

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Categorical Exclusion Checklist

Installation of Trail Mile Markers along the San Joaquin River

CEC-16-022

Prepared by:

Kate Connor

Kate Connor
Natural Resources Specialist
South-Central California Area Office

Date: 5/23/2017

Concurred by:

See Attachment A

John Fogerty
Archaeologist

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: 05/23/2017

Concurred by:

R. 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: 05/25/2017

Approved by:

Michael P. Jackson

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

Date: 5/30/2017



Background

The Millerton Lake State Recreation Area (Millerton Lake SRA) is Federal land that surrounds Millerton Lake that is operated and maintained by the California Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks) on behalf of the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation). The San Joaquin River trail is a recreational trail for hikers, equestrians and mountain bikers that runs along the southern edge of the San Joaquin River just upstream of the Millerton Lake SRA. State Parks has requested authorization from Reclamation to install 13 wooden trail mile markers (one per mile) along the southern edge of the San Joaquin River Trail.

Nature of the Action

Reclamation proposes to approve the installation of 13 trail markers along the San Joaquin River (Figure 1) by State Parks pursuant to their operation agreement. Each mile marker post would be 4 inches in diameter and 6 linear feet tall. Installation of the posts will require hand digging an approximately one-foot wide by two-foot deep hole with a shovel. The poles would be anchored with rebar and each hole back-filled with the removed soil. No concrete would be used.

The informational posts will be brown with yellow engraved lettering consistent with Americans with Disability Act and State Parks policy requirements for signage and color contrast.

Environmental Commitments

State Parks and/or its designee shall implement the following environmental protection measures to avoid and/or reduce environmental consequences associated with the Proposed Action:

- Holes for the proposed mile markers shall not be excavated where burrows are present, or within five feet of a burrow or hole, which may provide suitable upland habitat for California tiger salamanders. If a burrow or hole is shallow enough that its end can be easily observed, and it can be confirmed that the burrow or hole does not contain any animals, that burrow or hole does *not* need to be avoided.

