

# RECLAMATION

*Managing Water in the West*


## Categorical Exclusion Checklist

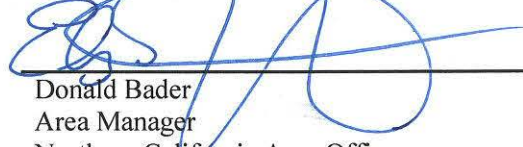
### GCID Turnout Facility Improvements - Tehama-Colusa Canal Milepost 68.21L – Colusa County, CA

**NCAO-CEC-17-13**

Prepared by: Attachment 1 Date: April 11, 2017  
Megan Simon  
Northern California Area Office Designee for  
Tribal Trust Assets

Concurrence by: Attachment 2 Date: August 14, 2017  
Amy J. Barnes  
Archeologist  
Mid-Pacific Regional Office

Concurrence by:  Date: 8/29/17  
Paul Zedonis  
Supervisory Natural Resource Specialist/  
Environmental and Natural Resources  
Division Manager  
Northern California Area Office

Approved by:  Date: 8/31/17  
Donald Bader  
Area Manager  
Northern California Area Office



U.S. Department of the Interior  
Bureau of Reclamation  
Mid Pacific Region

August 2017

## Proposed Action

Reclamation will issue a temporary encroachment permit and Turnout Agreement to Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District (GCID) to facilitate infrastructure improvements at an existing turnout within Reclamation's right-of-way along the east side of the Tehama-Colusa Canal (TCC) at TCC Milepost 68.21L (Figure 1). The turnout is used to supply water to a permanent drip irrigation system on approximately 100-acres of almond orchards on adjacent land.

The infrastructure improvements include:

- Installation of approximately 80 linear feet of a 1 ½-inch and 2-inch galvanized steel pipe located approximately 12-inches north of the existing 12-inch steel pipe in a trench 6-inches wide by 2-feet deep.
- Replacement of existing basket screens on the pump with self-cleaning suction screens

A backhoe or similar excavating equipment and shovels will be used to re-open the trench dug to install the existing lines to a depth of approximately two feet below ground surface in order to expose the existing conduit and install the new pipes (Figure 2.). The purpose of the new pump screen is to provide a mechanical means to prevent algae build up on the existing pump.

The work area will be accessed, and equipment staged, within and along the TCC right-of-way and access road. The work will not involve the removal of vegetation.

GCID's work will take approximately one day to complete and will begin immediately upon approval from Reclamation. Reclamation and the Tehama-Colusa Canal Authority (TCCA) conducted a site visit on April 4, 2017 to review the work plan; no objections to GCID's work plan were voiced.

The project location is in Section 23, Township 17 North, Range 4 West, Mount Diablo Meridian, Colusa County, CA, approximately 4.5 miles northwest of the town of Maxwell and 0.7 miles east of Funk's Reservoir. A topographic map (USGS Sites quad), aerial photograph, and GCID's engineering drawings of the site layout are included as Figures 1 and 2: Project Location Figures. Photographs of the work area are included as Figure 3.

## Exclusion Categories

Bureau of Reclamation Categorical Exclusion - 516 DM 14.5, D (1): Maintenance, rehabilitation, and replacement of existing facilities which may involve a minor change in size, location, and/or operation.

## Extraordinary Circumstances

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

1. This action would have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment (40 CFR 1502.3). No ☒ Uncertain ☐ Yes ☐

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| 2. This action would have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources (NEPA Section 102(2)(E) and 43 CFR 46.215(c)).  | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncertain <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. This action would have significant impacts on public health or safety (43 CFR 46.215(a)).  | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncertain <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 4. This action would have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographical characteristics as historic or cultural resources; parks, recreation, and refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (EO 11990); flood plains (EO 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas (43 CFR 46.215 (b)). | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncertain <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. This action would have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks (43 CFR 46.215(d)).   | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncertain <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 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)).  | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncertain <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <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)).  | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncertain <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <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; and 43 CFR 46.215 (g)).   | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncertain <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <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)).   | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncertain <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <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)).  | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncertain <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> |

11. This action would affect ITAs (512 DM 2, Policy Memorandum dated December 15, 1993). No ☒ Uncertain ☐ Yes ☐
12. This action would have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (EO 12898; and 43 CFR 46.215 (j)). No ☒ Uncertain ☐ Yes ☐
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). No ☒ Uncertain ☐ Yes ☐
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)). No ☒ Uncertain ☐ Yes ☐

Regional Archeologist concurred with Item 8 (email attached).

