

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Categorical Exclusion Checklist

Contra Costa Water District kV Line Inspection and Repair between Pumping Plants 1 and 3

CEC-16-044

Prepared by:

Kate Connor
Kate Connor
Natural Resources Specialist
South-Central California Area Office

Date: October 19, 2017

Concurred by:

See Attachment A
Brandee Bruce
Mid-Pacific Regional Office
Regional Archeologist concurred with Item 8. Their determination has been placed within the project file.

Date: See Attachment A

Concurred by:

for Lisa Buck
Lisa Buck
Wildlife Biologist
South-Central California Area Office

Date: 10/19/17

Concurred by:

R Emerson
Rain L. Emerson
Supervisory Natural Resources Specialist
South-Central California Area Office
ITA Designee concurred with Item 11. Their determination has been placed within the project file.

Date: 10/20/17

Approved by:

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

Date: 10/20/17



Background

In April 2015, the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) completed Categorical Exclusion Checklist (CEC)-14-058 for proposed remediation activities within three Contra Costa Canal (Canal) Pumping Plant switchyards located in Contra Costa County (Reclamation 2014). The switchyards serve four Pumping Plants, which are referred to as PP1, PP2, PP3, and PP4 and are located at different points along the Canal with PP4 located in Antioch and PP1, PP2 and PP3 in Oakley. The switchyards are identified as CC1, CC3 (which serves PP2 and PP3), and CC4, respectively (Figure 1). CC1 and CC4 are located on land owned by Reclamation and CC3 is located on land owned by Western Area Power Administration (Western). Western owns the equipment within all three switchyards. Under an agreement with Reclamation, Contra Costa Water District (Contra Costa) is responsible for the operation and maintenance of all equipment within CC1, CC3, and CC4 and would be conducting all remediation activities and the equipment upgrades on Reclamation and Western's behalf.

