

RECLAMATION

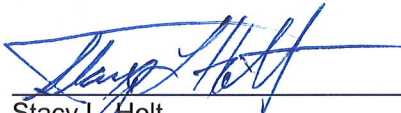
Managing Water in the West

Categorical Exclusion Checklist

Santa Clara Conduit SV1 & SV2 Proposed Cathodic Protection

CEC-16-012

Prepared by:


Stacy L. Holt
Natural Resources Specialist
South-Central California Area Office

Date: 19 JANUARY 2017

Concurred by:

See Attachment A
Archaeologist
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:


Shauna A. McDonald
Wildlife Biologist
South-Central California Area Office

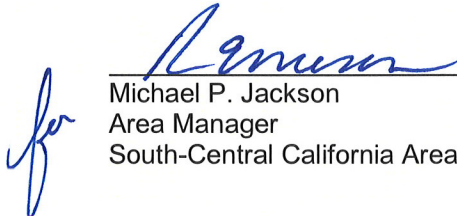
Date: 1/19/17

Concurred by:


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: 02/03/2017

Approved by:


Michael P. Jackson
Area Manager
South-Central California Area Office

Date: 02/03/2017



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
South-Central California Area Office

January 2017

Background

The Santa Clara Conduit, a part of the San Felipe Division of the Central Valley Project constructed in the 1980s, is owned by the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and maintained by the Santa Clara Valley Water District (Santa Clara) pursuant to AN Operating Agreement (Contract No. 7-07-20-W0023A).

The Santa Clara Conduit is located within a highly corrosive soil environment and remains unprotected from external corrosion except for the Calaveras Fault crossing area. In order to prevent the potential for catastrophic breaches, Santa Clara has proposed to upgrade the conduit with cathodic protection.

Nature of the Action

Santa Clara, pursuant to their operating agreement, will install cathodic protection impressed current systems (ICCP) at two key sites, Sectionalizing Vault 1 and 2 (SV1 and SV2), along the Santa Clara Conduit (Figure 1). SV1 and SV2 would each be comprised of a rectifier, deep-well anode (300-feet deep; 8-10 inch hole), and associated power supplied from existing pipeline facilities (vaults).

A cathodic protection power supply or rectifier would be installed on a small concrete slab (3 feet x 4 feet) at each site. A 300-foot deep-well anode would be drilled in close proximity to the rectifier. Two trenches would be dug at each site as shown in Figures 2 and 3. The maximum combined trenching length at each site would be 30 feet long. All trenches would be the width of a typical backhoe at approximately 18 inches wide. All trenches would be no more than 30 inches deep. The first trench at each site would be dug from the deep-well anode connecting it to the rectifier. Within the trench, a 3-inch conduit (wire bundle) would be laid. The second trench at each site would be constructed from the rectifier to the adjacent vault for power and wire attachment to the pipeline. The second trench would have a 2-inch conduit.

Drilling would be with wet mud with excess dirt removed and disposed of through a licensed hazardous waste facility. Multiple vehicles including a well drilling truck, dump truck, flatbed pickup truck, panel truck, backhoe (with transport truck), dumpster truck, water truck, and pickup trucks should all be expected on the sites during construction at different times. The well drilling operation should take three to ten days per site in sequence depending on weather and drilling conditions.

