

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Draft Environmental Assessment

Stony Gorge Reservoir - Skippers Point Boat Launch Facility Rehabilitation Project

EA-17-08



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation

August 2017

Mission Statements

The mission of the Department of the Interior is to protect and manage the Nation's natural resources and cultural heritage; provide scientific and other information about those resources; and honor its trust responsibilities or special commitments to American Indians, Alaska Natives, and affiliated island communities.

The mission of the Bureau of Reclamation is to manage, develop, and protect water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interest of the American public.

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Section 1 Introduction

This Environmental Assessment (EA) examines the potential direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts to the affected environment associated with Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) contractors replacing the boat launch and improving related facilities at Stony Gorge Reservoir in Glenn County, CA (Figure 1). The property on which the construction would occur is owned by Reclamation. The California State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways (Boating and Waterways) awarded a Harbors and Watercraft Revolving Fund (HWRP) planning grant for Reclamation to fund the project design and permitting in early February 2017. Reclamation would seek a second grant to fund the majority of the construction costs.

1.1 Background

Stony Gorge Dam, which forms Stony Gorge Reservoir, is part of the Orland Project located in Glenn County, California (Figure 1). Completed in 1928, the dam stores irrigation waters diverted and impounded from Stony Creek. Stony Gorge Reservoir is 5 miles long and 0.5 mile wide with 1,275 acres of water surface. The reservoir has a total capacity of 50,000 acre-feet (AF). There are 18 miles of shoreline, 7 miles of which are available for public use.

Currently, recreation and related facilities are managed by Reclamation with assistance from the local Sheriff's Department and US Forest Service who provide law enforcement patrol services in the park.

Reclamation proposes to enhance the water-based recreational activities at Stony Gorge by re-constructing the boat launch facility at Skippers Point on the reservoir's east side. Reclamation would fund a contractor to construct the renovated boat launch facility. Reclamation would manage and maintain the new facility following its construction, unless and until a management agreement is formalized that designates responsibility for the management of recreational facilities and improvements at Stony Gorge Reservoir to a third party(s).

1.2 Need for the Proposed Action

Stony Gorge Reservoir receives approximately 20,000 visitors annually. The existing boat launch facility at Skippers Point, installed approximately 25 years ago, is the only improved boat launch facility on the reservoir. The facility hosts about 3,540 boat launches per year, of which approximately 3,360 are motorized and 180 are non-motorized vessels (Boating and Waterways 2017).

An inspection of the Skipper's Point boating facilities on February 7, 2017 by Reclamation and Boating and Waterways determined that upgrades to existing facilities are needed to improve the quality of the recreational experience and gain compliance with current Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) regulations. The existing single-lane concrete boat launch ramp, which

lacks a boarding float, has horizontal grooves and is showing signs of deterioration (large cracks and lost concrete on its north side), despite previous repairs. Boaters have difficulty launching during low water periods. Boat trailers often scrape the top of the ramp. Although large with a turn-around area, the gravel and asphalt parking area is rough with potholes and ruts, despite prior repairs.

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to provide continued boating opportunities for the public at Stony Gorge Reservoir with safe and accommodating facilities.



Figure 1. Project Location

Section 2 Alternatives Including the Proposed Action

This EA considers two possible actions: the No Action Alternative and the Proposed Action. The No Action Alternative reflects future conditions without the Proposed Action and serves as a basis of comparison for determining potential effects to the human environment.

2.1 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, Reclamation would not rehabilitate the existing boat launch facility. Boaters would continue to use the existing, dilapidated launch. No ADA-accessible facilities associated with the rehabilitated boat launch facility would be constructed. The location of the boat launch is currently unpaved dirt and gravel and would remain so under the No Action Alternative.

2.2 Proposed Action

The project includes replacement of the existing boat ramp with a single-lane boat ramp, ADA-compliant dock, paved parking and access road, sidewalk, rock slope protection, solar light and associated amenities. The boat ramp will be a “V”-groove concrete slab approximately 280 ft long by 20 ft wide, with a turnout mid-way down the ramp. The dock will be a cable-guided float, approximately 80 ft long, connected to a gang plank and dock landing. The paved areas will accommodate approximately 19 vehicle and trailer parking stalls. One of the stalls will be ADA-compliant and provide closer, more accommodating access to the boat ramp from the parking area. The sidewalk will be ADA-compliant and connect the dock to a new, ADA-compliant two-unit vault restroom and the ADA parking. Additional project amenities will include an information kiosk; directional signage; animal-resistant trash receptacles, and a project credit sign (Figure 2). (The vault restroom will be supplied through Reclamation’s budget, without use of the Boating and Waterways grant funds.)

