

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

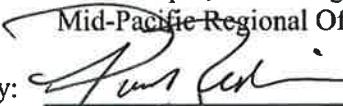
Categorical Exclusion Checklist (CEC)

Stony Gorge Reservoir – Installation of Visitor Fee Pay Station and Informational Kiosk – Orland Project - Glenn County, CA

NCAO-CEC-17-01

Prepared by: See Attachment 1 Date: October 13, 2016
Megan Simon
Natural Resources Specialist/
Designee for Tribal Trust Assets
Northern California Area Office

Concurrence by: See Attachment 2 Date: December 9, 2016
Mark Carper, Archeologist
Mid-Pacific Regional Office

Concurrence by:  Date: 12/14/16
Paul Zedonis
Environmental and Natural Resources
Division Manager
Northern California Area Office

Concurrence by:  Date: 12/13/2016
Rich Robertson
Supervisory Repayment Specialist
Northern California Area Office, Willows

Approved by:  Date: 12/14/16
Don Bader
Area Manager
Northern California Area Office

FOR



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

December 2016

Proposed Action

Reclamation and/or its contractors will create an area suitable for construction and vehicular traffic by leveling, stabilizing and adding road base, compacted to ASTM or Caltrans standards, to an existing turnout area located approximately on Reclamation-owned property in Stony Gorge recreation area in Glenn County, CA. The site is located along the west side of County Road 304, approximately 500 feet southeast of the main entrance to Stony Gorge recreation area (Figure 1). The improved turnout, to be constructed in winter of 2016, will be used to support an automated visitor fee pay station and informational kiosk, as exemplified in Figure 2. Western Area Power Authority will install a single power pole with associated guide wire on the turn-out to provide power to the automated fee station and supporting phone service, LED lighting and security cameras. Power to the new pole will be supplied from an existing source. The pay station will be used to collect user fees for overnight camping and use of a future boat ramp, in the immediate and near future, respectively. The fee collection is authorized by the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (Title VII, P.L. 108-477). Photographs of the location of the work are included as Figure 3.

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 ☒ 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)). No ☒ Uncertain ☐ Yes ☐
3. This action would have significant impacts on public health or safety (43 CFR 46.215(a)). 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; 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 <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; and 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, | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncertain <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> |

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).

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:

Excavation and installation of the facilities would be completed within a short period so that interference with recreational activities and ingress and egress from various sites around Stony Gorge Reservoir are minimized. The areas of placement have been mowed of any annual vegetation for fire suppression for many years.

Six Federally-listed Threatened or Endangered species are recognized by the US Fish and Wildlife Service as having the potential to inhabit the project vicinity. None of these listed species have Critical Habitat designated in the project vicinity. No Federally-listed species occurrences were reported in the California Natural Diversity Database within a three-mile radius of the project site.

The majority of the aforementioned, Federally-listed species, reported by USFWS as having the potential to inhabit the project vicinity, are fully aquatic. Exceptions include the Northern spotted owl and California red-legged frog. The project is located landside, above the high water mark in an area that is not seasonally inundated. It is therefore not anticipated to have an adverse impact on surface water or aquatic species that utilize surface water as habitat or amphibious species, such as the California red-legged frog, or their habitats. There will be no clear-cutting or change in contiguous forest cover associated with the project. Therefore, avian species, such as the Northern spotted owl, and their habitats, will not be affected by the action.

