

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Categorical Exclusion Checklist

Land Use Authorization for State Parks Millerton North Shore Phone Line Upgrade Project

CEC-16-047

Prepared by:

Kate Connor

Kate Connor
Natural Resources Specialist
South-Central California Area Office

Date: 6/12/2017

Concurred by:

See Attachment A

Amy Barnes
Archaeologist
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: 06/12/2017

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: 06/29/2017

Approved by:

Michael P. Jackson for

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

Date: 07/05/2017



Background

Millerton Lake is a reservoir that is owned and operated by the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation). The lake is located northeast of the City of Fresno, in Fresno and Madera Counties. Although the lake's primary purpose is water storage, a variety of recreational opportunities are also available at the Millerton Lake State Recreation Area (SRA). Facilities include campgrounds, interpretive displays, swimming beaches, boat launches and trails for hiking, biking and horseback riding. The California Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks) operates and maintains the Millerton Lake SRA on behalf of Reclamation pursuant to operating agreement 12-LC-20-0152.

The Millerton Lake SRA currently has analog telephone service, which is outdated and unreliable and needs to be upgraded. The Proposed Project would upgrade the existing phone lines from analog to digital service in order to improve phone communication and computer usage and provide WIFI service at the state operations kiosk (kiosk), state park residences, maintenance yard, and campground host sites (Figure 1).