ITA Designee concurred with Item 11 (email attached).

***NEPA Action Recommended***

☒ CEC – This action is covered by the exclusion category and no extraordinary circumstances exist. The action is excluded from further documentation in an EA or EIS.

☐ Further environmental review is required, and the following document should be prepared.

☐ EA

☐ EIS

**Environmental commitments, explanations, and/or remarks:**

Reclamation researched the California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDB), maintained by the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, and its Biogeographic Information and Observation System (BIOS) mapping complement, as well as the US Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service) Official Species List, obtained from the Service's Information, Planning, and Conservation System (IPaC) application, to determine the potential for the presence of species protected by the Federal Endangered Species Act within the work area. Species Federally-listed as Threatened or Endangered with the potential to inhabit the work area, according to the Official Species List, were limited to the California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*), Northern spotted owl (*Strix*

occidentalis caurina), Conservancy fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta conservation*), vernal pool fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta lynchi*), vernal pool tadpole shrimp (*Lepidurus packardii*), Delta smelt (*Hypomesus transpacificus*), Central Valley steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*), Valley elderberry longhorn beetle (*Desmocerus californicus dimorphus*) and giant garter snake (*Thamnophis gigas*). Species protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act have the potential to inhabit the work area, including the burrowing owl (*Athene cunicularia*) and Swainson's hawk (*Buteo swainsoni*).

No Critical Habitat for Federally-listed species is located in the work area, according to the Official Species List. The California red-legged frog is widely accepted as extirpated from the Valley floor. No contiguous forest that would function as habitat for the Northern spotted owl, or trees that would function as nesting habitat for migratory birds, are present within or around the work area. There will be no exposed electrical conduits that could present a risk of electrocution for raptors and other migratory birds.

The TCC is screened at the point of diversion from the Sacramento River: the Red Bluff pumping plant. Additional fish screens are located on the pump intakes. Therefore, listed fish species would not be affected by the action. No elderberry trees or shrubs (that would function as habitat for the Valley elderberry longhorn beetle) are located within 100 feet of the work area; The TCCA conducts a weed abatement program along the TCC right-of-way.

