

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Categorical Exclusion Checklist

Santa Barbara County Rope Adventure Course at Lake Cachuma Recreation Area

CEC-17-027

Prepared by:



Jennifer L. Lewis
Natural Resources Specialist
South-Central California Area Office

Date: 1-17-2018

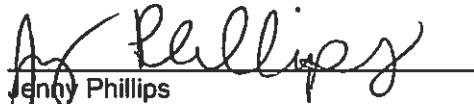
Concurred by:

See Attachment A

Mark Carper
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:



Jenny Phillips
Wildlife Biologist
South-Central California Area Office

Date: 1-17-2018

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: 01/17/2018

Approved by:



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

Date: 01/17/2018



Nature of the Action

The County, on behalf of Reclamation, proposes to construct a ropes adventure course at the Lake Cachuma Recreational area in Santa Barbara County, California (Figure 1).

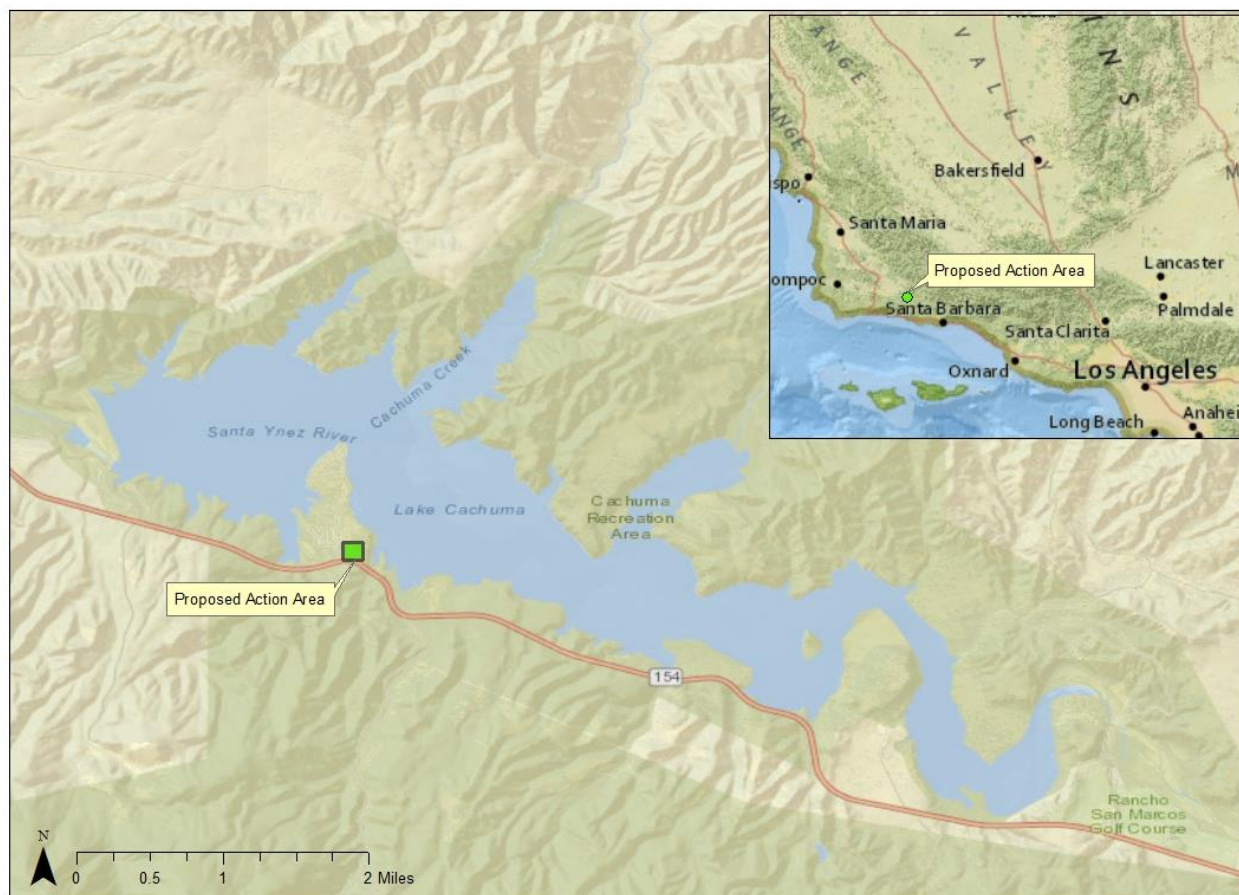


Figure 1 General Vicinity of the Proposed Action

The course will consist of 4 towers and one main structure (Figure 2). Each tower is a maximum of 48 feet tall and will have four support posts. The support posts are 20 inches in diameter and will be buried in a 24 inch diameter wide by 7 foot deep hole. The main structure will consist of two yurt style cabins and the main ropes course, and encompass an area of approximately 120 feet wide by 60 feet long by 50 feet tall (See Figure 3). The yurts will require 45 support posts, each post will be 8 inches in diameter, and will be attached to a concrete footer that is 10-12 inches in diameter. The footer will be buried in a hole that could vary from 12-36 inches. The main ropes course area will require 14 posts, each post will be 20 inches in diameter and will be buried in a 24 inch diameter hole down to a depth of 7 feet, in addition to 5 footings that will be buried in an 84 inch diameter wide by 16 inch deep hole.



Figure 2 Location of the Proposed Action

The location of the course would be in a previously disturbed area surrounding the pool facility at Lake Cachuma Recreational area. The course construction and operation would avoid all existing trees and vegetation in the area. Vehicle/equipment used for these disturbed areas would consist of a crane, telehandler, track steer, auger, aerial lift, and power hand tools. Construction would take approximately 8 weeks to complete.

