

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Categorical Exclusion Checklist


PG&E Colusa Generating Station - Intake Facility Improvements - Tehama-Colusa Canal – Colusa County, CA

NCAO-CEC-17-02

Prepared by:  Date: 12/6/2016
Irene Hobbs
Realty Specialist
Northern California Area Office (Willows)

Prepared by: Attachment 2 Date: October 4, 2016
Megan Simon
Northern California Area Office Designee for
Tribal Trust Assets

Concurrence by: Attachment 3 Date: December 5, 2016
Lex Palmer
Historian
Mid-Pacific Regional Office

Concurrence by:  Date: 12/6/16
Paul Zedonis
Supervisory Natural Resource Specialist/
Environmental and Natural Resources
Division Manager
Northern California Area Office

Approved by:  Date: 12/6/2016
Donald Bader
Area Manager
Northern California Area Office



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
Mid Pacific Region

December 2016

Proposed Action

Reclamation will permit Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) to upgrade the intake screens for the pump at the previously-approved water intake facility associated with the PG&E Colusa Generating Station with an automated apparatus. The work will be completed in the Tehama Colusa-Canal (Canal) and the associated right-of-way (ROW), near Canal milepost 63 (Attachment 1). The mechanical apparatus will use blasts of compressed air to mechanically remove the algae from the existing pump screens, reducing the need for manual pump intake screen cleaning. In addition to the two screens and supporting air compressor, the work will include installation of security lighting to facilitate operation and maintenance inspections.

To complete the intake screen modification, PG&E will install the following new equipment. Equipment dimensions and installation depths are noted in parentheses:

- Two (2) new screens
- Covers over the pump inlet screens
- New air compressor and associated pad (8.5 feet (ft) by 6 ft to depth of 1 ft below ground surface (bgs), junction box and underground compressed air pipeline (depth of up to 3 ft bgs)
- Two new light poles at the location of the new compressor pad (direct bury by 2 ft auger to depth of 6 ft bgs) and associated switch box (depth of 3 ft bgs)
- New underground electric cabling within existing underground conduit
- One concrete bollard (direct bury up to 4 ft bgs)

Construction equipment to be used includes a backhoe, 8-yard dump truck, line truck with auger, cement truck/mixer and pick-up trucks. The work area will be accessed, and equipment staged, within and along the TCC ROW and access road. The work will involve removal of a small amount of ruderal vegetation (yellow star thistle, bull thistle, wild oats) .

PG&E's work will take approximately five days to complete and will begin immediately upon approval from Reclamation. The Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority (TCCA) conducted a site visit to review the work plan; no objections to PG&E's work plan were voiced.

The project location is in Section 35, Township 18 North, Range 4 West, Mount Diablo Meridian, Colusa County, CA, northwest of the town of Maxwell. A topographic map, aerial photograph, and PG&E's engineering drawings of the site layout and intake screens and compressor are included as Attachment 1: Project Location Figures. Photographs of the work area are included as Attachment 2.

Exclusion Categories

Bureau of Reclamation Categorical Exclusion - 516 DM 14.5, D (1): Maintenance, rehabilitation, and replacement of existing facilities which may involve a minor change in size, location, and/or operation.

Extraordinary Circumstances

Below is an evaluation of the extraordinary circumstances as required in 43 CFR 46.215.

- | | | | | | | |
|---|----|-------------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------|-----|--------------------------|
| 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; and 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 ☒ Uncertain ☐ Yes ☐
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 ☒ Uncertain ☐ Yes ☐
11. This action would affect ITAs (512 DM 2, Policy Memorandum dated December 15, 1993). No ☒ Uncertain ☐ Yes ☐
12. This action would have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (EO 12898; and 43 CFR 46.215 (j)). No ☒ Uncertain ☐ Yes ☐
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 ☒ Uncertain ☐ Yes ☐
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 ☒ Uncertain ☐ Yes ☐

Regional Archeologist concurred with Item 8 (email attached).

ITA Designee concurred with Item 11 (email attached).

NEPA Action Recommended

☒ CEC – This action is covered by the exclusion category and no extraordinary circumstances exist. The action is excluded from further documentation in an EA or EIS.

☐ Further environmental review is required, and the following document should be prepared.