The Project is currently in the conceptual phase of design. The new boat ramp will be sited to a southwest heading more favorable for launching during times of low water. The Project will be designed and constructed in conformance with the Boating and Waterways guidance document *Layout, Design and Construction Handbook for Small Craft Boat Launching Facilities* (Boating and Waterways 1991). Construction is expected to begin in September 2018, following typical seasonal reservoir drawdown, to facilitate work on the reservoir bed and limit the need for dewatering in that portion of the construction area. The work would take approximately two months to complete. Reclamation would manage and maintain the boat ramp and associated facilities following construction.

Boating and Waterways estimates that the use of the Skipper’s Point boat launch facility, and annual day use of Stony Gorge, will increase 5% following the completion of construction. A launch fee, estimated at \$5, would be used to support the maintenance of the rehabilitated facility.

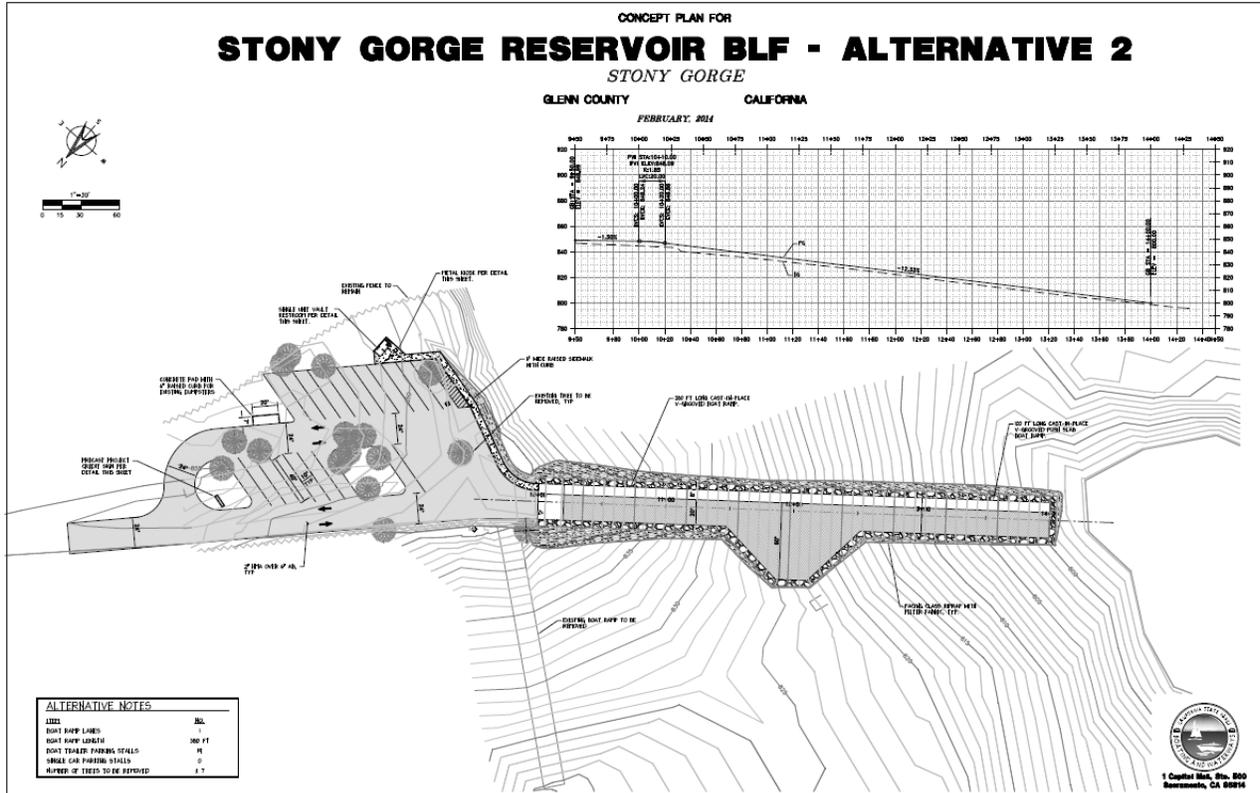


Figure 2. Conceptual Site Plan for Facility Upgrades

Construction equipment is anticipated to include: a backhoe, bulldozer, dump truck, roller compactor, concrete truck, paving machine, delivery trucks and generators. Up to 10 trees on Skippers Point will be removed to allow for equipment access and staging that would occur within the existing dirt and gravel parking area and to allow for the construction of the permanent parking areas and other amenities. Sediment and erosion control BMPs will be in place during, and re-planting will occur following, construction. Areas to be used for the sidewalk and paving will also require grubbing and rough grading.

Surficial sediment removal and/or in-water grading and placement of aggregate base material will be necessary to assure an adequate base to support the ramp. The depth and volume of sediment removal, if any, will be determined by geotechnical borings and/or topographic and bathymetric surveys to be conducted to support the final design. Any soil or sediment removed from the construction area will be spread on Reclamation land near the park entrance, as depicted in Figure 4. Sediment and erosion control BMPs will be in place during, and the disposal area will be re-seeded following, material placement.