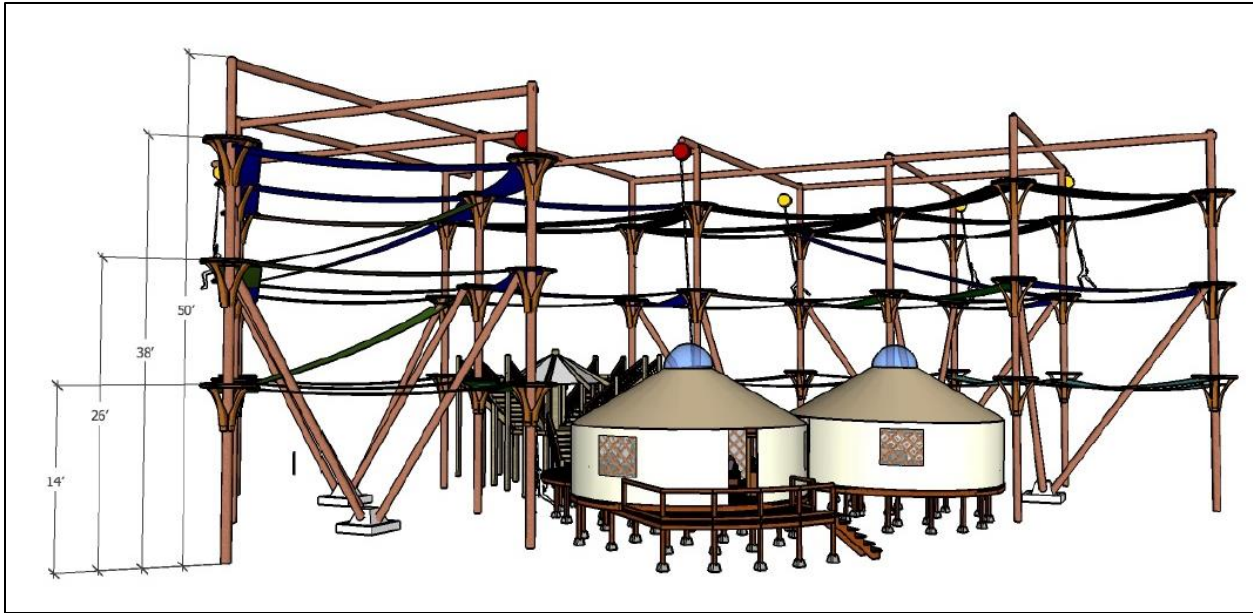


Figure 3 Main Structure Conceptual Drawing

Environmental Commitments

The County shall implement the following environmental protection measures to avoid environmental consequences associated with the Proposed Action.

- a. Before initiating construction for the Proposed Action, the contractor shall slowly walk the area where ground disturbance will occur and the immediate vicinity and shall visually search the area for frogs. Vegetation, litter, rocks or other material that could obscure a frog shall be inspected. If a frog is observed, it should be allowed to move away of its own volition. The length of the frog, from snout to vent, shall be estimated, general coloration and any distinguishing characteristics (i.e. pattern and distribution of spotting, coloration, particularly at base of hind legs, stripes or mask through eye, etc.) shall be noted and recorded. If possible, photographs shall be taken. If photographs are taken, an identifiable object near the frog and wholly with the frame of the photograph shall be measured with a ruler. Documentation of an observation shall be immediately transmitted to Reclamation environmental staff and no work shall commence until that information is reviewed and notification of permission to proceed is provided by a Reclamation biologist.
- b. If the ropes course is to be constructed during the bird nesting season (months of February through August), prior to work on the Proposed Action, a qualified biologist shall visually survey vegetation for the presence of nesting birds at areas where facilities will be constructed and in the immediate vicinity prior to work. If a nesting migratory bird is found, the biologist shall establish an appropriate non-disturbance buffer around the nest based on the needs of the species observed, the proposed activity, and the habitat type. The buffer should be delineated with construction tape or pin flags, and should remain in place until the young have fledged or until a qualified biologist determines that the nest is no longer active. All survey

documentation shall be submitted to Reclamation prior to the start of work on the Proposed Action.