Figure 1. Site and Vicinity Maps

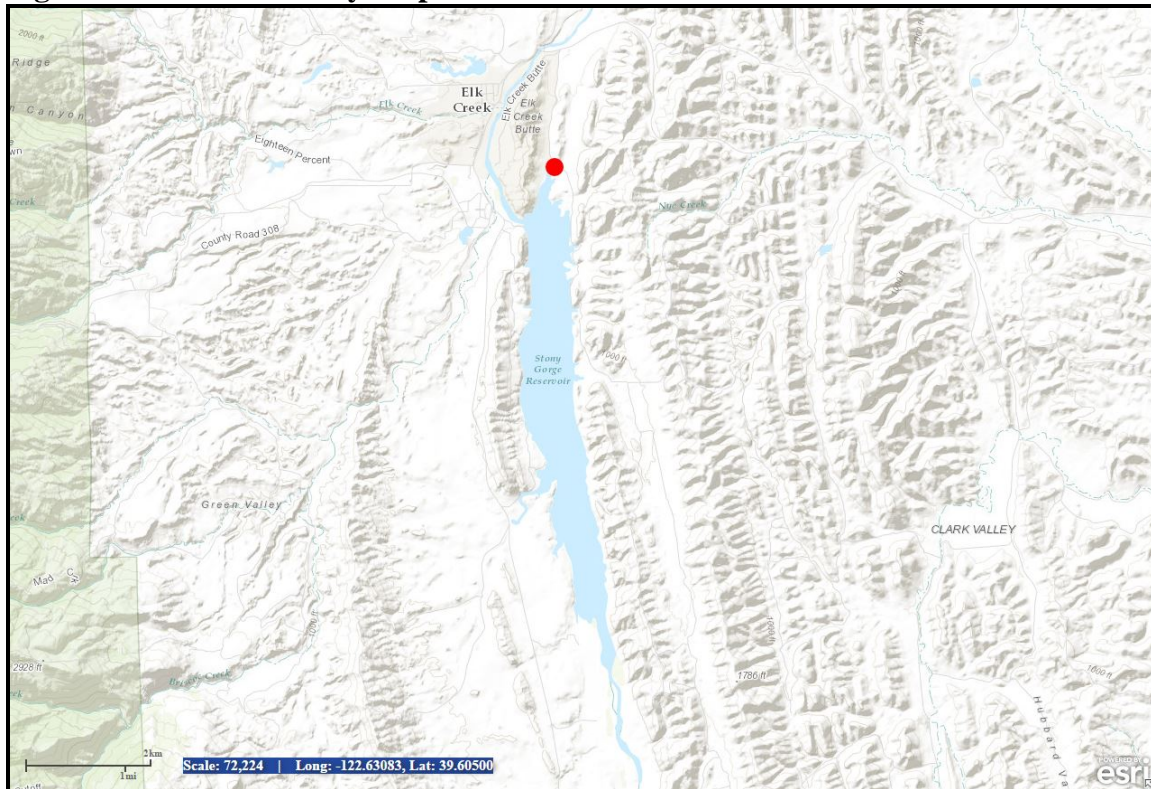


Figure 1A. Vicinity map.



Figure 1B. Area map with location of the proposed fee station and informational kiosk.

Figure 1, Cont.

