

**CULTURAL RESOURCE COMPLIANCE**  
**Mid-Pacific Region**  
**Division of Environmental Affairs**  
**Cultural Resources Branch**

MP-153 Tracking Number: 14-SCAO-148

Project Name: Porterville Irrigation District (PID) In-Lieu Groundwater Recharge Project

NEPA Document: EA

MP 153 Cultural Resources Reviewer: Amy J. Barnes

Date: June 14, 2016

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This proposed undertaking by Reclamation is to award grant funds to the PID from the San Joaquin River Restoration Program (Title X, Part III, sec. 10202) for partially funding for construction of a new distribution facility as part of the PID in-lieu groundwater recharge program approximately 5 miles west of Porterville, California. This is the type of action that has the potential to cause effects to historic properties pursuant to 36 CFR §800.3 of the Section 106 implementing regulations. As a result of this determination, Reclamation implemented the steps in the Section 106 process as outlined at §800.3 to §800.6.

PID proposes to construct two new distribution facilities for in-lieu groundwater recharge within the PID service area that currently does not have infrastructure to receive surface water deliveries. In-Lieu Area 1 will consist of a new turnout on the Wood Central Ditch for a new approximately 10,000-foot-long lateral pipeline that will parallel Road 200, then continue west along Avenue 164 to Road 196. The new turnout will be a concrete structure with a control gate, flow measurement device, metal trash rack, and canal rip-rap and/or other improvements to reinforce the canal prism. The new lateral will be a concrete and PVC pipeline measuring between 18 inches and 48 inches in diameter. The pipe will be buried in a trench measuring up to 8 feet wide and ranging between 6 feet and 15 feet deep. Turnout facilities along the pipeline for growers will be provided at intervals. These service points will include short segments of lateral pipes measuring 12-18 inches in diameter installed up to four feet below the existing grade. Construction will require clearing and grubbing of approximately 3-acres.

In-Lieu Area 2 will consist of a new turnout on the existing Poplar Ditch pipeline for a new water conveyance facility that will vary between open channel and piped sections depending on hydraulics, land acquisition, topography of the land, and pipe costs. The alignment of this new facility will be south of the Poplar Ditch pipeline and oriented north/south parallel to Road 204 and east/west parallel to Avenue 140. Pipeline segments will be concrete or PVC measuring between 18 inches and 48 inches in diameter, and installed in a trench measuring up to 8 feet wide and ranging between 6 feet and 15 feet deep. Open channel segments will be an earthen V-ditch measuring approximately 20 feet wide (top width) and up to 5 feet deep. The open ditch/pipeline alignment in total will measure approximately 7,900 feet long. Construction will require clearing and grubbing of approximately 2-acres.

The area of potential effects (APE) for this undertaking includes an approximately 5-acre area for constructing the pipelines/ditches in Sections 23, 25, and 26, T. 21 S., R. 26 E. (In-Lieu Area 1), and in Sections 1 and 2, T. 22 S., R. 26 E. and Section 6, T. 22 S., R. 27 E. (In-Lieu Area 2), Mount Diablo Base and Meridian, as depicted on the Porterville and Woodville 7.5 minute U.S. Geological Survey topographic quadrangle maps (Figure 2, enclosed). The APE is bracketed by agricultural roads and water conveyance facilities, orchards, and fields. The vertical APE will be 15 feet below the existing grade, which is the maximum depth of construction.

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The historic property identification efforts included a cultural resources inventory by ASM Affiliates (ASM) to assist in the identification of historic properties. In an effort to identify historic properties, PID contracted ASM Affiliates (ASM) to conduct a cultural resources inventory covering the APE (Whitley et. al. 2016). Two cultural resources were identified within the APE: segments of the Wood Central Ditch and Poplar Ditch, both of which are part of the Lower Tule River Irrigation District (LTRID) water delivery system. For the purposes of this undertaking only, Reclamation will treat the LTRID water conveyance system as a district eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (National Register) under Criterion A for the theme of development of irrigated agriculture in the south fork of the Kern River valley, and the Wood Central Ditch and Poplar Ditch as contributing elements to that district. Reclamation applied the criteria of adverse effect [36 CFR § 800.5(a)] for the current undertaking and found that the proposed activities would result in no significant alterations to the historic characteristics that make the Wood Central Ditch or Poplar Ditch segments eligible for the National Register. Since there will be no significant alterations to the Wood Central Ditch and Poplar Ditch segments, the LTRID will also be unaffected.