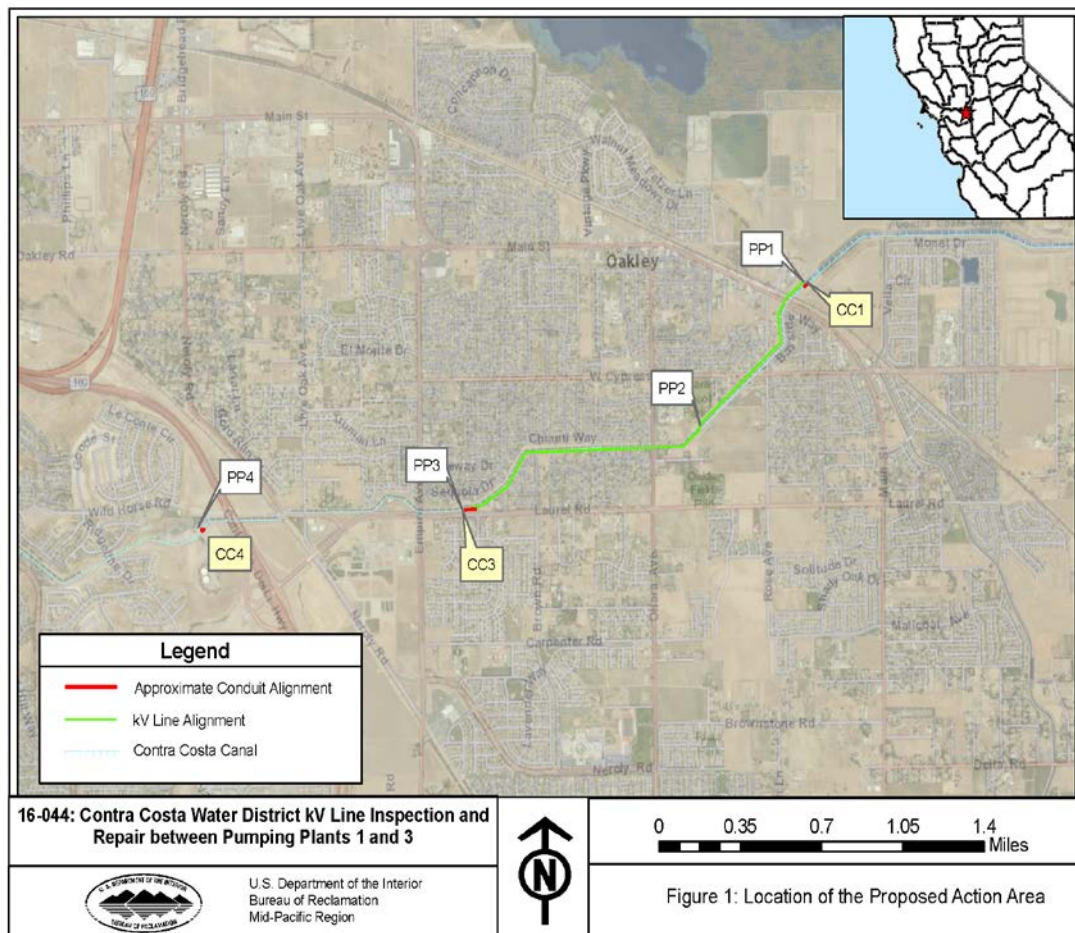


Figure 1 Switchyard Locations

Nature of the Action

Contra Costa, pursuant to its operating agreement (Contract No. 14-06-200-6072A) with Reclamation, would clean the insulators on approximately 60 poles along the 2.3 kV line, inspect, and repair all electrical components. To improve operational safety and control at PP1, PP3 and PP4, Contra Costa proposes to install buried conduit between each Switchyard and Pumping Plant to house power, communication and/or control wires.

Contra Costa would use a bucket truck (or similar) to clean the insulators and physically wipe down each insulator or pressure wash using demineralized water with a pressure washing truck. Contra Costa would utilize existing maintenance roads for access to electrical facilities. Repair work may include replacement of poles, guy wires, conductors, insulators, and conductor potheads (transition from overhead to below ground).

There will be no ground disturbing activities as part of the inspection and cleaning; however, if it is determined that guy wires or poles require replacement, limited excavation at those locations would be needed. Pole installation would include embedment of the pole approximately 6-8 feet below grade. The excavated volume per pole requiring replacement is estimated to be 30-40 cubic feet. If a guy wire requires replacement, it would require installation of the 12-inch anchor approximately 6 feet deep. In addition to the repairs detailed above, Contra Costa would also replace the existing disconnect switch with a pole mounted operator, a new pole (12-18 inches in diameter) and guy wires to support the weight of the new equipment at PP2 (located approximately 25 feet from PP2).

Contra Costa proposes to implement the following remediation activities at the following switchyards:

CC3 Switchyard & PP3 (See Figure 2)

- A duct bank (10 feet in length x 3 feet in depth x 18 inches wide) would be installed between the transformer and switchgear within the switchyard.
- A concrete encased duct bank, approximately 300 feet in length, would be installed between the switchyard and pumping plants to house high voltage power. The duct bank will be approximately 18'' wide and 36'' deep, buried 24'' below grade. Control conduits (approximately 2'') would be buried in a 24'' wide and 24'' deep trench, adjacent to the duct bank. Approximately four (4) 4 foot x 4 foot x 3 foot precast concrete in ground pull boxes would be installed at the site. These pull boxes would be flush to grade and lead into the duct bank.