Figure 3. Approximate Locations of Boat Launch Facility Improvements



Figure 4. Over-burden disposal site.

2.2.1 Environmental Commitments

Reclamation’s Contractor(s) shall implement the following environmental protection measures to avoid and/or reduce environmental consequences associated with the Proposed Action (Table 1).

Environmental consequences for resource areas assume the measures specified would be fully implemented. Copies of any environmental compliance reports shall be submitted to Reclamation.

Table 1. Environmental Protection Measures and Commitments.

Resource	Protection Measure
Air Quality	Reclamation or its Contractor(s) shall implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) for fugitive dust control, as appropriate based on site conditions at the time of construction. These BMPs may include site and road watering and reductions in equipment travel speed.
Water Quality	Reclamation shall obtain all permits necessary for the protection of water quality during construction activities. Permits shall include, but may not be limited to, a CWA (Clean Water Act), Section 404 permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for fill of wetlands or waters of the United States, and a CWA, Section 401 Water Quality Certification from Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board. Copies of all permits shall be retained by Reclamation and the Contractor and be made available at the site during construction activities. In addition, Reclamation and its Contractor(s) would implement BMPs, as necessary to adequately address the potential for water quality impacts from construction associated with the Proposed Action. These BMPs would include, but may not be limited to, those for spill prevention and sediment and erosion control.
Biological Resources	A qualified biologist shall conduct pre-construction surveys for active raptor nests should construction commence during the avian nesting season for birds of prey and migratory birds (between February 1 and August 31). The pre-construction survey shall be conducted within a 1/2 mile radius of the construction area. The pre-construction survey shall be conducted within 15 days prior to commencement of construction activities. If surveys show that there is no evidence of nests, then no avoidance and minimization or additional BMPs shall be required. If any active nests are located in the vicinity of the construction area, a buffer zone shall be established around the nests. A qualified biologist shall monitor nests during construction to evaluate potential nesting disturbance by construction activities. The biologist shall delineate the buffer zone with construction tape or pin flags within 100 feet of the active nest and maintain the buffer zone until the end of breeding season or when the young have fledged. Reclamation shall be contacted if establishing a 100-foot buffer zone is impractical.
Various	The footprint for new infrastructure and facilities is sited within an area previously disturbed and within an area zoned for recreational use.

Section 3 Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences

This section identifies the potentially affected environment and the environmental consequences involved with the Proposed Action and the No Action Alternative, in addition to environmental trends and conditions that currently exist.

3.1 Resources Eliminated from Further Analysis

Reclamation analyzed the affected environment and determined that the Proposed Action did not have the potential to cause direct, indirect, or cumulative adverse effects to the resources listed in Table 2.

Table 2. Resources Eliminated from Further Analysis.

Resource	Reason Eliminated
Environmental Justice	The Proposed Action would not cause dislocation, changes in employment, or increase flood, drought, or disease nor would it disproportionately impact economically disadvantaged or minority populations.
Indian Sacred Sites	The Proposed Action would not limit access to ceremonial use of Indian Sacred Sites on federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites. Therefore, there would be no impacts to Indian Sacred Sites as a result of the Proposed Action.
Indian Trust Assets	The Proposed Action would not impact Indian Trusts Assets as there are none in the Proposed Action area. The nearest Indian Trust Asset, the Grindstone Indian Rancheria of Wintun-Wailaki Indians, is located approximately six miles north of the Project location.
Land Use	The Proposed Action would not change the area's land use designation, as the footprint for new infrastructure and facilities is sited within an area previously disturbed and within an area zoned for recreational use. There would be no impact to land use as a result of the Proposed Action.
Air Quality	The US EPA promulgated the General Conformity Rule (40 CFR 93 Subpart B) to ensure that Federal actions are consistent with a State Implementation Plan's purpose of eliminating or reducing the severity and number of violations of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for criteria air pollutants and achieving expeditious attainment of those standards. The general conformity regulations apply to a proposed Federal action in a non-attainment or maintenance area if the total of direct and indirect emissions of the relevant criteria pollutants and precursor pollutants caused by the Proposed Action equal or exceed certain <i>de minimis</i> amounts, thus requiring the Federal agency to make a determination of general conformity. The Proposed Action is in an area classified as "attainment" for all NAAQS. A conformity analysis is not required.
Climate Change	CO ₂ emissions from construction associated with the Proposed Action were estimated as well below the 25,000 metric ton mandatory reporting limit for stationary sources established by the Council on Environmental Quality, based on an assessment completed for a similar project (NCAO-17-07). Although there are currently no reporting requirements for greenhouse gas emissions from construction, CO ₂ emissions from the Proposed Action would be temporary and below those for a state or local project that trigger the need for a permit from the CCAPCB. While any increase in greenhouse gas emissions would add to the global

Resource	Reason Eliminated
	inventory of gases that would contribute to global climate change, the Proposed Action would result in minimal to no measurable increase in greenhouse gases emissions and a net increase in greenhouse gases emissions among the pool of greenhouse gases would not be detectable.