Reclamation entered into consultation with the California State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) on May 12, 2016, seeking their concurrence on a finding of “no adverse effects to historic properties pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.5(b).” SHPO concurred with Reclamations’ findings and determination on June 14, 2016 (consultation attached).

After reviewing the EA, dated June 2016 entitled *Porterville Irrigation District In-Lieu Groundwater Recharge Project*, I concur that this action would not have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register.

This memorandum 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.

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

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June 14, 2016

Reply in Reference To: BUR\_2016\_0512\_001

Anastasia T. Leigh  
Regional Environmental Officer  
United States Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Reclamation, Mid-Pacific Regional Office  
2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, CA 95825-1898

**Re:** National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Section 106 Compliance for the Porterville Irrigation District (PID) In-Lieu Groundwater Recharge Project, Tulare County, California (Project #14-SCAO-148)

Dear Ms. Leigh:

On May 12, 2016 the Office of Historic Preservation received your letter requesting to initiate consultation for the above-referenced undertaking. The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) is consulting pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act and its implementing regulations found at 36CFR Part 800 (as amended). Along with the consultation letter, the following documentation was provided:

- *Historic Resource Evaluation Report for the Poplar Ditch near Porterville, Tulare County, California [for California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) District 06, Fresno, CA] (J. Fischer, Caltrans, December 1997).*
- *Class III Inventory/Phase I Survey, Porterville Irrigation District In-Lieu Project, Tulare County, California [for Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group, Visalia, CA] (D. Whitley, P. Carey, J. Gorman; ASM Affiliates, Tehachapi, CA; March 2016).*

Reclamation proposes to award grant funds to the Porterville Irrigation District (PID) from the San Joaquin River Restoration Program (Title X, Part III, sec. 10202) for construction of a new distribution facility as part of the PID in-lieu groundwater recharge program located approximately 5 miles west of Porterville, California.

The proposed construction project consists of two new facilities for in-lieu groundwater recharge within the PID service area that currently does not have surface water deliveries. In-Lieu Area 1 will consist of a new turnout on the Wood Central Ditch. The new turn-out is a concrete structure with a control gate, flow measurement device, metal trash rack, and canal rip-rap and/or other improvements to reinforce the canal prism and will connect to a new circa 10,000-foot-long lateral pipeline. The lateral will be a concrete and PVC pipeline measuring between 18 inches and 48 inches in diameter buried in a trench measuring up to 8 feet wide and ranging between 6 feet and 15 feet deep. Turnout facilities for growers will be provided at intervals as short segments of lateral pipes measuring 12-18 inches in diameter installed up to four feet below existing grade. Construction will require clearing and grubbing of approximately 3-acres.

In-Lieu Area 2 will consist of a new turnout on the existing Poplar Ditch pipeline for water conveyance that will vary between open channel and piped sections depending on hydraulics, land acquisition, topography of the land, and pipe costs. Alignment will be south of the Poplar Ditch pipeline and oriented north/south parallel to Road 204 and east/west parallel to Avenue 140. Pipeline segments will be concrete or PVC measuring between 18 inches and 48 inches in diameter, and installed in a trench

measuring up to 8 feet wide and ranging between 6 feet and 15 feet deep. Open channel segments will be an earthen V-ditch measuring about 20 feet wide (top width) and up to 5 feet deep. The new open ditch/pipeline alignment in total will measure approximately 7,900 feet long. Construction will require clearing and grubbing of approximately 2-acres.

The area of potential effects (APE) for this undertaking consists of areas of construction, including grading, excavation, grubbing, equipment staging, storage and laydowns related to the proposed project and is contained within about five acres for the two discontinuous locales. The vertical APE will be 15 feet below existing grade, which is maximum depth of work. The APE is bracketed by water conveyance facilities, agricultural roads, orchards, and fields and access will be on pre-existing routes.