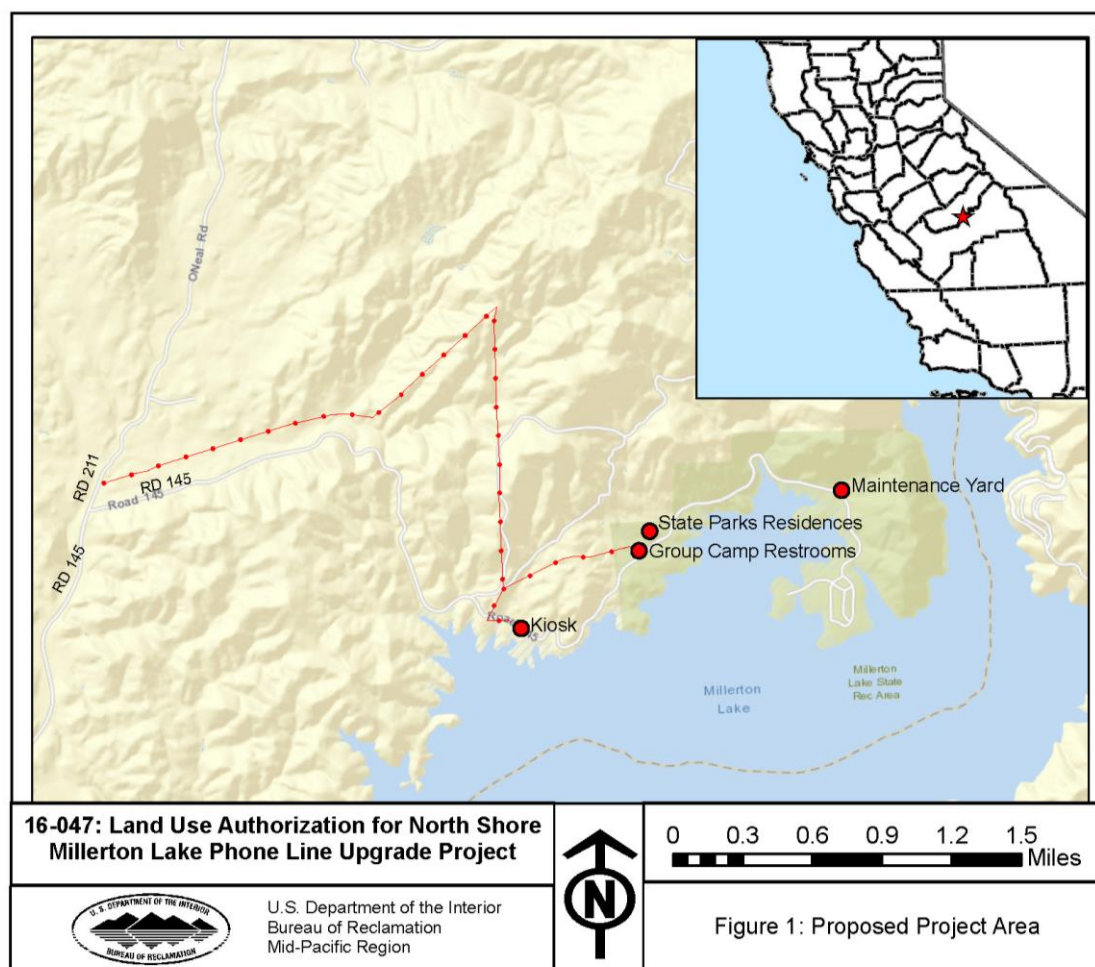


Figure 1 Proposed project area

Nature of the Action

Reclamation proposes to issue a 25-year license, to the Ponderosa Telephone Company for the installation, operation, and maintenance of telecommunication upgrades at Millerton Lake, State Recreation Area.

The proposed upgrades would consist of replacing the deteriorated copper cables from the current analog service with fiber optic lines. The new fiber optic lines would be installed by using existing PG&E utility poles, tying into existing buried conduit, and by installing new conduit. A combination of directional boring and trenching would be used to install the new conduit. All directional bores would begin at ground level and would be drilled to the specified depth. Excavations required at the beginning and end of the bores to place the communications cables at the correct depth would not exceed 10 feet in length. All boring slurry would be collected, removed from the work site, and disposed of properly by the contractor. A Ditch Witch® type trenching machine would be used to excavate the trenches required for fiber optic installation. All material excavated from the trenches would be used as backfill once the conduit and lines are installed.

Aerial fiber optic lines would be installed along the existing PG&E utility poles from Road 211 to the kiosk at the entrance to the campgrounds and to the group camp restrooms. The utility poles would be accessed using existing PG&E maintenance roads, and workers would climb each pole to install the fiber optic line by hand (Figure 2).

