

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West


Categorical Exclusion Checklist (CEC)


WAPA Switchyard Security Pedestal Installation - Carr Powerplant - Shasta County, California

NCAO-CEC-18-01

Prepared by: See Attachment 1 Date: September 1, 2017
Megan Simon
Northern California Area Office Designee
for Tribal Trust Assets/Natural Resources
Specialist

Concurrence by: See Attachment 2 Date: January 25, 2018
Mark Carper
Archaeologist
Mid-Pacific Regional Office

Concurrence by:  Date: 1/26/18
Paul Zedonis
Environmental and Natural Resources
Supervisory Natural Resource Specialist/
Division Manager
Northern California Area Office

Approved by:  Date: 1/26/2018
Don Bader
Area Manager
Northern California Area Office



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
Mid Pacific Region

January 2018

Proposed Action

Reclamation will issue a license agreement to Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) to construct and maintain a security pedestal adjacent to WAPA's switchyard to the Judge Francis Carr powerplant (Figures 1A-D) in the Reclamation Zone adjacent to Whiskeytown National Recreation Area.

Work to be completed on property within the Reclamation Zone includes:

- Installing a new entrance card reader and associated protective bollard barriers on the existing asphalt driveway at the entrance to the switchyard and associated trenching to a depth of two feet below ground surface.
- Repairing the existing perimeter chain-link fence, including:
 - Filling gaps between the bottom of the fence fabric and the earth grade larger than 6-inches with one strand of tensioned barbed wire, by placing rocks or aggregate in the void, or both.
- Installation of conduits and conductors and associated minor trenching to a depth of two feet below ground surface.
- Re-paving a portion of the entrance areas and re-surfacing other disturbed areas with light gravel, as appropriate, following construction.

The Project is located south of Whiskeytown Lake in Shasta County, CA. (Exact project location information is retained in Reclamation's files and was reviewed for this assessment but was not included in this CEC, at WAPA's request, for site security purposes.) The Project area is surrounded by wooded land consisting of mixed conifer forest (ponderosa pine and foothill pine) with a patchy understory.

Work activities are anticipated to initiate in mid-February 2018 with pre-construction excavation work.

Exclusion Categories

Bureau of Reclamation Categorical Exclusion – 516 DM 14.5, D.10. Issuance of permits, licenses, easements, and crossing agreements which provide right-of-way over Bureau lands where the action does not allow for or lead to a major public or private action.

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 ☒ Uncertain ☐ Yes ☐
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 ☒ Uncertain ☐ Yes ☐

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|---|--|
| 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; and 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; and 43 CFR 46.215 (j)). No ☒ Uncertain ☐ Yes ☐
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). No ☒ Uncertain ☐ Yes ☐
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 ☐

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

Environmental commitments, explanations, and/or remarks:

The Regional Archeologist concurred with Item 8 (email attached). The ITA Designee concurred with Item 11 (email attached).

No excess overburden is anticipated to be generated during construction activities. WAPA will prepare a best management practices (BMP) schedule for site controls, including those for sediment and erosion control and spill prevention (assuming the latter is applicable).

Reclamation reviewed the US Fish & Wildlife Service's Environmental Conservation Online System (ECOS) database, via the Information for Planning and Conservation (IPaC) application, to determine the potential for species Federally-listed as Threatened or Endangered, or Candidate species for listing, under Section 7 of the Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) or their habitats to occur at the site. The IPaC reported generated for the site returned a list of 12 Federally-listed or Candidate species, none of which were reported as having Critical Habitat in the project area: the California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*), Delta smelt (*Hypomesus transpacificus*), longfin smelt (*Spirinchus thaleichthys*), gray wolf (*Canis lupus*), Northern spotted owl (*Strix occidentalis caurina*), yellow-billed cuckoo (*Coccyzus americanus*), Valley elderberry longhorn beetle (*Desmocerus californicus dimorphus*), Hoover's spurge (*Chamaesyce hooveri*) and slender orcutt

grass (*Orcuttia tenuis*). In addition to the species protected under ESA Section 7, the IPaC report indicated the potential for 21 species of birds protected by the Federal Migratory Bird Treaty Act or Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act to occur in the vicinity of the site.

