

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Categorical Exclusion Checklist

Water Year 2017 Friant Division 215 Contracts

CEC-16-048

Prepared by:

Kate Connor
Kate Connor
Natural Resources Specialist
South-Central California Area Office

Date: 11/29/2016

Concurred by:

See Attachment A
BranDee Bruce
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:

Lisa Buck
Lisa Buck
Wildlife Biologist
South-Central California Area Office

Date: 11/30/2016

Concurred by:

Rain L. 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: 12/5/2016

Approved by:

Michael P. Jackson for
Michael P. Jackson, P.E.
Area Manager
South-Central California Area Office

Date: 12/14/2016



Background

Section 215 of the Reclamation Reform Act, Public Law 97-293 authorizes the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) to provide temporary water service contracts (215 contracts) for unstorable flood flows (Section 215 water) as a result of (1) an unusually large water supply not otherwise storable for Project purposes; or (2) infrequent and otherwise unmanaged flood flows of short duration.

Nature of the Action

Reclamation proposes to execute 215 contracts during Water Year 2017 (March 1, 2017 through February 28, 2018) for temporary supply of Section 215 water to Central Valley Project (CVP) and non-CVP contractors located within the Friant Division's CVP Place of Use (Figure 1). Section 215 water delivery would be from existing facilities and/or the San Joaquin River as shown in Figure 1.

The availability of Section 215 water would be at Reclamation's discretion and dependent on reservoir capacity and operations, hydrologic conditions, and Friant operating guidelines. The priority for the provision of temporary water is specified by the Friant Operational Guidelines.

No construction or modification of facilities will be needed for delivery of this water.

Contractors requiring the use of State Water Project facilities are responsible for coordinating conveyance with the Department of Water Resources.

Contractors requiring the use of the Cross Valley Canal are responsible for coordinating conveyance with the Kern County Water Agency.

Section 215 water may be used for irrigation and municipal and industrial purposes and must be used within the contractor's water service boundary and within the Friant Division's Place of Use.

No banking, transferring, or exchanging of Section 215 water would be allowed unless otherwise approved by Reclamation.

