


RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Categorical Exclusion Checklist

South Canal Overhead Crossing – Orland Project – Glenn County, CA

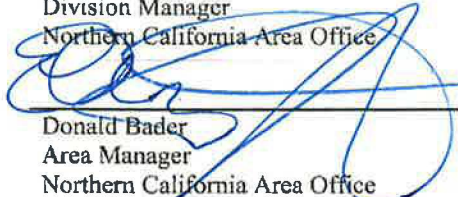
NCAO-CEC-18-07

Prepared by:  Date: June 18, 2018
Yesenia Juarez
Water and Lands Assistant
Northern California Area Office (Willows)

Concurrence by: Attachment 1 Date: June 8, 2018
Megan Simon
Northern California Area Office Designee for
Tribal Trust Assets

Concurrence by: Attachment 2 Date: June 11, 2018
Gary Scholze
Archaeologist
Mid-Pacific Regional Office

Concurrence by:  Date: 6/18/18
Paul Zedonis
Environmental and Natural Resources
Supervisory Natural Resource Specialist/
Division Manager
Northern California Area Office

Approved by:  Date: 6/19/18
Donald Bader
Area Manager
Northern California Area Office



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

June 2018

Proposed Action

Reclamation will issue a consent document for Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) to install, operate and maintain an overhead power line over the South Canal of the Orland Project (South Canal), located on a 66-foot wide easement owned by the United States (Figure 1).

The proposed power line will supply electricity to an irrigation system pump located on Orland Project land owned by Larry Reimers, improved with an almond orchard. The power line will originate from an existing power pole. No pole erection or other construction will take place within Reclamation's right-of-way.

A site inspection was completed on April 5, 2018. Reclamation and Orland Unit Water Users' Association engineers reviewed the plans and have no objections. A licensed contractor will initiate the work shortly after Reclamation's issuance of the consent document. Work will be completed in summer 2018.

The project is located off County Road 200, near its intersection with County Road 206, in Section 10, Township 22 North, Range 4 West of the Mount Diablo Baseline and Meridian, approximately five miles northwest of the City of Orland, Glenn County, California (Figure 1). Engineer's drawings depicting the scope of work are included as Figure 2. Photographs of the site are included as Figure 3.

Exclusion Categories

Bureau of Reclamation Categorical Exclusion - D(10): Issuance of permits, licenses, easements and crossing agreements which provide right-of-way over Bureau of Reclamation lands where the action does not allow or lead to larger 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 ☐
3. This action would have significant impacts on public health or safety (43 CFR 46.215(a)). No ☒ Uncertain ☐ Yes ☐

- | | |
|---|--|
| 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 <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 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 ☐

Regional Archeologist concurred with Item 8 (email attached).

ITA Designee concurred with Item 11 (email attached).

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:

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 in the project area. The IPaC reported generated for the site returned a list of seven Federally-listed or Candidate species which could occur in the site vicinity, none of which were reported as having Critical Habitat in the project area: the giant garter snake (*Thamnophis gigas*), California red-legged frog (*Rana draytonii*), Delta smelt (*Hypomesus transpacificus*), Valley elderberry longhorn beetle (*Desmocerus californicus dimorphus*), Conservancy fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta conservatio*), vernal pool fairy shrimp (*Branchinecta lynchi*) and vernal pool tadpole shrimp (*Lepidurus packardii*).

Reclamation also queried the California Native Diversity Database (CNDDDB) for Federally-listed and Candidate species and used the CNDDDB Biogeographic Information and Observation System (BIOS) map viewer complement to refine the information obtained from the CNDDDB and IPaC report. The query of the CNDDDB/BIOS indicated that the site is located within a

loosely-defined reported occurrence of the vernal pool fairy shrimp, last confirmed in 1995 but presumed extant. None of the remaining species listed in the IPaC report were reported in the CNDDDB/BIOS query within a seven-mile radius of the site.

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 during the construction season. These absent features constitute habitat for vernal pool fairy shrimp, as well as the California red-legged frog, Conservancy fairy shrimp, vernal pool tadpole shrimp and Delta smelt.

No elderberry trees or shrubs are located on-site or were observed in the project area. Therefore, habitat for the Valley elderberry longhorn beetle is assumed absent. No excavation activities, tree or vegetation clearing, grubbing or disturbance will occur within Reclamation's action area/ROW. Likewise, except for a minor, temporary disturbance for the pole installation and vehicle access for construction and future maintenance, these activities are not anticipated as necessary to facilitate work related to PG&E's project elsewhere. Construction will be completed outside the nesting season for most migratory birds. PG&E will institute its standard protection schedule for avian species, as appropriate. Therefore, no impacts to the giant garter snake or species protected under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act are anticipated.