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.*

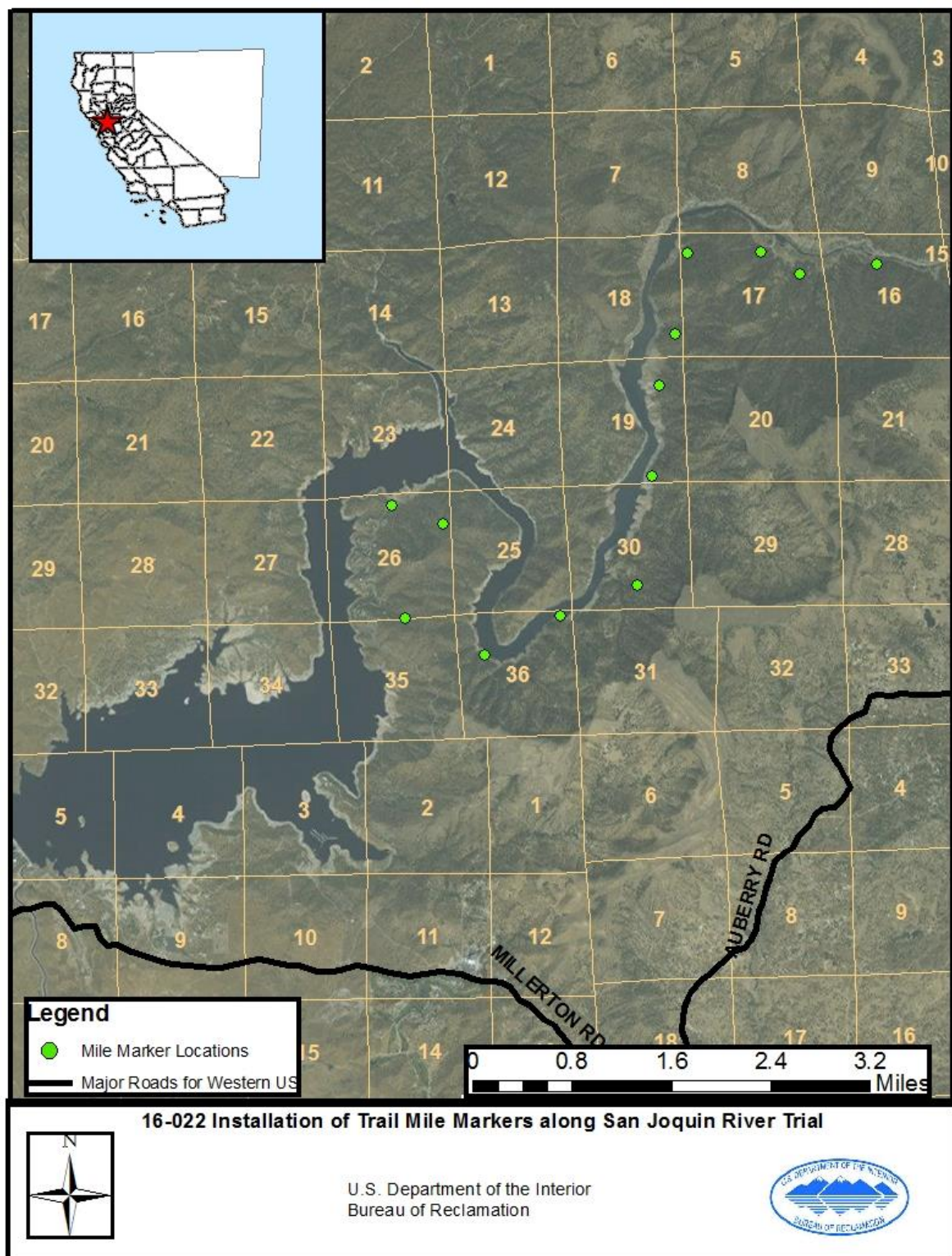


Figure 1 Location of Trail Mile Markers

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 monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas (43 CFR 46.215 (b)).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<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)).	<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.

Attachment A: Cultural Resources Determination

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

MP-153 Tracking Number: 16-SCAO-162

Project Name: San Joaquin River Trail Mile Marker Installation Project at Millerton Lake State Recreation Area, Fresno County, California

NEPA Document: 16-022

MP 153 Cultural Resources Reviewer: John Fogerty, Archaeologist

NEPA Contact: Kate Conner, Natural Resource Specialist

Determination: No Potential to Affect Historic Properties

Date: May 23, 2017

Reclamation is proposing to authorize a California Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks) project to install thirteen (13) new mile marker posts along a portion of the San Joaquin River Trail within the Millerton Lake State Recreation Area (SRA). The project intends to improve both public safety and resource management practices by providing recreational users and State Parks staff relative trail location information to better direct emergency response teams and improve the accuracy of incident reports regarding public safety issues. Reclamation owns title to the lands within the SRA, while State Parks administers the recreation activities on behalf of Reclamation. Since this undertaking involves limited/shallow ground surface penetration and is confined to previously disturbed locations, this undertaking does not have the potential to cause effects to historic properties, should such properties be present, pursuant to the NHPA Section 106 regulations codified at 36 CFR § 800.3(a)(1). Reclamation has no further obligations under NHPA Section 106, pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.3(a)(1).

The project will establish thirteen (13) new 4" x 4" x 6' wooden post mile markers using rebar anchors at each mile of the south edge of the San Joaquin River Trail. Access to each work location will occur via the existing trail, with equipment and supplies transported by an all-terrain utility vehicle.

This document serves as notification that Section 106 compliance has been completed for this undertaking. Please note that if project activities subsequently change, additional NHPA Section 106 review, including further consultation with the SHPO, may be required. In the event that cultural resources are encountered in the course of project implementation, all work in the immediate vicinity of the find should be halted and the Regional Archaeologist contacted so that the resource value may be assessed as soon as possible.