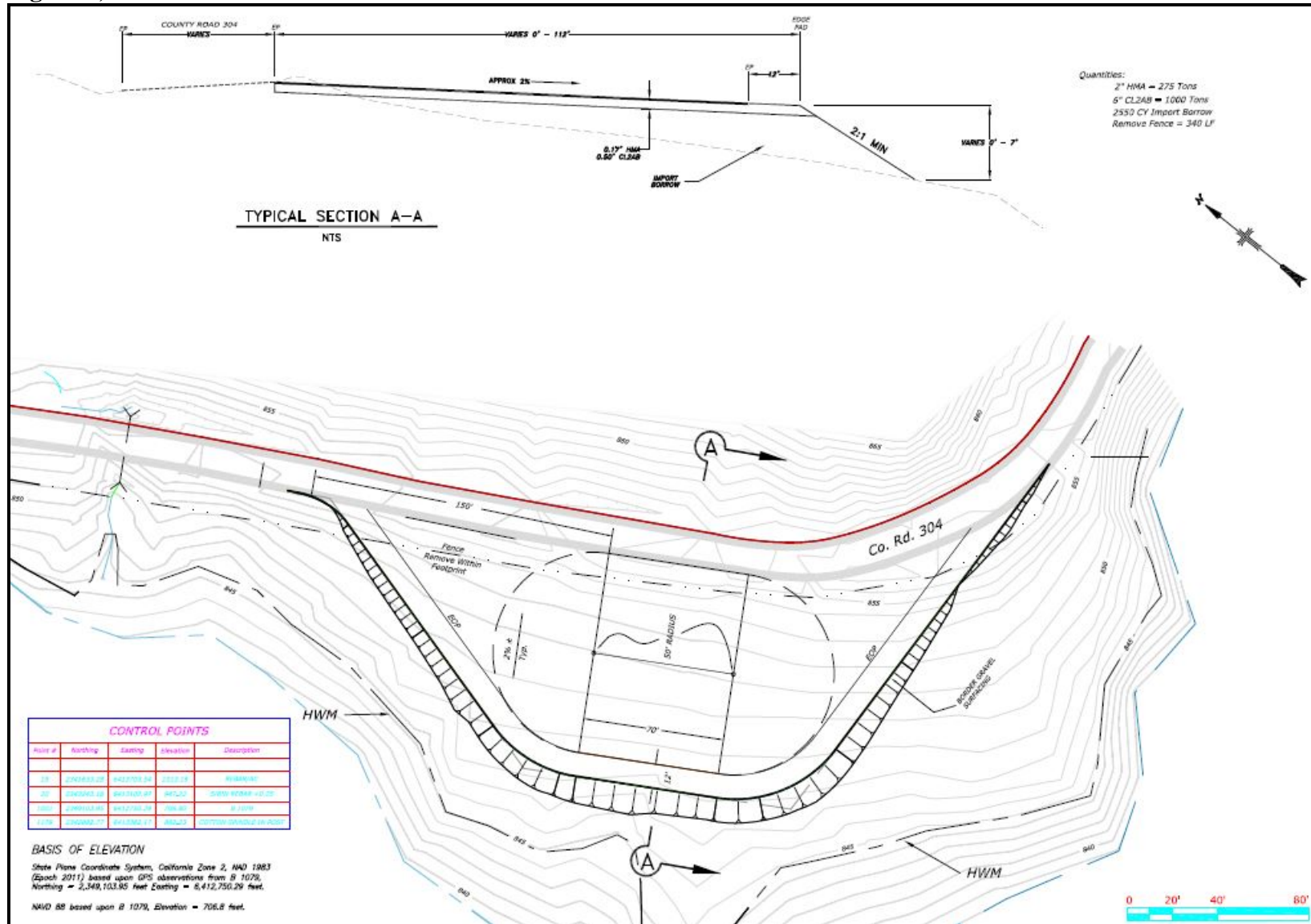


Figure 1C. Engineer's drawing of grading plan.

Figure 1, Cont.