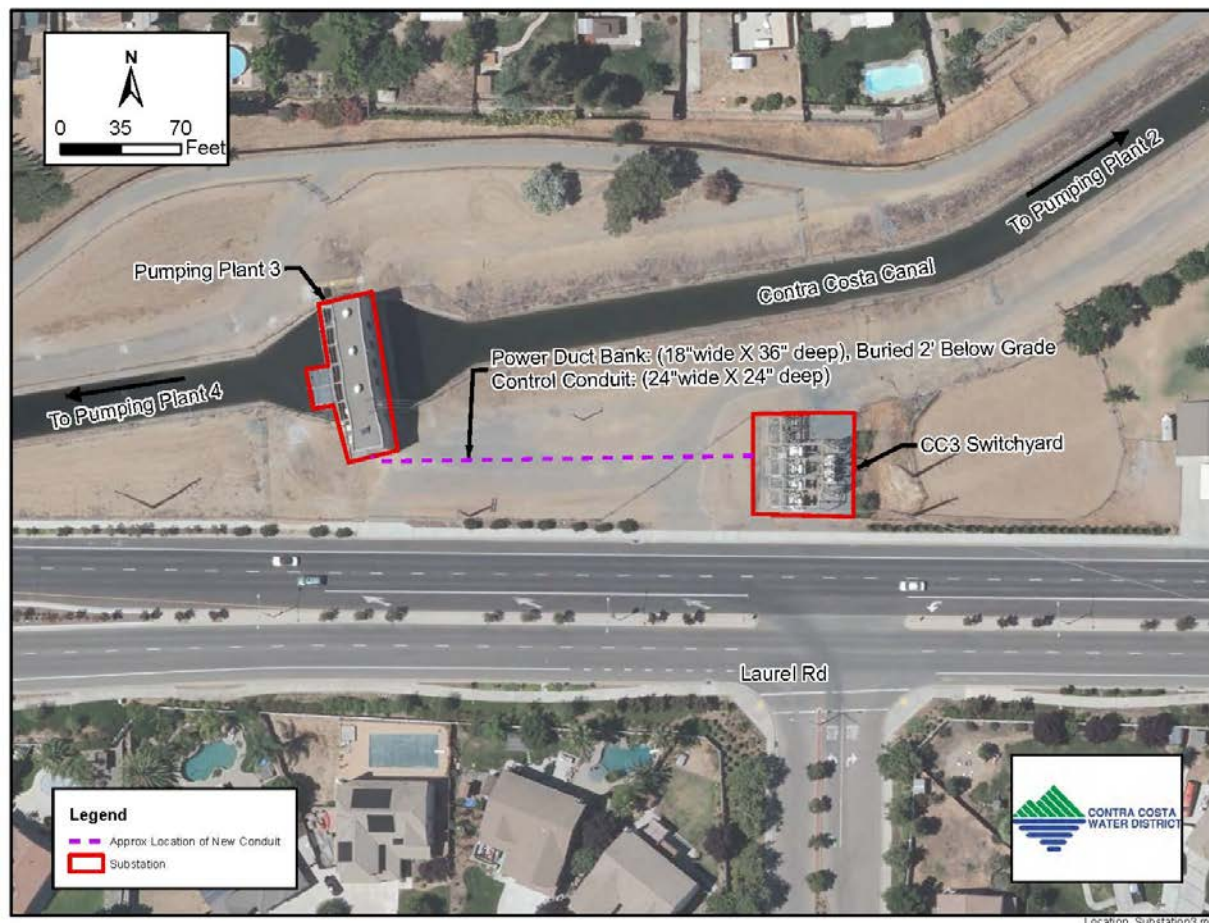


Figure 2 CC3 Switchyard and PP3 activities

CC1 Switchyard & PP1 (Figure 3)

- The substation footprint would be extended by 5 feet to the west to accommodate new equipment and maintain necessary electrical clearances. This would require enlarging the grounding grid, and removal and replacement of 4 inches of gravel.
- A duct bank (10 feet in length x 3 feet in depth x 18 inches wide) would be installed between the transformer and switchgear within the switchyard.

Conduits buried in trenches approximately 2 feet wide x 3 feet 6 inches deep would be installed. The conduits would be located approximately 50-100 linear feet between the pumping plant and the switchyard. Installation of an additional 3 foot x 3 foot x 4 foot pre-cast concrete in ground pull box would be needed. The pull box would be flush to grade.

