

RECLAMATION


Managing Water in the West

Categorical Exclusion Checklist

Cachuma North Portal Access Road Repair Project

CEC-17-007

Prepared by:


Jennifer L. Lewis
Natural Resources Specialist
South-Central California Area Office

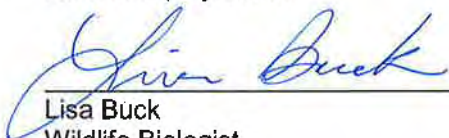
Date: May 19, 2017

Concurred by:

See Attachment A
Mark Carper
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
Wildlife Biologist
South-Central California Area Office


Date: May 19, 2017

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: 05/19/2017

Approved by:


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

Date: 5/20/2017



Background

The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) completed construction of Bradbury Dam in 1956 to form Lake Cachuma. The dam was constructed to provide irrigation, domestic, and municipal and industrial water supplies. The Lake Cachuma North Portal Intake Tower is located on the eastern side of the lake and is used to deliver water from Cachuma Reservoir to water users on the South Coast.

The Lake Cachuma North Portal Intake Tower is accessed by a paved road off of State Highway 154 (Figure 1) in Santa Barbara. Cachuma Maintenance Operations Board (COMB) personnel visit this site several times a month in order to maintain the structure. It is also accessed periodically by outside contractors. A right hand bend exists near the end of this access road which borders a steep drop off. During the past several years, weather and erosion have significantly destabilized the embankment directly adjacent to that portion of the access road.

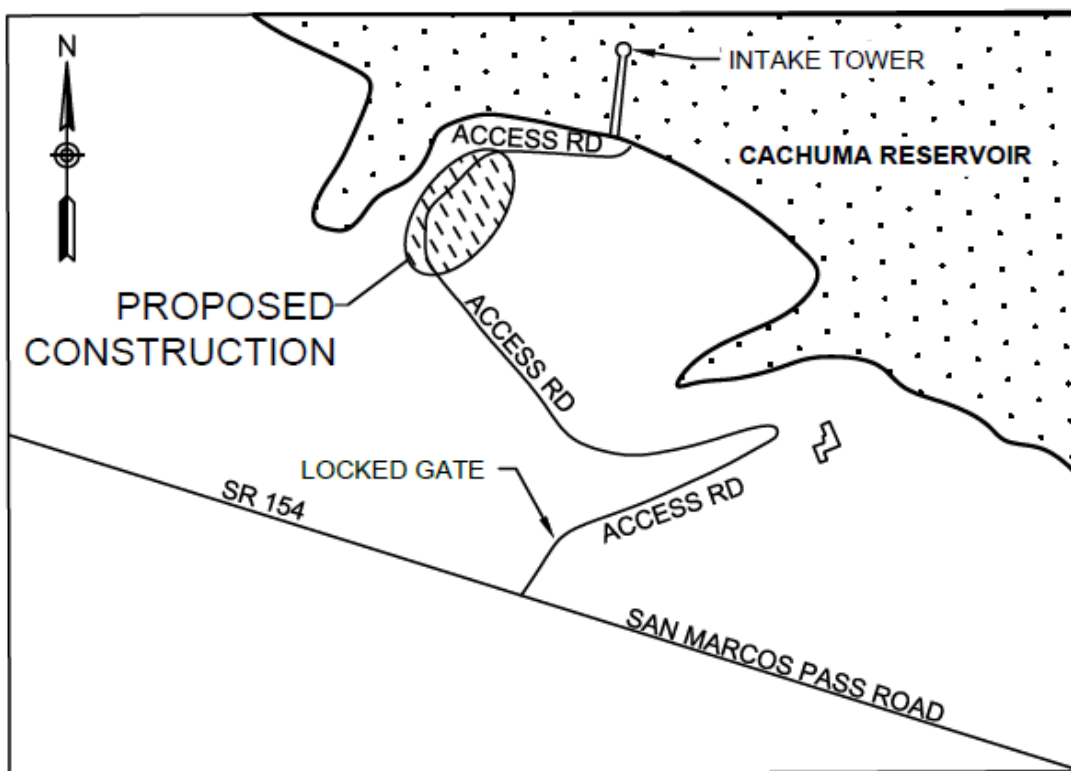


Figure 1 Proposed Project Location

In 2002, attempts were made by COMB to improve the stability of the hillside adjacent to the road and, although these attempts temporarily extended the life of the access road, it has once again eroded to the point that it poses potentially unsafe working conditions. In the potential event of a landslide at this point of the access road, the ability of accessing the North Portal Intake structure by vehicle would be eliminated, impacting the ability for staff to conduct

scheduled maintenance or any possible emergency work needed to ensure continuous water supply from Lake Cachuma.