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

Figure 1. Site Location Maps

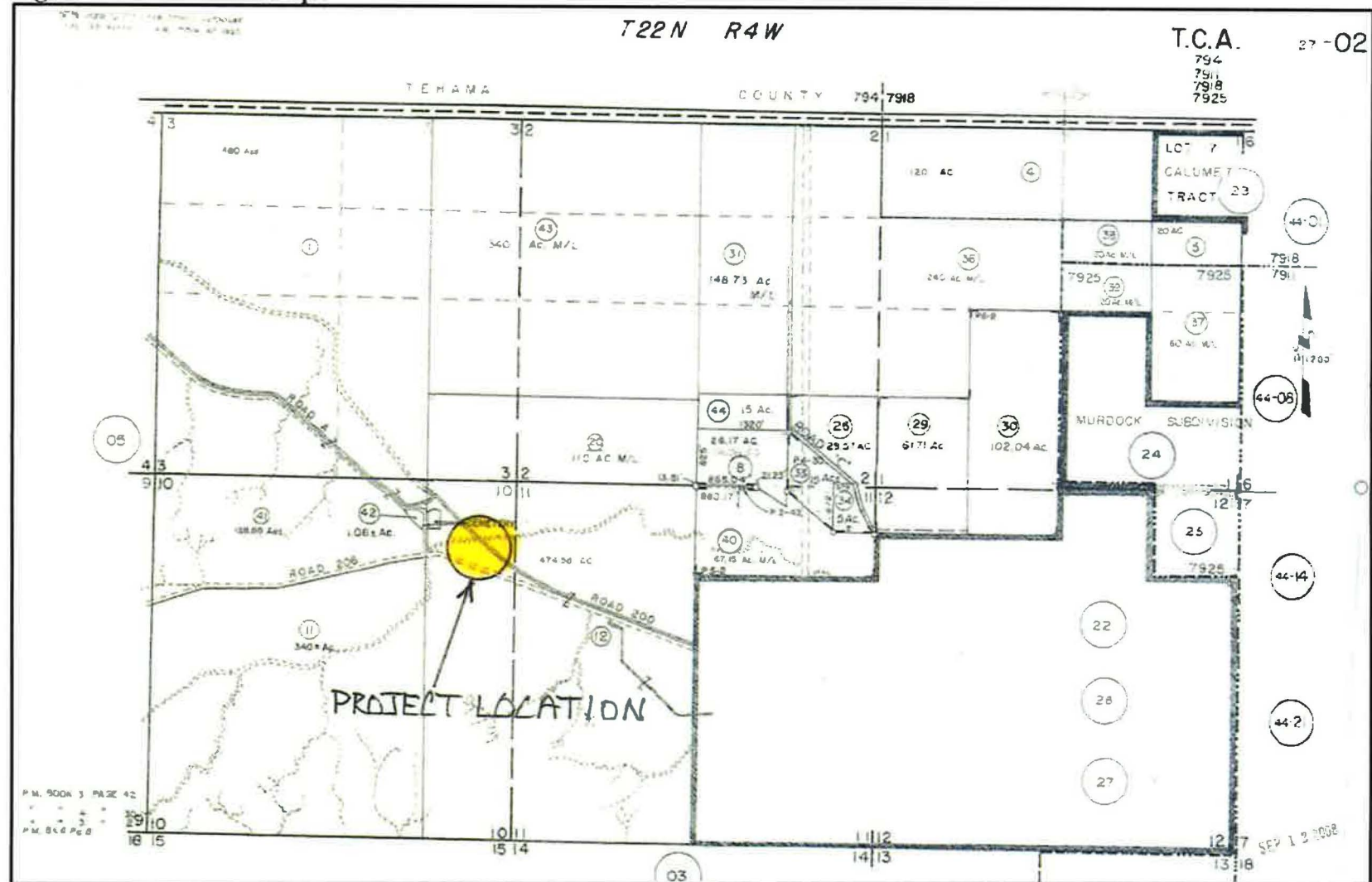


Figure 1A. Tax Assessor's Parcel Identification Map

Figure 1, Cont.