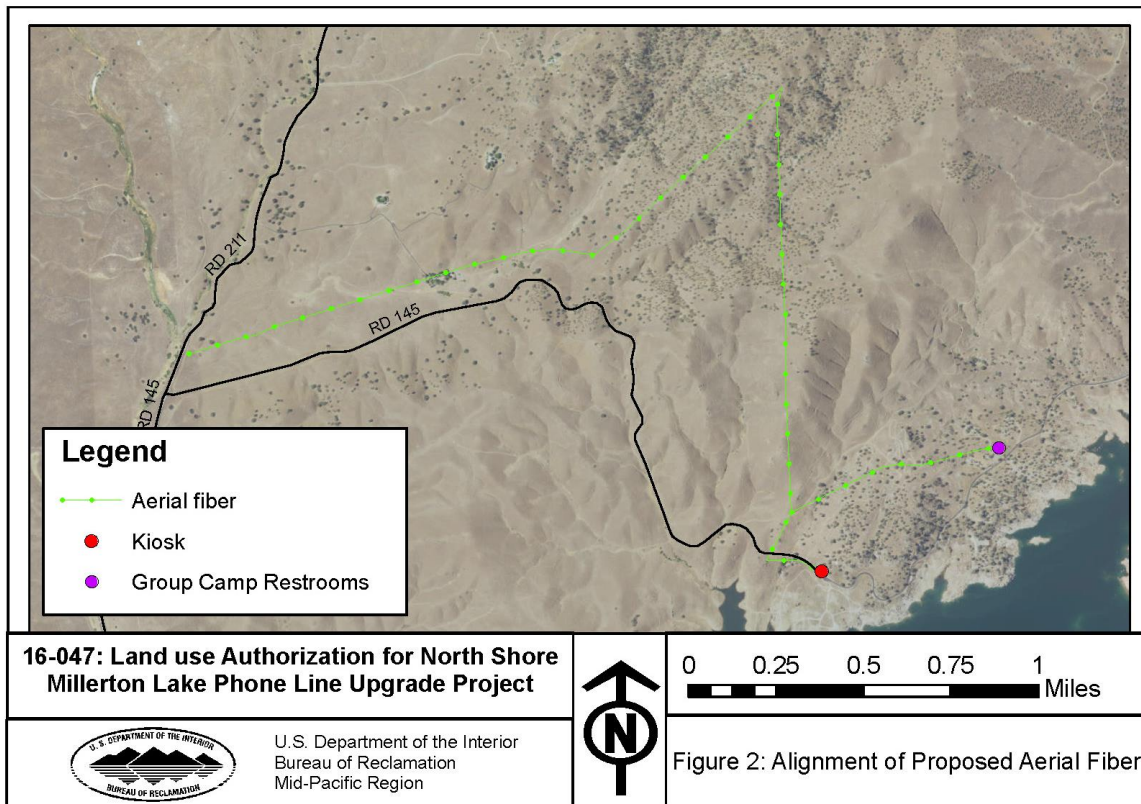


Figure 2 Alignment of aerial fiber optic lines

At the campground kiosk, an anchor and a guy wire would be installed off of the existing adjacent utility pole to support the additional weight of the new fiber optic line. The hole for the anchor would be 7 feet deep and 12 inches in diameter. At the kiosk, the fiber optic line would drop down from the adjacent utility pole and would be installed through conduit inside the canopy structure of the kiosk. A new box would be mounted on the interior of the kiosk where the new fiber optic line would supply digital service to the kiosk. The 6-inch by 6-inch above-ground pedestal currently running conduit to the kiosk would be removed (Figure 3).