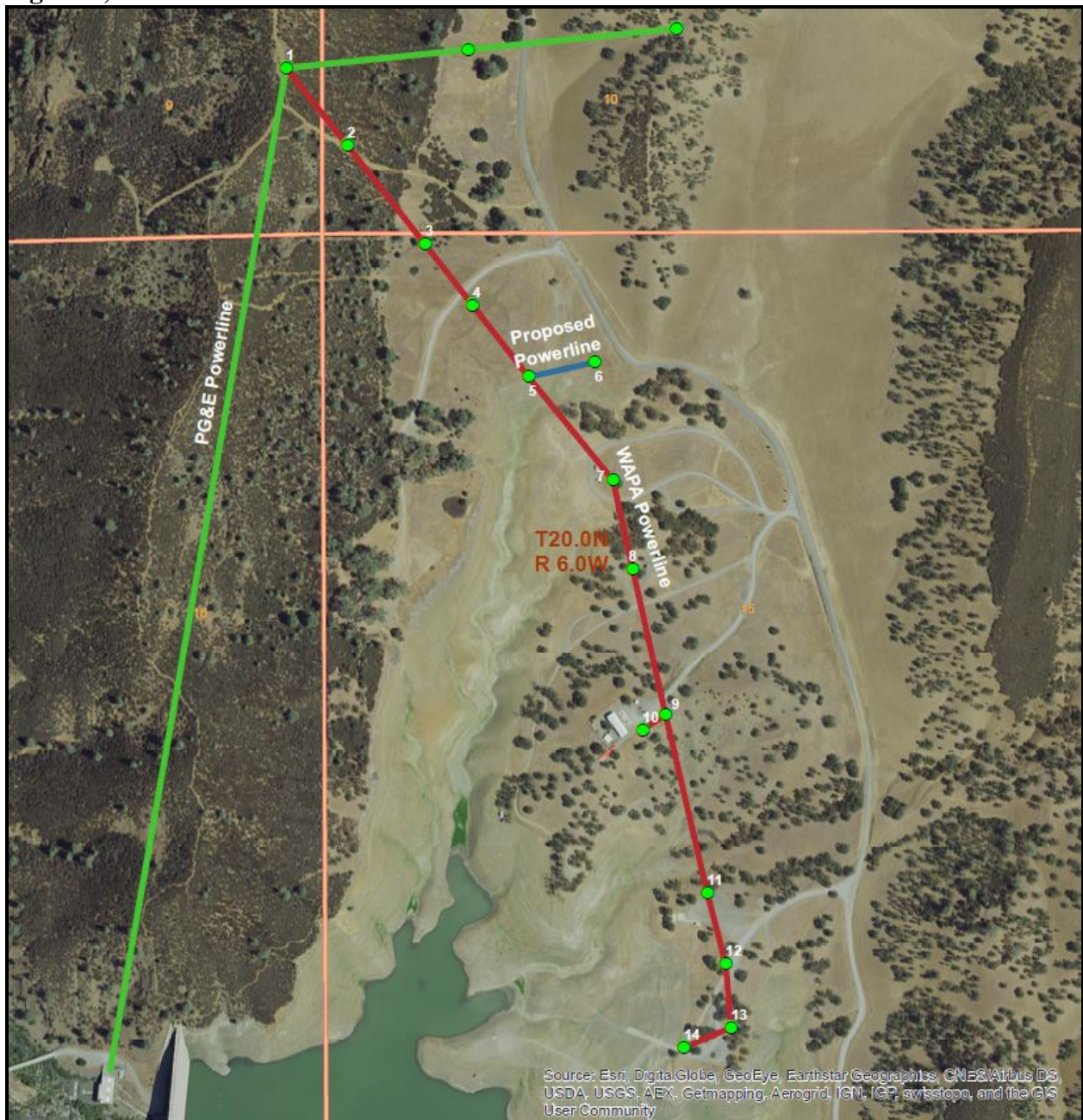


Figure 1D. Proposed power pole in relation to existing power lines.

Figure 2. Representative photograph



Fee station/informational kiosk style contemplated for placement at Stony Gorge recreation area in winter 2016 (representation only).

Figure 3. Site Photographs



View of site to northwest.



View of site to southwest.

Attachment 1. Indian Trust Asset Review



Simon, Megan <msimon@usbr.gov>

ITA Review - Stony Gorge Fee Station and Informational Kiosk

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

Thu, Oct 13, 2016 at 5:18 PM

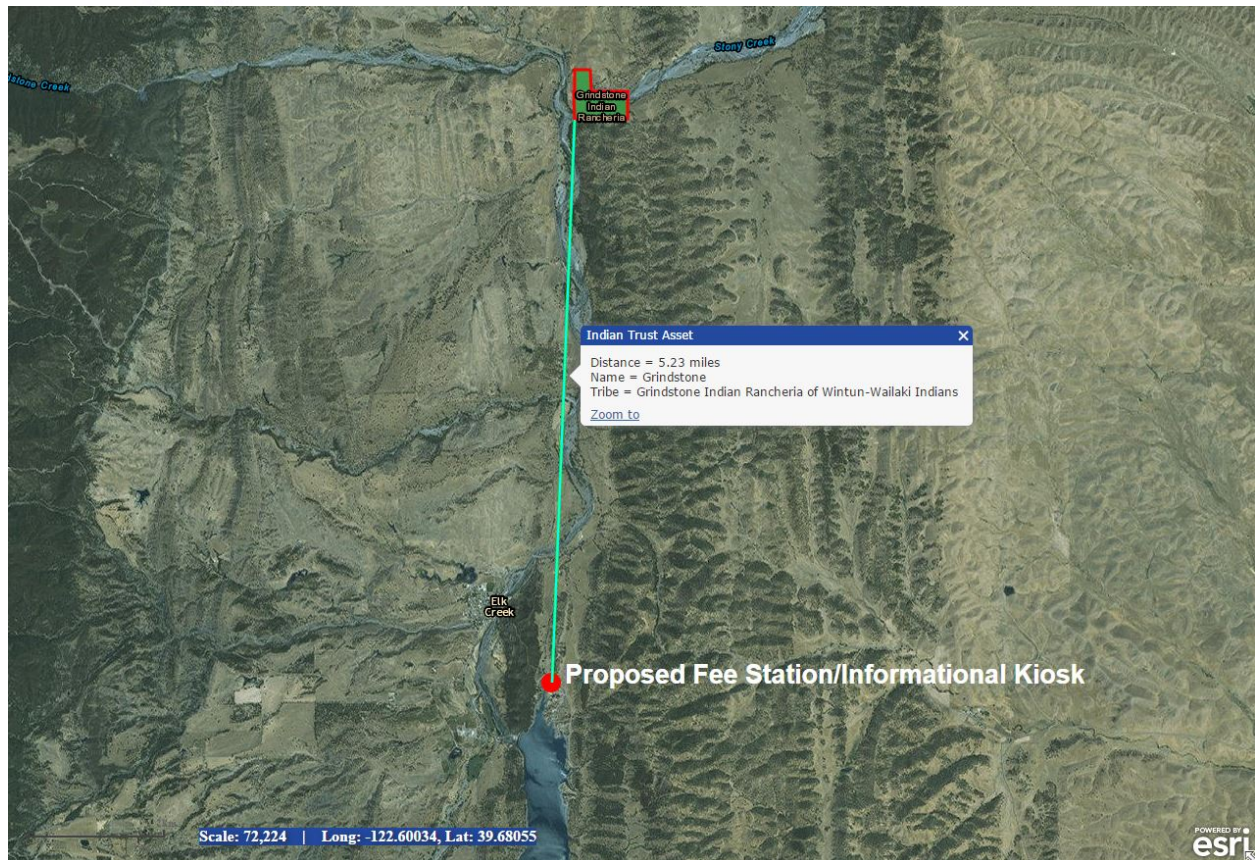
I have examined the referenced proposal and have determined that the facility is at least 5 miles from the closest Indian Trust Asset.