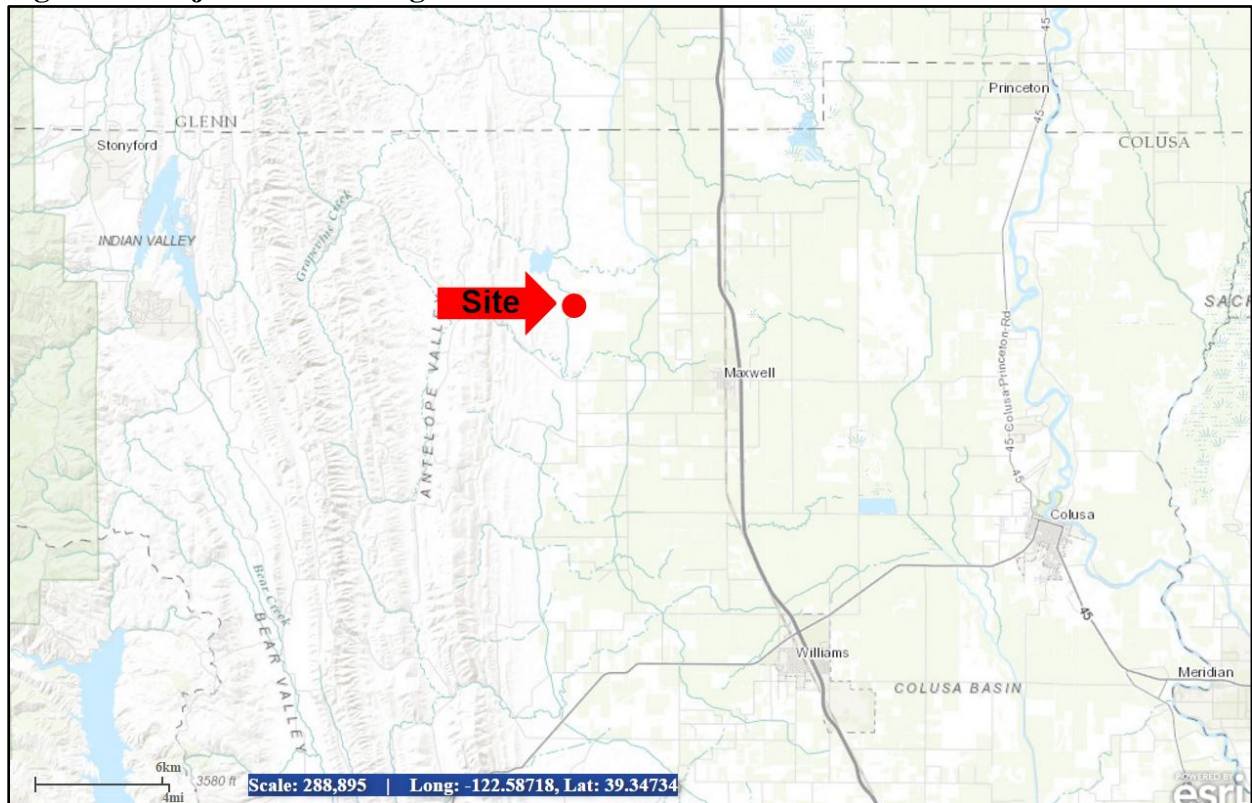
Sitings of the remaining species reported in the BIOS output were limited to the burrowing owl and giant garter snake (GGS). The nearest reported occurrence of the burrowing owl is approximately two miles north of the site. No burrow holes that would function as habitat for the burrowing owl have been observed in the vicinity of the proposed work area. The nearest BIOS reporting of the giant garter snake is greater than two miles from the work area along Stone Canal Creek near its junction with the Glenn-Colusa Canal. The next closest siting was reported approximately 2.5 miles east of the site along the Glenn-Colusa Canal. The TCC itself is concrete lined. No earthen embankments that would function as over-wintering habitat, or vegetative cover that would function as supplemental upland habitat, for GGS are located within the work area.

With regard to project-specific protections for water quality in the TCC, the algae removal system functions by water pressure. No air compressor from which operational losses could occur will be present.

Construction activities can be categorized as temporary and minor and are not anticipated to result in significant air emissions.



**Figure 1. Project Location Figures**



**Figure 1A: Vicinity Map**



**Figure 1B: Site map**

Figure 1, Cont:

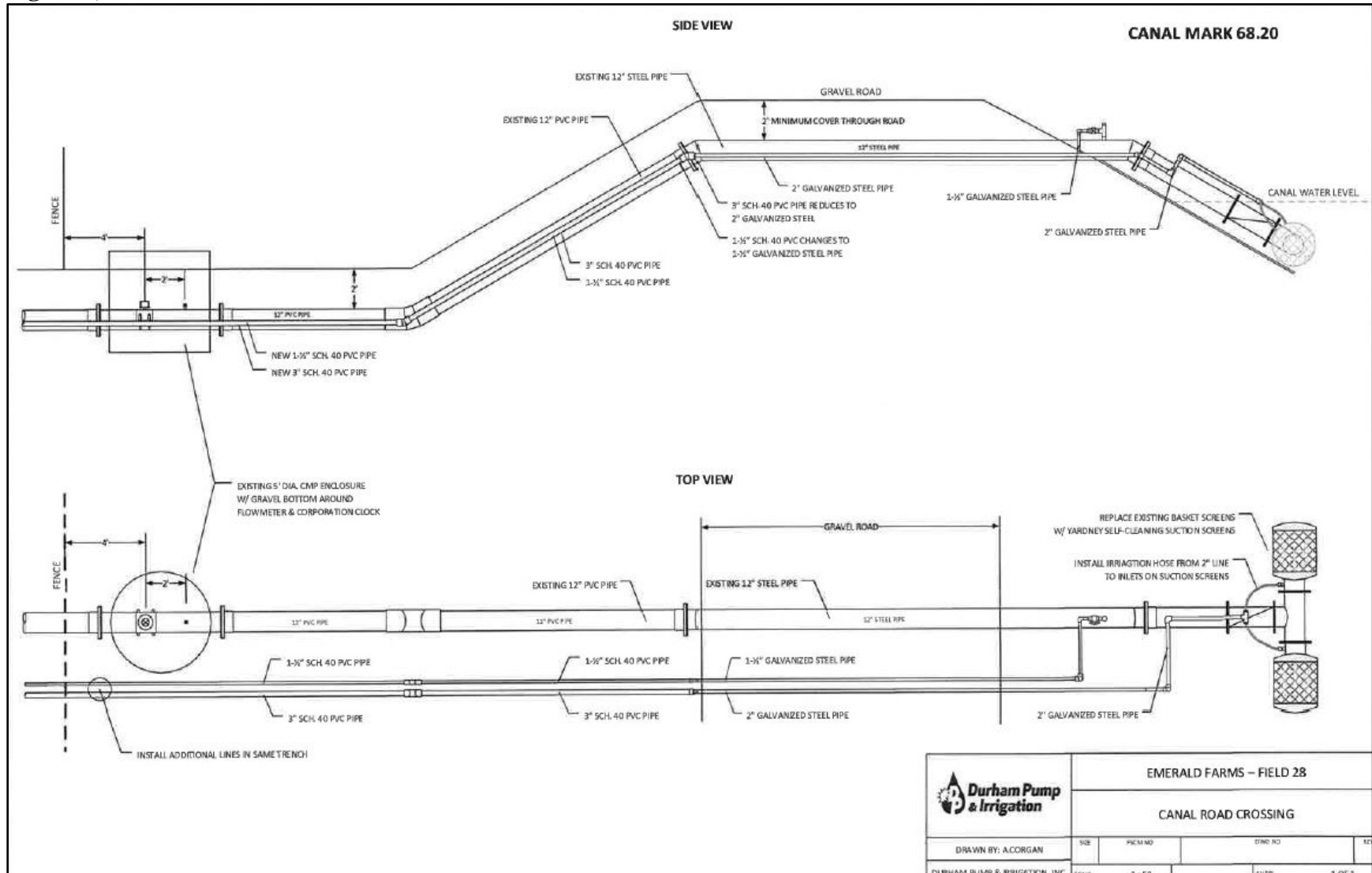


Figure 1C: Engineer's Drawing of Site Layout



**Figure 2. Site Photographs**



**Figure 2A: Photograph of existing turnout**



**Figure 2B: Photograph with view to west and existing turnout**



**Attachment 2, Cont.**



**Figure 2C: Photograph with view to east from TCC access road**



**Attachment 2, Cont.**



**Figure 2D: Photograph with view to north and existing turnout.**



**Figure 2E: Photograph with view to south and existing turnout.**



## Attachment 1. Indian Trust Asset Review



Simon, Megan <msimon@usbr.gov>

### ITA Review - GCID Turnout Facility Improvements - TCC MP 68.21L - Colusa Co.

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

Tue, Apr 11, 2017 at 10:34 AM

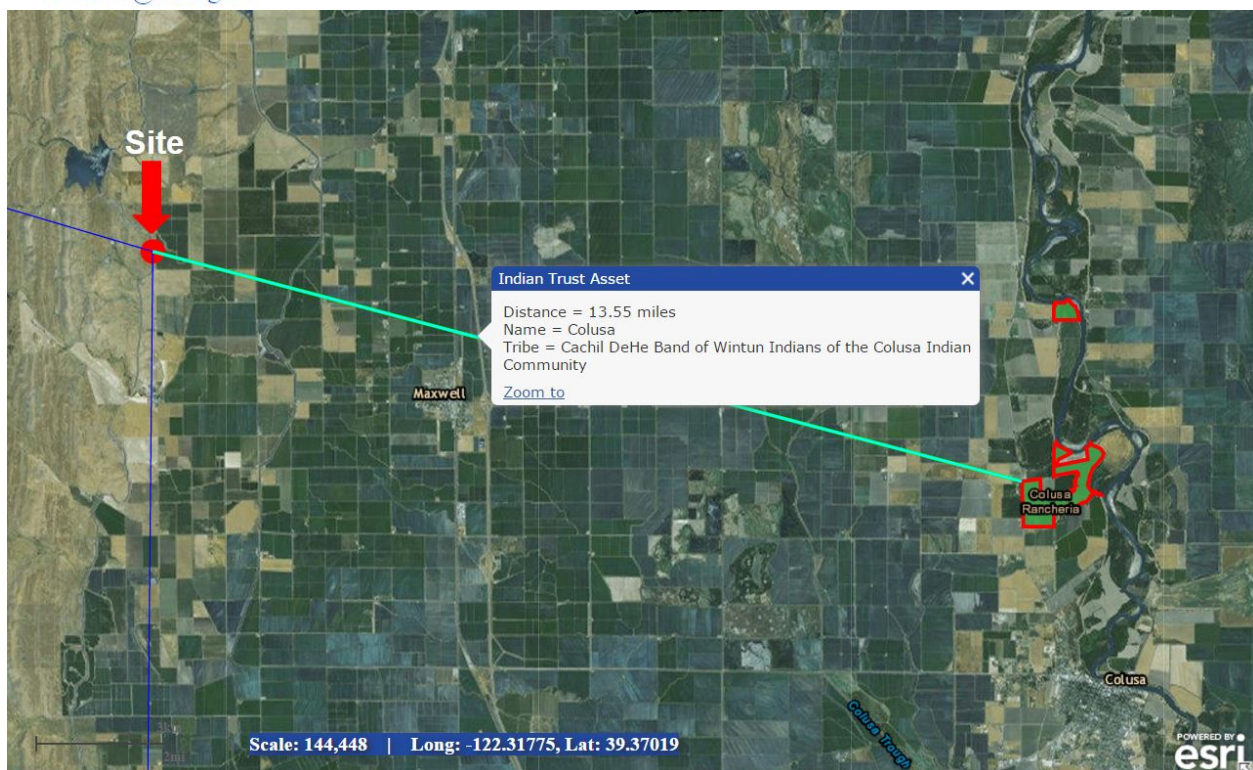
I have examined the referenced proposal and have determined that the facility is at least 13.5 miles from the closest Indian Trust Asset.

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.  
Shasta Lake, CA 96019  
(530) 276-2045  
[msimon@usbr.gov](mailto:msimon@usbr.gov)



**Attachment 2. Cultural Resources Review**

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

MP-153 Tracking Number: 17-NCAO-113.001

Project Name: Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District (GCID) Turnout Improvement Project on the Tehama-Colusa Canal (TCC)

NEPA Document: CEC Number NCAO-CEC-17-13

MP 153 Cultural Resources Reviewer: Amy J. Barnes

Date: August 14, 2017

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This proposed undertaking by Reclamation is to issue a temporary encroachment permit and Turnout Agreement to GCID to facilitate infrastructure improvements at an existing turnout within Reclamation's right-of-way along the east side of the TCC west of Maxwell, California. Reclamation