☐ EA

☐ EIS

Environmental commitments, explanations, and/or remarks:

Reclamation researched the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB), maintained by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and its Biogeographic Information and Observation System (BIOS) mapping complement, as well as the US Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service) Information, Planning, and Conservation System (IPaC) application, to determine the potential for the presence of species protected by the Federal Endangered Species Act within the work area. Species Federally-listed as Threatened or Endangered with the potential to inhabit the work area, according to the IPaC report, were limited to the California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*), Northern spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis caurina*), Conservancy fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta conservancyi*), vernal pool fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta lynchi*), vernal pool tadpole shrimp (*Lepidurus packardii*), Delta smelt (*Hypomesus transpacificus*), Central Valley steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), Valley elderberry longhorn beetle (*Desmocerus californicus dimorphus*) and giant garter snake (*Thamnophis gigas*). Seventeen species protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act were also reported as having the potential to inhabit the work area, including the burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*) and Swainson's hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*).

No Critical Habitat for Federally-listed species is located in the work area, according to the IPaC report. The California red-legged frog is widely accepted as extirpated from the Valley floor. No contiguous forest that would function as habitat for the Northern spotted owl, or trees that would function as nesting habitat for migratory birds, are present within or around the work area. As outlined on the engineer's drawing included in Attachment 1, electrical conduits will be underground and will not present a risk of electrocution for raptors and other migratory birds. The Canal is screened at the point of diversion from the Sacramento River: the Red Bluff pumping plant. Additional fish screens are located on the pump intakes. Therefore, listed fish species would not be affected by the action. PG&E's Designated Biologist for the site also stated that no elderberry trees or shrubs that would function as habitat for the Valley elderberry longhorn beetle are located within 100 feet of the work area. Sitings of the remaining species reported in the BIOS output were limited to the burrowing owl and giant garter snake (GGS). The nearest burrowing owl reporting was on the Colusa Generating Station property, approximately 0.5 mile from the proposed work area. However, no burrow holes that would function as habitat for the burrowing owl have been observed in the vicinity of the proposed work area, according to PG&E's biologist. The nearest BIOS reporting of the giant garter snake is greater than 2.5 miles from the work area. PG&E's biologist stated that snake sitings on the property have been limited to those of non-listed rattlesnakes. The canal itself is concrete lined. The TCCA conducts a weed abatement program along the Canal ROW. No earthen embankments that would function as over-wintering habitat, or vegetative cover that would function as supplemental upland habitat, for GGS are located within the work area.

Information obtained from PG&E's biologist will be confirmed by PG&E via a pre-construction survey. PG&E will document the results of the survey in a Biological Technical Memorandum. Monitoring will be conducted during construction, as determined appropriate by the pre-construction survey and Biological Technical Memorandum.

PG&E will also adhere to its standing Biological Resources Mitigation and Monitoring Plan for the Colusa Generating Station Project (MMP) in construction, operation and maintenance of the

proposed improvements. In addition to outlining the procedures for worker awareness training, the MMP stipulates standing procedures for identifying, monitoring and protecting special status species and methods for reporting and mitigating any unforeseeable impacts to such species or associated habitat.

The MMP is periodically updated to account for new information or changing conditions and incorporates the terms and conditions of the following license, permits, opinions, and agreements, which collectively address all compliance measures related to biological resources that would be implemented during construction and operation of the Colusa Generating Station and related facilities. These include:

- CEC – Findings, Conclusions, and Conditions of Certification from the Final Decision in Docket No. 06-AFC-9
- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Standard Individual Permit 404
- Service Section 7 Biological Opinion for effects to GGS, vernal pool fairy shrimp and vernal pool tadpole shrimp
- California Department of Fish and Game Consistency Determination (California Endangered Species Act [CESA] concurrence under 2080.1) for GGS
- CDFG – 1600 Notification of Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement for bridge work at Teresa Creek and the Glenn-Colusa Canal
- Regional Water Quality Control Board – 401 Water Quality Certification
- National Marine Fisheries Service Concurrence Letter

With regard to project-specific protections for water quality in the Canal, the compressor will be installed along the far side of the canal access road with relation to the Canal. PG&E will install the compressor atop a pad with secondary containment which will capture any oil lost in operations. PG&E will inspect the compressor and containment area for losses, and stormwater captured in the containment for sheens, during and after rain events and prior to the release of stormwater.