COMB has requested approval from Reclamation to repair the access road in order to provide safe driving conditions to and from Lake Cachuma facilities.

Nature of the Action

COMB, pursuant to its operating agreement with Reclamation (Contract No. 14-06-2000-5222R), proposes to realign, pave and provide erosion control to the access road at Lake Cachuma's North Portal Intake Tower.

Approximately $\frac{1}{4}$ of a mile of the access road will be realigned 20 feet into the existing bank (Figure 2), and the slope of the bank laid back to a $1\frac{1}{2}$ to 1 ratio of decline. This will require some initial brush clearing along the existing bank, and then excavation and removal of approximately 10,000 cubic yards of material that will be stored just east of the cut. Existing k-rails along the down slope of the road will be moved over as shown in Figure 2 during the realignment. Following the road realignment, approximately 7,500 square feet of the access road will be repaved and provided with erosion control (temporary precast concrete dividers).

Equipment needed to complete the project include a pickup truck, flatrack truck, excavator 330L, dozer D6H, and loader 966. Construction would begin once environmental compliance is completed, and will take approximately 2 months to complete.

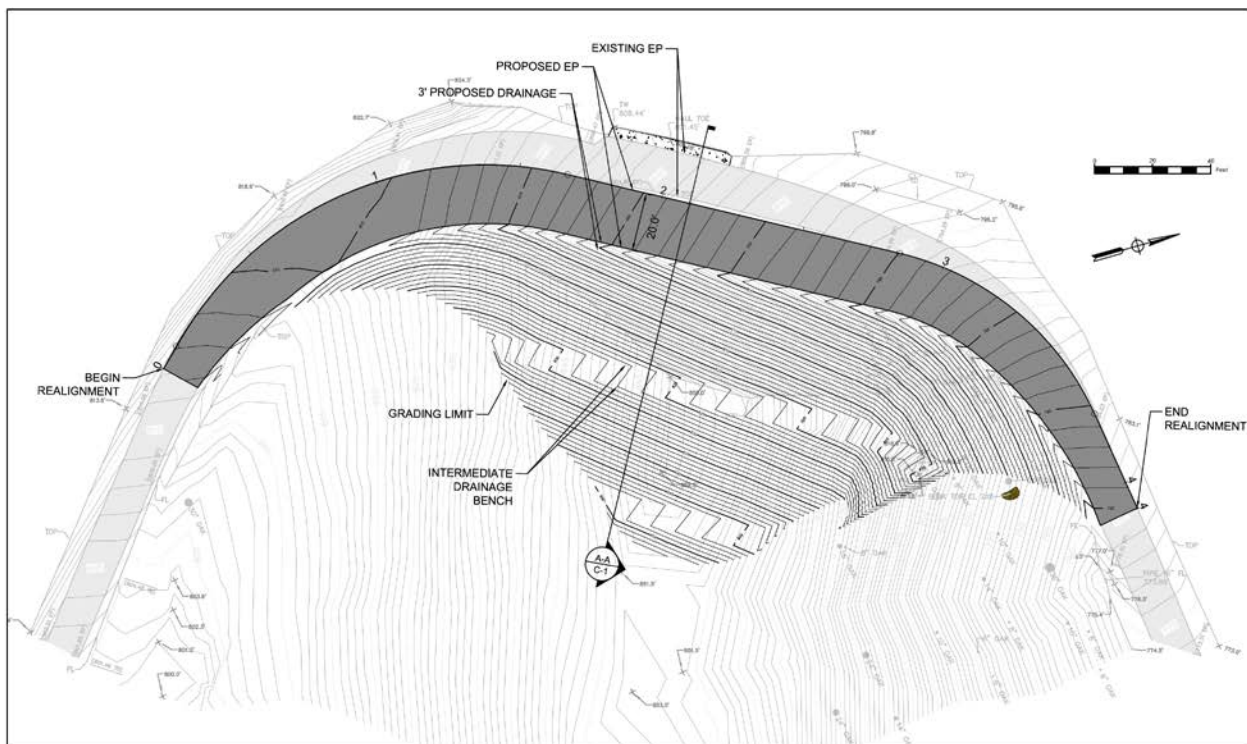


Figure 2 Location of road realignment and existing bank.