determined that the issuance of a Federal permit and executing an agreement constitutes an undertaking as defined in 36 CFR § 800.16(y), and is the type of action that has the potential to cause effects to historic properties pursuant to 36 CFR §800.3 of the Section 106 implementing regulations. As a result of this determination, Reclamation implemented the steps in the Section 106 process as outlined at §800.3 to §800.6.

GCID proposes infrastructure improvements at an existing turnout at Milepost (MP) 68.21L on the TCC, which supplies Central Valley Project (CVP) water to an existing drip irrigation system for almond orchards adjacent to the TCC right-of-way. Infrastructure improvements include installation of approximately 80 linear feet of a 1½-inch diameter galvanized steel and polyvinyl chloride (PVC) pipeline and a new 2 inch diameter galvanized steel/3 inch diameter PVC pipeline, parallel to and situated approximately 12 inches away from an existing 12 inch steel pipe (Enclosure 1: Figure 2 and Enclosure 2). A backhoe or similar excavating equipment and shovels will be used to excavate the trench approximately 2 feet deep by approximately 3 feet wide to expose the existing pipeline and install the new pipelines. These new pipelines will connect to the existing pipeline near the pump at the canal and connect to the existing irrigation system just outside of Reclamation's TCC right-of-way. The trench for the pipelines will go through the TCC berm and through the gravel road on top of the canal's berm. Upon completion, the TCC right-of way and embankment will be re-contoured to its pre-construction form. In addition, basket screens on the existing pump will be replaced with self-cleaning suction screens. Access and staging will occur within the existing canal road and right-of-way.