Reclamation also queried the California Native Diversity Database (CNDDDB) for Federally-listed and Candidate species. Reclamation used the CNDDDB Biogeographic Information and Observation System (BIOS) map viewer complement to refine the information obtained from the CNDDDB and IPaC report.

None of the species listed in the IPaC report were reported in the CNDDDB/BIOS query. The query produced reported occurrences of one additional Federally-protected species within a three-mile radius of the site: the West Coast fisher (*Pekania pennant*). However, based on previous coordination with the USFWS for other projects, the distinct population of the West Coast fisher that is proposed for Federal listing as Threatened is not the distinct population segment present in Shasta County.

Habitat requirements of the majority of the listed species identified during Reclamation's research include rivers, wetlands, vernal pools or poorly-drained features that function as vernal pools, which are absent from the site, including habitat for: California red-legged frog, Conservancy fairy shrimp, vernal pool fairy shrimp, vernal pool tadpole shrimp, Delta smelt, longfin smelt, Hoover's spurge and slender orcutt grass.

No elderberry trees or shrubs were observed in the vicinity of the site. Therefore, habitat for the Valley elderberry longhorn beetle is assumed absent. No vegetation clearing, grubbing or disturbance is necessary to facilitate the work. Nesting surveys will be conducted prior to work which will start in mid-February 2018. Protective buffers will be established from the work sites, as appropriate based on the survey findings. WAPA's biological monitor will be on-site during any work activities that must occur inside the buffers to stop or modify work activities in the event that such activities are likely to result in nest impacts or abandonment. Therefore, no impacts to migratory birds are anticipated. Likewise, species dependent on continuous forest habitat (Northern spotted owl and fisher) would not be impacted by project activities. Any noise or other disturbance of potential habitat for other avian and terrestrial species (gray wolf) in the surrounding area is considered short term and temporary.

Reclamation concluded that the action would have no effect to Federally-listed species or their habitat.

Figures 1A and B. Photographs depicting location of future security pedestal card reader.



Figures 1C and D. Representative photographs of erosion to be corrected and bollard to be installed as part of Project.