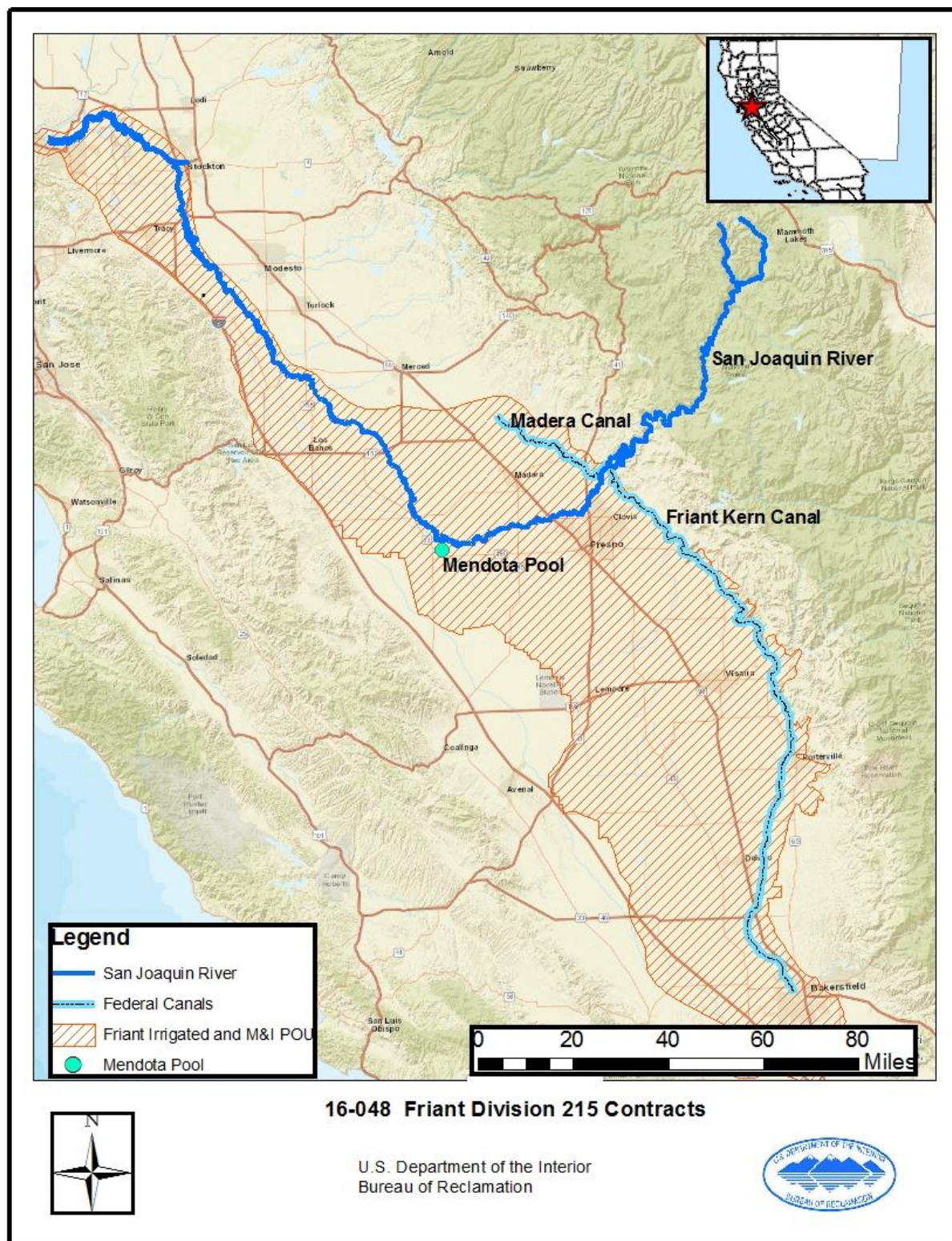


Figure 1 Proposed action area

Below is a list of potential recipients:

Friant Division Contractors

Arvin-Edison Water Storage District
 Chowchilla Water District
 City of Fresno
 City of Lindsay
 City of Orange Cove
 County of Madera
 Delano-Earlimart Irrigation District
 Exeter Irrigation District
 Fresno County Waterworks #18
 Fresno Irrigation District
 Garfield Water District
 Gravelly Ford Water District
 Hills Valley Irrigation District
 International Water District
 Ivanhoe Irrigation District
 Kaweah Delta Water Conservation District
 Kern-Tulare Water District
 Lewis Creek Water District
 Lindmore Irrigation District
 Lindsay-Strathmore Irrigation District
 Lower Tule River Irrigation District
 Madera Irrigation District
 Orange Cove Irrigation District
 Porterville Irrigation District
 Saucelito Irrigation District
 Shafter-Wasco Irrigation District
 Southern San Joaquin Municipal Utility District
 Stone Corral Irrigation District
 Tea Pot Dome Water District
 Terra Bella Irrigation District
 Tri-Valley Water District
 Tulare Irrigation District

Cross Valley Contractors

County of Fresno¹
 County of Tulare²
 Hills Valley Irrigation District
 Kern-Tulare Water District (previously combined with Rag Gulch Water District)
 Lower Tule River Irrigation District

¹ Including its subcontractors: Fresno County Service Areas #5, #10, and #14 and Fresno County Water Works #34.

² Including its subcontractors: Alpaugh Irrigation District, Atwell Island Water District, City of Lindsay, Smallwood Vineyards, Hills Valley Irrigation District, Saucelito Irrigation District, Stone Corral Irrigation District, Strathmore Public Utilities District, Styrotek, Inc., and City of Visalia.

Pixley Irrigation District
Tri-Valley water District

Mendota Pool Contractors

Central California Irrigation District
Coelho Family Trust
Columbia Canal Company
Dudley Indart
Firebaugh Canal Company
Fresno Slough Water District
James Irrigation District
Laguna Water District
Marvin and Patricia Meyers
Reclamation District No. 1606
San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors
San Luis Canal Company
Tranquillity Irrigation District
Tranquillity Public Utility District
Westlands Water District Distribution Districts 1 and 2

Non-CVP Contractors

Buena Vista Water Storage District
Cawelo Water District
Consolidated Irrigation District
Corcoran Irrigation District
Hermosa Water Company
Kaweah Delta Water Conservation District³
Kern County Water Agency⁴
Kern Water Bank Authority⁵
Kings River Conservation District⁶
Lakeside Irrigation District
Liberty Water District

³ Including its subcontractors: Corcoran Irrigation District, Lakeside Irrigation District, and Kings County Water District.