The area of potential effects (APE) includes all construction related activities in an area of approximately 0.085 acres, with a maximum depth of two feet for the trench. The APE is located in Section 23, T. 17 N., R. 4 W., Mount Diablo Baseline and Meridian, as depicted on the Sites 7.5' U.S. Geological Survey topographic quadrangle map (Enclosure 1: Figure 1 and Figure 3). The lands surrounding the APE are predominantly characterized by agricultural lands between Funk's Reservoir and the community of Maxwell.

The historic property identification efforts included a review of Reclamation project records, internal records of cultural resources surveys, sites, and project data. Due to the nature of the APE with proposed actions in fill resulting from the original TCC construction, no in-field survey was deemed necessary. The TCC is the only identified cultural resource within the APE. The TCC was constructed as part of the Sacramento Canals Unit (SCU) of the CVP, the largest Federal irrigation project in the United States,



Attachment 2, Cont.

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

which is treated as eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (National Register). The purpose of the SCU was to provide irrigation water in the Sacramento Valley, primarily in Tehama, Glenn, and Colusa Counties. The canal is approximately 110.9 miles long, beginning at the Red Bluff Diversion Dam and terminating about 2 miles south of Dunnigan, California. Construction of the TCC began on July 31, 1965, and the final section of the canal was completed on May 30, 1980. Due to the small scale and nature of the proposed undertaking, the TCC was not formally evaluated for eligibility for listing on the National Register. For the purposes of this undertaking only, Reclamation is treating the TCC as a contributing element to the CVP under Criterion A for its association with the development of agriculture in Colusa, Glen, and Tehama counties.

All proposed activities for this undertaking will be conducted entirely within the limits of the built environment, which consists of engineered fill. Therefore, there is no potential for buried archaeological resources in the APE, and no sites of religious and cultural significance are expected to be present. As such, Reclamation determined that consultation with Indian tribes was not necessary for this undertaking.

Reclamation applied the criteria of adverse effect [36 CFR § 800.5(a)] for the current undertaking and found that the proposed activities would result in no significant alterations to the historic characteristics that make the TCC eligible for the National Register. Access to the project will occur via existing roads without improvement, and all proposed construction activities are limited to an area previously disturbed and constructed for the TCC. The proposed action of modifying an existing turnout is consistent with other similar existing facilities that divert water for agricultural and industrial purposes. The two small pipelines will be installed adjacent to an existing pipeline. The TCC would still retain its integrity of feeling and association as a water conveyance component of the CVP.

Reclamation entered into consultation with the California State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) on July 14, 2017, notifying them regarding a finding of “no adverse effect to historic properties pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.5(b).” SHPO responded on August 11, 2017 concurring with Reclamations’ findings and determination (consultations attached).

After reviewing the CEC, dated February 7, 2017 entitled *GCID Turnout Facility Improvements - Tehama-Colusa Canal Milepost 68.21L – Colusa County, CA* (CEC Number NCAO-CEC-17-13), I concur with Item 8 that this action would not have 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.

## Attachment 2, Cont.

STATE OF CALIFORNIA – THE NATURAL RESOURCES AGENCY

EDMUND G. BROWN, JR., Governor

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

1725 23<sup>rd</sup> Street, Suite 100  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95816-7100  
(916) 445-7000 Fax: (916) 445-7053  
calshpo@parks.ca.gov  
www.ohp.parks.ca.gov



August 11, 2017

In reply refer to: BUR\_2017\_0714\_001

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 Glenn-Colusa Irrigation District (GCID) Turnout Improvement Project on the Tehama-Colusa Canal (TCC), Colusa County, CA (Project#17-NCAO-113.001)

Dear Ms. Leigh:

The Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) received on July 14, 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 temporary encroachment permit and Turnout Agreement to GCID to facilitate infrastructure improvements at an existing turnout within Reclamation's right-of-way along the east side of the TCC. Reclamation is seeking review and concurrence with a finding of no adverse effect. Submitted documents are: Figures 1-3, Area of Potential Effects and five project photographs.

