

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Categorical Exclusion Checklist

Design and Fabrication of Juvenile Fish Collection Systems BDO-CEC- 1604

Prepared by:



Carolyn Bragg
Natural Resources Specialist
Bay-Delta Area Office

Date: 06/14/2017

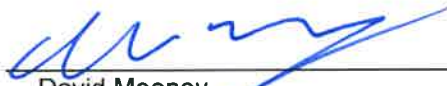
Concur:

(See Attached)

Cultural Resources Specialist

Date: _____

Approved by:



David Mooney
Acting Area Manager
Bay-Delta Area Office

Date: 6/16/2017



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
Bay-Delta Area Office

June 2017

Proposed Action

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) would provide funding for the design, fabrication, laboratory testing, and delivery of two juvenile fish collection systems to potentially be used above high-head dams. The two fish collection systems were conceptualized as part of a multi-year collaboration involving an interagency group of fish passage experts from five states. One collection system would be designed to be tested and used in a river environment and the other would be designed for use in a reservoir. The purpose of providing funding for this action is to develop and evaluate a workable system for collecting juvenile salmon above dams and reservoirs and transporting them below dams to continue their lifecycle. This environmental documentation does not cover the initial hydraulic testing of the fish collection systems.

Potential options for the initial hydraulic testing could include the head of Folsom Reservoir and the toe drain of the Yolo Bypass in California or a Willamette River tributary in Oregon. If the design and fabrication of the two collection systems are determined suitable for hydraulic testing, and a location where they would be tested and potentially utilized for data collection is determined, then Reclamation would need to evaluate the need for additional environmental compliance documentation prior to undertaking actions involving the use of the fish collection systems.

Exclusion Category

516 D 14.5 A (3) Research activities, such as nondestructive data collection and analysis, monitoring, modeling, laboratory testing, calibration, and testing of instruments or procedures and nonmanipulative field studies.

Project Description

The Proposed Action consists of Reclamation providing funding for a contractor to design, fabricate, and deliver two fish collection systems.

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

practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (EO 13007, 43 CFR 46.215 (k), and 512 DM 3)).

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 (attached).

Special Considerations

Reclamation determined that the Proposed Action has no potential to affect threatened or endangered species or species of special concern nor does it have the potential to affect suitable or critical habitat for such species. The Proposed Action would not impact Indian hunting or fishing resources or water rights nor would the Proposed Action be implemented on Indian lands. Indian Trust Assets would not be impacted by the Proposed Action.

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

CULTURAL RESOURCES COMPLIANCE
Division of Environmental Affairs
Cultural Resources Branch (MP-153)

MP-153 Tracking Number: 17-CCAO-185

Project Name: Design and Fabrication of Juvenile Fish Collectors

NEPA Document: CCAO-CEC-1604

NEPA Contact: Carolyn Bragg, Natural Resources Specialist

MP-153 Cultural Resources Reviewer: Gary Scholze, Archaeologist



Date: June 8, 2017

Reclamation proposes to provide funding for the design, fabrication, and delivery of two juvenile fish collector systems to potentially be used above high-head dams of the Central Valley Project. The objective of the fish collectors is to demonstrate the efficiency of collecting juvenile fish for future data collection needs within the Central Valley Project and associated Reclamation facilities. The proposed action consists of strictly funding for the contractor to design, fabricate, deliver, and store two fish collectors. No construction or ground-disturbing activities are associated with this action.

Reclamation determined that the proposed action is the type of undertaking that does not have the potential to cause effects on historic properties, should such properties be present, pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.3(a)(1). As such, Reclamation has no further obligations under 54 U.S.C. § 306108, commonly known as Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA).

This document conveys the completion of the cultural resources review and NHPA Section 106 process for this undertaking. The proposed action would have no impacts on cultural resources. Please retain a copy of this document with the administrative record for the proposed action. Should the proposed action change or implementation of any of the planning activities, additional review under Section 106, possibly including consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer, may be required.