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
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Shasta Lake, CA 96019
(530) 276-2045
msimon@usbr.gov



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

MP-153 Tracking Number: 16-NCAO-246

Project Name: Stony Gorge Reservoir Recreation Area Fee Kiosk Project

NEPA Document: NCAO-CEC-17-01

MP 153 Cultural Resources Reviewer: Mark Carper

NEPA Contact: Megan Simon

Determination: No Historic Properties Affected

Date: December 9, 2016

The proposed project entails the construction of a turnout area and fee kiosk project approximately 500 feet south of the main entrance to Reclamation's Stony Gorge Reservoir Recreation Area in Glenn County, California. The proposed project is situated on land owned and managed by Reclamation. Reclamation determined that construction of the proposed project on federal lands is an undertaking as defined in 36 CFR § 800.16(y) and a type of activity that has the potential to cause effects on historic properties under 36 CFR § 800.3(a).

Construction of the turnout will entail the removal of organic material (grasses) on the ground surface. Once the project area is clear of the organic material, road base will be placed and compacted to an approximately 2% grade. There will be no subsurface grading. Fill material and the road base will raise the southwest edge of the project area 7 feet tapering towards the road. It is anticipated that the equipment for this project will consist of a tractor with a box-scraper for the organic material, a dump truck to place the road base material, a drum roller for compaction, and potentially a water truck, if the road base moisture is not optimum.

The visitor fee kiosk, with an automated pay station and informational billboard, will be installed on the improved turnout. Western Area Power Authority will then install a single power pole with associated guide wire in the turnout area to provide power to the automated fee kiosk and supporting phone service, LED lighting and security cameras. Power to the new pole will be supplied from an existing source. The power pole will require a 6' deep hole drilled for its construction. The kiosk, power pole, and guide wire will be installed completely within the fill material.

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

In an effort to identify historic properties, Reclamation Archaeologist Mr. Mark Carper reviewed the comprehensive records search for Stony Gorge Reservoir Recreation Area on file at Reclamation, which includes the current APE (IC#G06-18). The record search had been conducted in 2006 as part of a proposed grazing permit project and encapsulates the entire reservoir area. No resources were identified within or adjacent to the APE. Although the record search is nine years old, no new resources have been documented on the Reclamation managed lands since. In addition, a pedestrian survey of the APE was conducted by Mr. Carper and no cultural resources were identified.

Reclamation identified the Paskenta Band of Nomlaki Indians, the Enterprise Rancheria of Maidu Indians, the Cortina Band of Indians, and the Colusa Indian Community Council as potentially having interests in the project area. Pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.4(a)(4), Reclamation contacted these tribes and invited their participation in the Section 106 process. Reclamation received no responses from the notified tribes.

Reclamation initiated consultation with the California State Preservation Office (SHPO) by letter dated November 30, 2016 with a notification of a determination of no historic properties affected for the proposed project. SHPO concurred with the determination in a letter dated December 9, 2016.

I concur with Item 8 on NCAO-CEC-17-01. The proposed action would have no significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places.

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.