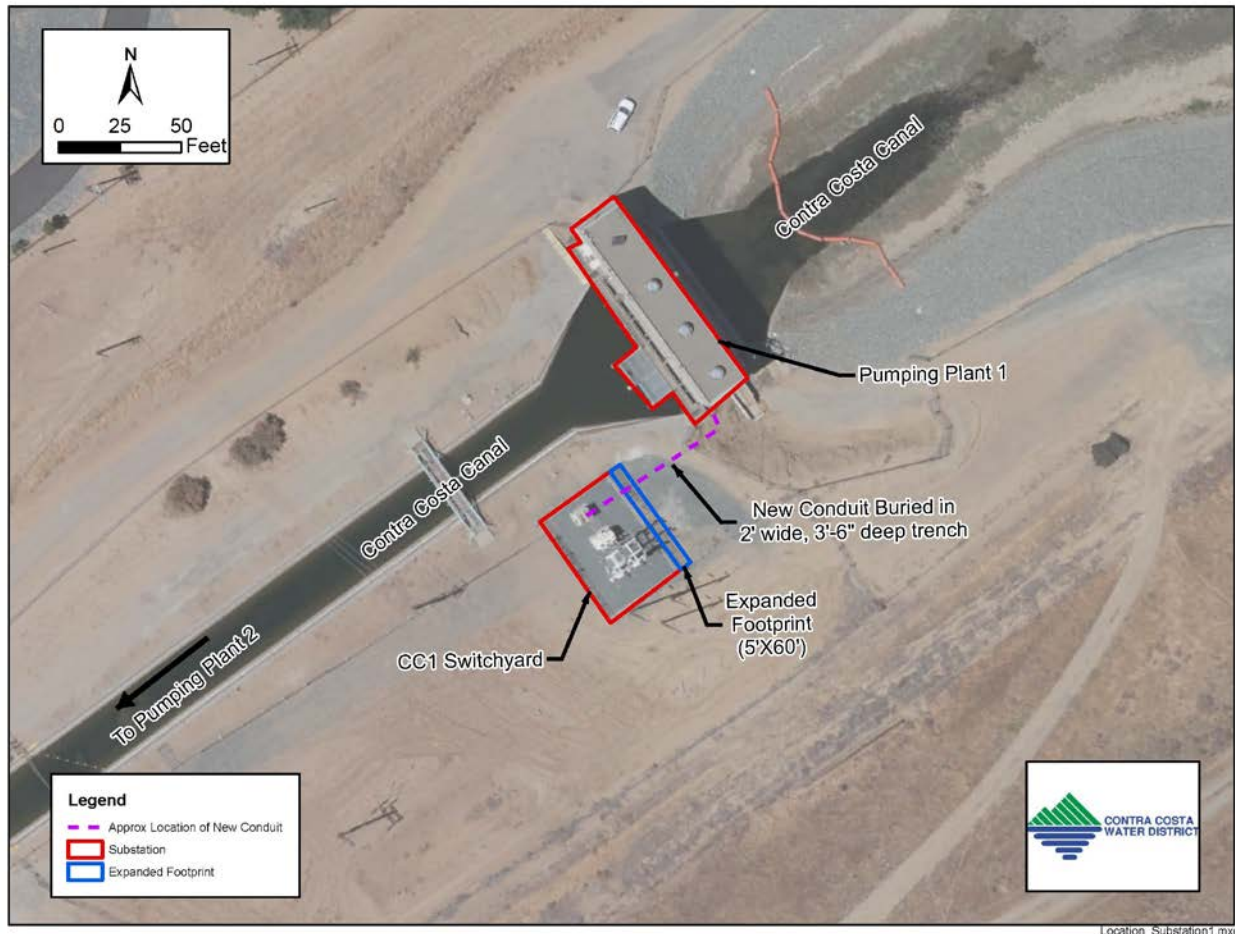


Figure 3 CC1 Switchyard and PP1

CC4 Switchyard & PP4 (Figure 4)

- Extend the substation footprint by 5 feet to the west to accommodate new equipment and maintain necessary electrical clearances. This would require enlarging the grounding grid, and removal and replacement of 4 inches of gravel.
- A duct bank (10 feet in length x 3 feet in depth x 18 inches wide) would be installed between the transformer and switchgear within the switchyard.
- Conduits would be buried in trenches approximately 2 feet wide x 3 feet 6 inches deep. The conduits would be located approximately 50-100 linear feet between the pumping plant and the switchyard. Installation of an additional pre-cast concrete in ground pull box (3 feet x 3 feet x 4 feet) would be needed. The pull box would be flush to grade.
- Existing metal platform would be extended approximately 10 feet to provide access to the new pumping plant switches. This would require additional 2 inch x 2 inch square footings, mounted on the sides of an existing v-ditch. Minor excavation to relocate the existing metal conduits are needed.