Construction activities can be categorized as temporary and minor and are not anticipated to result in significant air emissions.

Attachment 1. Project Location Figures

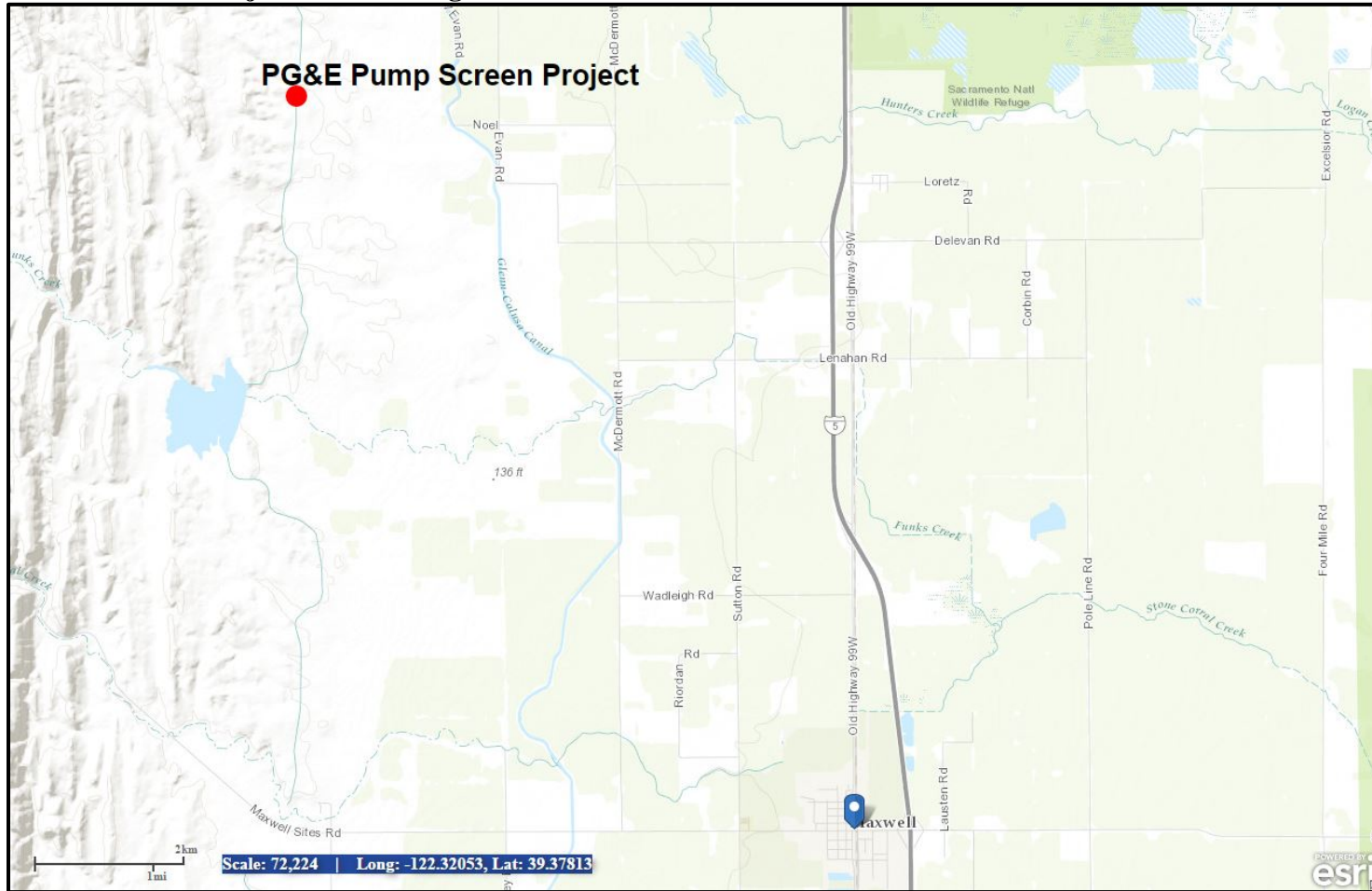


Figure 1A: Vicinity Map

Attachment 1, Cont:



Figure 1B: Work Area

Attachment 1, Cont:

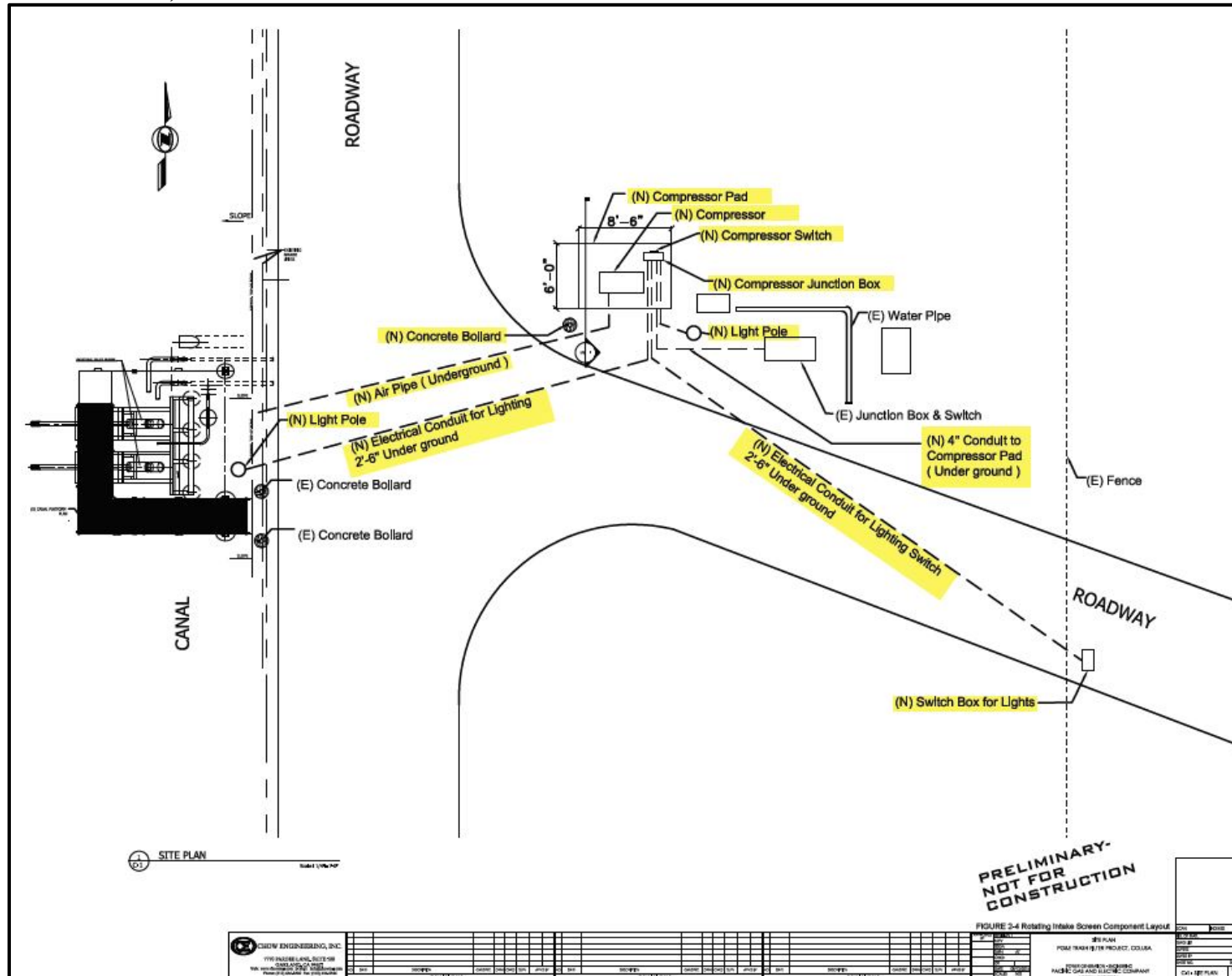


Figure 1C: Engineer's Drawing of Site Layout

Attachment 1, Cont.