3.2 Water Resources

3.2.1 Affected Environment

Stony Gorge Reservoir was created by the construction of Stony Gorge Dam as part of the Orland Project, which supplies water to approximately 21,000 acres of irrigable land under the operational control of the OUWUA. The reservoir receives and stores Orland Project water from Stony Creek. Water may be exchanged among Stony Gorge, East Park and Black Butte Reservoirs to maximize the conservation utilization of the stored water.

The runoff or inflow of Stony Creek into Stony Gorge is driven more by rainfall than snowmelt. Stony Gorge can fill to its maximum capacity of 50,000 AF in spring. Low flows prevail from June through October. Under typical operating conditions, reservoir storage ranges between approximately 20,000 and 50,000 AF (CDEC 2017), depending on supply needs and hydrologic conditions.

Stony Gorge Reservoir is used as a recreational resource in addition to being used as irrigation water source for OUWUA district customers, and is also used as a drinking water source for the town of Elk Creek.

3.2.2 Environmental Consequences

No Action

Under the No Action Alternative, there would be no impacts to operations of Stony Gorge Reservoir. The reservoir would continue to receive and store water for irrigation purposes. There would no potential impact on water resources associated with construction activities in the action area under the No Action Alternative.

Proposed Action

As with the No Action Alternative, there would be no impact to operations of Stony Gorge Reservoir from the Proposed Action. However, during construction, water quality can be affected through erosion and sedimentation, a temporary increase in turbidity due to runoff from construction areas, or inadvertent spilling of construction-related chemicals. Due to the size and duration of construction activities, and their location in an area of continued disturbance from boat and vehicular traffic, these potential impacts are anticipated to be short-term, temporary and minor, relative to baseline conditions.

Reclamation and its Contractor(s) would obtain any necessary regulatory permits for the Proposed Action. The Project construction will include in-water elements that qualify as dredge or fill of waters of the US under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA). Based on discussions with the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), permitting needs are anticipated to

include approval for CWA Section 404 project coverage under the USACE's Nationwide permit #42 for the construction or expansion of recreational facilities. In conjunction with the USACE permitting process, Reclamation will apply to the Regional Water Quality Control Board for a water quality certification under CWA Section 401 which regulates discharges to navigable waters.

In addition to any permit conditions related to the protection of water resources, Reclamation and its Contractor(s) would implement best management practices (BMPs), as necessary to adequately address the potential for water quality impacts from construction associated with the Proposed Action. These BMPs would include, but may not be limited to, those for spill prevention and sediment and erosion control.

Collectively, Reclamation's BMPs and any supplementation BMPs or monitoring required by the permits would assure that construction activities would not have a significant impact on surface water quality.

Cumulative Impacts

There is no individual impact to water resources from the No Action Alternative. Therefore, the No Action Alternative would not contribute cumulatively to any impacts to these resources.

The Proposed Action, when added to other actions in the surrounding area, and without the inclusion of BMPs, could have minor impacts on water quality. However, the Proposed Action, as well as the other construction activities, would be covered by the permitting programs established by the CWA, designed to minimize and mitigate adverse impacts to protected water bodies, including Stony Gorge Reservoir. Typical conditions include measures to control stormwater runoff, soil erosion, and the potential for spills of objectionable materials during construction. It is expected that these measures would be adequate to mitigate the risk of adverse cumulative impacts to water resources from the Proposed Action.

3.3 Recreation

Stony Gorge Reservoir receives approximately 20,000 visitors annually. The existing boat launch facility at Skippers Point, installed approximately 25 years ago, is the only improved launch facility on the reservoir. The facility hosts about 3,540 boat launches per year, of which approximately 3,360 are motorized and 180 are non-motorized vessels (Boats and Waterways 2017).

The Skipper's Point boat launch facility is deteriorated. Boaters have difficulty launching during low water periods. Boat trailers often scrape the top of the ramp. Although large with a turn-around area, the gravel and asphalt parking area is rough with potholes and ruts, despite prior repairs.

