

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Categorical Exclusion Checklist

Land Use Authorization for the City of Tracy's Pipeline Crossings of the Delta-Mendota Canal

CEC-16-019

Prepared by:


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


Date: 06/22/2016

Concurred by:

See Attachment A
Archaeologist
Mid-Pacific Regional Office

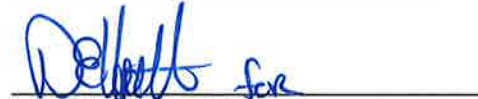
Date: See Attachment A

Concurred by:


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

Date: 6/22/2016

Approved by:


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

Date: 6/27/2016



Background

The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) completed Categorical Exclusion Checklist (CEC)-14-048 on May 23, 2016 for the issuance of a land use authorization to the City of Tracy (City) for the installation of a water main, including a portion of a second, future water main, and two sewer siphons within Reclamation's right-of-way (ROW) for the Delta-Mendota Canal (DMC) to serve the Tracy Hills Development (see Attachment B). Since completion of CEC-14-048, the City has revised their original project description requiring additional environmental review. Reclamation is preparing this CEC to address these revisions. This document supersedes CEC-14-048 and includes the changed project description.

As the footprint of the revised project description is within the area of potential effect reviewed by Reclamation pursuant to National Historic Preservation Act Section 106 requirements, the previous Section 106 determination remains valid and is included as Attachment A.

Nature of the Action

Reclamation proposes to issue a land use authorization to the City which would allow them to install, operate, and maintain a 24-inch diameter water main (within a 36 inch casing), and a future, 16-inch diameter water main (within a 30-inch casing) that would cross over the DMC at approximate milepost 15.08 and two 10 inch and 16 inch sewer siphon carrier pipes (18 inch and 24 inch diameter casings, respectively) located at approximate milepost 14.82 on the DMC (see Figures 1 and 2).

As previously considered in CEC-14-048, the 24-inch water main will be attached to a new, 130 foot long pre-fabricated steel pipe bridge (Bridge) requiring an open-cut pit excavation (approximately 14 feet wide by 7 feet deep by 10 feet long) on either side of the DMC lining in addition to an open-cut trench (approximately 5 feet wide by 8 feet deep by up to 260 feet long) on each side of the DMC lining. A redundant 16 inch water main (within a 24 inch casing) may also be attached to the bridge in the future if/when the City decides another pipeline is necessary.

The two sewer siphons would require 15 feet long, 8 feet wide, and 5 feet deep excavation pits on either side of the DMC in order to conduct horizontal directional drilling (HDD) for the undercrossing. The larger casing diameters of the sewer pipes will require a longer horizontal alignment of the HDD bores by approximately 70 feet each. This longer drill length will require the placement of two vertical drop manholes on City property, approximately 70 feet from the southern boundary of the DMC ROW (see Figure 2). The manholes will be approximately 25 feet deep.

The future water main will also be attached to the Bridge as part of the initial phase of work. However, the future water main will only be constructed through the DMC ROW. The future water main will terminate just outside of the DMC ROW and the ends will be capped in place. The remainder of the future water main will be constructed in the future if/when the City determines the pipeline necessary to supply future growth in the Tracy Hills area.

Project activities at both locations on the DMC would take approximately 2 to 3 months to complete and require the use of the following equipment: excavator, loader, backhoe, and both cement and work trucks.

Project Location: Section 8, Township 3S, Range 5E, Mount Diablo Base & Meridian, as depicted on the Tracy 7.5' U.S. Geological Survey quadrangle map.

Environmental Commitments

The City shall implement the following environmental protection measures to avoid and/or reduce potential environmental impacts:

Resource	Protective Measure
Biological Resources	A qualified biologist would conduct pre-construction protocol level surveys for San Joaquin kit fox no fewer than 14 days and no more than 30 days prior to the onset of any ground disturbing activity (USFWS 2011). The City would implement the <i>U.S. Fish And Wildlife Service Standardized Recommendations For Protection Of The Endangered San Joaquin Kit Fox Prior To Or During Ground Disturbance</i> (USFWS 2011). If kit foxes or their dens are detected at any time, all construction activities associated with the Proposed Project would be halted immediately. The project would be placed on hold until further analysis with Reclamation staff, and if necessary consultation with the USFWS, is complete.
Biological Resources	<p>If construction will commence during the avian breeding season (February 1 through August 31), a qualified biologist or ornithologist will conduct pre-construction surveys for burrowing owls at the Proposed Project area, in accordance with accepted survey protocols.</p> <p>If burrowing owls are identified onsite or in the vicinity of the Proposed Project area during the preconstruction surveys, then an appropriate construction buffer area will be determined by the biologist/ornithologist, and the buffer area will be demarcated and avoided during construction. If it is not practicable to avoid said buffer areas during construction, then California Department of Fish and Wildlife and/or USFWS will be consulted for appropriate action prior to disturbance within the buffer areas.</p> <p>If no owls are identified during the pre-construction surveys, then construction may commence without further mitigation for nesting raptors.</p>
Biological Resources	<p>If construction will commence during the non-breeding season of September 1 through January 31, a qualified biologist or ornithologist will conduct pre-construction surveys for burrowing owls at the Proposed Project area, in accordance with accepted survey protocols.</p> <p>If burrowing owls are not detected onsite or in the vicinity of the site, then construction may commence without additional mitigation for burrowing owls.</p> <p>If burrowing owls are detected during the preconstruction surveys, then they may be passively relocated by placing one-way doors in the burrows and leaving them in place for a minimum of three days. Once the biologist/ornithologist has determined that all burrowing owls have vacated the site, then construction may proceed.</p>

Environmental consequences for resource areas assume the measures specified would be fully implemented.