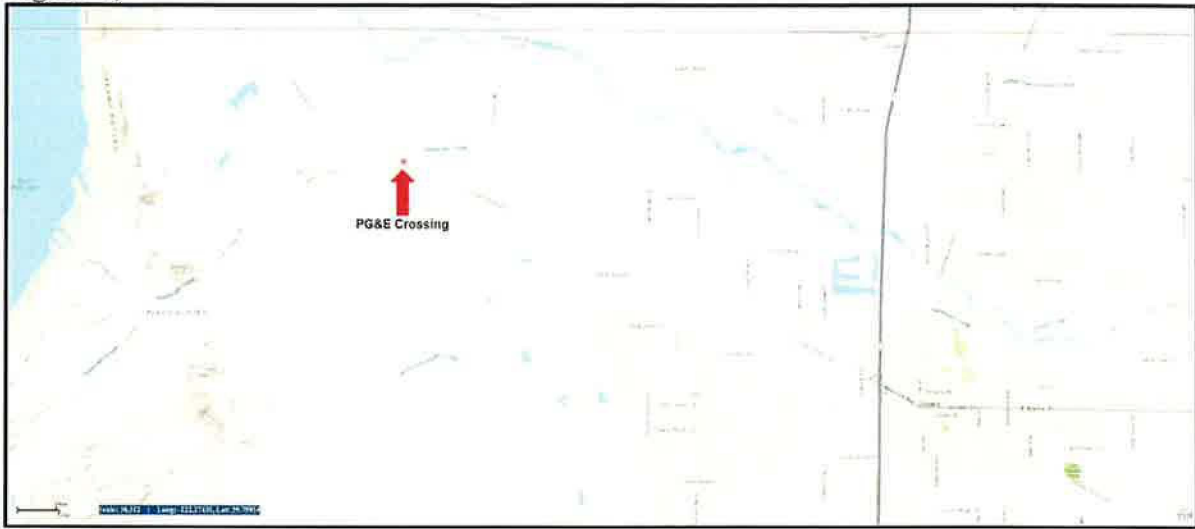


Figure 1B. Vicinity Map.

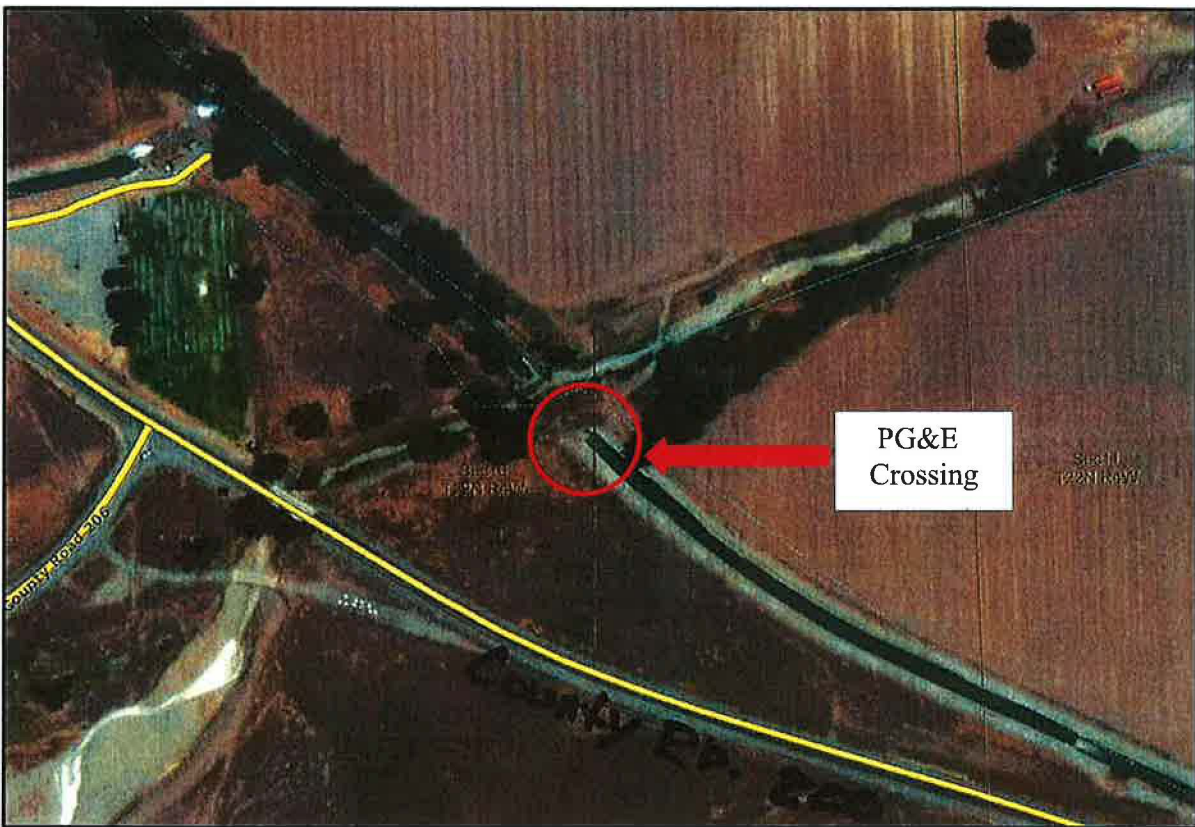


Figure 1C. Site Map

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Figure 2., Cont.