3.3.1 Affected Environment

Stony Gorge Reservoir is a 3,020-acre Recreation Area, consisting of the 1,820-acre Stony Gorge Reservoir and approximately 1,200 acres of surrounding land. Approximately 150 acres of the 1,200 acres of land is used for recreation, with the remaining 1,061 acres used for project

operations, and upland wildlife habitat (Reclamation 2007). There are 18 miles of shoreline, 7 miles of which are available for public use. Most camping and day use activities occur at or near the water between the access road and the reservoir's east side. Day use activities include boating, kayaking, canoeing, birding, wildlife and wildflower viewing, picnicking, fishing, disc golf, horseshoe and photography. Group events such as fishing tournaments are allowed at Reclamation's permission. The season of use can be year-round, depending on weather conditions and water levels. Visitation drops with mid-summer drawdown which is usually abrupt and extreme.

Stony Gorge has been described as having a primitive setting. Tent and RV camping areas are informally delineated by signs and locations of facilities such as restrooms and garbage dumpsters and by vehicle control barriers.

Reclamation currently manages recreation activities on the reservoir and the recreational lands surrounding the reservoir. Some, but not all, of the recreational facilities are ADA-compliant. There is currently no day use fee for park entry. Reclamation has plans to more formally designate parking and camping areas to prevent over-crowding once a fee station is installed and operational.

The Skipper's Point peninsula is accessed by a dirt and gravel road that runs parallel to Stony Gorge Reservoir's eastern shore. The peninsula is used primarily for boat launching. No formally designated parking and camping areas have been established. No improvements are present in the project area aside from trash receptacles.

The peninsula itself is mostly dirt and gravel and dotted with oak trees with a fringe of ruderal grasses along the east and south sides of the parking area. No aquatic vegetation is present in the project area.

3.3.2 Environmental Consequences

No Action

Under the No Action Alternative, recreation facilities at Skipper's Point would not be improved. Accordingly, visitors and recreationists with disabilities, in particular, would have a continuous limited access to boating opportunities at Stony Gorge.

Proposed Action

Under the Proposed Action, improvements would enhance Stony Gorge public services and safety and comply with ADA accessibility requirements. A launch fee, estimated at \$5, would be imposed following the rehabilitation of the boat launch facility.

During construction of the improvements, some existing recreational opportunities may be temporarily unavailable for use resulting in short-term minor adverse impacts to recreation. However, the recreational improvements would result in long-term beneficial impacts to recreation. The failed concrete on the existing boat ramp would be repaired for continued use as a launch for non-motorized vehicles.

The enhanced recreation opportunities could result in greater visitor use. This increased use is not anticipated to be significant due to the remote location of the park. According to Boats and Waterways, a 5% increase to boat launches is forecasted following construction (Boating and Waterways 2017).

Cumulative Impacts

Limitations on boating access associated with the No Action Alternative are not anticipated to contribute to a significant cumulative impact on recreation when added to other actions in the area.

Improved Stony Gorge recreational facilities that would be constructed under the Proposed Action, and any future similar projects, would have long-term beneficial impacts on recreation. Visitation could be expected to increase due to improvements to facilities and access trails that would make the reservoir and shoreline more accessible to a wider range of pedestrian and bicycle traffic, including disabled visitors and other recreationists who may have trouble negotiating unpaved surfaces. This increased use is not anticipated to be significant due to the remote location of the park. Therefore, no significant long term cumulative impacts on recreation are anticipated from the Proposed Action when added to impacts from other actions in the area.

3.4 Biological Resources

3.4.1 Affected Environment

Species found commonly in Stony Gorge Reservoir or on surrounding land in the park include: channel catfish, largemouth and smallmouth bass, bluegill, crappie, fence lizards, wild pigs, blacktail deer, ground squirrels, black-tailed jackrabbits, Canada geese, bald eagles, osprey, a wide variety of ducks and bird species, and osprey, as well as wildflowers including the adobe lily, Stony Creek spurge and Brandegees' eriostroma. Terrestrial habitat within the park is a combination of oak woodland/grassland with invasive species such as yellow starthistle and medusahead in low lying areas along the reservoir, and chamise chaparral in the upland areas (Reclamation 2007).

Reclamation obtained an official list of species protected under the Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) Section 7 for the Proposed Action area from the US Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service 2017) Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) website on January 31, 2017 and August 11, 2017. Additional information on the listed species' habitat and range was obtained elsewhere on the Service's Environmental Conservation Online System (ECOS) website and in the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (CDFW) California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB 2017). Reclamation researched the CNDDDB, and its Biographic Information and Observation System (BIOS) mapping complement, for recorded sightings of Federally-listed species in the vicinity of the Project. The information obtained from the Service and CDFW websites was supplemented with other information in Reclamation files to complete Table 3 below.

Table 3. Federally-Listed Species and Critical Habitat.

Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal Listing Status	Critical Habitat	Effect Determination
Amphibians				
California red-legged frog	<i>Rana draytonii</i>	threatened	designated	No effect. No dense, shrubby or emergent riparian vegetation in Proposed Action area. Predatory species present in action area. Nearest reported occurrence of species recorded in CNDDDB is approximately 34 miles north in Tehama Co.
Birds				
Northern spotted owl	<i>Strix occidentalis caurina</i>	threatened	designated	No effect. No suitable habitat (old growth and/or highly dense forest) in Proposed Action area. The nearest reported occurrence of species recorded in CNDDDB Spotted Owl Viewer is approximately 9 miles west in Mendocino National Forest.
Crustaceans				
vernal pool fairy shrimp	<i>Branchinecta lynchi</i>	threatened	designated	No effect. No vernal pools or seasonal wetlands in the Proposed Action area. Nearest reported occurrence of species recorded in CNDDDB is 15 miles northeast.
vernal pool tadpole shrimp	<i>Lepidurus packardii</i>	endangered	designated	No effect. No vernal pools in the Proposed Action area. Nearest reported occurrence of species recorded in CNDDDB is 21 miles southeast across I-5.
Fish				
delta smelt	<i>Hypomesus transpacificus</i>	threatened	designated	No effect. Stony Gorge is outside the current range for the species as verified on ECOS July 17, 2017.
Central Valley steelhead	<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>	threatened	designated	No effect. Stony Gorge is not a receiving water body for waters that serve as steelhead habitat.

No documented occurrences of any of the species listed in Table 3 have been recorded in the CNDDDB or BIOS in the vicinity of the Proposed Action.

3.4.2 Environmental Consequences

Neither general nor critical habitat for Federally-listed species is present in the action area or vicinity. Therefore, neither the Proposed Action nor the No Action Alternative would impact Federally-listed species or their habitat.

No Action

Under the No Action Alternative, the reservoir and park would continue to be operated and maintained as they are currently. There would no minor, short-term and temporary negative impact on land or in-water in the action area from construction activities associated with the Proposed Action under the No Action Alternative that would impact species.

Proposed Action

Under the Proposed Action, potential impacts to biological resources would be limited to a disturbance of sediment that could affect species in general, directly, or indirectly through an impact on water quality. Due to the size and duration of construction activities, and their location in an area of continued disturbance from boat and vehicular traffic, these potential direct

and indirect impacts are anticipated to be minor, short-term, and temporary. The use of erosion and sediment control BMPs and permitting requirements for CWA Sections 401 and 404 would further reduce or eliminate the potential for water quality impacts that could indirectly affect biological resources.

Cumulative Impacts

Neither the Proposed Action nor the No Action Alternative would result in any direct or indirect impacts to Federally-listed or other species. Therefore, neither the Proposed Action nor the No Action Alternative would contribute cumulatively to any impacts to those resources when considered in conjunction with other actions in the area.

3.5 Cultural Resources

Cultural resources is a broad term that includes prehistoric, historic, architectural, and traditional cultural properties. The National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966 is the primary Federal legislation that outlines the Federal Government's responsibility to cultural resources. Section 106 of the NHPA requires the Federal Government to take into consideration the effects of an undertaking on cultural resources listed on or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (National Register); such resources are referred to as historic properties.

The Section 106 process is outlined in the Federal regulations at 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 800. These regulations describe the process that the Federal agency (Reclamation) takes to identify cultural resources and the level of effect that the proposed undertaking will have on historic properties. In summary, Reclamation must first determine if the action is the type of action that has the potential to affect historic properties. If the action is the type of action to affect historic properties, Reclamation must identify the area of potential effects (APE), determine if historic properties are present within that APE, determine the effect that the undertaking will have on historic properties, and consult with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), to seek concurrence on Reclamation's findings. In addition, Reclamation is required through the Section 106 process to consult with Indian Tribes concerning the identification of sites of religious or cultural significance, and consult with individuals or groups who are entitled to be consulting parties or have requested to be consulting parties.

3.5.1 Affected Environment

In an effort to identify historic properties in the APE, Reclamation reviewed existing documentation regarding archaeological investigations within and in the vicinity of the APE. As part of a previous nearby project investigation, in 2006 Reclamation conducted a record search for the entirety of Stony Gorge Reservoir area. The record search identified no recorded resources within the APE. Although the record search is eleven years old, no new resources have been documented on Reclamation managed lands in the area since that time. In addition, Reclamation conducted a pedestrian survey of the currently proposed APE, which resulted in no cultural resources identified. The landscape is mostly developed as a recreation area, with disturbances from the existing boat launch area and the construction of existing facilities for camping, parking, and toilets. Because of this disturbed setting, the potential for the presence of intact subsurface cultural deposits is considered negligible.

3.5.2 Environmental Consequences

No Action

Under the No Action Alternative, existing conditions would persist. No construction activities associated with the Proposed Action would occur. As a result, the No Action Alternative would not result in impacts to cultural resources.

