

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Categorical Exclusion Checklist

Westlands Water District License Renewals for San Luis Canal and Coalinga Canal

CEC-16-046

Prepared by:

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Kate Connor
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Date: 2/9/2017

Concurred by:

See Attachment A

Gary Scholze
Archaeologist/Architectural Historian
Mid-Pacific Regional Office

Date: See Attachment A

Regional Archeologist concurred with Item 8. Their determination has been placed within the Project file.

Concurred by:

Lisa Buck

Lisa Buck
Wildlife Biologist
South-Central California Area Office

Date: 02/09/2017

Concurred by:

Rain L. Emerson

Rain L. Emerson
Supervisory Natural Resources Specialist
South-Central California Area Office

Date: 02/10/2017

ITA Designee concurred with Item 11. Their determination has been placed within the Project file.

Approved by:

Michael P. Jackson

Michael P. Jackson, P.E.
Area Manager
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Date: 2/10/2017



Background

The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) issued land use authorizations to Westlands Water (Westlands) associated with temporary diversion facilities along the San Luis Canal and Coalinga Canal (Contract Nos. 6-07-20-L6637 and 08-LC-20-9641A, respectively). As the land use authorizations are set to expire, Westlands has requested approval from Reclamation to renew the licenses.

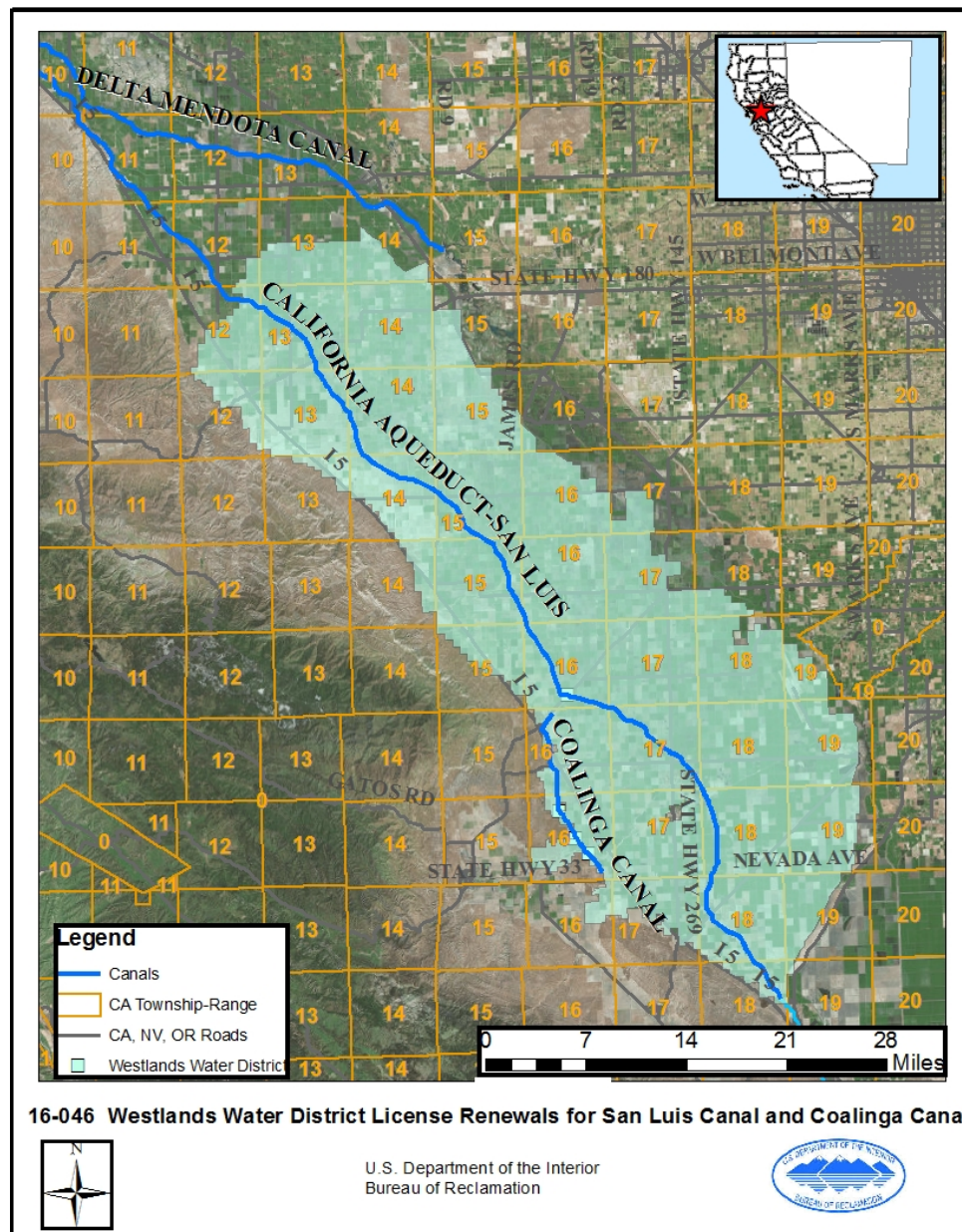


Figure 1 Project Area

Nature of the Action

Reclamation will issue land use authorizations to Westlands' for their existing temporary facilities located along the San Luis Canal and Coalinga Canal for a period of five years.

Renewal of Contract No. 6-07-20-L6637 would allow Westlands to continue to operate and maintain the existing temporary diversion facilities located along the San Luis Canal that currently deliver CVP water to its agricultural customers (Table 1). The San Luis Canal license renewal would be applicable from January 2017 through December 2021.

Renewal of Contract No. 08-LC-20-9641A would allow Westlands to continue to operate and maintain the existing temporary diversion facilities located along the Coalinga Canal that currently deliver CVP water to its agricultural customers (Table 2). The renewal of Contract No. 08-LC-20-9641A would be applicable from January 2018 through December 2022.

Table 1 Location of Westlands Temporary Diversion Facilities along San Luis Canal

Canal Mile Post	Lessee/Operator
105.20L	R.A. Sano Farms
114.00R	Baker Farming
114.64R	Blackburn Family
114.90R	Baker Farming
114.92R	Baker Farming
115.44R	James Trust, Justin
116.02R	Hansen Farms
116.32R	Hansen Farms
116.91R	Panoche Creek Trust
117.42R	Panoche Creek Trust
118.49R	Calico Farms
119.56RA	Panoche Farming Co.
119.56RB	Coburn Ranch
119.60R	Kamm South, LLC
119.63RA	Gargiulo, Inc.
119.63RB	Bibi Assemi Rev Tr
120.86R	Coburn Ranch
