

RECLAMATION

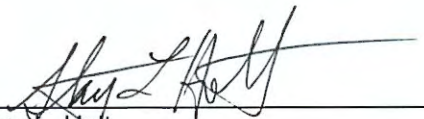
Managing Water in the West

Categorical Exclusion Checklist

Friant Division 215 Contracts for Contract Year 2018

CEC-17-033

Prepared by:



Stacy L. Holt
Natural Resources Specialist
South-Central California Area Office

Date: 11/01/2017

Concurred by:

See Attachment A

Archaeologist
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:



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: 11/01/2017

Approved by:



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

Date: 11/02/2017



Background

Section 215 of the Reclamation Reform Act, Public Law 97-293 authorizes the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) to provide temporary water service contracts (215 contracts) for unstorable flood flows (Section 215 water) as a result of (1) an unusually large water supply not otherwise storable for project purposes; or (2) infrequent and otherwise unmanaged flood flows of short duration.

Nature of the Action

Reclamation proposes to execute 215 contracts during Contract Year 2018 (March 1, 2018 through February 28, 2019) for temporary supply of Section 215 water to Central Valley Project (CVP) and non-CVP contractors located within the Friant Division's CVP Place of Use (Figure 1). Section 215 water delivery would be from existing facilities and/or the San Joaquin River as shown in Figure 1. One non-CVP contractor, Table Mountain Rancheria, would take 215 deliveries directly from Millerton Reservoir.

The availability of Section 215 water would be at Reclamation's discretion and dependent on reservoir capacity and operations, hydrologic conditions, and Friant operating guidelines. The priority for the provision of temporary water is specified by the Friant Operational Guidelines. A list of all potential recipients is located in Table 1.

No construction or modification of facilities will be needed for delivery of this water.

Contractors requiring the use of State Water Project facilities are responsible for coordinating conveyance with the Department of Water Resources.

Contractors requiring the use of the Cross Valley Canal are responsible for coordinating conveyance with the Kern County Water Agency.

Section 215 water may be used for irrigation and municipal and industrial purposes and must be used within the contractor's water service boundary and within the Friant Division's Place of Use.

No banking, transferring, or exchanging of Section 215 water would be allowed unless otherwise approved by Reclamation.



Figure 1 Friant Place of Use (POU) location within the Central Valley

Table 1 Potential Contract Year 2018 Section 215 Surplus Water Recipients

Friant Division Contractors	
Arvin-Edison Water Storage District	Chowchilla Water District
City of Fresno	City of Lindsay
City of Orange Cove	County of Madera
Delano-Earlimart Irrigation District	Exeter Irrigation District
Fresno County Waterworks #18	Fresno Irrigation District
Garfield Water District	Gravelly Ford Water District
Hills Valley Irrigation District	International Water District
Ivanhoe Irrigation District	Kaweah Delta Water Conservation District
Kern-Tulare Water District	Lewis Creek Water District
Lindmore Irrigation District	Lindsay-Strathmore Irrigation District
Lower Tule River Irrigation District	Madera Irrigation District
Orange Cove Irrigation District	Porterville Irrigation District
Saucelito Irrigation District	Shafter-Wasco Irrigation District
Southern San Joaquin Municipal Utility District	Stone Corral Irrigation District
Tea Pot Dome Water District	Terra Bella Irrigation District
Tri-Valley Water District	Tulare Irrigation District
Cross Valley Contractors	
County of Fresno ¹	County of Tulare ²
Hills Valley Irrigation District	Kern-Tulare Water District (previously combined with Rag Gulch Water District)
Lower Tule River Irrigation District	Pixley Irrigation District
Tri-Valley water District	
Mendota Pool Contractors	
Fresno Slough Water District	San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors
Tranquillity PUD	Central California Irrigation District
James Irrigation District	San Luis Canal Company
Laguna Water District	Firebaugh Canal Company
Reclamation District No. 1606	Columbia Canal Company
Coelho Family Trust	Marvin and Patricia Meyers
Tranquillity Irrigation District	Dudley Indart
Westlands Water District Distribution Districts 1 and 2	
Non-CVP Contractors	
Buena Vista Water Storage District	Lakeside Irrigation District
Consolidated Irrigation District	Liberty Water District
Cawelo Water District	North Kern Water Storage District
Corcoran Irrigation District	Poso Creek Water Company
Hermosa Water Company	Root Creek Water District
Kaweah Delta Water Conservation District ³	Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water Storage District
Kern County Water Agency ⁴	Semitropic Water Storage District
Kern Water Bank Authority ⁵	Table Mountain Rancheria
Kings River Conservation District ⁶	Tulare Lake Basin Water Storage District

¹Including its subcontractors: Fresno County Service Areas #5, #10, and #14 and Fresno County Water Works #34.

²Including its subcontractors: Alpaugh Irrigation District, Atwell Island Water District, City of Lindsay, Smallwood Vineyards, Hills Valley Irrigation District, Saucelito Irrigation District, Stone Corral Irrigation District, Strathmore Public Utilities District, Styrotek, Inc., and City of Visalia.