Proposed Action

Pursuant to the regulations at 36 CFR § 800.3(f)(2), Reclamation identified the Paskenta Band of Nomlaki Indians, the Enterprise Rancheria of Maidu Indians, the Cortina Band of Indians, and the Colusa Indian Community Council as potentially having interests in the project area. Reclamation sent a letter to the tribes on April 2, 2017, inviting their participation in the Section 106 process. Reclamation received no responses from the notified tribes.

No historic properties were identified with the APE during the investigation. As a result Reclamation made a determination of No Historic Properties Affected for the proposed project pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.4(d)(1). Reclamation initiated consultation with SHPO on May 30, 2017 with a determination of No Historic Properties Affected for the proposed Project. SHPO concurred with the determination in a letter dated June 21, 2017.

Cumulative Impacts

Neither the Proposed Action nor the No Action Alternative would result in any direct or indirect impacts to cultural resources. Therefore, neither the Proposed Action nor the No Action Alternative would contribute cumulatively to any impacts to those resources when considered in conjunction with other actions in the area.

Section 4 Consultation and Coordination

4.1 Public Review Period

Reclamation will provide the public with an opportunity to comment on the draft EA during a 14-day public review period.

4.2 Endangered Species Act (16 USC § 1531 et seq.)

Section 7 of the ESA requires Federal agencies, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior, to ensure that their actions do not jeopardize the continued existence of endangered or threatened species, or result in the destruction or adverse modification of the critical habitat of these species.

Reclamation determined that there would be no effect to species Federally-listed as endangered or threatened from the Proposed Action; therefore, the USFWS was not consulted.

4.3 National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. § 470 et seq.)

Title 54 U.S.C. § 306108 (formerly 16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.) requires Federal agencies to consider the effects of their undertakings on historic properties, properties determined eligible for inclusion in the National Register, and to afford the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation an opportunity to comment. Compliance with Section 106 follows a series of steps, identified in its implementing regulations found at 36 CFR Part 800, that include identifying consulting and interested parties, identifying historic properties within the area of potential effect, and assessing effects on any identified historic properties, through consultations with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), Indian tribes and other consulting parties.

On May 30, 2017, Reclamation consulted with the SHPO on a finding of No Historic Properties Affected. SHPO concurred with the finding on June 21, 2017 (see Appendix A).

4.3 Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. § 1251 et seq.)

Section 404 of the CWA authorizes the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to issue permits to regulate the discharge of “dredged or fill materials into waters of the United States” (33 U.S.C. § 1344). Section 401 of the CWA (33 U.S.C. § 1311) requires any applicant for an individual CWA Section 404 dredge and fill discharge permit to first obtain certification from the state that the activity associated with dredging or filling will comply with applicable state effluent and water quality standards. This certification must be approved or waived prior to the issuance of a permit for dredging and filling. Reclamation would obtain all necessary permits for the Proposed Action as required under the CWA prior to the start of construction. Reclamation’s

Contractor would adhere to the general requirements and any additional terms and conditions of the permits during construction and pre-construction activities. (See Section 3.3.2 for details.)

Section 5 Preparers and Reviewers

Megan Simon, Natural Resources Specialist, NCAO - preparer

Mark Carper, Archaeologist, MP-153

Julia Long, Natural Resources Specialist, NCAO – reviewer

Section 6 References

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Appendix A: Cultural Resources Determination

CULTURAL RESOURCE COMPLIANCE

Mid-Pacific Region

Division of Environmental Affairs

Cultural Resources Branch

MP-153 Tracking Number: 17-NCAO-092

Project Name: Stony Gorge Boat Launch Project

NEPA Document: EA-17-08-NCAO

MP 153 Cultural Resources Reviewer: Mark Carper

NEPA Contact: Megan Simon

Determination: No Historic Properties Affected

Date: June 22, 2017

Reclamation is proposing to make improvements to a boat launch facility at Skippers Point, within the Stony Gorge Reservoir in Glenn County, California. The proposed project is situated on land owned and managed by Reclamation. Reclamation determined that the proposed construction activity by Reclamation on federal lands 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 purpose of the proposed project is to improve the quality of the recreational experience and gain compliance with current Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) regulations. Construction would entail installing a single-lane boat launch and an 80 foot cable boarding float. In addition, in the immediate vicinity of the boat launch, the gravel parking lot would be asphalted, a pre-fabricated two-unit vault restroom installed, and an Americans with Disabilities Act path constructed.

In an effort to identify historic properties in the APE, Reclamation Archaeologist, Mr. Mark Carper, reviewed the comprehensive records search for Stony Gorge Reservoir Recreation Area on file at Reclamation, which includes the current APE (IC#G06-18). The record search was conducted in 2006 as part of a proposed grazing permit project and covered the entire reservoir area. No cultural resources were identified within or adjacent to the APE. Although the record search is eleven years old, no new resources have been documented on Reclamation managed lands in that area since that time. In addition, on April 19, 2017, Reclamation Archaeologist, Mr. Jeremy Foin, conducted a pedestrian survey of the APE and no cultural resources were identified.