GCID proposes infrastructure improvements at an existing turnout at Milepost (MP) 68.21L on the TCC, which supplies Central Valley Project (CVP) water to an existing drip irrigation system for almond orchards adjacent to the TCC right-of-way. Work scope includes installing about 80 linear feet of a 1½-inch diameter galvanized steel and polyvinyl chloride (PVC) pipeline and a new 2 inch diameter galvanized steel/3 inch diameter PVC pipeline, parallel to and situated about 12 inches away from an already existing 12 inch steel pipe (photos 4 & 5). A backhoe or similar excavating equipment and shovels will be used to excavate a trench around 2 feet deep by 3 feet wide to expose the existing pipeline and install the new pipelines. These new pipelines will tie into the existing pipeline near the pump at the canal and tie into the existing irrigation system just outside of Reclamation's TCC right-of-way. The trench for the pipelines will go through the TCC berm and through the gravel road on top of the canal's berm (Figure 2).

Upon completion, the TCC right-of way and embankment will be re-contoured to their pre-construction form. In addition, basket screens on the existing pump changed out for self-cleaning suction screens. Access and staging will occur within the existing canal road and right-of-way.

The area of potential effects (APE) includes all construction related activities in an area of about 0.085 acres, with a maximum vertical depth of two feet for the trench. The lands surrounding the APE are predominantly characterized by agricultural lands situated between Funk's Reservoir and the community of Maxwell.

**Attachment 2, Cont.**

Ms. Anastasia T. Leigh

August 11, 2017

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BUR\_2017\_0714\_001

Historic properties identification efforts included review of Reclamation's project records, and internal records of cultural resources surveys, sites, and project data. Because the undertaking will be in TCC fill, no in-field survey was deemed necessary. The 110.9 miles long TCC is the only identified cultural resource in the APE. It was built as part of the Sacramento Canals Unit (SCU) of the CVP, the largest United States federal irrigation project, which is treated as eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). The SCU was built to provide irrigation water in the Sacramento Valley, primarily in Tehama, Glenn, and Colusa Counties. Construction of the TCC began on July 31, 1965, and was finished on May 30, 1980. Due to the small scale and nature of the proposed undertaking, the TCC was not formally evaluated for eligibility for the NRHP. For purposes of this undertaking only, Reclamation is treating the TCC as a contributing element to the CVP under Criterion A for its association with the development of agriculture in Colusa, Glen, and Tehama counties.

Because all proposed activities are entirely within the limits of the built environment, which consists of engineered fill, there is no potential for buried archaeological resources in the APE. For the same reason, and because the APE is located in highly developed agricultural fields, it is also considered that no sites of religious and cultural significance are expected to be present. Therefore, Reclamation determined that consultation with Indian tribes was not necessary for this very limited undertaking.

Reclamation applied the criteria of adverse effect (36 CFR 800.5(a)) for this undertaking and finds that the proposed activities will result in no significant alterations to the historic characteristics that make the TCC eligible for the NRHP. The proposed action of modifying an existing turnout is consistent with other similar existing facilities that divert water for agricultural and industrial purposes. The two small pipelines will be installed adjacent to an existing pipeline. The TCC will still retain its integrity of feeling and association as a water conveyance component of the larger CVP.

OHP reviewed the submitted documentation and offers the following comments:

- Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4(a)(1), there are no objections to the APE as defined.
- Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4(b), it is considered that Reclamation has made a reasonable and good faith effort to identify historic properties within the area of potential effects.
- Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4(c)(2), **I do not object** that, for the purposes of this undertaking only, Reclamation will treat the TCC water conveyance system as an eligible contributor to the larger CVP, under Criterion A for the theme of development of irrigated agriculture.
- Reclamation has determined that the proposed undertaking will result in no adverse effect to historic properties. Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.5(b), **I concur**.

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](mailto:Jeanette.Schulz@parks.ca.gov) or (916) 445-7031.

Sincerely,



Julianne Polanco  
State Historic Preservation Officer