

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Categorical Exclusion Checklist

Madera Irrigation District Madera Ranch Annexation 2015-003

CEC-15-055

Prepared by:

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

Date: 6/2/16

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:

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

Date: 6/2/16

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: 06/02/2016

Approved by:

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

Date: 6/2/2016



Background

Madera Irrigation District (MID) revised its Contractor Service Area with the Madera Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo) in order to annex agricultural lands located in Madera County (see Figure 1). MID purchased the parcels to be annexed in 2005 with the intent of adding them to its service area boundary pursuant to Article No. 36 of its Repayment contract No. I75r-2891D (Contract). Currently the parcels are under the jurisdiction of Madera County, making MID subject to tax penalties for owning property not within its boundaries. LAFCo approved the annexation on August 26, 2015 (Resolution Number 2015-42). MID has since requested that the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) change MID's Central Valley Project (CVP) service area boundary to reflect the LAFCo action.

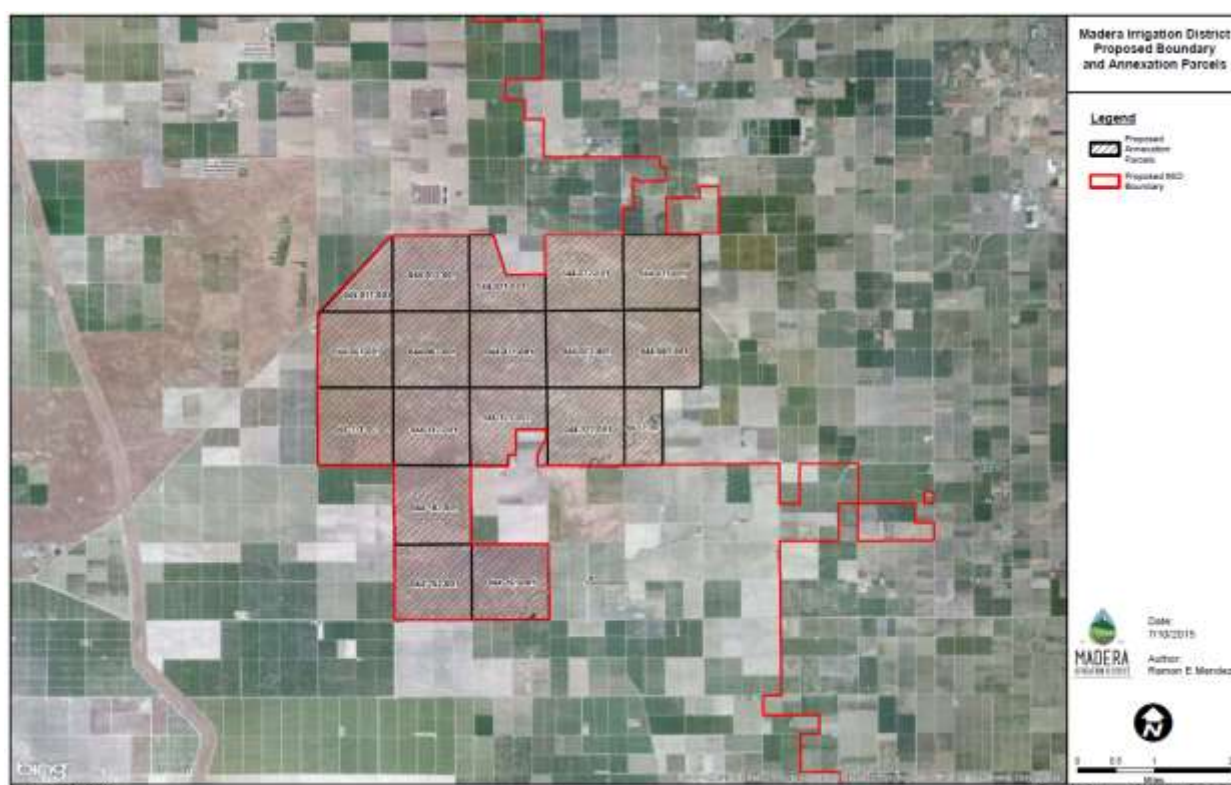


Figure 1. Parcels to be annexed into Madera Irrigation District

Nature of the Action

Reclamation proposes to approve the annexation of 18 separate parcels (10,485 acres +/-) located in Madera County to MID and to amend the district's CVP service area boundary to include the parcels listed in Table 1.