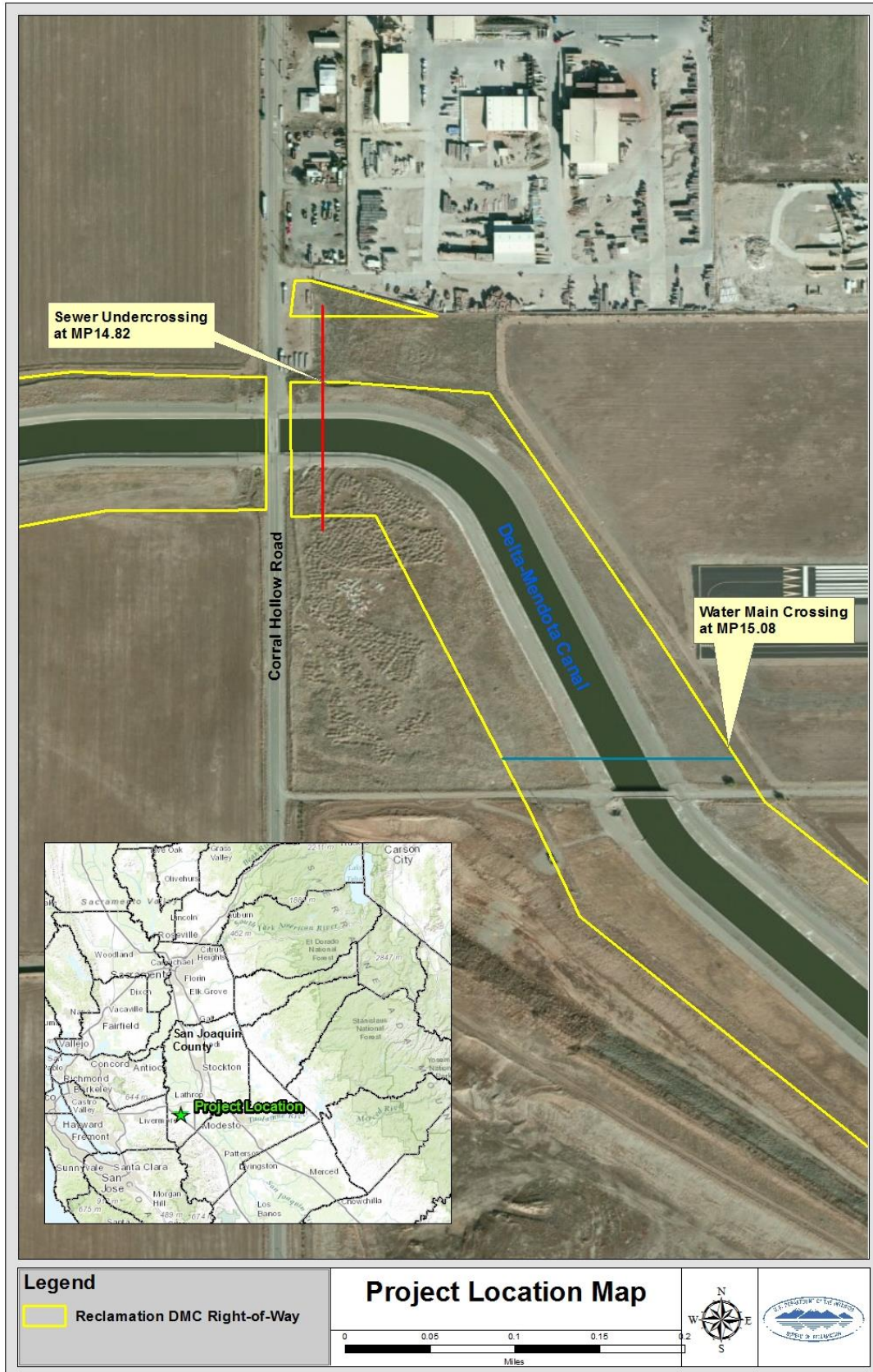


Figure 1. Proposed Action area

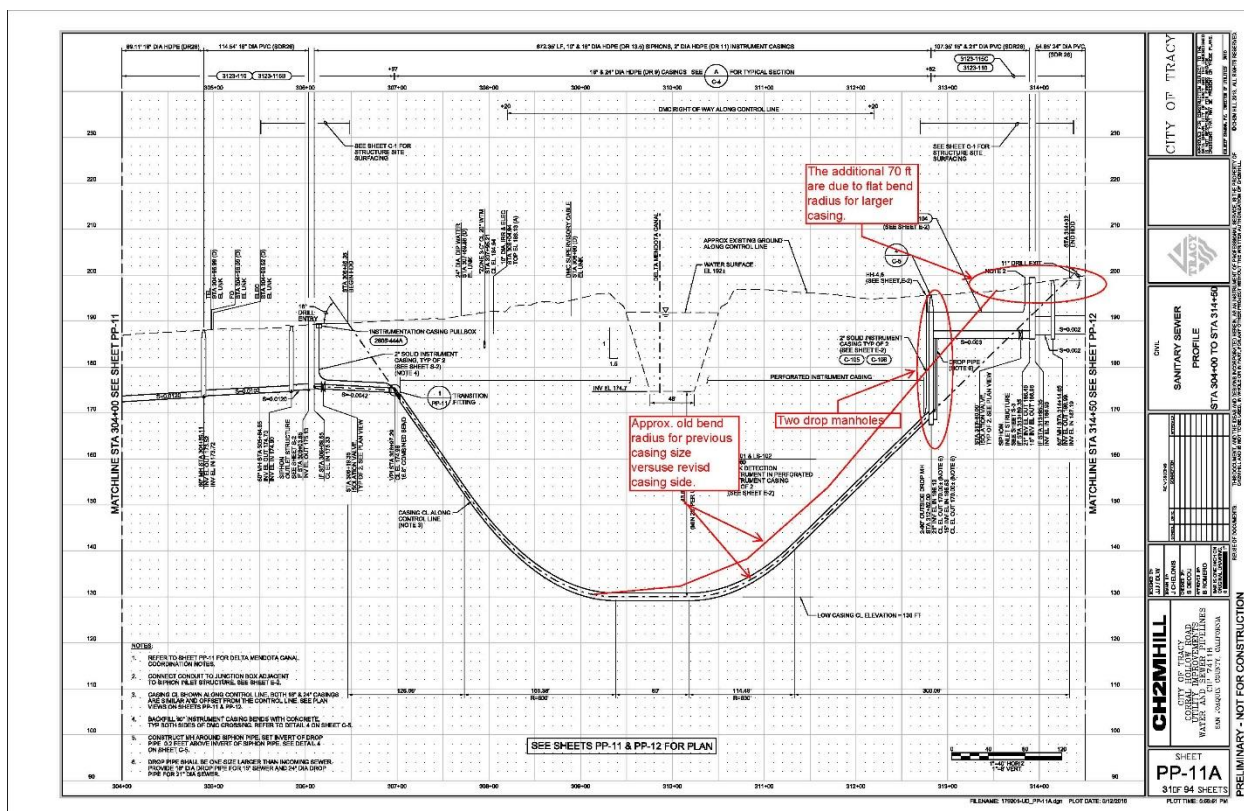


Figure 2. Schematic of changes made to the design of this Proposed Action.

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
<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"/> |

- | | No | Uncertain | Yes |
|---|---|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 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



Holt, Stacy <slholt@usbr.gov>

Change to PD for CEC-14-048 (LND-14-20): Tracy Hills crossings1 message

Carper, Mark <mcarper@usbr.gov>

Mon, Jun 27, 2016 at 2:48 PM

To: Stacy Holt <slholt@usbr.gov>

Hey Stacy-

The proposed PD change is still covered under our existing consultation. Our determination still stands. There is no need to re-initiate consultation with SHPO.

Mark

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Mark A. Carper - Archaeologist - M.A.

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