Attachment 2, Cont. (page 3 of 4)

STATE OF CALIFORNIA – THE NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY

EDMUND G. BROWN, JR., Governor

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

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December 08, 2016

In reply refer to: BUR_2016_1130_002

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

Subject: Section 106 Consultation for the Stony Gorge Reservoir Recreation Area Fee
Kiosk Project, Glenn County, California (Project # 16-NCA0 -246)

Dear Ms. Leigh:

The Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) received on November 30, 2016 your letter initiating consultation and requesting expedited review for the above referenced undertaking under Section 106 of the NHPA, and its implementing regulations found at 36 CFR Part 800. It is proposed to install a new turnout area and fee kiosk to be located approximately 500 feet south of the main entrance to the Reclamation owned and managed Stony Gorge Reservoir Recreation Area in Glenn County, California. The Western Area Power Authority (WAPA) will be providing a connection to electrical power to operate the kiosk, phone service, LED lighting and security cameras. The following documentation was included with the submittal:

- *Figure 1: Project Location (USGS Quad); Figure 2: Area of Potential Effects (on aerial photo)*
- *MP-153 Cultural Resources Post Field Summary Record: 16-NCAO-246 – Stony Gorge Reservoir Recreation Area Fee Kiosk by: M. Carper, Reclamation Archaeologist (November, 2016). [Carper: 2016]*

The turnout and kiosk pad construction involves removing organic material (grasses) from the ground surface by scraping with a tractor-pulled box scraper. Then imported road fill base, added to a height of seven (7) feet and tapering northeast to the existing road, will be placed and thoroughly compacted to an approximately 2% grade. Scraping will be minimal to remove plant material only and there will be no subsurface grading.

The visitor fee kiosk, with an automated pay station and informational billboard, will be installed atop the improved turnout. WAPA will then install a single power pole with an associated guide wire into the newly created and elevated turnout area to provide power to the automated fee kiosk, supporting phone service, LED lighting and security cameras. Power to the new pole will be supplied from an existing source. The power pole will require a 6' deep hole drilled for its anchoring which will be completely within the imported fill material.

Reclamation has determined the area of potential effects (APE) includes the project footprint and adjacent staging areas. The APE encapsulates approximately 0.7 acres. The vertical APE will be restricted to 1 foot or less for vegetation removal. The kiosk and power pole will be installed atop of and into the turnout fill material and will not reach native soils.

Historic properties identification efforts included reviewing a comprehensive records search for Stony Gorge Reservoir Recreation Area on file at Reclamation, which was conducted in

Attachment 2, Cont. (page 4 of 4)

Ms. Anastasia T. Leigh
December 08, 2016
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2006 as part of a proposed grazing permit project and covered the entire reservoir area. No cultural resources were identified within or adjacent to the current APE. Although the record search is now nine years old, no new activities have taken place and no new resources have been documented on Reclamation managed lands in the area since 2006. In addition, Mr. Carper conducted an intensive pedestrian survey of the complete APE on October 6, 2016; ground visibility was good and no cultural resources were identified. It was also noted during field survey that the land within the APE appeared to be artificially level and flat and a sloping hill toe to the northeast appears to be truncated at the eastern edge of the access road. It is thought that this area may have been leveled during initial installation of the road around the reservoir in 1928 (or later) when the Stony Gorge Dam was constructed. Stony Gorge Dam is located a little more than half-mile away to the southwest which is well outside the current APE. Evaluation of the dam is therefore outside the scope of this particular project.

Reclamation identified the Paskenta Band of Nomlaki Indians, the Enterprise Rancheria of Maidu Indians, the Cortina Band of Indians, and the Colusa Indian Community Council as potentially having interests in the project area and, pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.4(a)(4), contacted them and invited their participation in the Section 106 process. Reclamation will work with these tribes to address any concerns that may arise in the future regarding the proposed undertaking and will make notifications as required.

Based on the above discussion and information provided in the enclosed report, Reclamation has reached a finding of no historic properties affected and invites comments on the APE and historic properties identification efforts, and is requesting concurrence with the finding of no historic properties affected.

After OHP staff review of the documentation, the following comments are offered:

- Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4(a)(1), there are no objections to the APE as defined;
- Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4(b), Reclamation has documented a reasonable and good faith effort to identify historic properties, including a records review and pedestrian survey.
- Reclamation has determined that the proposed undertaking will result in no historic properties affected. Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4(d)(1), **I do not object.**

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 or (916) 445-7031.

Sincerely,



Julianne Polanco
State Historic Preservation Officer