Attachment 1. Indian Trust Asset Review



Simon, Megan <msimon@usbr.gov>

ITA Review - WAPA Switchyard Security Pedestal - Carr Powerplant

Simon, Megan <msimon@usbr.gov>
To: "Zedonis, Paul" <pzedonis@usbr.gov>

Fri, Sep 1, 2017 at 2:35 PM

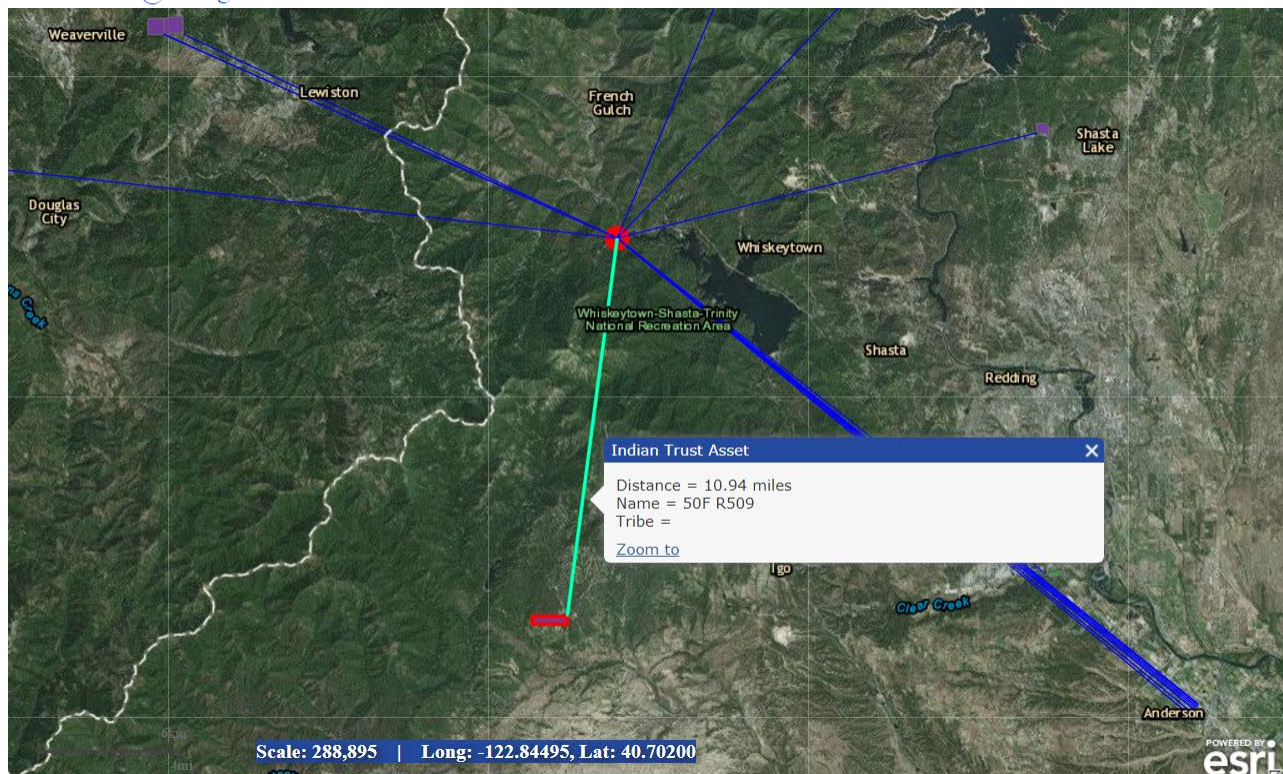
I have examined the referenced proposal and have determined that the property is located almost 11 miles from the closest Indian Trust Asset.

I have determined that there is no likelihood that this action will adversely impact Indian Trust Assets.

--

Megan K. Simon

Natural Resources Specialist
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Northern California Area Office
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Shasta Lake, CA 96019
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CULTURAL RESOURCE COMPLIANCE
Mid-Pacific Region
Division of Environmental Affairs
Cultural Resources Branch

MP-153 Tracking Number: 17-NCAO-238

Project Name: WAPA Carr Switchyard Security Pedestal Installation Project

NEPA Document: NCAO-CEC-18-01

MP 153 Cultural Resources Reviewer: Mark Carper

NEPA Contact: Megan Simon

Determination: No Adverse Effect to Historic Properties

Date: January 25, 2018

Western Area Power Administration, Sierra Nevada Region (WAPA) proposes to install two bollards and a two card readers outside of the Judge Francis Carr Powerhouse Substation. The substation is owned by WAPA but is situated on Reclamation owned land. Reclamation determined that construction of the proposed project on federal lands 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). WAPA and Reclamation agreed that WAPA would be the Lead Federal agency for this undertaking pursuant to 800.2(a)(2) of 36 CFR Part 800 (as amended 8-05-04).

WAPA plans to install two bollards and a two card readers outside of the Judge Francis Carr Powerhouse Substation. This equipment will be installed on either side of the gate in the surrounding perimeter fence. The card reader posts and bollards will be set in a poured-in-place concrete base approximately 36-inches deep. An 18-foot long trench will be excavated to a depth of 36-inches to connect the readers with the substation. WAPA will also perform erosion control repair work underneath portions of the perimeter fence. This work will consist of minor surface regrading and filling gaps beneath the fence line.