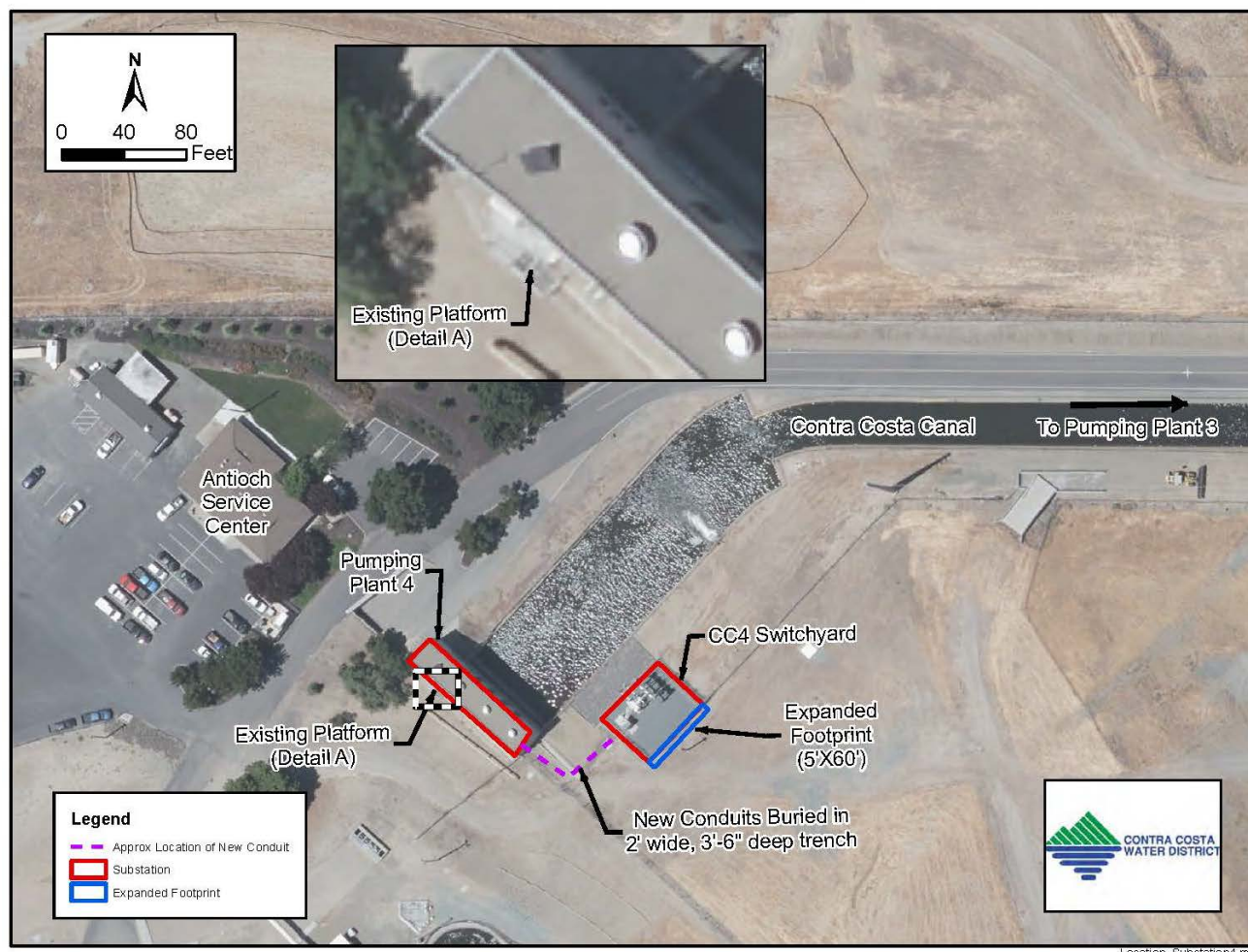


Figure 4 Switchyard and PP4

After completion of the remediation activities, including those previously covered in CEC-14-058, the 2.3 kV line would be energized as needed as a back-up power supply.

Environmental Commitments

Contra Costa shall implement the following environmental protection measures to avoid and/or reduce environmental consequences associated with the Proposed Action:

- Before the start of any ground-disturbing activities associated with the Proposed Action, a qualified biologist shall conduct focused surveys for burrowing owls in areas of suitable habitat on and within 250 feet of areas where ground disturbance will occur. A report documenting survey methods and findings shall be submitted to Reclamation at least 5 days before work starts on the Proposed Action.
- If occupied burrowing owl burrows are found, Reclamation shall be notified and work on the Proposed Action shall **not** begin until a qualified biologist has established a non-disturbance buffer of 160 feet during the non-breeding season (September 1 through January 31) or 250 feet during the breeding season (February 1 through August 31). The biologist shall remain on-site during construction to monitor the burrow, and may stop

construction at any time to avoid impacts to the owls. The buffer shall remain in place until the biologist determines the nest is no longer active.

