

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

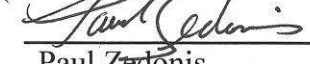
Categorical Exclusion Checklist (CEC)

Whiskeytown Control House - Culvert Replacement and Service Road Repair - Shasta County, California

NCAO-CEC-17-19

Prepared by: See Attachment 1 Date: July 25, 2017
Megan Simon
Northern California Area Office Designee
for Tribal Trust Assets/Natural Resources
Specialist

Concurrence by: See Attachment 2 Date: September 27, 2017
Mark Carper
Archaeologist
Mid-Pacific Regional Office

Concurrence by:  Date: 10/19/17
Paul Zedonis
Environmental and Natural Resources
Supervisory Natural Resource Specialist/
Division Manager
Northern California Area Office

Approved by:  Date: 10/23/17
Don Bader
Area Manager
Northern California Area Office



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

October 2017

Proposed Action

Reclamation and/or its Contractor will replace an existing culvert intersecting a dirt and gravel service road and repair the overlying service road (Project). The culvert and service road are on Reclamation property, approximately 0.25 mile south of Whiskeytown Dam in Whiskeytown National Recreation Area, Shasta County, CA (Figure 1). The service road provides access to the Whiskeytown Control House, the Clear Creek Community Services District chlorination field office and a City of Redding power plant. The culvert was installed between 1960 and 1963 and recently failed due to long-term issues related to the chemistry of the underlying soil reacting with the metal of the culvert in combination with high flows from weather events in the 2016-2017 winter season. The culvert provides a means for an intermittent stream that intersects the service road to continue on to Clear Creek, approximately 275 feet south of the terminus of the work area. The Project area is surrounded by wooded land consisting of blue, black and interior live oaks, foothill pines, and dense undergrowth including Himalayan blackberry and poison oak.

The 140ft long, 42-inch metal culvert will be replaced with a plastic culvert with flared ends to support higher flows. Work activities will include:

- Installation of sediment and erosion controls;
- Excavation, removal and disposal of the existing culvert;
- Installation of a new culvert and flared ends;
- Backfill to the original road elevation;
- Excavation and construction of a new road ditch in the location of an existing road ditch parallel to the service road, with inlet, outlet and cobble lining to support flows and reduce sediment inputs to the stream, and;
- Site restoration.

Pre-construction activities will include the removal of up to 8 trees and saplings and grubbing for access to the work area and removal of cobble used as a temporary means to support the service road. With the exception of the vegetation removal (to a maximum depth of 3 feet), the work area will be confined to the original excavation for the road and culvert and associated disturbance.

An excavator will be used to install the new culvert in the existing streambed and for pre-construction activities and post-construction-related filling. Workers will use a boxing method to work in the creek/excavation area to limit the disturbance around the culvert while adhering to Occupational Safety and Health Administration requirements. The maximum affected areas for construction and pre-construction activities are estimated as follows:

- Culvert: 1470 sf
- Flared ends and armor: 105 sf
- Vegetation removal: 945 sf
- Stockpile along existing road: 2400 sf

Work activities are anticipated to initiate in early September 2018 with vegetation clearing and pre-construction excavation work. The culvert replacement and road repair is anticipated to be completed by November 2018. The site will be re-seeded following construction.

A plan of the Project Area is depicted in Figure 2. Photographs of the action area are provided as Figure 3. The Project is located in Township 32 North, Range 6 West, Section 27 of the Mount Diablo Baseline & Meridian and in the Igo USGS topographic quadrant.

Reclamation engineers will review the Contractor's submittals, as appropriate, to confirm that the work will be completed to specifications and oversee construction and post-construction re-seeding.

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 ☒ Uncertain ☐ Yes ☐
3. This action would have significant impacts on public health or safety (43 CFR 46.215(a)). No ☒ Uncertain ☐ Yes ☐
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 ☒ Uncertain ☐ Yes ☐
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 ☒ Uncertain ☐ Yes ☐
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 ☒ Uncertain ☐ Yes ☐

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| 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 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncertain <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 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 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncertain <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <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). | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncertain <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <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)). | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncertain <input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> |

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:

The Regional Archeologist concurred with Item 8 (email attached). The ITA Designee concurred with Item 11 (email attached).