Efforts to identify historic properties included comprehensive record and archival searches and pedestrian surveys in October, 2015 and February, 2016 by ASM Affiliates (ASM). No prior surveys of the study area were done for In-Lieu 1 but In-Lieu 2 had two prior studies with no resources recorded.

The APE Survey identified two cultural resources: segments of the Wood Central Ditch and Poplar Ditch, both of which are part of the Lower Tule River Irrigation District (LTRID) water delivery system. ASM only recorded and evaluated the APE segment of the Wood Central Ditch and recommended it generally ineligible for individual listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The Poplar Ditch was not recorded or discussed beyond identifying it in the records search and saying the APE portion of the ditch is now a pipeline. Additionally, there was no discussion to consider the Porterville Irrigation District or the Lower Tule River Irrigation District (LTRID) water conveyance systems as potential districts.

Reclamation states that the Wood Central Ditch has retained integrity of location, setting, feeling, and association based on the historic context provided by ASM and considers it to be a contributing feature of the LTRID water conveyance system (LTRID). The ditch still delivers water within a similar agricultural landscape as originally designed. Similarly, the context suggests that the Poplar Ditch significantly contributed to local development of agriculture as a contributing feature of the LTRID because its original function to deliver water within a similar agricultural landscape has not significantly changed from the time it was originally built. For the purposes of this undertaking only, Reclamation will treat the LTRID water conveyance system as a district eligible for inclusion in the NRHP under Criterion A for the theme of development of irrigated agriculture in the south fork of the Kern River valley, and the Wood Central Ditch and Poplar Ditch as contributing elements to that district. Further, Reclamation has also determined for the purposes of this undertaking that the project can be constructed with no adverse effects to the historic characteristics that make the LTRID and its contributors eligible for the NRHP.

An analysis by ASM of prior geoarchaeological studies in the area, that included the APE, suggests that the general setting is not likely to have subsurface archaeological sites due to extensive and heavy hydrological activity through time. Additionally, given the original construction activities and ongoing agricultural development in the vicinity Reclamation has determined that there is low potential for encountering intact subsurface cultural resources within the APE.

Pursuant to §800.3(f)(2), Reclamation sent letters to the Santa Rosa Rancheria, and Tule River Indian Tribe and additionally to the Native American organizations of the Wukache Indian Tribe of Eshorn Valley and the Kern Valley Indian Council to request their assistance in the identification of sites of religious or cultural significance or other historic properties that may be affected by the proposed undertaking. To date no responses have been received by these Indian Tribes and Native American organizations. Should Native American concerns be raised in the future Reclamation will work to identify and address them and make notification as required.

Based on information provided and a detailed analysis of the Porterville Irrigation District (PID) In-Lieu Groundwater Recharge Project site locale, Reclamation finds that, pursuant to 36 CFR 800.5(b) the proposed undertaking would result in no adverse effect to historic properties and is requesting review and comment.

Following staff review of the submitted documentation, the following comments are offered:

- Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4(a)(1), there are no objections to the APE as defined and documented.
- Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4(b), it is considered that Reclamation has made a reasonable and good faith effort to identify historic properties within the area of potential effects.
- Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4(c)(2), **I do not object** that for purposes of this undertaking only, Reclamation will treat the LTRID water conveyance system as a district eligible for inclusion in the NRHP under Criterion A for the theme of development of irrigated agriculture in the south fork of the Kern River valley, and the Wood Central Ditch and Poplar Ditch as contributing elements to that district.
- Reclamation has determined that the proposed undertaking would result in no adverse effect to historic properties. Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.5(b), **I concur**.

Please be advised that under certain circumstances, such as unanticipated discovery or a change in project description, Reclamation may have additional future responsibilities for this undertaking under 36 CFR Part 800 (as amended). Should you require further information, please contact Jeanette Schulz at [Jeanette.Schulz@parks.ca.gov](mailto:Jeanette.Schulz@parks.ca.gov) or (916) 445-7031.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Julianne', followed by a long horizontal line.

Julianne Polanco  
State Historic Preservation Officer