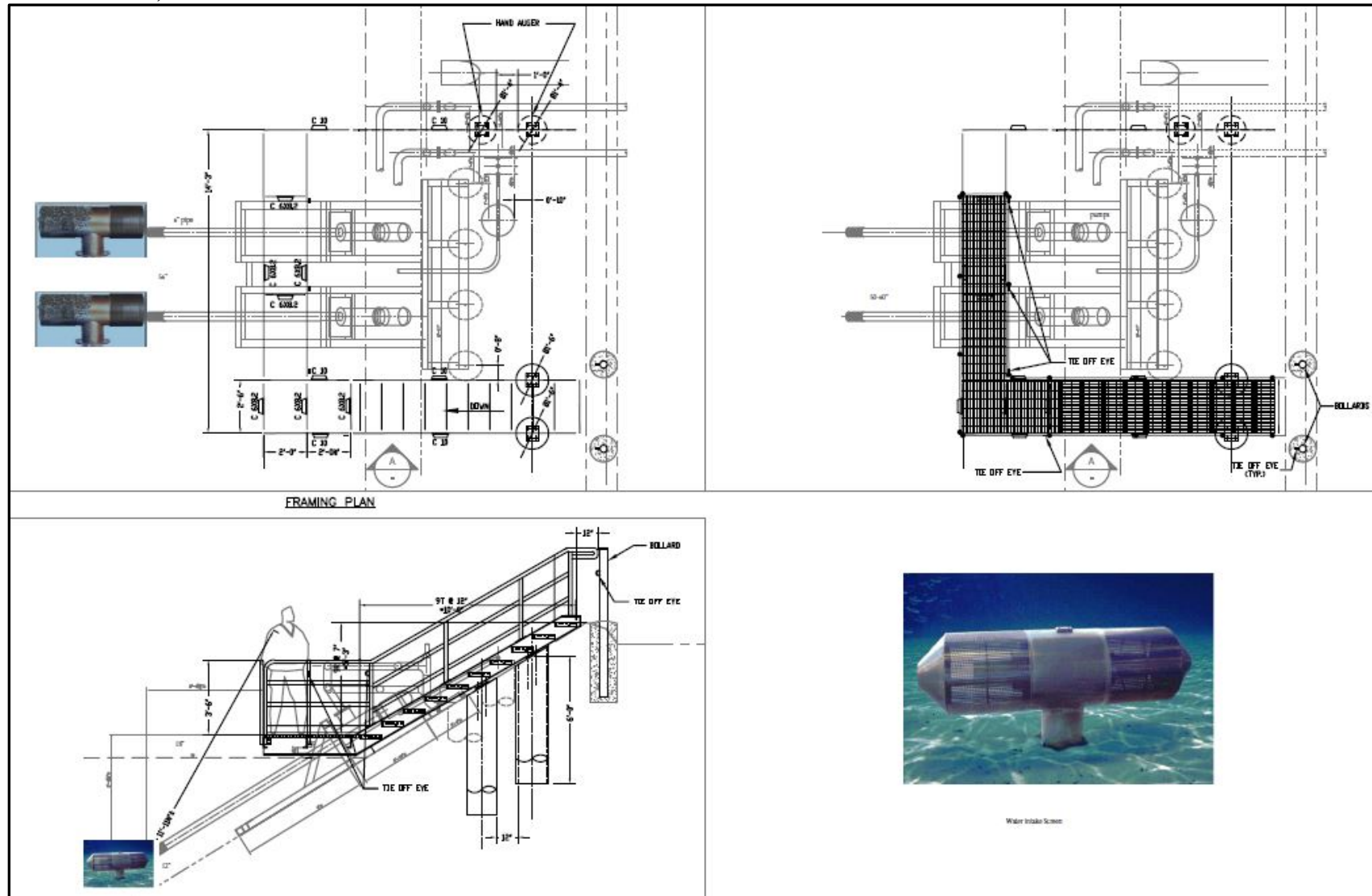


Figure 1D: Schematic of Intake Screens and Compressor

Attachment 2. Site Photographs



Photograph 1: Area of disturbance.



Photograph 2: Canal access road.

Attachment 2, Cont.



Photograph 3: View to north.



Photograph 4: View to northwest.