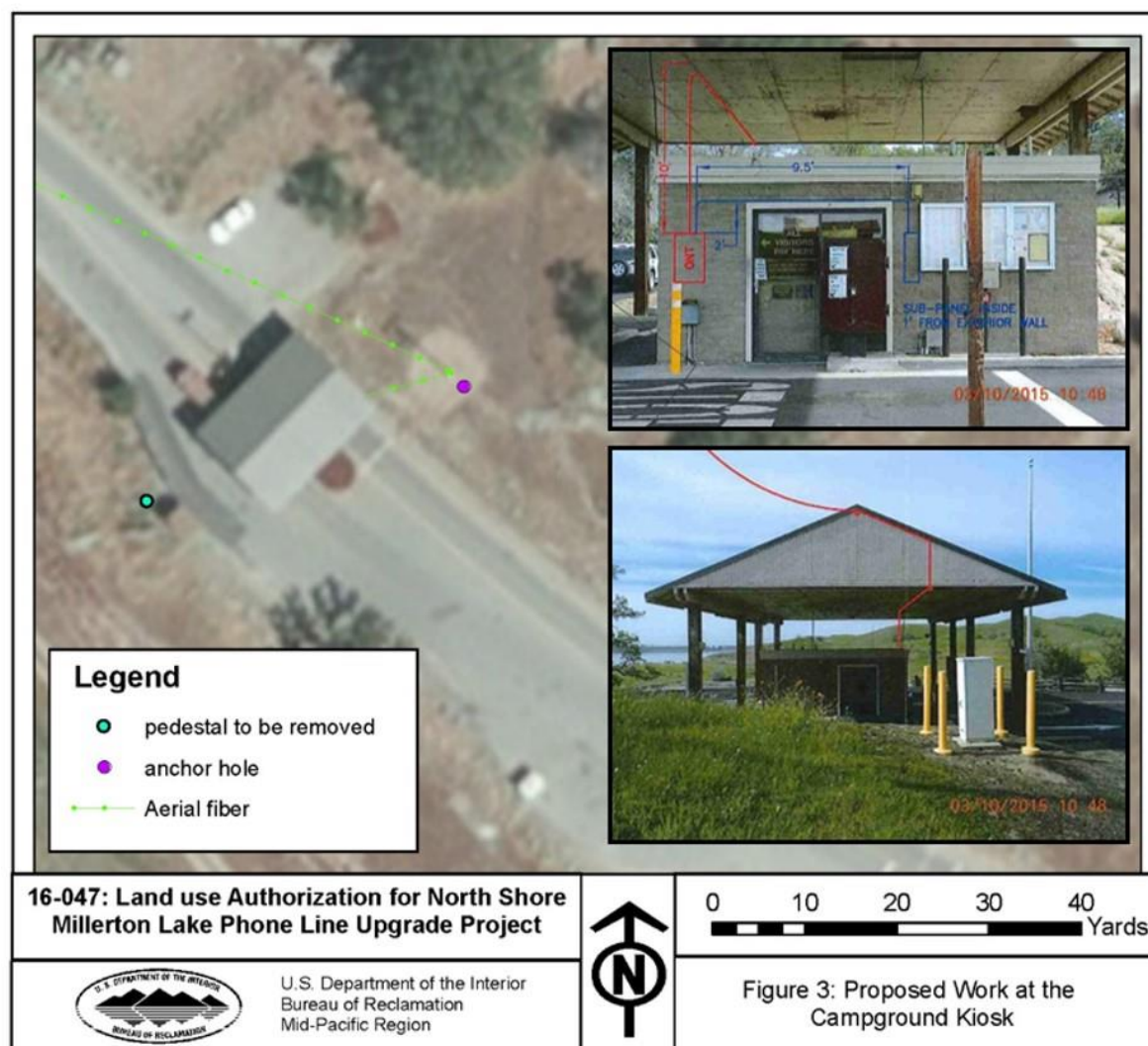


Figure 3 Proposed work area at kiosk

At the group camp restroom, the fiber optic line would be attached to the existing utility pole and an anchor and guy wire would be installed to support the pole. The hole for the anchor would be 7 feet deep and 12 inches in diameter and would start 15 feet from the base of the pole at an approximate 45-degree angle. An above-ground cabinet would be attached to the back of the existing backboard near the electric meters. A trench 74 feet long by 3.5 feet deep by 8 inches wide would be excavated from the utility pole near the electric meters to the restroom in order to

install cable for future power. A directional bore 165 feet long by 6 feet deep would be drilled from the above ground cabinet heading east to tie into existing above-ground pedestal 1-2. A trench 76 feet long by 3.5 feet deep by 8 inches wide would be excavated from pedestal 1-2 heading south and curving east to meet the existing conduit at the Fort Miller camp host site (Figure 4).

