

# RECLAMATION

*Managing Water in the West*

## Categorical Exclusion Checklist

### Arvin-Edison Water Storage District South-of-Delta 215 Contract for Contract Year 2017

CEC-17-037

Prepared by:

Kate Connor

Kate Connor  
Natural Resources Specialist  
South-Central California Area Office

Date: 10/25/2017

Concurred by:

See Attachment A

Gary Scholze  
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:

Jennifer Phillips

Jennifer Phillips  
Wildlife Biologist  
South-Central California Area Office

Date: 10/25/2017

Concurred by:

Rain L. 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: 10/26/2017

Approved by:

Michael P. Jackson

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

Date: 11/2/2017





## **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 issue Arvin-Edison Water Storage District (Arvin-Edison) a temporary Section 215 contract for receipt of Section 215 water from the South of Delta Central Valley Project (CVP) for Contract Year 2017 (March 1, 2017 through February 28, 2018). Section 215 water would be delivered to Arvin-Edison from existing facilities as shown in Figure 1.

When Section 215 water is available, Reclamation reviews the estimated Jones Pumping Plant capacity on a continuing basis. The daily amount of Section 215 water available may be revised based on the estimated Jones Pumping Plant capacity in order to ensure that Section 215 deliveries do not result in early drawdown of CVP storage in San Luis Reservoir or adversely affect other CVP contractors.

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

Arvin-Edison is responsible for coordination with the Department of Water Resources for any use of State Water Project facilities to convey this water.

Arvin-Edison is responsible for coordination with the Kern County Water Agency for any use of the Cross Valley Canal for conveyance of this water.

Section 215 water may be used for irrigation, municipal, and industrial purposes and must be used within Arvin-Edison's water service boundary and the CVP Consolidated Place of Use.

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



Figure 1 Arvin Edison water storage district



Priorities for delivery of Section 215 water are conducted in the following order as directed by the Area Manager and the Central Valley Operations Office (Table 1):

Table 1 Potential Recipients

<b>First Priority</b>	
Banta-Carbona Irrigation District	Byron Bethany Irrigation District
California Department of Fish and Wildlife	City of Avenal
City of Coalinga	City of Huron
City of Tracy	Del Puerto Water District
Department of Veteran's Affairs	Dos Palos Joint Power Authority
Eagle Field Water District	Mercy Springs Water District
Oro Loma Water District	Pacheco Water District
Panoche Water District	Patterson Irrigation District
The West Side Irrigation District	West Stanislaus Irrigation District
Westlands Water District	San Luis Water District
<b>Second Priority</b>	
Coelho Family Trust	Dudley & Indart
Fresno Slough Water District	James Irrigation District
Laguna Water District	Lempesis, Virginia L. (Carvalho, Kenneth)
Meyers Farming	Pajaro Valley Water Management Agency
Reclamation District No. 1606	San Benito County Water District
Santa Clara Valley Water District	San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors*
Tranquillity Irrigation District	Tranquillity Public Utility District
Westlands Water District	Westlands Water District Distribution District No. 1
Westlands Water District Distribution District No. 2	
* Central California Irrigation District, Columbia Canal Company, Firebaugh Canal Water District, and San Luis Canal Company	
<b>Third Priority</b>	
County of Fresno <sup>1</sup>	County of Tulare <sup>2</sup>
Kern-Tulare Water District (previously combined with Rag Gulth Water District)	Lower Tule River Irrigation District
Pixley Irrigation District	Tri-Valley water District
Hills Valley Irrigation District	Arvin Edison Water Storage District
	Poso Creek Water Company
<sup>1</sup> Including its subcontractors: Fresno County Service Areas #5, #10, and #14 and Fresno County Water Works #34.	
<sup>2</sup> Including its subcontractors: Alpaugh Irrigation District, Atwell Island Water District, City of Lindsay, Hills Valley Irrigation District, Saucelito Irrigation District, Stone Corral Irrigation District, Strathmore Public Utilities District, Styrotek, Inc., and City of Visalia.	

## Environmental Commitments

Arvin-Edison shall implement the following environmental protection measures to avoid environmental consequences associated with the Proposed Action (Table 2).

Table 2 Environmental Commitments

<b>Resource</b>	<b>Protective Measure</b>
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 and untilled 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 impacts 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-016

**Project Name:** Arvin-Edison Water Storage District South-of-Delta 215 Contract for Contract Year 2017

**NEPA Document:** CEC-17-037

**NEPA Contact:** Kate Connor, Natural Resources Specialist

**MP 153 Cultural Resources Reviewer:** Gary Scholze, Archaeologist



**Date:** October 19, 2017

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Reclamation proposes to add Arvin-Edison Water Storage District to the Executed 215 contracts for Water year 2017 (March 1, 2017 through February 28, 2018) for the temporary supply of Section 215 water to South-of-Delta Central Valley Project (CVP) and non-CVP contractors located within the Consolidated Place of Use, including those located around the Mendota Pool. The original Categorical Exclusion Checklist (CEC) 16-049 was signed by Reclamation in December of 2016. No new construction, ground-disturbing activities, and or land use changes would occur as part of the Proposed Action.

Reclamation determined the proposed action constitutes a Federal undertaking, as defined at 36 CFR § 800.16(y), that has no potential to cause effects to historic properties pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.3(a)(1). As such, Reclamation has no further obligations under Title 54 U.S.C. § 306108, commonly known as Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). The proposed action will not have significant impacts on properties listed or eligible for listing in the in the National Register of Historic Places.

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