Attachment 3. Indian Trust Asset Review



Simon, Megan <msimon@usbr.gov>

ITA Review - PG&E Colusa Generating Station Intake Facility Improvements - TCC

1 message

Simon, Megan <msimon@usbr.gov>
To: Paul Zedonis <pzedonis@usbr.gov>

Tue, Oct 4, 2016 at 2:03 PM

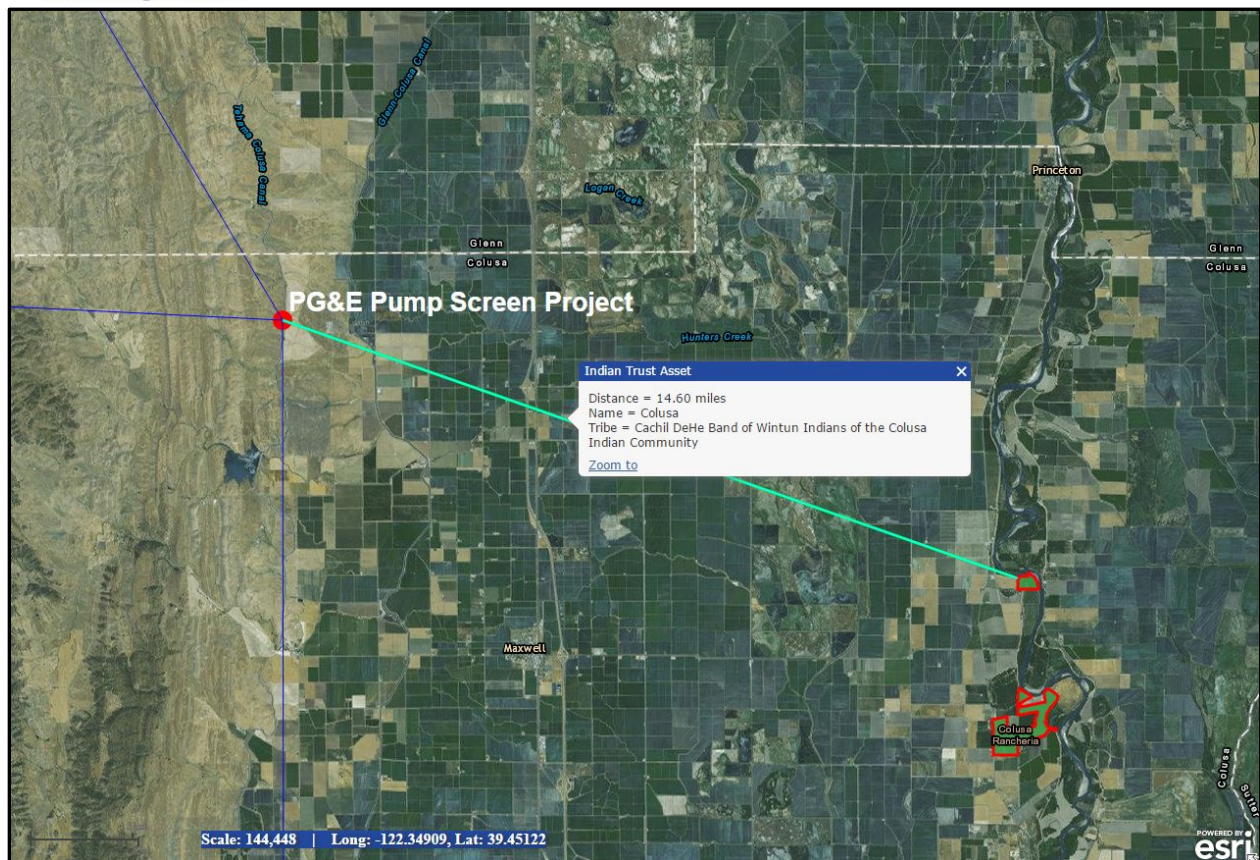
I have examined the referenced proposal and have determined that the facility is at least 14.5 miles from the closest Indian Trust Asset.

I have determined that there is no likelihood that this action will adversely impact Indian Trust Assets.