- If a burrowing owl is observed at the construction site at any time during construction, a temporary non-disturbance buffer of approximately 160 feet shall be observed to establish a safe area for the animal until it leaves the construction area at its own volition.
- To the maximum extent possible, work shall be conducted outside of the nesting season (February 1 to August 31). If work on the project must be conducted during the nesting season, a qualified biologist shall survey the project area for migratory bird nests prior to the start of project activities, and shall establish appropriate non-disturbance buffers around any active nests that may be disturbed by project activities. If work must be conducted within these buffers, a qualified biologist shall be on site to monitor project activities conducted within the buffers. If the biologist determines that activities are likely to impact nesting or may result in nest abandonment, then project activities in that area shall be postponed until the nestlings have fledged, the nest is no longer active, or until the activities are no longer likely to result in impacts to the nest or nest abandonment.

Exclusion Category

516 DM 14.5 C (3). *Minor construction activities associated with authorized projects which correct unsatisfactory environmental conditions or which merely augment or supplement, or are enclosed within existing facilities.*

Evaluation of Criteria for Categorical Exclusion

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

Extraordinary Circumstance	No	Uncertain	Yes
1. This action would have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment (40 CFR 1502.3).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. This action would have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources (NEPA Section 102(2)(E) and 43 CFR 46.215(c)).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. This action would have significant impacts on public health or safety (43 CFR 46.215(a)).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. This action would have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographical characteristics as historic or cultural resources; parks, recreation, and refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (EO 11990); flood plains (EO 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas (43 CFR 46.215 (b)).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. This action would have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks (43 CFR 46.215(d)).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. This action would establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Extraordinary Circumstance	No	Uncertain	Yes
(43 CFR 46.215 (e)).			
7. This action would have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects (43 CFR 46.215 (f)).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. This action would have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by Reclamation (LND 02-01) (43 CFR 46.215 (g)).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. This action would have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated critical habitat for these species (43 CFR 46.215 (h)).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. This action would violate a Federal, tribal, State, or local law or requirement imposed for protection of the environment (43 CFR 46.215 (i)).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. This action would affect ITAs (512 DM 2, Policy Memorandum dated December 15, 1993).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
12. This action would have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (EO 12898) (43 CFR 46.215 (j)).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
13. This action would limit access to, and ceremonial use of, Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (EO 13007, 43 CFR 46.215 (k), and 512 DM 3)).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
14. This action would contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act, EO 13112, and 43 CFR 46.215 (l)).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

NEPA Action: Categorical Exclusion

The Proposed Action is covered by the exclusion category and no extraordinary circumstances exist. The Action is excluded from further documentation in an EA or EIS.

Attachment A: Cultural Resources Determination

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

MP-153 Tracking Number: 17-SCAO-068

Project Name: Contra Costa Water District (CCWD) 2.3 Kilovolt (kV) Line Inspection, Repair, and Restoration along the Contra Costa Canal (CCC), Contra Costa County, California

NEPA Document: 16-044

MP 153 Cultural Resources Reviewer: Lex Palmer

NEPA Contact: Kate Connor

Determination: No Adverse Effect

Date: October 17, 2017

This proposed undertaking by Reclamation is to authorize CCWD, pursuant to its operating agreement (Contract No. 14-06-200-6072A) with Reclamation, to inspect, repair, and restore multiple components along the CCC, which is a Reclamation-owned property located on Reclamation lands. Reclamation determined that the approval of the inclusion 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).

CCWD proposes to perform inspections and conduct repairs on the electrical distribution system that provides power to four pumping plants on the CCC. In addition, an existing 2.3kV electrical distribution line would be restored to service. As part of this current effort, Reclamation evaluated the 2.3 kV transmission line that runs on Reclamation property from PP1 to PP3. Reclamation determined that a portion of the transmission line, from PP2 to PP3, was replaced in 1989 and it does not meet any of the significance requirements of the National Register.

Reclamation initiated consultation with the California State Preservation Office (SHPO) by letter dated September 14, 2017 requesting concurrence with a finding of no adverse effects to historic properties for the proposed project. Pursuant to the regulations at 36 CFR §800.5(c), SHPO has 30 days from receipt to review an agency finding. The SHPO has yet to respond to Reclamation's finding of effect. If after 30 days the SHPO has not responded, the regulations state that "...the agency official shall then carry out the undertaking in accordance with paragraph (d)(1) of this section" [§800.5(c)(1)]. Because the SHPO has failed to comment on Reclamation's finding within the period of time provided to them pursuant to the Section 106 regulations, Reclamation may move on to the next step of the Section 106 process.

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

I concur with Item 8 on CEC-16-044. 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.