

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Categorical Exclusion Checklist

Water Year 2017 South of Delta 215 Contracts

CEC-16-049

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: 12/05/2016

Approved by:

Michael P. Jackson
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 Contract Year 2017 (March 1, 2017 through February 28, 2018) for temporary supply of Section 215 water to South-of-Delta Central Valley Project (CVP) and non-CVP contractors located within the Consolidated Place of Use, including those located around the Mendota Pool (Figure 1). Section 215 water delivery would be from existing facilities as shown in Figure 2.

When Section 215 water is available, Reclamation will review the estimated Jones Pumping Plant capacity on a continuing basis. The daily amount of Section 215 water available may be revised based on the estimated Jones Pumping Plant capacity in order to ensure that Section 215 deliveries do not result in early drawdown of CVP storage in San Luis Reservoir or adversely affect other CVP contractors.

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 CVP Consolidated Place of Use.

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



Figure 1 South of Delta areas where 215 contracts would be allocated.

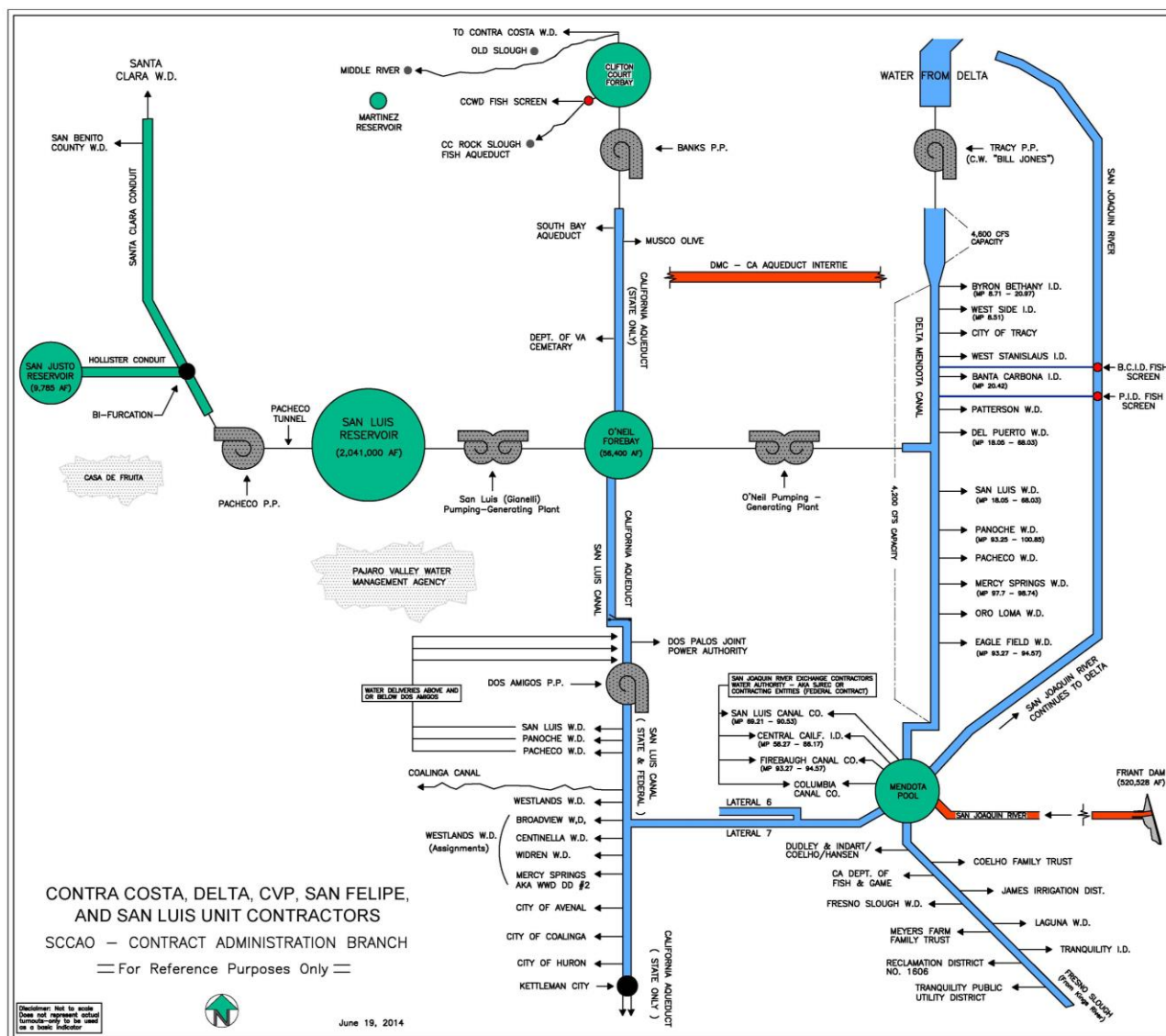


Figure 2 CVP Facilities

Priorities for delivery of Section 215 water be in the following order as directed by the Area Manager and the Central Valley Operations Office (Table 1):

Table 1 Potential Recipients

First Priority	
Banta-Carbona Irrigation District	Byron Bethany Irrigation District
California Department of Fish and Wildlife	City of Avenal
City of Coalinga	City of Huron
City of Tracy	Del Puerto Water District
Department of Veteran's Affairs	Dos Palos Joint Power Authority
Eagle Field Water District	Mercy Springs Water District
Oro Loma Water District	Pacheco Water District
Panoche Water District	Patterson Irrigation District
The West Side Irrigation District	West Stanislaus Irrigation District
Westlands Water District	San Luis Water District

Second Priority	
Coelho Family Trust	Dudley & Indart
Fresno Slough Water District	James Irrigation District
Laguna Water District	Lempesis, Virginia L. (Carvalho, Kenneth)
Meyers Farming	Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency
Reclamation District No. 1606	San Benito County Water District
Santa Clara Valley Water District	San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors*
Tranquillity Irrigation District	Tranquillity Public Utility District
Westlands Water District	Westlands Water District Distribution District No. 1
Westlands Water District Distribution District No. 2	
* Central California Irrigation District, Columbia Canal Company, Firebaugh Canal Water District, and San Luis Canal Company	
Third Priority	
County of Fresno ¹	County of Tulare ²
Kern-Tulare Water District (previously combined with Rag Gulth Water District)	Lower Tule River Irrigation District
Pixley Irrigation District	Tri-Valley water District
Hills Valley 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, Hills Valley Irrigation District, Saucelito Irrigation District, Stone Corral Irrigation District, Strathmore Public Utilities District, Styrotek, Inc., and City of Visalia.	

Environmental Commitments

CVP and non-CVP contractors shall implement the following environmental protection measures to avoid and/or reduce environmental consequences associated with the Proposed Action (included in Table 2).

Table 2 Environmental Commitments

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 and untilled 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 impacts 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"/> |
| 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: Reclamation Cultural Resources Determination

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

MP-153 Tracking Number: 17-SCAO-036

Project Name: Water Year 2017 South of Delta 215 Contracts

NEPA Document: CEC-16-049

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 South-of-Delta Central Valley Project (CVP) and non-CVP contractors located within the Consolidated Place of Use, including those located around the Mendota Pool. Section 215 water delivery would be from existing facilities. When Section 215 water is available, Reclamation will review the estimated Jones Pumping Plant capacity on a continuing basis. The daily amount of Section 215 water available may be revised based on the estimated Jones Pumping Plant capacity in order to ensure that Section 215 deliveries do not result in early drawdown of CVP storage in San Luis Reservoir or adversely affect other CVP contractors. 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-16-049 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.