In an effort to identify historic properties in the APE WAPA conducted a cultural resources inventory and prepared a Historical Resources Evaluation Report (HRER) for the facility. Based on historic properties identification efforts conducted by WAPA, the substation was determined as an eligible historic property, as a contributing component to the CVP. WAPA proposed a finding of no adverse effect to historic properties pursuant to 36 CFR §800.5(b). WAPA consulted with the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) by sending a consultation package on December 20, 2017. SHPO concurred with all their findings on January 23, 2018.

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

Reclamation accepts the findings in the letter report and the outcome of the consultation for the proposed activities on Reclamation land.

I concur with Item 8 on NCAO-CEC-18-01. 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.

Attachment 2, Cont.



State of California • Natural Resources Agency

Edmund G. Brown Jr., Governor

OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION
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Julianne Polanco, *State Historic Preservation Officer*

January 23, 2017

SHPO Reference #: WAPA_2018_0109_001

Cherie Johnston-Waldear
Regional Preservation Officer
Department of Energy
Western Area Power Administration
Sierra Nevada Region
114 Parkshore Drive
Folsom, CA 95630-4710

RE: Section 106 Consultation, Security Upgrades at Carr Substation, Shasta-Trinity
Whiskeytown National Recreation Area, California

Dear Ms. Johnston-Waldear:

The Western Area Power Administration, Sierra Nevada Region (WAPA) is consulting with the California State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) in order to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (54 U.S.C. § 306108), as amended. WAPA is requesting SHPO concurrence with a finding of No Adverse Effect to Historic Properties.

WAPA plans to install two bollards and a two card readers outside of the Judge Francis Carr Powerhouse Substation. This equipment will be installed on either side of the gate in the surrounding perimeter fence. The card reader posts and bollards will be set in a poured-in-place concrete base approximately 36-inches deep. An 18-foot long trench will be excavated to a depth of 36-inches to connect the readers with the substation. WAPA will also perform erosion control repair work underneath portions of the perimeter fence. This work will consist of minor surface regrading and filling gaps beneath the fence line.

The Area of Potential Effects (APE) for this undertaking is comprised of the substation property and the area outside the gate, as shown on aerial images included with WAPA's supporting documentation.

In an effort to identify historic properties in the APE, WAPA contracted an architectural historian to evaluate the substation. The results of this evaluation are outlined in a report titled *Historical Resources Evaluation Report (HREER) for the Judge Francis Carr Powerhouse Substation* (Karana Hattersley-Drayton: August 2017). Ms. Drayton concluded that the property, which was put into service in 1963 as an ancillary feature

of the Judge Francis Carr Powerhouse, is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) under Criterion A with a period of significance of 1963 for its association with one of the key features of the Trinity River Diversion of the Central Valley Project. The Central Valley Project, constructed from 1937 through 1963, is considered the most ambitious public works project ever built. The project currently provides irrigation, flood control, and other amenities to one-sixth of all irrigated land in the United States. The control building and the transmission towers added in 1984 are less than 50 years of age and are considered non-contributors to the property.

Having reviewed WAPA's submittal, SHPO offers the following comments:

- 1) The APE for this project appears adequate to account for direct and indirect effects to historic properties;
- 2) SHPO concurs that the property is eligible for listing on the NRHP under Criterion A at the statewide level of significance as part of the larger Central Valley Water Project;
- 3) SHPO concurs that the undertaking will not adversely affect historic properties;
- 4) Be reminded that in the event of an unanticipated discovery or a change in the scale or scope of the undertaking, WAPA may have further consultation responsibilities under 36 CFR Part 800.

If WAPA has questions or comments, please contact State Archaeologist Koren Tippet at (916) 445-7017 or at Koren.Tippet@parks.ca.gov, or State Historian Tristan Tozer at (916) 445-7027 or at Tristan.Tozer@parks.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Julianne Polanco
State Historic Preservation Officer