Appendix A, Cont.

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

Pursuant to the regulations at 36 CFR § 800.3(f)(2), Reclamation identified the Paskenta Band of Nomlaki Indians, the Enterprise Rancheria of Maidu Indians, the Cortina Band of Indians, and the Colusa Indian Community Council as potentially having interests in the project area. Pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.4(a)(4), Reclamation contacted these tribes by letter dated April 2, 2017, and invited their participation in the Section 106 process. No comments were received.

Reclamation initiated consultation with California the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) on May 30, 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 June 21, 2017.

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.

Appendix A. Cont.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA – THE NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY

EDMUND G. BROWN, JR., Governor

OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION1725 23rd Street, Suite 100
SACRAMENTO, CA 95816-7100
(916) 445-7000 Fax: (916) 445-7053
calshpo@parks.ca.gov
www.ohp.parks.ca.gov

June 21, 2017

In reply refer to: BUR_2017_0530_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 Stony Gorge Boat Launch Project, Glenn County,
California (Project # 16-NCAO-092)

Dear Ms. Leigh:

The Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) received on May 30, 2017 your letter initiating consultation for the above referenced undertaking under Section 106 of the NHPA, and its implementing regulations found at 36 CFR Part 800. It is proposed to make improvements to a boat launch facility at Skippers Point, which is located within the Reclamation owned and managed Stony Gorge Reservoir Recreation Area in Glenn County, California. Reclamation has determined a no historic properties affected finding for this undertaking. The following documentation was included with the submittal:

- Report: *Stony Gorge Boat Launch Project: Project Tracking No. 17-NCAO-092; Glenn County, CA. April 21, 2017 [M. Carper, Reclamation Archaeologist, Mid-Pacific Region, Sacramento, CA]*

The goal of the project is to enhance recreational users' experience at the reservoir while minimizing shoreline erosion resulting from makeshift boat launches. Project scope involves installing the following components: a single-lane boat launch, an 80-foot cable boarding float, asphaltting the existing gravel parking lot, installing an Americans with Disabilities Act compliant path, and installing a pre-fabricated, accessible, two-unit vault restroom.

The area of potential effects (APE) includes the project footprint and adjacent staging areas. The APE is less than 1.0 acre in total area. The vertical APE will vary but will be restricted to about 1 to 2 feet for the majority of the construction work. The proposed vault toilet will require the deepest excavation, with a vertical APE of 8 feet deep.

Historic properties identification efforts included reviewing a comprehensive records search for Stony Gorge Reservoir Recreation Area on file at Reclamation, conducted in 2006 as part of a proposed grazing permit project and which covered the entire reservoir area. Though the record search is now eleven years old, no new activities have taken place and no new resources have been documented on Reclamation managed lands in the area since 2006. Also, an intensive pedestrian survey of the complete APE was done on April 19, 2017. Ground visibility was fair due to grass cover, but numerous open patches of dirt were inspected. Because the APE is located on a historically projecting low ridge, the eroded lake shore margins were also surveyed. No cultural resources were identified. It was also noted during field survey that the land within the APE appeared to be artificially level and flat, most likely from modifications during construction of existing facilities (Carper 2017: Photos 1 & 2).

Appendix A, Cont.

Ms. Anastasia T. Leigh
June 21, 2017
Page 2

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Reclamation identified the Paskenta Band of Nomlaki Indians, the Enterprise Rancheria of Maidu Indians, the Cortina Band of Indians, and the Colusa Indian Community Council as potentially having interests in the project area and contacted them, inviting their participation in the Section 106 process. No comments have been received. Reclamation will work with these tribes to address any concerns that may arise in the future regarding the proposed undertaking and will make notifications as required.

Based on the above discussion and information provided in the enclosed report, Reclamation has reached a finding of no historic properties affected and invites comments on the APE and historic properties identification efforts, and is requesting concurrence with the finding of no historic properties affected.

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, including a records review and pedestrian survey.
- 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

Appendix B: Indian Trust Asset Determination



Simon, Megan <msimon@usbr.gov>

ITA Review - Stony Gorge Boat Launch and Parking Improvements

Simon, Megan <msimon@usbr.gov>
To: "Zedonis, Paul" <pzedonis@usbr.gov>

Tue, Jan 31, 2017 at 4:53 PM

I have examined the referenced proposal and have determined that the facility is at least 5.5 miles from the closest Indian Trust Asset.

I have determined that there is no likelihood that this action will adversely impact Indian Trust Assets.

--

Megan K. Simon
Natural Resources Specialist
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Northern California Area Office
16349 Shasta Dam Blvd.
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(530) 276-2045
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