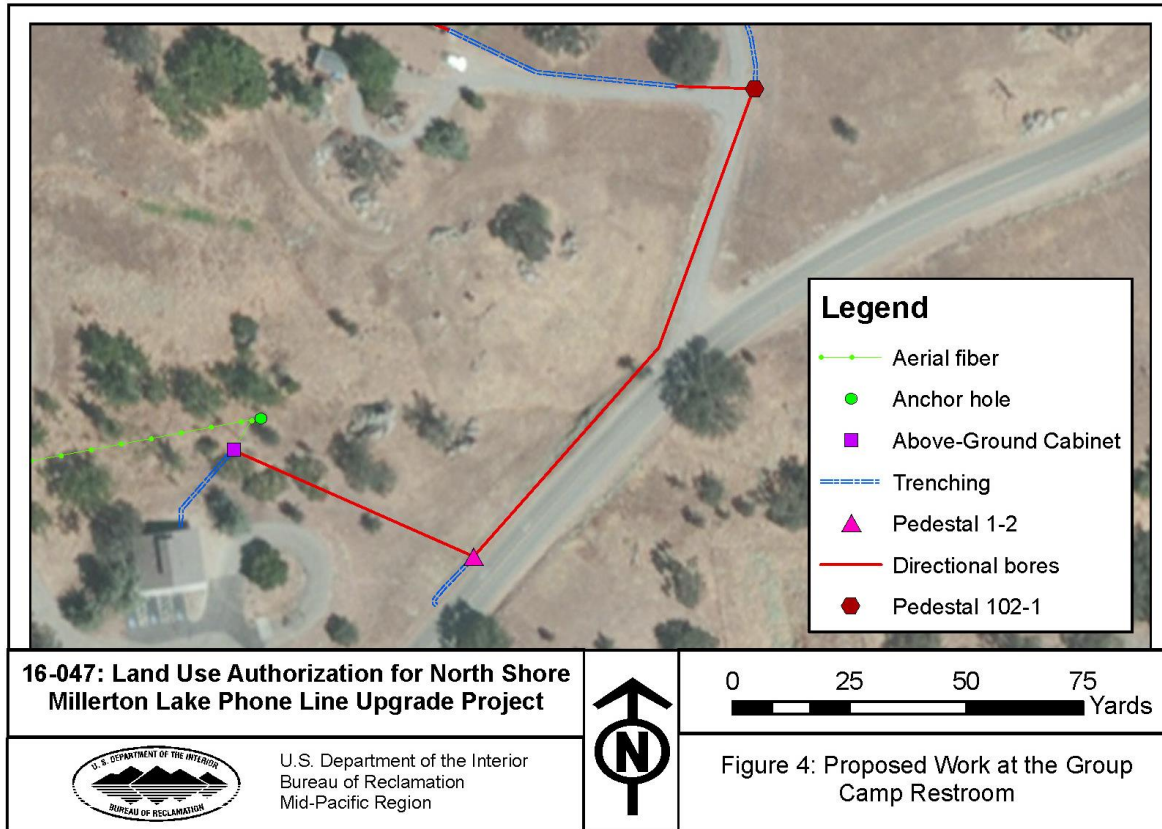


Figure 4 Proposed work at group camp restroom

In the State Parks residential area, a directional bore 60 feet long by 6 feet deep would be drilled from new pedestal 102-1 west towards the southernmost residence, and would cross under the existing driveway. At the end of the directional bore, a trench 66 feet long by 3.5 feet deep by 8 inches wide would be excavated along the existing driveway and would end at the backyard fence of the residence. From this fence another directional bore, 36 feet long and 3.5 feet deep, would be drilled through the backyard of the residence and tied into the existing phone box. A second trench, 300 feet long by 3.5 feet deep by 8 inches wide, would be excavated along the shoulder of the driveway from pedestal 102-1 towards the northernmost residence (Figure 5).