Environmental Commitments

COMB and/or its contractor(s) 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	If the Proposed Action is scheduled to occur during the migratory bird nesting season (February 15th- September 15th), then a qualified biologist shall conduct a survey for nesting migratory birds in areas of accessible suitable habitat within 300 feet of the Action Area. If an active nest is found during the survey, no work shall occur within 300 feet of the nest until the young have fledged or until a qualified biologist determines that the nest is no longer active. If an active nest is present within 300 feet of the Action Area, a qualified biologist shall be on-site to monitor the nest(s) during excavation and realignment of the road to ensure that the established avoidance buffers are maintained and there is no take of migratory birds. If active nests are found and the recommended avoidance buffer is not feasible, the avoidance buffer may be reduced from 300 feet to a minimum of 25 feet at the discretion of the monitoring biologist, and with written consent from Reclamation. If the monitoring biologist determines that a narrower buffer is warranted, the biologist shall provide Reclamation with a written explanation as to why the smaller buffer is warranted based on, but not limited to, species-specific information, site lines from the nest to the work site and observations of the nesting bird's reaction to project activities; Reclamation will determine whether to allow the narrower buffer based on the written explanation.

Environmental consequences for resource areas assume the measure 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

Below is an evaluation of the extraordinary circumstances as required in 43 CFR 46.215.

Extraordinary Circumstance	No	Uncertain	Yes
1. This action would have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment (40 CFR 1502.3).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<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)).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. This action would have significant impacts on public health or safety (43 CFR 46.215(a)).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Extraordinary Circumstance	No	Uncertain	Yes
monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas (43 CFR 46.215 (b)).			
5. This action would have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks (43 CFR 46.215(d)).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<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)).	<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.

Appendix A: Cultural Resources Determination

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

MP-153 Tracking Number: 17-SCAO-094

Project Name: Cachuma North Portal Access Road Repair Project

NEPA Document: 17-007

MP 153 Cultural Resources Reviewer: Mark Carper

NEPA Contact: Jennifer Lewis

Determination: No Historic Properties Affected

Date: May 15, 2017

Cachuma Operation and Maintenance Board (COMB) is proposing to stabilize and realign a section of the access road to the North Portal intake tower. The proposed project is situated on land owned by Reclamation, but managed by COMB. Reclamation determined that the authorization of construction on federal land is an undertaking as defined in 36 CFR § 800.16(y) and involves the type of activity that has the potential to cause effects on historic properties under 36 CFR § 800.3(a).

The access road has been damaged by erosion and must be repaired to continue maintenance activities. The proposed project entails realigning the access road 20-feet back from the existing bank and laying back the slope to a 1.5 to 1 ratio decline. This will require the removal of approximately 10,000 cubic yards of material, primarily from the adjacent bedrock cut-face. The removed spoils material would be deposited east of the cut in the southeast portion of the area of potential effects (APE)

In an effort to identify historic properties, Reclamation referred to a host of prior investigations conducted within and in the vicinity of the project area, which included record searches performed as recently as 2014 at the Central Coast Information Center of the California Historical Resources Information System at the University of California, Santa Barbara. No archaeological sites are documented within the proposed APE. A Reclamation archaeologist surveyed the APE on March 23, 2017 and identified no cultural resources

Pursuant to the regulations at 36 CFR § 800.3(f)(2), Reclamation identified the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Mission Indians as an Indian tribe who might attach religious and

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

cultural significance to historic properties within the APE. Reclamation initially contacted Mr. Freddie Romero, Cultural Resources Coordinator for, and member of, the Santa Ynez Band Elders Council, by telephone to inform him of the proposed project on March 31, 2017. In addition, Reclamation sent a letter to the tribe on April 5, 2017, inviting their participation in the Section 106 process, and requesting their assistance in the identification of sites of religious and cultural significance or historic properties that may be affected by the proposed undertaking pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.4(a)(4). Mr. Romero called Reclamation on April 21, 2017, to discuss the project. No concerns were expressed and photos of the proposed project area were emailed to Mr. Romero for his review. Mr. Romero made an additional call to Reclamation on April 26, 2017, to express that the Tribe had no issues with implementation of the project. During this discussion an offer from COMB was relayed to Mr. Romero to hire a tribal monitor during construction. COMB has a long history of including tribal monitors in their construction projects. Mr. Romero stated that given the nature of the project, with the bulk of the ground disturbance primarily within bedrock, that a tribal monitor would not be necessary.