Any excess overburden generated during construction activities will be removed by Reclamation or the Contractor performing the work and transported off-site for proper disposal in a permitted facility, as applicable. Reclamation or its Contractor will prepare a best management practices (BMP) schedule for site controls, including those for sediment and erosion control and spill prevention (assuming the latter is applicable). Excavation work will be conducted outside of the wet season, if possible. If it is not possible to conduct or complete the work in the dry season, a cofferdam or similar mechanism will be used to withhold streamflow from the work area. The surface water would then be pumped back into the stream past the work zone to limit the potential for sediment inputs to the stream that could result in Project-related stream turbidity.

Based on a review of the applicable National Wetland Inventory map, the stream in which the culvert is located was determined to be surface water under US jurisdiction. The US Army Corps of Engineers reviewed the culvert replacement project on July 21, 2017 and determined the Project is exempt from the Clean Water Act (CWA) Section 404 permitting requirements under Section 404(f) (1) (b), which is further clarified in 33 CFR 323.4 (a) (2). Therefore a Department of Army authorization is not required. The Regional Water Quality Board reviewed the Project on July 24, 2017 and determined that, because a CWA Section 404 permit is not needed, and the work does not pose a significant threat to water quality, a CWA Section 401 Water Quality Certification is also not required.

Reclamation reviewed the US Fish & Wildlife Service's Environmental Conservation Online System (ECOS) database, via the Information for Planning and Conservation (IPaC) application, to determine the potential for species Federally-listed as Threatened or Endangered, or Candidate species for listing, under the Federal Endangered Species Act or their habitats to occur at the site. The IPaC report generated for the site returned a list of 12 Federally-listed or Candidate species, none of which were reported as having Critical Habitat in the project area: the California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*), Conservancy fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta conservatio*), vernal pool fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta lynchi*), vernal pool tadpole shrimp (*Lepidurus packardii*), Delta smelt (*Hypomesus transpacificus*), Longfin smelt (*Spirinchus thaleichthys*), gray wolf (*Canis lupus*), Northern spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis caurina*), yellow-billed cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*), Valley elderberry longhorn beetle (*Desmocerus californicus dimorphus*), Hoover's spurge (*Chamaesyce hooveri*) and slender orcutt grass (*Orcuttia tenuis*). Reclamation also queried the California Native Diversity Database (CNDDDB) for Federally-listed and Candidate species. Reclamation used the CNDDDB Biogeographic Information and Observation System (BIOS) and Spotted Owl Viewer mapping complements to refine the information obtained from the CNDDDB and IPaC report.

The CNDDDB/BIOS query produced reported occurrences of two additional Federally-protected species within a three-mile radius of the site: Central Valley steelhead (*Oncorhynchus mykiss*

irideus) and the West Coast fisher (*Pekania pennant*). However, based on previous coordination with the USFWS for other projects, the distinct population of the West Coast fisher that is proposed for Federal listing as Threatened is not the distinct population segment present in Shasta County.

Habitat requirements of the majority of the listed species identified during Reclamation's research include rivers, wetlands, vernal pools or poorly-drained features that function as vernal pools, which are absent from the site, including habitat for: California red-legged frog, Conservancy fairy shrimp, vernal pool fairy shrimp, vernal pool tadpole shrimp, Delta smelt, longfin smelt, Central Valley steelhead, Central Valley spring and winter-run salmon, Hoover's spurge and slender orcutt grass. Although Central Valley steelhead are present in Clear Creek near the Project area, BMPs and site controls to prevent sediment inputs to the stream are anticipated to prevent an impact to steelhead and other fish present in Clear Creek from work activities.

