
Wildlife Biologist
South-Central California Area Office

Date: 1-20-16

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: 01/20/2016

Approved by:


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

Date: 01/20/2016



Background

Lindsay-Strathmore Irrigation District (District) currently has a point of diversion on the Friant-Kern Canal (FKC) located at milepost (MP) 85.55L. This diversion point is downstream from an inlet drain (MP 85.34) which, under heavy rainfall, introduces large amounts of sediment into the FKC. Due to the severe drought water flow in the FKC is minimal. Without enough water in the FKC to dilute the sediment, the District must filter and chlorinate the water when it is diverted from the canal. Consequently, the District has requested authorization from the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) to place two temporary pumping units downstream from their current point of diversion that would be capable of filtering and chlorinating water from the canal until there is enough water flowing into the FKC to dilute the muddy water.

Nature of the Action

Reclamation proposes to authorize the District to install two temporary pumping units at MP 85.68 on the FKC in order to temporarily divert their CVP water supply from an additional point of diversion that could be filtered and chlorinated prior to use. The pumping units would be placed on skids within Reclamation's right of way and two 6-inch diameter pipelines would be placed within the FKC to connect the temporary pumps to the District's existing 24-inch distribution pipeline (see Figure 1). No ground disturbance would occur within the canal right of way as all piping would be placed above ground. 60 square feet of ground disturbance, to a depth of 5 feet would occur above the District's 24-inch underground pipeline in order to connect the temporary pipelines to the distribution line via two valves. Installation would take approximately one week to complete. Operation of the temporary facility would continue until flows in the FKC dilute the sediment enough for water to be delivered via their normal point of diversion. The temporary infrastructure would be removed by May of 2016.

Environmental Commitments

The District 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 Protection Measures

Resource	Protection Measure
Biological Resources	Preconstruction surveys and implementation of avoidance and minimization measures for burrowing owls would be conducted in areas supporting potentially suitable habitat within 30 days prior to the start of project construction according to 2012 Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation (CDFG 2012).
Biological Resources	Project site development may not begin until survey results have been submitted in a report to Reclamation's project biologist and Reclamation's authorization is given to the District to proceed.
Various Resources	Diesel generators shall be contained within appropriate spill containment in order to prevent potential spills being released into the environment.



Figure 1 Map of Proposed Action Area

Exclusion Category

516 DM 14.5 D (10). Issuance of permits, licenses, easements, and crossing agreements which provide right-of-way over Bureau lands where 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
<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.

References

CDFG (California Department of Fish and Game). 2012. Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation. State of California Natural Resources Agency, Department of Fish and Game.

Attachment A: Cultural Resources Determination

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

MP-153 Tracking Number: 16-SCAO-040

Project Name: Lindsay-Strathmore Irrigation District (LSID) Temporary Change in Point of Diversion

NEPA Document: CEC-15-058

NEPA Contact: Molly Burns, Natural Resource Specialist

MP 153 Cultural Resources Reviewer: John Fogerty, Archaeologist

Date: January 20, 2016

Reclamation proposes to authorize LSID to install two temporary pumping units at MP 85.68 on the Friant Kern Canal (FKC) in order to temporarily divert their Central Valley Project water supply from an additional point of diversion that could be filtered and chlorinated prior to use. The pumping units would be positioned on skids within Reclamation's right of way, and include two temporary 6-inch diameter pipelines placed above ground (and without modification of the FKC facility) to connect the temporary pumps to an existing 24-inch LSID distribution pipeline. Operation of the temporary facility would continue until flows in the FKC dilute currently accumulated sediment enough for water to be delivered via LSID's normal point of diversion. The temporary infrastructure would be removed by May of 2016. 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).

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.

**Indian Trust Assets
Request Form (MP Region)**

Submit your request to your office's ITA designee or to MP-400, attention Deputy Regional Resources Manager.

Date: 1/6/2015

Requested by (preparer)	Molly Burns
Fund	
WBS	
Fund Cost Center	2142500
Region # (if other than MP)	
Project Name	Lindsay-Strathmore Irrigation District Temporary Change in Point of Diversion
CEC or EA Number	CEC15-058
Project Description (attach additional sheets if needed and include photos if appropriate)	Reclamation proposes to authorize the District to install two temporary pumping units at MP 85.68 on the FKC in order to temporarily divert their CVP water supply from an additional point of diversion that could be filtered and chlorinated prior to use. The pumping units would be placed on skids within Reclamation's right of way and two 6-inch diameter pipelines would be placed within the FKC to connect the temporary pumps to the District's existing 24-inch distribution pipeline (see Figure 1). No ground disturbance would occur within the canal right of way as all piping would be placed above ground. A small area of ground disturbance would occur above the District's 24-inch underground pipeline in order to connect the temporary pipelines to the distribution line via two valves. Installation would take approximately one week to complete. Operation of the temporary facility would continue until flows in the FKC dilute the sediment enough for water to be delivered via their normal point of diversion. The temporary infrastructure would be removed by May of 2016.

***Project Location
(Township, Range,
Section, e.g., T12
R5E S10, or
Lat/Long coords).
Include map(s)**

See figure below.

Rain Emerson

Signature

Rain Emerson

Printed name of approver

1/6/2016

Date