- c. When constructing and maintaining facilities, burrows (e.g., of small mammals, etc.) shall be avoided and not be disturbed. Posts shall be placed where they do not cover burrows and shall be located as far from burrows as practicable to minimize foot traffic in the vicinity of the burrow(s).
- d. If the proposed course is constructed, any trimming of trees for maintenance of ropes course must be checked by a qualified biologist for nesting birds beforehand. If a nest is found, procedures described in b) above must be followed.

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

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 (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"/>

Extraordinary Circumstance	No	Uncertain	Yes
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.

Appendix A: Cultural Resources Determination

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

MP-153 Tracking Number: 17-SCAO-215

Project Name: Rope Adventure Course at Lake Cachuma Recreation Area Project

NEPA Document: 17-027

MP 153 Cultural Resources Reviewer: Mark Carper

NEPA Contact: Jennifer Lewis

Determination: No Historic Properties Affected

Date: January 8, 2018

Santa Barbara County (County) is proposing to construct a rope adventure course at the Lake Cachuma Recreation Area in Santa Barbara County, California. The proposed project is situated on land owned by Reclamation, but managed by the County. Reclamation determined that the authorization of construction on federal land is an undertaking as defined in 36 CFR § 800.16(y) and involves the type of activity that has the potential to cause effects on historic properties under 36 CFR § 800.3(a).

The County proposes to construct a rope adventure course near existing recreational facilities in the recreation area. The proposed rope course will consist of four towers and one main structure. Each tower is a maximum of 48 feet tall and will have four support posts. The main structure will consist of two yurt style cabins and the main rope course. The structures will be built onto support posts: four for each tower and forty-five for the main structure. The posts for the towers will be sunk into 7 foot deep holes and the posts for the main structure will be placed into 18 inch holes. The proposed course will be situated within and around an existing swimming pool complex.

In an effort to identify historic properties within or adjacent to the APE, Reclamation referred to record search results from the Central Coast Information Center of the California Historical Resources Information System at the University of California, Santa Barbara, compiled for a number of separate undertakings occurring in and around the proposed APE, conducted between 2007 through 2017. Additionally, Reclamation reviewed listings on the National Register of Historic Places (National Register); California Historical Landmarks; California Points of Historical Interest; Santa Barbara County

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Cultural Resources Branch

Landmarks; and the California State Historic Resources Inventory. These efforts—along with Reclamation’s own extensive records relevant to the proposed project area—indicate that since 1986, numerous cultural resource investigations have been conducted within and near the proposed undertaking, providing complete survey coverage of the current APE as recently as 2016. Three recorded sites, CA-SBA-2464, -476, and -477 were identified as being within close proximity of the current project.

Given the close proximity of these resources and the depth of construction related to placement of poles for the proposed project, Reclamation conducted a pedestrian survey of the APE and excavated three hand augers tests at each of the proposed tower locations. The proposed main structure location is situated on old asphalt and compacted gravels and auguring was not an option. The investigation identified no cultural resources and the augers indicated a fairly disturbed landscape.

Pursuant to the regulations at 36 CFR § 800.3(f)(2), Reclamation identified the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Mission Indians as an Indian tribe who might attach religious and cultural significance to historic properties within the APE. Reclamation initially contacted Mr. Freddie Romero, Cultural Resources Coordinator for, and member of, the Santa Ynez Band Elders Council, by telephone to inform him of the proposed project on August 15, 2017. In addition, Reclamation sent a letter to the tribe on August 30, 2017, inviting their participation in the Section 106 process, and requesting their assistance in the identification of sites of religious and cultural significance or historic properties that may be affected by the proposed undertaking pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.4(a)(4). On September 11, 2017, Reclamation received an email from Mr. Sam Cohen, Government Affairs and Legal Officer for the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians. In the email, Mr. Cohen provided research information regarding CA-SBA-477 due to its proximity, but expressed no specific concerns regarding the proposed project. Reclamation made an additional call to Mr. Romero on September 13, 2017, to discuss our cultural inventory plans and to potentially arrange a meeting at the project site. Mr. Romero was satisfied with our approach but was unable to coordinate a site visit.