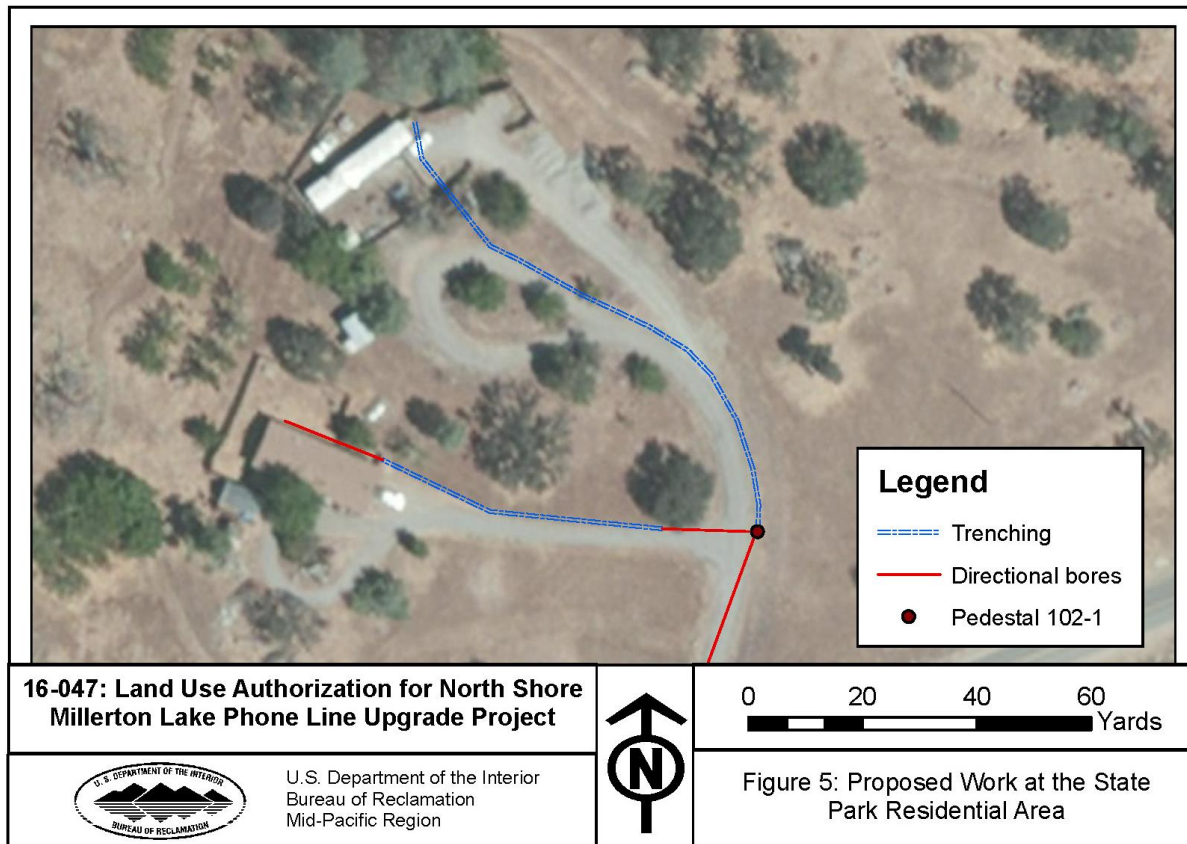


Figure 5 Proposed work at residential area

At the maintenance yard, a directional bore 238 feet long by 3.5 feet deep by 8 inches wide would be drilled from pedestal 1-10 to the back of the maintenance trailer (Figure 6). The maintenance yard would also be used as the staging area for the Proposed Project.

The Proposed Project is expected to take no more than 30 days to complete, and the desired start time is September 15, 2017.