³Including its subcontractors: Corcoran Irrigation District, Lakeside Irrigation District, and Kings County Water District.

⁴Including its subcontractors: Kern Delta Water District, Rosedale-Rio Bravo Water Storage District, Henry Miller Water District, and Buena Vista Water Storage District.

⁵Including its subcontractors: Kern County Water Agency, Westside Mutual Water Company, Semitropic Water Storage District.

⁶Including its subcontractors: Alta Irrigation District, Clark's Fork Reclamation District No. 2069, Consolidated Irrigation District, Corcoran Irrigation District, Empire West Side Irrigation District, Fresno Irrigation District, James Irrigation District, Kings County Water District, Kings River Water District, Laguna Irrigation District, Lakeside Irrigation Water District, Liberty Water District, Mid-Valley Water District, Raisin City Water District, Riverdale Irrigation District, Salyer Water District, Stratford Irrigation District, Tulare Lake Basic Water Storage District, Tulare Lake Reclamation District No. 761, Tulare Ditch Company, Corcoran Irrigation Company, Crescent Canal Company, John Heinlen Mutual Water Company, Last Change Water Ditch Company, Lemoore Canal and Irrigation District, Liberty Canal Company, Liberty Mill Race Company, Lovelace Water Corporation, Peoples Ditch Company, Reed Ditch Company, Southeast Lake Water Company, Stinson Canal and Irrigation Company, Upper San Jose Water Company, and Tranquility Irrigation District.

Environmental Commitments

CVP and non-CVP contractors shall implement the environmental protection measures to avoid environmental consequences associated with the Proposed Action included in Table 2.

Table 2 Environmental Protection Measures

Resource	Protective Measure
Biological Resources	No new facilities would be constructed to convey this water.
Biological Resources	Lands that have never been tilled or irrigated shall not be tilled or put into agricultural production using this water.
Biological Resources	Lands that have been fallowed for three consecutive years, or more, shall not be irrigated with this surplus water.

Environmental consequences for resource areas assume the measures specified would be fully implemented.

Exclusion Category

516 DM 14.5 D (4): *Approval, execution and implementation of water service contracts for minor amounts of long-term water use or temporary or interim water use where the action does not lead to long-term changes and where the impact are expected to be localized.*

Evaluation of Criteria for Categorical Exclusion

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

Extraordinary Circumstance	No	Uncertain	Yes
1. This action would have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment (40 CFR 1502.3).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
2. This action would have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources (NEPA Section 102(2)(E) and 43 CFR 46.215(c)).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
3. This action would have significant impacts on public health or safety (43 CFR 46.215(a)).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
4. This action would have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographical characteristics as historic or cultural resources; parks, recreation, and refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (EO 11990); flood plains (EO 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas (43 CFR 46.215 (b)).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
5. This action would have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks (43 CFR 46.215(d)).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
6. This action would establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects (43 CFR 46.215 (e)).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
7. This action would have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects (43 CFR 46.215 (f)).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
8. This action would have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by Reclamation (LND 02-01) (43 CFR 46.215 (g)).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
9. This action would have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated critical habitat for these species (43 CFR 46.215 (h)).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
10. This action would violate a Federal, tribal, State, or local law or requirement imposed for protection of the environment (43 CFR 46.215 (i)).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
11. This action would affect ITAs (512 DM 2, Policy Memorandum dated 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 RESOURCES COMPLIANCE
Division of Environmental Affairs
Cultural Resources Branch (MP-153)

MP-153 Tracking Number: 18-SCAO-022

Project Name: Friant Division 215 Contract for 2018 Contract Year

NEPA Document: CEC-17-033

NEPA Contact: Stacy Holt, Natural Resources Specialist

MP-153 Cultural Resources Reviewer: Gary Scholze, Archaeologist



Date: October 30, 2017

Reclamation proposes to execute 215 contracts during Contract Year 2018 (March 1, 2018 through February 28, 2019) for temporary supply of Section 215 water to Central Valley Project (CVP) and non-CVP contractors located within the Friant Division's CVP Place of Use, including those located around the Mendota Pool. Section 215 water delivery would be from existing facilities and/or the San Joaquin River. The availability of Section 215 water would be at Reclamation's discretion and dependent on reservoir capacity and operations, hydrologic conditions, and Friant operating guidelines. The priority for the provision of temporary water is specified by the Friant Operational Guidelines. No construction or modification of facilities is needed for delivery of this water.

Reclamation has determined that the proposed action is the type of activity that does not have the potential to cause effects on historic properties pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.3(a)(1). As such, Reclamation has no further obligations under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (54 U.S.C. § 306108). Based on analysis of the project activities, I concur with Item 8 in CEC-16-048 that the proposed action would have no significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

This document conveys the completion of the cultural resources review and Section 106 process for this undertaking. Please retain a copy with the administrative record for this action. Should the proposed action change, additional review under Section 106, possibly including consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer, may be required.