No elderberry trees or shrubs were reported on-site. Therefore, habitat for the Valley elderberry longhorn beetle is assumed absent. It is anticipated that vegetation clearing and construction will be completed outside the nesting season. No disturbance to birds that may be nesting in the canopy of the adjacent trees is anticipated. Therefore, no impacts to migratory birds are anticipated. If work cannot be conducted outside the nesting season, a bird and nest survey will be performed no more than five days prior to pre-construction activities. BMPs will be applied, and coordination with USFWS conducted, as appropriate, based on the results of the survey. BMPs would include non-disturbance buffers if nests or nesting birds are identified in close proximity to the work area. Vegetation clearing will be small-scale and would not alter contiguous forest cover. Therefore, species dependent on continuous forest habitat (Northern spotted owl and fisher) would not be impacted by project activities. Additionally, the nearest Northern spotted owl nest documented in the CNDDDB is greater than 7.5 miles from the work site. The construction and staging areas were previously disturbed and developed. Any noise or other disturbance of potential habitat for other avian and terrestrial species (gray wolf) in the surrounding area is considered short term and temporary.

Reclamation concluded that the action would have no effect to Federally-listed species or their habitat.

Figure 1. Vicinity Map

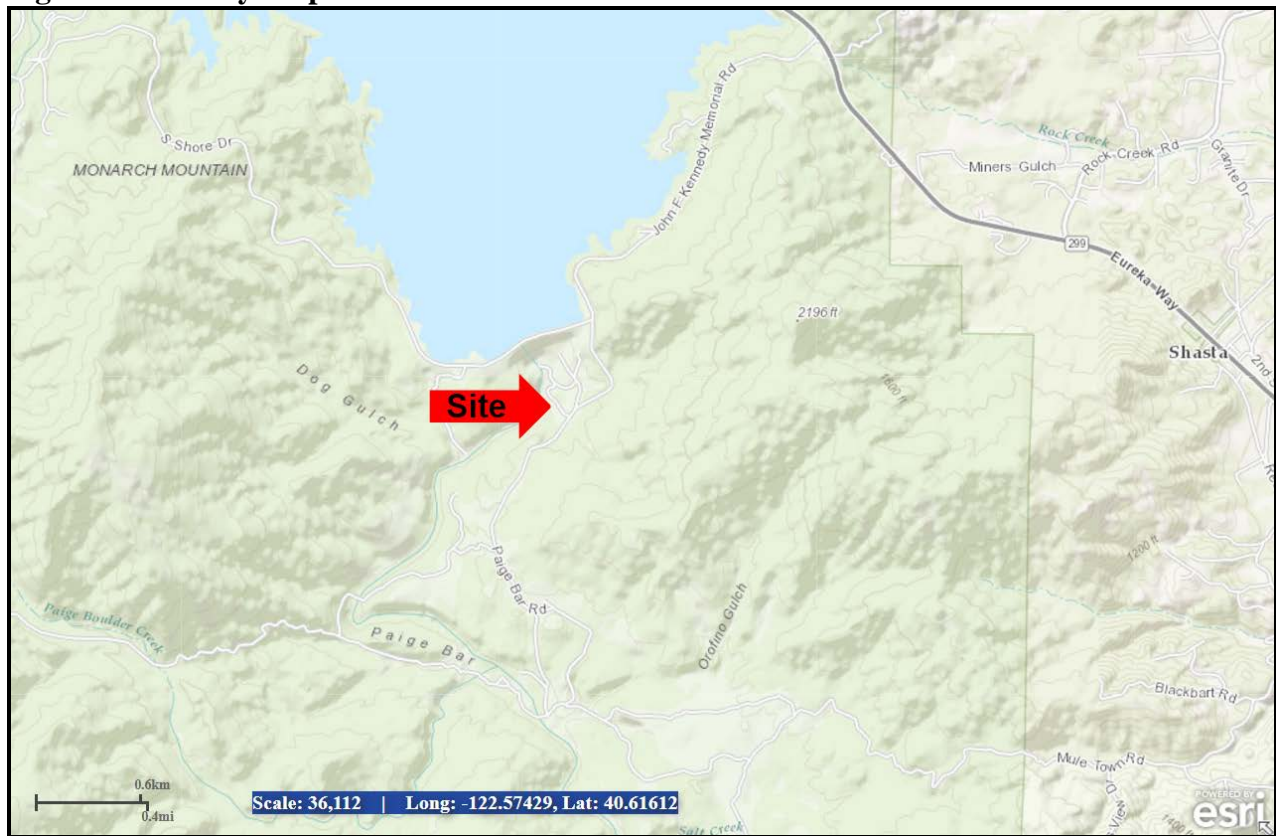


Figure 2. Site Map



Figure 3. Plan Details

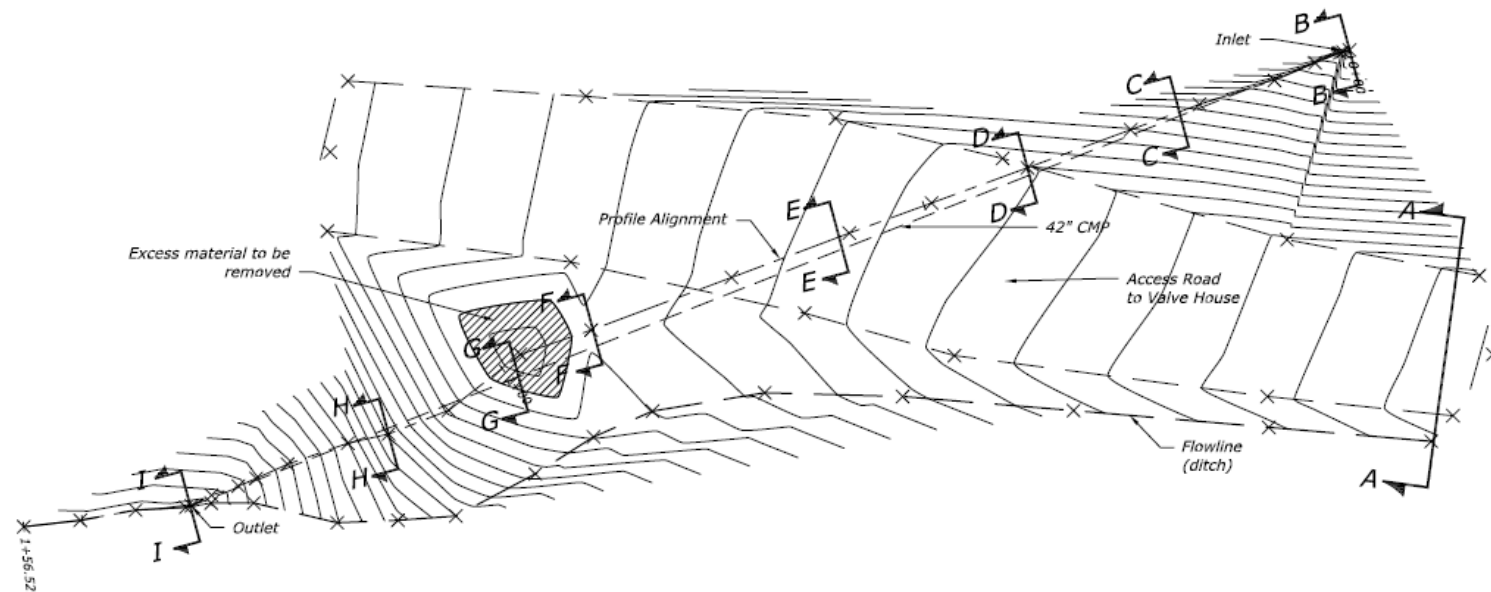
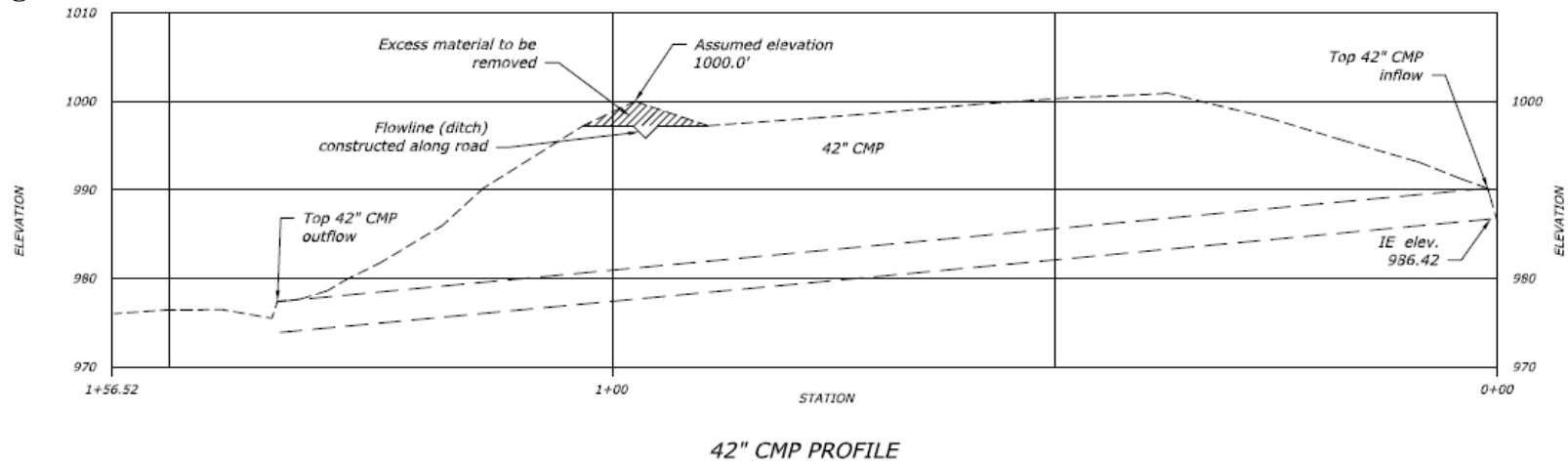