⁴ Including its subcontractors: Kern Delta Water District, Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water Storage District, Henry Miller Water District, and Buena Vista Water Storage District.

⁵ Including its subcontractors: Kern County Water Agency, Westside Mutual Water Company, Semitropic Water Storage District.

⁶ Including its subcontractors: Alta Irrigation District, Clark's Fork Reclamation District No. 2069, Consolidated Irrigation District, Corcoran Irrigation District, Empire West Side Irrigation District, Fresno Irrigation District, James Irrigation District, Kings County Water District, Kings River Water District, Laguna Irrigation District, Lakeside Irrigation Water District, Liberty Water District, Mid-Valley Water District, Raisin City Water District, Riverdale Irrigation District, Salyer Water District, Stratford Irrigation District, Tulare Lake Basic Water Storage District, Tulare Lake Reclamation District No. 761, Tulare Ditch Company, Corcoran Irrigation Company, Crescent Canal Company, John Heinlen Mutual Water Company, Last Change Water Ditch Company, Lemoore Canal and Irrigation District, Liberty Canal Company, Liberty Mill Race Company, Lovelace Water Corporation, Peoples Ditch Company, Reed Ditch Company, Southeast Lake Water Company, Stinson Canal and Irrigation Company, Upper San Jose Water Company, and Tranquillity Irrigation District.

North Kern Water Storage District
 Root Creek Water District
 Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water Storage District
 Semitropic Water Storage District
 Tulare Lake Basin Water Storage District

Environmental Commitments

CVP and non-CVP contractors shall implement the environmental protection measures in Table 1 to avoid and/or reduce environmental consequences associated with the Proposed Action.

Table 1 Environmental Protection Measures

Resource	Protective Measure
Biological Resources	No new facilities would be constructed to convey this water.
Biological Resources	Lands that have never been tilled or irrigated shall not be tilled or put into agricultural production using this water.
Biological Resources	Lands that have been fallowed for three consecutive years, or more, shall not be irrigated with this surplus water.

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

Exclusion Category

516 DM 14.5 D (4): *Approval, execution and implementation of water service contracts for minor amounts of long-term water use or temporary or interim water use where the action does not lead to long-term changes and where the impact are expected to be localized.*

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"/> |

- | | 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)). | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <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)). | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <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: Reclamation Cultural Resources Determination

CULTURAL RESOURCES COMPLIANCE
Division of Environmental Affairs
Cultural Resources Branch (MP-153)

MP-153 Tracking Number: 17-SCAO-035

Project Name: Water Year 2017 Friant Division 215 Contracts

NEPA Document: CEC-16-048

NEPA Contact: Mary (Kate) Connor, Natural Resources Specialist

MP-153 Cultural Resources Reviewer: BranDee Bruce, Architectural Historian

Date: November 29, 2016

Reclamation proposes to execute 215 contracts during Contract Year 2017 (March 1, 2017 through February 28, 2018) for temporary supply of Section 215 water to Central Valley Project (CVP) and non-CVP contractors located within the Friant Division's CVP Place of Use, including those located around the Mendota Pool. Section 215 water delivery would be from existing facilities and/or the San Joaquin River. The availability of Section 215 water would be at Reclamation's discretion and dependent on reservoir capacity and operations, hydrologic conditions, and Friant operating guidelines. The priority for the provision of temporary water is specified by the Friant Operational Guidelines. No construction or modification of facilities is needed for delivery of this water.

Reclamation has determined that the proposed action is the type of activity that does not have the potential to cause effects on historic properties pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.3(a)(1). As such, Reclamation has no further obligations under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (54 U.S.C. § 306108). Based on analysis of the project activities, I concur with Item 8 in CEC-16-048 that the proposed action would have no significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

This document conveys the completion of the cultural resources review and Section 106 process for this undertaking. Please retain a copy with the administrative record for this action. Should the proposed action change, additional review under Section 106, possibly including consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer, may be required.