120.87R	Kamm South, LLC
122.02R	915 Farms
122.04RA	Granville Farms, LP
122.04RB	FNF Farms, LLC
122.59R	Granville Farms, LP
123.89R	Cantua Orchards, LLC
124.16R	Panoche Pistachios
124.19R	Cantua Orchards, LLC
125.35R	Burford Ranch

Canal Mile Post	Lessee/Operator
125.36R	Burford Ranch
128.49R	Brooks Farm
141.29R	Double D Farms
142.57R	Double D Farms
142.60R	Harris Farms Inc.
142.61R	Harris Farms Inc.
147.75R	Britz-Mendota TIC
149.59R	Batth Farms
150.48R	Batth Farms

Table 2 Locations of Westlands Temporary Diversion Facilities along Coalinga Canal

Canal Mile Post	Lessee/Operator
2.94A	Harris Farms
2.94B	Harris Farms
2.95R	Harris Farms
4.86R	Wood Livestock
5.38L	Pappas Farming Co. II
7.04	Pappas Family Farming III
8.13L	Bear Canyon Farms, Inc.
9.15L	Higard Farms, LLC
11.48L	Woolf Enterprises
11.52R	California Pistachios
13.53R	Westlands Water District
13.82R	Coalinga Pistachios
13.86L	Coalinga Pistachios
14.54R	104 Partners
14.55-1	Unused for 15+ years/unknown
14.55-2	Unused for 15+ years/unknown
14.56R-A	Jayne Avenue Almonds
14.57R	Wilson Farming Company
14.58R	Zapato Creek Almonds
14.59R	Valley Fresh Farms, LLC

Environmental Commitments

Westlands shall implement the following environmental protection measures to avoid and/or reduce environmental consequences associated with the Proposed Action (Table 3).

Table 3 Environmental Protection Measures

Resource	Protection Measure
Biological Resources	No new construction or modification of existing facilities may occur as part of the Proposed Action
Biological Resources	No untilled, natural, or undeveloped lands shall be placed into agricultural production and no land shall be converted for other uses as part of the Proposed Action.

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

Exclusion Category

516 DM 14.5 D (10). *Issuance of permits, licenses, easements, and crossing agreements which provide right-of-way over Bureau lands where action does not allow for or lead to a major public or private action.*

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"/> |

- | | 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)). | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <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)). | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <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)). | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <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)). | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <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)). | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 11. This action would affect ITAs (512 DM 2, Policy Memorandum dated December 15, 1993). | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <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)). | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <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)). | <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.