Figure 4A. Photograph of sinkhole created by failed culvert



Figure 4B. Photograph of temporary culvert repair



Figure 4C: Existing culvert inlet



Figure 4D: Existing culvert outlet



Attachment 1. Indian Trust Assets Review



Simon, Megan <msimon@usbr.gov>

ITA Review - Whiskeytown Control House Culvert Replacement and Service Rd Repair

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

Tue, Jul 25, 2017 at 1:56 PM

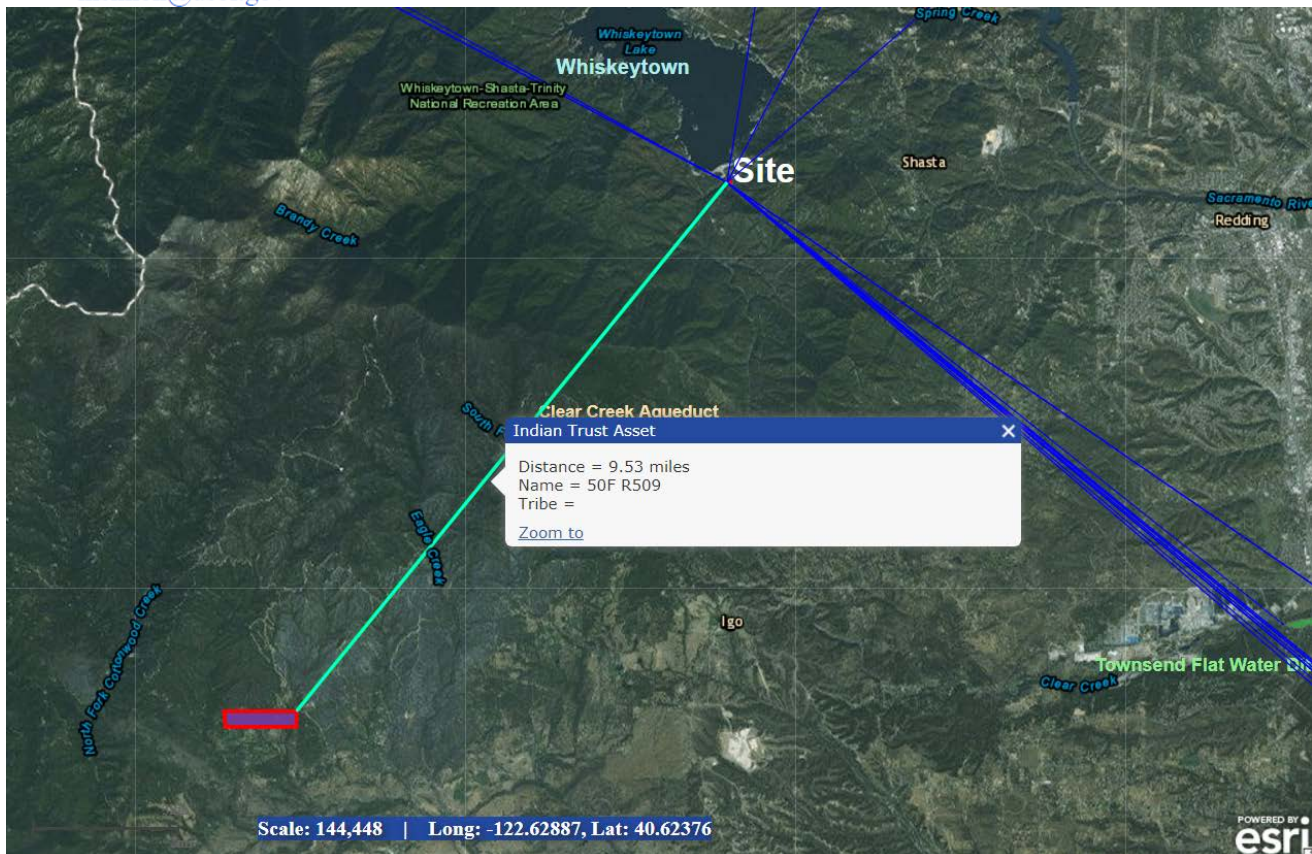
I have examined the referenced proposal and have determined that the facilities are located at least 9.5 miles from the closest Indian Trust Asset.