Reclamation initiated consultation with California the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) on December 5, 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 January 4, 2018

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Mid-Pacific Region
Division of Environmental Affairs
Cultural Resources Branch

I concur with Item 8 on 17-027. 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.



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

Lisa Ann L. Mangat, Director

Julianne Polanco, State Historic Preservation Officer

1725 23rd Street, Suite 100, Sacramento, CA 95816-7100

Telephone: (916) 445-7000

FAX: (916) 445-7053

calshpo.ohp@parks.ca.gov

www.ohp.parks.ca.gov

January 04, 2018

In reply refer to: BUR_2017_1205_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 Authorization of the Rope Adventure Course
at lake Cachuma Recreation Area Project, Santa Barbara County, California
(Project # 17-SCAO-215)

Dear Ms. Leigh:

The State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) received on December 05, 2017 your letter initiating consultation on the above referenced project to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (as amended) and its implementing regulations Found at 36 CFR Part 800. Santa Barbara County (County) is seeking authorization to construct a rope adventure course at the Lake Cachuma Recreation Area on land owned by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation). Reclamation has reviewed the proposal, has reached a finding of no historic properties affected, and seeks comments. Submitted documentation is a report: *Santa Barbara County Rope Adventure Course at Lake Cachuma Recreation Area Project; (Project Tracking No: 17-SCAO-215) November, 2017 [By: M. Carper, Reclamation Archaeologist, Mid-Pacific Region, Sacramento, CA]* and maps (*Figures 1-3*); and two digital representations of the proposed rope course.

The County proposes to construct a rope adventure course near existing facilities in the recreation area. The rope course components will consist of four towers and one main structure. Each tower is a maximum of 48 feet tall and will have four support posts. The main structure consists of two yurt style cabins and the main rope course. The structures will be built onto support posts: four for each tower and forty-five for the main structure. Tower posts will be sunk into 7-foot deep holes and main structure posts will be placed into 18-inch holes. The rope course will be situated within and around an existing modern swimming pool complex.

The Area of Potential Effects (APE) includes all construction related activities and is about 3.5 acres in size. The vertical APE varies, with a maximum depth of about 7-feet for the tower posts. Access is by developed roads.

As documentation for the finding of effect, the above cited cultural resources report was provided. Records review of multiple previous surveys indicate that since 1986, these cumulative surveys have identified 12 archaeological sites near the APE. Three of these previously recorded sites, CA-SBA-2464, SBA-476 and SBA-477, are within close proximity to, but outside of, the APE as it is delineated. Given the close proximity of multiple sites, Reclamation conducted a pedestrian survey of the APE and excavated three hand augers tests at each of the proposed tower locations (October 2 & 3, 2017). The proposed main structure location is situated on old asphalt and compacted gravels which are extensively graded and auguring was not an option. The investigation identified no cultural resources

and the augers results indicate a fairly disturbed landscape. The swimming pool complex is one of multiple recreation facilities that have been added to the locale since about the 1960s and 1970s, is a common-type structure, and has been modified over time. Also, while the course will be placed near and around its circumference, no actual construction work will take place within its boundaries so that it may continue to be used (Carper 2017: Figure 2).

Reclamation identified the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Mission Indians as an Indian tribe who might attach religious and cultural significance to historic properties within the APE. Reclamation initially contacted Mr. Freddie Romero, Cultural Resources Coordinator for, and member of, the Santa Ynez Band Elders Council, by telephone to inform him of the proposed project on August 15, 2017. In addition, Reclamation sent a letter to the tribe on August 30, 2017, inviting their participation in the Section 106 process. On September 11, 2017, Reclamation received an email from Mr. Sam Cohen, Government Affairs and Legal Officer for the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash Indians. In the email, Mr. Cohen provided research information regarding CA-SBA-477 due to its proximity, but expressed no specific concerns regarding the proposed project. Reclamation made an additional call to Mr. Romero on September 13, 2017, to discuss our cultural inventory plans and to potentially arrange a meeting at the project site. Mr. Romero was satisfied with our approach but was unable to coordinate a site visit. Should any concerns subsequently arise, Reclamation will need to address them and make notifications as required.

No historic properties were identified in the APE through the efforts described above and, pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4(d)(1), Reclamation finds no historic properties affected for the undertaking and invites comments on the delineation of the APE, the appropriateness of the historic properties identification efforts, and for its finding.

Following 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 area of potential effects.
- Reclamation has determined that the proposed undertaking will result in a *no historic properties affected* outcome. 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