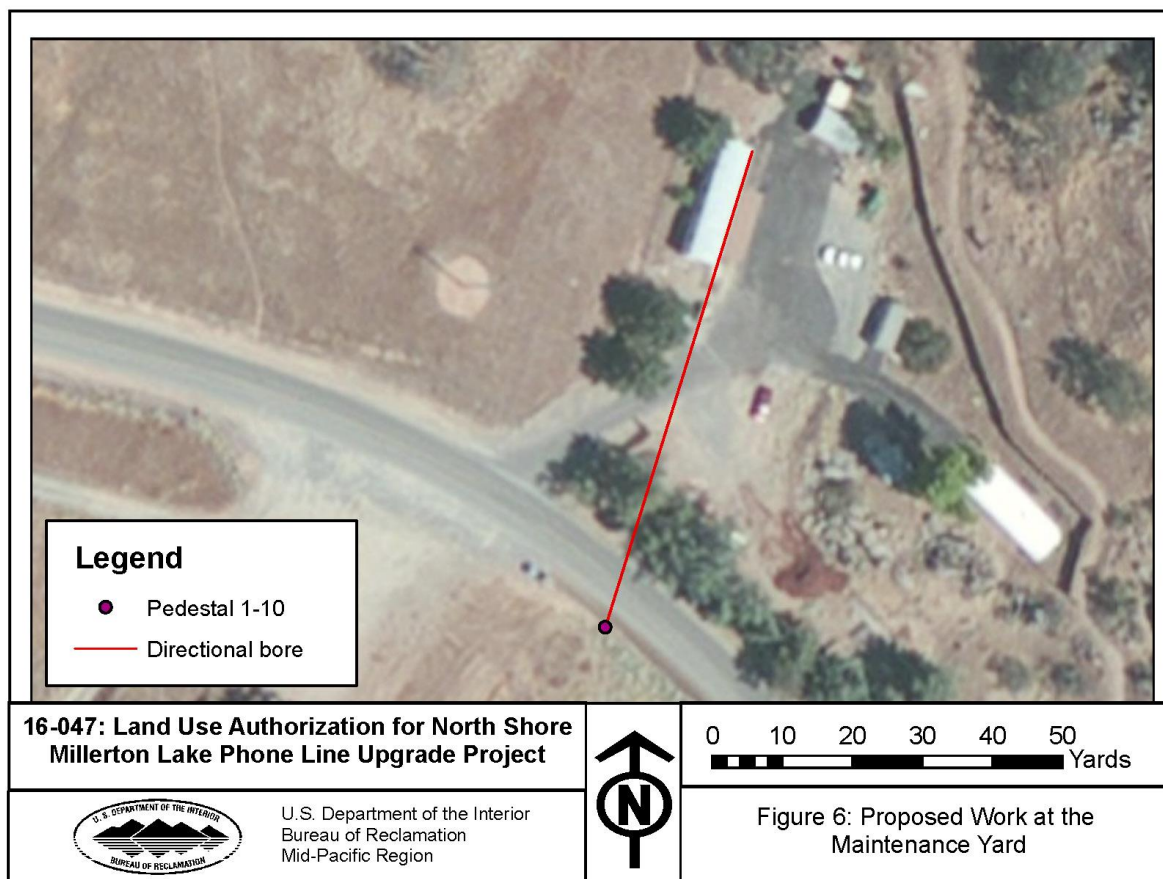


Figure 6 Proposed work at maintenance area

Environmental Commitments

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

- Work on the project shall begin no earlier than a half hour before sunrise and shall cease at least a half hour before sunset.
- No work on the project shall occur during, or within 3 days after, rainfall greater than 0.5 inches.
- Trenches, anchor holes, and excavations at the beginning and end of directional bores shall be placed to avoid intersecting any burrows that may provide suitable upland habitat for California tiger salamanders. If burrows cannot be avoided, no ground disturbing work on the Proposed Project shall commence until Reclamation has been contacted and consultation with the United States Fish and Wildlife Service has been completed.
- Vehicles accessing existing utility poles for aerial fiber work shall use established PG&E access routes. Vehicles shall not drive through any areas of potentially suitable breeding habitat for California tiger salamanders (i.e. vernal pools, puddles, other areas of ponded water, or dry areas that appear to have previously held water).
- To prevent inadvertent entrapment of listed species and other wildlife during construction, all excavated steep-walled holes or trenches more than 1 foot deep shall be covered at the close of each working day by plywood or similar materials, *or* provided with one or more escape ramps constructed of earth fill or wooden planks. Before such

trenches or holes are filled, they must be thoroughly inspected for trapped animals. If federally protected species are found in any of the holes or trenches, work shall stop and Reclamation shall be contacted immediately for further guidance.

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

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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Extraordinary Circumstance	No	Uncertain	Yes
December 15, 1993).			
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

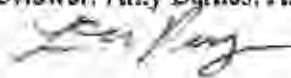
CULTURAL RESOURCE COMPLIANCE
Mid-Pacific Region
Division of Environmental Affairs
Cultural Resources Branch

MP-153 Tracking Number: 17-SCAO-096

Project Name: Land Use Authorization for State Parks Millerton North Shore Phone Line Upgrade Project

NEPA Document: CEC 16-047

MP 153 Cultural Resources Reviewer: Amy Barnes, Archaeologist; Close-out prepared by Laureen Perry, Regional Archaeologist



Date: June 12, 2017

Reclamation proposes to issue a license, Contract No. 17-LC-20-1047, to the Ponderosa Telephone Company for the installation, operation, and maintenance of telecommunication upgrades at Millerton Lake. State parks has requested approval from Reclamation to upgrade the existing phone lines from analog to digital service to allow for better phone communication, computer usage and WIFI service for the state operation kiosk, state park residences and campground hosts.

Reclamation identified and contacted Indian tribes who might attach religious and cultural significance to historic properties and Native Americans with interests in the area. No responses were received. On May 23, 2017, Reclamation notified the California State Historic Preservation Officer of a finding of no historic properties affected for this undertaking. Concurrence was received on June 7, 2017.

This document serves as notification that Section 106 compliance has been completed for this undertaking. This document also serves as concurrence for Item #8 that this action will have no significant impacts on historic properties. Please note that if project activities subsequently change, additional NHPA Section 106 review, including further consultation with the SHPO, may be required. Thank you for providing the opportunity to comment.