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
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(530) 276-2045
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CULTURAL RESOURCE COMPLIANCE
Mid-Pacific Region
Division of Environmental Affairs
Cultural Resources Branch

MP-153 Tracking Number: 17-NCAO-217

Project Name: Whiskeytown Control House Service Road Culvert Replacement, Shasta County, California

NEPA Document: NCAO-17-19

MP 153 Cultural Resources Reviewer: Mark Carper

NEPA Contact: Megan Simon

Determination: No Historic Properties Affected

Date: September 27, 2017

This proposed undertaking by Reclamation is to authorize construction of a culvert replacement project on Reclamation land in Shasta County, California. Reclamation determined that the approval of construction on Reclamation property is an undertaking as defined in 36 CFR § 800.16(y) and a type of activity that has the potential to cause effects on historic properties under 36 CFR § 800.3(a).

The proposed project entails the installation of a new 42 inch diameter culvert pipe (140 feet in length) to replace an existing, partially collapsed, culvert pipe. The road within which the pipe is situated was built either as part of the nearby construction of Whiskeytown Dam, or shortly thereafter. Current construction will include excavation for removal and replacement of the existing pipe with an inlet, an outlet, cobble lining, and erosion controls. The width of the trench for pipe installation will be approximately 72 inches and will be contained within the disturbed footprint of the existing culvert.

In an effort to identify historic properties, Reclamation conducted an internal archival review within the APE. No documented cultural resources were identified within, or in the vicinity of, the APE. The Whiskeytown Dam is the closest known potential historic property to the APE. The dam was built in 1963, however it has not been recorded or evaluated for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (National Register). Regardless, the dam is outside the current APE and will not be affected by the proposed project. Although constructed in support of dam operations, the culvert post-dates the dam construction by at least a decade. Should the dam be eligible for National Register

**CULTURAL RESOURCE COMPLIANCE
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Division of Environmental Affairs
Cultural Resources Branch**

project. Although constructed in support of dam operations, the culvert post-dates the dam construction by at least a decade. Should the dam be eligible for National Register inclusion, Reclamation determined that the culvert, through lack of physical integrity and temporal association, would not be a contributing element to the dam's eligibility regardless of criterion. Due to the nature, scope, and setting of the undertaking - with all proposed project activities being entirely limited to the existing disturbed landscape footprint of the Whiskeytown Dam construction environment, as well as the built access road and existing culvert, pedestrian survey was unwarranted. The original APE is situated upon what was a slope running from a terrace above the APE to the original Clear Creek course below the APE. The slope and terrace were significantly altered from dam construction and the creek re-routed further to the west.