Table 1 Parcels to be Annexed into MID

Assessor's Parcel Number	Acreage	Section	Township	Range	County Zoning	Placed under Williamson Act	Land Use
044-011-003	320	6	12S	16E	ARE-40	Yes	Ag Preserve Sec. 11
044-012-001	640	5	12S	16E	ARE-40	Yes	Ag Preserve Sec. 11
044-021-003	440+/-	4	12S	16E	ARE-40	Yes	Ag Preserve
044-022-001	640	3	12S	16E	ARE-40	Yes	Ag Preserve Sec. 11
044-031-001	640	2	12S	16E	ARE-40	Yes	Ag Preserve Sec. 11
044-061-001	640	7	12S	16E	ARE-40	Yes	Ag Preserve Sec. 11
044-062-001	640	8	12S	16E	ARE-40	Yes	Ag Preserve Sec. 11
044-071-001	640	9	12S	16E	ARE-40	Yes	Ag Preserve Sec. 11
044-072-001	640	10	12S	16E	ARE-40	Yes	Ag Preserve Sec. 11
044-081-001	640	11	12S	16E	ARE-40	Yes	Ag Preserve Sec. 11
044-111-001	640	18	12S	16E	ARE-40	Yes	Ag Preserve Sec. 11
044-112-001	640	17	12S	16E	AEX-40	Yes	Ag Preserve Sec. 11
044-121-002	440+/-	16	12S	16E	AEX-40	Yes	Ag Preserve
044-122-001	640	15	12S	16E	AEX-40	Yes	Ag Preserve Sec. 11
044-131-007	320	14	12S	16E	AEX-40	Yes	Ag Preserve
044-182-001	640	20	12S	16E	AEX-40	Yes	Ag Preserve Sec. 11
044-252-001	640	29	12S	16E	AEX-40	Yes	Ag Preserve Sec. 11
044-261-001	640	28	12S	16E	ARE-40	Yes	Ag Preserve Sec. 11
ARE-40 = agricultural , rural, exclusive 40-acre AEX-40 = agricultural, exclusive 40-acre							

No land use changes are associated with the Proposed Action. The subject parcels are currently used for cattle grazing and irrigated with groundwater from existing wells. MID intends to continue using the land for cattle grazing and irrigating with onsite groundwater. CVP water will not be used within the subject parcels and no additional CVP water would be allocated due to this annexation. Should MID decide to change land use for these parcels and/or use CVP water on the parcels not subject to existing environmental coverage, additional environmental review and approval will be needed.

Environmental Commitments

MID shall implement the environmental protection measures included in Table 1 to avoid and/or reduce environmental consequences associated with the Proposed Action. Environmental consequences for resource areas assume the measures specified would be fully implemented.

Table 2 Environmental Protection Measures and Commitments

Resource	Protection Measure
Biological Resources	Use of CVP water on this land and any associated future land use change shall be consistent with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Biological Opinion on the United States Bureau of Reclamation Long Term Contract Renewal of Friant Division and Cross Valley Unit Contracts (File Number 1-1-01-F-0027, dated January 9, 2001). Pursuant to the commitment on page 2-33 of that opinion, the District "will not deliver CVPIA Project Water for the purpose of converting any native lands to agricultural or M&I uses unless and until appropriate ESA compliance has determined that such conversion will not likely affect protected species or appropriate mitigation has been provided."
Various	No new construction or modification of existing facilities would take place as part of the Proposed Action without existing and/or additional environmental coverage.

Exclusion Category

516 DM 14.5 paragraph D (3): *Administration and implementation of project repayment and water service contracts, including approval of organizational or other administrative changes in contracting entities brought about by inclusion or exclusion or lands in these contracts.*

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"/> |
| 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
<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
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain
<input type="checkbox"/> | Yes
<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
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain
<input type="checkbox"/> | Yes
<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
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain
<input type="checkbox"/> | Yes
<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
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain
<input type="checkbox"/> | Yes
<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: 16-SCAO-114

Project Name: Madera Irrigation District (MID) Madera Ranch Annexation 2015-003

NEPA Document: CEC-15-055

NEPA Contact: Kelly Barkly, Natural Resource Specialist

MP 153 Cultural Resources Reviewer: Scott Williams, Archaeologist 

Date: April 21, 2016

Reclamation proposes to approve the annexation of 18 separate parcels (10,485 acres +/-) located in Madera County to MID and to amend the district's Central Valley Project (CVP) service area boundary. The agricultural lands will switch from their existing well water source to the MID service area and there will be no change in land use. 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).

The subject parcels are currently used for cattle grazing and irrigated with groundwater from existing wells. MID intends to continue using the land for cattle grazing and irrigating with onsite groundwater. No land use changes are associated with the Proposed Action. CVP water will not be used within the subject parcels and no additional CVP water would be allocated due to this annexation. Should MID decide to change land use for these parcels and/or use CVP water on the parcels not subject to existing environmental coverage, additional environmental review and approval will be needed.

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.