Reclamation initiated consultation with California the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) on May 3, 2017 with a notification of a determination of no historic properties affected for the proposed project. SHPO concurred with the determination in a letter dated May 12, 2017, 2017.

I concur with Item 8 on 17-007. 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.

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

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calshpo@parks.ca.gov
www.ohp.parks.ca.gov



May 12, 2017

In reply refer to: BUR_2017_0503_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 Cachuma North Portal Access Road Repair Project, Santa Barbara County, California (Project # 17-SCAO-094)

Dear Ms. Leigh:

The Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) received on May 03, 2017 your letter initiating consultation on the above referenced undertaking under Section 106 of the NHPA (as amended), and its implementing regulations found at 36 CFR Part 800. The Cachuma Operation and Maintenance Board (COMB) is proposing to stabilize and realign a section of an access road leading to the North Portal intake tower facility located at the shore margin of Lake Cachuma. Reclamation owns the lands but the facilities are managed by COMB. Reclamation has determined that the authorization of construction on federal land is an undertaking as defined in 36 CFR 800.16(y) and involves the type of activity that has the potential to cause effects on historic properties under 36 CFR 800.3(a).

Reclamation is seeking comments on the adequacy of defining the Area of Potential Effects (APE), on its historic property identification efforts and on its finding of no historic properties affected. Documents included with the submittal are:

- *Report for: Project Tracking No. 17-SCAO-094: Cachuma North Portal Access Road Repair Project, Santa Barbara County, CA. [By: M. Carper Archaeologist, Mid-Pacific Region, Sacramento, CA. (April 27, 2017)].*

The existing road has been damaged by erosion and must be repaired to continue access for maintenance activities. Due to the road's curvature and location on a steep hillside above the Lake, it will need to be realigned 20-feet back from the existing bank while laying back the upslope to a 1.5 to 1 ratio decline. Removal of approximately 10,000 cubic yards of material will occur, primarily from the existing adjacent bedrock cut-face. Removed spoils material is to be deposited east of the cut in the southeast portion of the area of potential effects (APE).

The APE for the proposed project includes the project footprint and staging areas. The proposed APE is approximately 1-acre in size. The vertical APE will vary, but will have a maximum depth of approximately 50 feet cutting back through the upslope bedrock face.

In an effort to identify historic properties, Reclamation reviewed multiple prior investigations conducted within and near the project area, which included record searches performed as recently as 2014. Four prehistoric archaeological sites were previously recorded nearby. However, an intensive pedestrian survey conducted on March 23, 2017 documents that no cultural resources are visible within the proposed APE.

Reclamation identified the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Mission Indians as an Indian tribe who might attach religious and cultural significance to historic properties within the APE. Reclamation initially contacted Mr. Freddie Romero, Cultural Resources Coordinator for, and member of, the Santa Ynez Band Elders Council, by telephone on March 31, 2017, to inform him of the proposed project. Reclamation also sent a letter (April 5, 2017), inviting the Tribe's participation in the Section 106 process, and requesting assistance in the identification of historic properties that may be affected. Mr. Romero called Reclamation on April 21, 2017, to discuss the project. No concerns were expressed and photos of the proposed project area were emailed to Mr. Romero for his review. Mr. Romero then called on April 26, 2017, to express that the Tribe had no issues with project implementation. During this discussion, an offer from COMB was relayed to Mr. Romero to hire a tribal monitor during construction as COMB has a long history of including tribal monitors in their construction projects. Mr. Romero stated that given the nature of the project, with the bulk of the ground disturbance primarily within bedrock, that a tribal monitor would not be necessary. Should any subsequent concerns arise, Reclamation will address them and make notifications as required.

No historic properties were identified within the APE through the efforts described above. Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4(d)(1), Reclamation finds no historic properties affected for the undertaking and invites comments on the delineation of the APE and the appropriateness of the historic properties identification efforts.

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 within the area of potential effects.
- 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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Julianne Polanco', with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Julianne Polanco
State Historic Preservation Officer