Since, this undertaking is narrowly confined to the built environment of the disturbed footprint from the nearby Whiskeytown Dam construction, Reclamation determined this project has negligible potential to affect sites of religious or cultural significance to Native Americans. As such, consultations with Indian tribes were not considered necessary for this undertaking.

No historic properties were identified in the APE and, pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.4(d), Reclamation found no historic properties affected for the undertaking.

Reclamation initiated consultation with California the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) on September 20, 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 September 27, 2017.

I concur with Item 8 on CEC- NCAO-17-19. 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.

Attachment 2, Cont.

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

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September 26, 2017

In reply refer to: BUR_2017_0920_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 Whiskeytown Control House Service Road
Culvert Replacement, Shasta County, California (Project #17-CAO-217)

The State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) received on September 20, 2017 your letter initiating consultation and requesting expedited review for the above referenced undertaking under Section 106 of the NHPA, and its implementing regulations found at 36 CFR Part 800. Reclamation proposes to replace a failed culvert on a graveled service road located within the Whiskeytown Dam area. Reclamation has evaluated the proposal and is seeking comments on its finding of no historic properties affected. Documents included with the submittal are:

- *Enclosure 1: Maps: Figure 1: Project Location (USGS Quad); Figure 2: Area of Potential Effects (aerial photo with graphic overlay).*
- *Enclosure 2: Current Conditions Photos (three photos total)*
- *Enclosure 3: Historic Aerials pre-and post-dam construction: Figure 1: Pre-dam area with landscape indicators (1961); Figure 2: Post-dam project area with pre-dam overlay (1969).*

It is proposed to install a new 42-inch diameter, 140-foot long culvert pipe to replace an existing and partially collapsed failing culvert pipe on an existing service road. Historic photographs indicate this road was constructed either during, or shortly after, the building of the adjacent Whiskeytown Dam. Construction consists of excavation for removal and replacement of the existing pipe with a new inlet, an outlet, cobble lining, and erosion controls. The width of the trench for pipe installation will be about 72 inches and will be contained within the disturbed footprint of the existing culvert and roadbed.

The area of potential effects (APE) will be approximately 0.04 acres. The vertical extent of the APE is about 6 feet deep and is confined to the constructed fill of the existing culvert. The adjacent Whiskeytown Dam is well outside the current APE as defined, and will therefore not be affected by the proposed project.

In an effort to identify historic properties, Reclamation conducted an internal archival review encompassing the APE. No previously documented cultural resources were identified within the APE or within its vicinity. The Whiskeytown Dam (Dam) is the closest known potential historic property to the APE and was built in 1963. It has not, however, been recorded or evaluated for potential inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Although constructed in support of dam operations, the road and its culvert post-date the Dam construction by at least a decade. Should the Dam be eligible for NRHP inclusion, Reclamation determined that the culvert, through lack of physical integrity and temporal association, would not be considered as a contributing element to the Dam's overall eligibility regardless of criterion selected.

Attachment 2, Cont.

Ms. Anastasia T. Leigh
September 26, 2017
Page 2

BUR_2017_0920_001

Due to the nature, scope, and setting of the undertaking in which all proposed project activities are entirely limited to the existing disturbed landscape footprint of the overall Dam construction environment, including the subject built access road and existing culvert, pedestrian survey was considered to be unwarranted. The original area is situated upon what was a slope running from a terrace above the APE to the original Clear Creek course below. The historic slope and terrace were significantly altered by dam construction and the historic creek bed was substantially re-routed further west.

As this undertaking is narrowly confined to the built environment of the disturbed footprint from the nearby Dam construction, Reclamation states that it has determined that this project has negligible potential to affect sites of religious or cultural significance to Native Americans. As such, Reclamation did not initiate consultations with Indian tribes as it was not considered to be necessary given the above constraints and restricted area for this undertaking's APE.

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

After OHP staff review of the documentation, the following comments are offered:

- Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4(a)(1), there are no objections to the APE as defined;
- Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4(b), Reclamation has documented a reasonable and good faith effort to identify historic properties within the restricted 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