--

Megan K. Simon

Natural Resources Specialist
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Northern California Area Office
16349 Shasta Dam Blvd.
Shasta Lake, CA 96019
(530) 276-2045
msimon@usbr.gov



Attachment 4. Cultural Resources Review (Page 1 of 3)

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

MP-153 Tracking Number: 16-NCAO-250

Project Name: PG& E Tehama-Colusa Canal Pump Inlet Screen Project

NEPA Document: NCAO-CEC-17-02

MP 153 Cultural Resources Reviewer: Lex Palmer

Date: December 5, 2016

This proposed undertaking by Reclamation is to authorize PG&E's proposed construction of a pump inlet screen station on an existing turnout on Reclamation's Tehama-Colusa Canal that provides water for the adjacent PG&E natural gas power plant in Colusa County, California. Reclamation determined that the authorization of this work on Federal lands constitutes an undertaking as defined in 36 CFR § 800.16(y) and is a type of activity that has the potential to cause effects on historic properties under 36 CFR § 800.3(a).

Based on historic properties identification efforts conducted by Reclamation Mid-Pacific Region cultural resources staff, Reclamation consulted with, and received concurrence from, the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) on a finding of no adverse effect pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.5(b). Consultation correspondence between Reclamation and the SHPO has been provided with this cultural resources compliance document for inclusion in the administrative record for this action. This document serves as notification that Section 106 compliance has been completed for this undertaking.

Please note that if project activities subsequently change, additional NHPA Section 106 review, including further consultation with the SHPO, may be required. Thank you for providing the opportunity to comment.

Attachment: Letter: SHPO to Reclamation dated November 30, 2016

Attachment 4, Cont. (Page 2 of 3)

STATE OF CALIFORNIA – THE RESOURCES AGENCY

EDMUND G. BROWN, JR., Governor

OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION

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November 30, 2016

Reply in Reference To: BUR_2016_1031_001

Anastasia T. Leigh
Regional Environmental Officer
Bureau of Reclamation, Mid-Pacific Region
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, CA 95825-1898

RE: Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) Tehama-Colusa Canal Pump Inlet Screen Project, Colusa County, California (Project # 16-NCAO-250)

Dear Ms. Leigh:

Thank you for the letter received on October 31, 2016, initiating consultation with me for the above-referenced project to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (54 U.S.C. § 300101), as amended, and its implementing regulation found at 36 CFR § 800. Included with the Bureau of Reclamation's (Reclamation) consultation letter was the *PG&E Tehama-Colusa Canal Pump Inlet Screen Project, Colusa County, California* (report), prepared in October, 2016.

Reclamation is proposing to authorize PG&E to construct a pump inlet screen station on an existing turnout on the Tehama-Colusa Canal (TCC) that provides water for the adjacent PG&E natural gas power plant in Colusa County, California. Installation of the pump inlet screen station includes a new pump screen, a compressed air pipe, lighting system, and a compressor and associated pad, bollard, switch, conduit and junction box. The purpose of the *pump inlet* screen station is to mechanically clean the intake screens.

Reclamation's Area of Potential Effect (APE) is defined to include the entirety of the construction-related activities. The horizontal APE is 25 feet east-west and 15 feet north-south and the vertical APE is 2 to 6 inches deep, for a total of 0.008 acres. Identification efforts included a review of Reclamation's archaeological site index and project histories. Field survey was determined to be unnecessary since the undertaking is well within the previously disturbed canal prism and access road.

The only cultural resource identified in the APE is the TCC. Constructed between 1965 and 1980 as part of the Central Valley Project (CVP), evaluation of the entire canal is outside the scope of this undertaking. Reclamation is treating the TCC eligible as a contributing element of the CVP for the purposes of this project only. Reclamation has determined that the undertaking will not alter any of the characteristics that would make the TCC eligible as a contributor to the CVP, and found that the undertaking will have no adverse effect on historic properties.

After reviewing the information submitted with your letter, I offer the following comments:

- I concur that the Area of Potential Effect (APE) as represented in the attachments to your letter is appropriate.
- I concur that Reclamation's identification and evaluation efforts are sufficient for this undertaking.

Attachment 4, Cont. (Page 3 of 3)

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Ms. Anastasia Leigh
November 30, 2016
Page 2 of 2

- I concur with your finding and agree that pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.5(b), a Finding of No Adverse Effect is appropriate for the undertaking as described.
- Please be advised that under certain circumstances, such as an unanticipated discovery or a change in project description, you may have future responsibilities for this undertaking under 36 CFR Part 800.

I look forward to consulting with Reclamation in the future. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Kathleen Forrest, Historian, at (916) 445-7022 or by email at kathleen.forrest@parks.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'J. Polanco', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Julianne Polanco
State Historic Preservation Officer