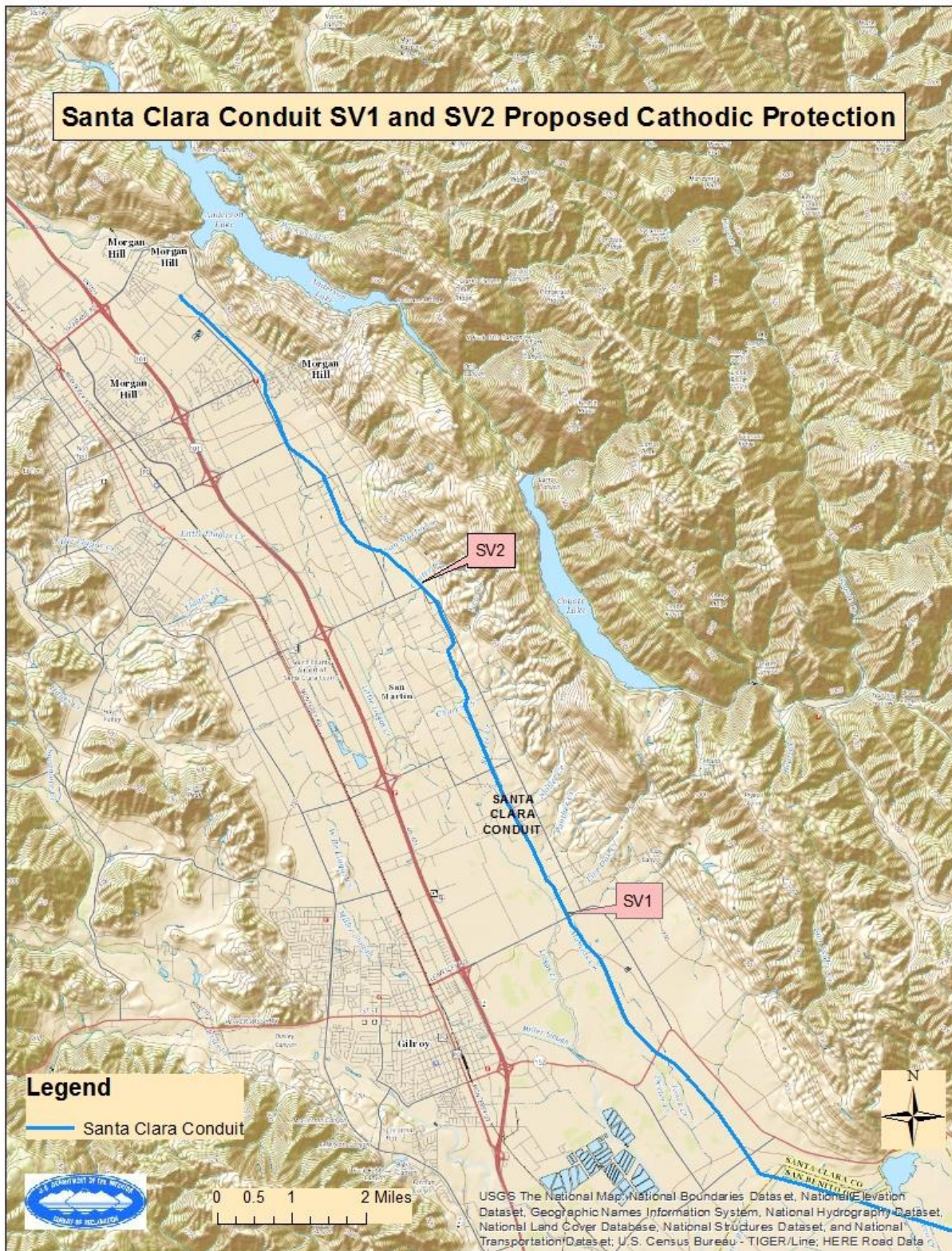


Figure 1. General project location

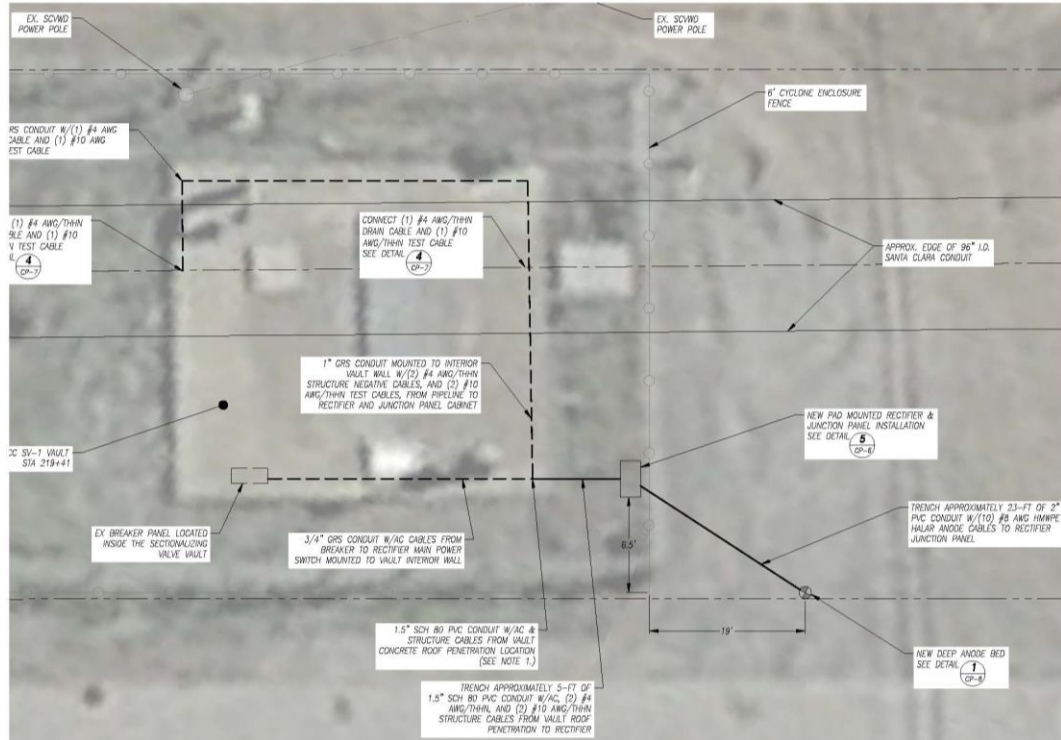


Figure 2. Schematic for trenches and concrete pad location at SV1

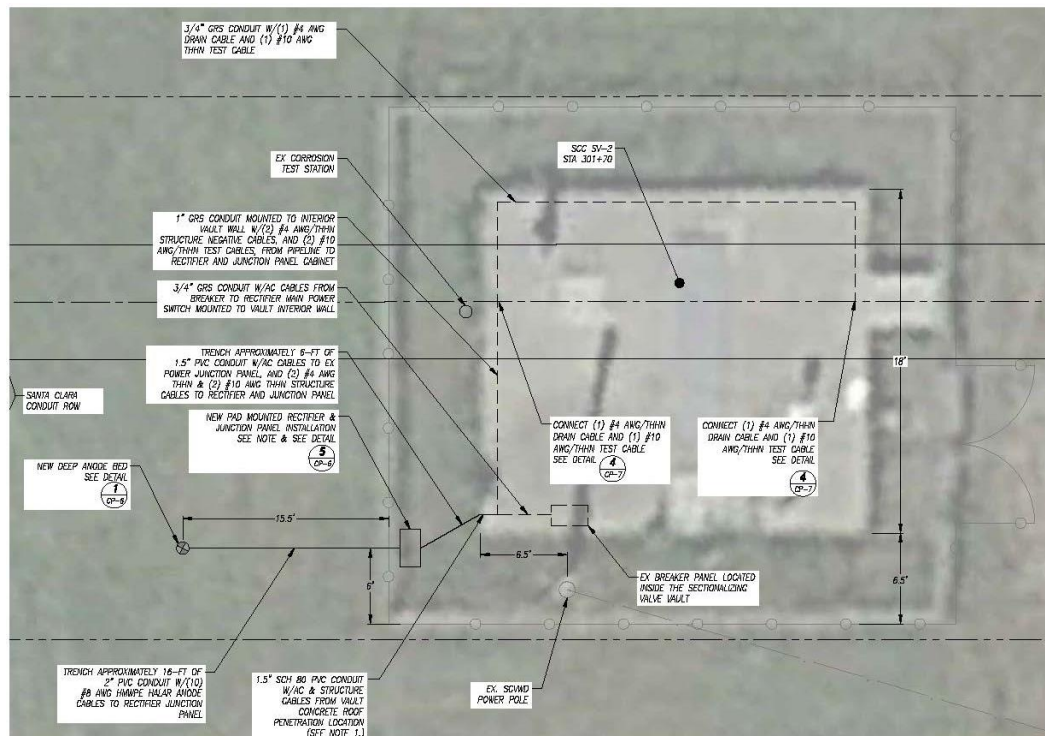


Figure 3. Schematic for trenches and concrete pad location at SV2

Environmental Commitments

The District shall implement the following environmental protection measures to avoid and/or reduce environmental consequences associated with the Proposed Action (Table 1).

Table 1. Environmental Commitments

Resource	Protection Measure
Biological Resources	Construction activities, including cut and fill, would be minimized to the extent practicable within the root zones of existing woody vegetation to remain post project. In general, root extent can be estimated as 2-3 times canopy radius, but vary depending on slope and soil conditions. To the extent practicable, construction setbacks would be calculated using all of the following: • Tree diameter at 4.5 feet high (diameter at breast height); and • Multiplier of 1.25 (e.g. a tree measures 12 inches around its trunk X 1.25 = 15 foot radial construction setback). If soil encroachment must occur in 33% or more of this area, the tree shall be evaluated for removal. Additionally, mulching the root zone would be employed to provide root protection from unavoidable equipment traffic during construction, specifically: • Use six inches minimum depth of wood chips; or, • Four inches minimum depth of ¾-inch (or greater) gravel. Both may remain in place after work if approved by a qualified biologist or vegetation specialist.
Biological Resources	Nesting exclusion devices would be installed, if needed, to prevent potential establishment or occurrence of nests in areas where construction activities would occur. All nesting exclusion devices would be maintained throughout the nesting season or until completion of work in an area makes the devices unnecessary. All exclusion devices would be removed and disposed of when work in the area is complete.
Biological Resources	Trash would be removed daily from the worksite to avoid attracting potential predators to the site.

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

Exclusion Category

516 DM 14.5 C.3. *Minor construction activities associated with authorized projects which correct unsatisfactory environmental conditions, or which merely augment or supplement, or are enclosed within existing facilities.*

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
☒ | 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
☐ |

- | | 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
☒ | Uncertain
☐ | Yes
☐ |
| 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
☒ | Uncertain
☐ | Yes
☐ |
| 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
☒ | Uncertain
☐ | Yes
☐ |
| 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
☒ | Uncertain
☐ | Yes
☐ |
| 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
☒ | Uncertain
☐ | Yes
☐ |
| 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) (43 CFR 46.215 (j)). | No
☒ | Uncertain
☐ | Yes
☐ |

- | | 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)). | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |
| 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)). | ☒ | ☐ | ☐ |

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.