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

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June 07, 2017

Reply to: BUR_2017_0523_003

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 a Telephone Line Upgrade Project at Millerton Lake
State Recreation Area (Millerton Lake SRA), Madera County, CA (17-SCA0 -096)

Dear Ms. Leigh:

The Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) received on May 23, 2017 your letter initiating consultation on the above referenced project to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (as amended) and its implementing regulations that are found at 36 CFR Part 800. Reclamation proposes to issue a license to the Ponderosa Telephone Company to install, operate, and maintain telecommunication upgrades on the north shore of Millerton Lake SRA (SRA), about 2 miles northeast of Friant, California. Reclamation owns title to the lands within the SRA, while the California Department of Parks and Recreation (State Parks) administers the recreation activities on behalf of Reclamation. Reclamation has determined a finding of *no historic properties affected* for this undertaking. Documents included with the submittal are:

- *Enclosure 1: Figure 1: Area of Potential Effects*
- *Enclosure 2: Telephone Line Upgrade Project at Millerton Lake SRA – Project Description and Drawings*
- *Enclosure 3: Project #17-SCAO-096: California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) Project Evaluation forms with appended DPR cultural resource survey reports*

It is proposed to replace deteriorated copper cables with fiber optic lines at facilities along the SRA North Shore Road, including the entrance kiosk, Fort Miller group campground restroom and host site, State Parks maintenance yard, and a State Parks staff residential area. The new lines will be installed using existing PG&E power line poles, existing buried conduit, and by installing new underground conduit using a combination of directional boring and open trenching. Two existing poles will need new guy wires and sub-surface anchors to brace them to support the weight of the new fiber optic cables.

The area of potential effects (APE) has four separate locations totaling about 5.7 acres. These locations include the State Parks entrance kiosk (0.6 acres), the Fort Miller group campground restroom/host site (2.3 acres), a staff residential area (2.2 acres), and the maintenance yard (0.6 acres). Maximum vertical extent will be 7 feet deep for the new guy wire anchors. Directional boring will be a maximum of six feet deep. The APE is primarily confined to the existing built environment, which is paved and gravel roads, service and recreation facilities, and underground utilities. Original construction depth of these existing facilities ranges between approximately 4 feet and 7 feet.

As documentation for the finding of effect, you provided a report by a California State Parks archaeologist who conducted a records search and a pedestrian survey to assess the extent of the built environment and to identify any other cultural resources that might be present. No cultural resources were identified within the APE other than modern-day infrastructure and the nearest previously recorded archaeological site is about 300 meters away. The APE topography consists of side slopes leading down to the San Joaquin River basin, which are composed of shallow rocky sandy soils overlying the granitic bedrock. Reclamation does not consider this a depositional environment so there appears to be a low potential for encountering buried cultural resources.

Reclamation identified the Big Sandy Rancheria, Cold Springs Rancheria of Mono Indians, North Fork Rancheria, Picayune Rancheria of the Chukchansi Indians of California, Santa Rosa Rancheria, Table Mountain Rancheria, and Tule River Indian Tribe as Indian tribes who might attach religious and cultural significance to historic properties within the APE, and sent letters to invite their participation in the Section 106 process. The Choinumni Tribe, Dumna Wo-Wah Tribal Government, Dunlap Band of Mono Indians, North Fork Mono Tribe, North Valley Yokuts Tribe, Southern Sierra Miwuk Nation, and Wuksache Indian Tribe of Eshorn Valley, identified as Native American organizations likely to have knowledge or concerns with historic properties in the area, were also contacted by Reclamation. To date, no properties have been identified through these consultations. Should Native American concerns be subsequently raised, Reclamation will work to address them and make notifications as required.

Based on the above discussion and the enclosed documentation, Reclamation finds no historic properties affected for this undertaking and invites comments on that finding, the delineation of the APE and efforts to identify historic properties

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 identified and delineated;
- 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,



Julianne Polanco
State Historic Preservation Officer