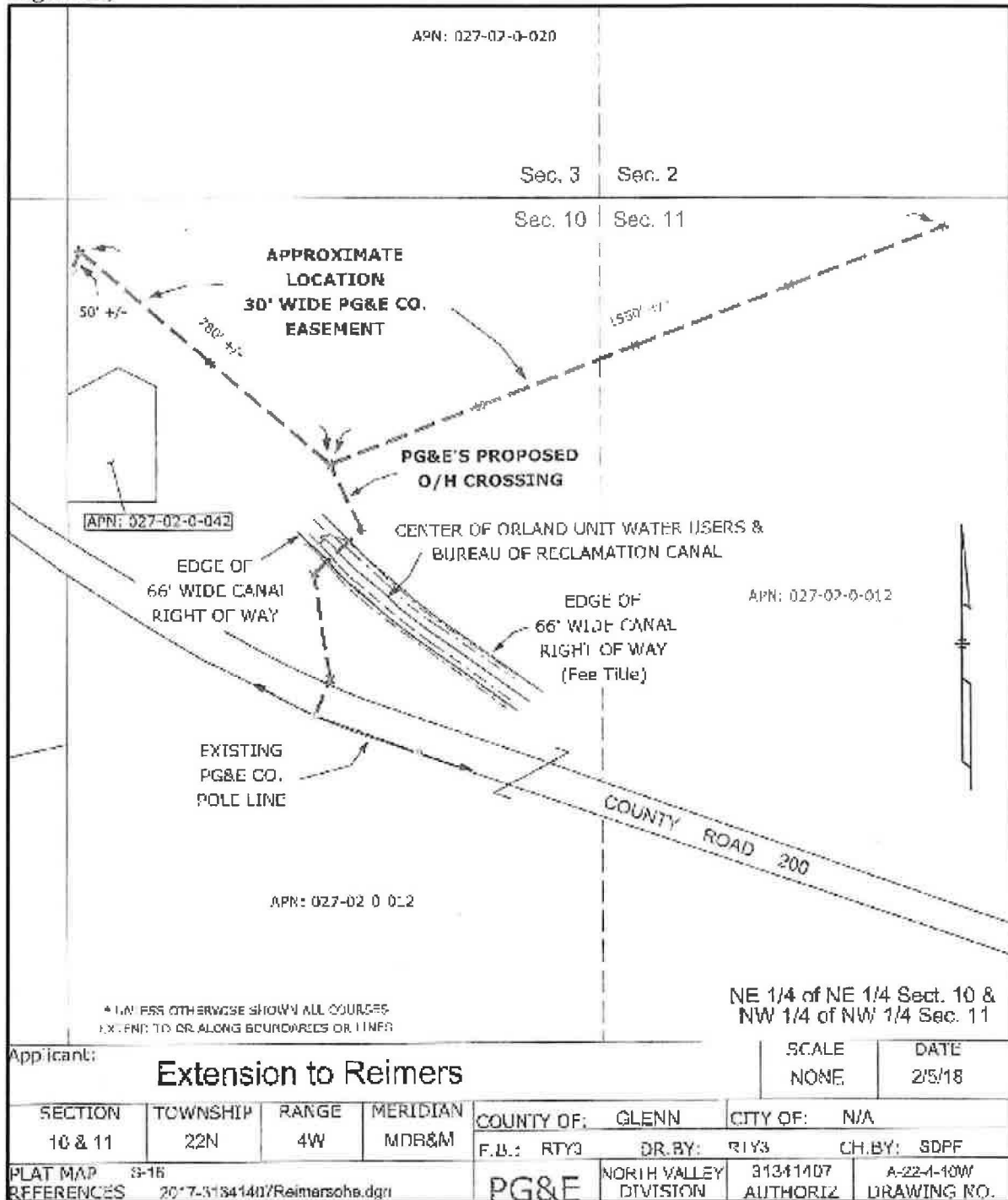


Figure 2B. Plan Detail

Figure 3. Photographs.



Figure 3A. Photograph with view of site to north.



Figure 3B. Photograph with view of site to west.

Attachment 1. Indian Trust Asset Review



Simon, Megan <msimon@usbr.gov>

ITA Review - PG&E Overhead Crossing - S. Canal - Orland Project

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

Fri, Jun 8, 2018 at 11:46 AM

I have examined the referenced proposal and have determined that the facility is located at least 5.5 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

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U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Northern California Area Office
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Shasta Lake, CA 96019
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Attachment 2. Cultural Resources Review

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

MP-153 Tracking Number: 18-NCAO-111

Project Name: South Canal Overhead Crossing – Orland Project

NEPA Document: NCAO-CEC-18-07

NEPA Contact: Megan Simon, Natural Resources Specialist

MP 153 Cultural Resources Reviewer: Gary Scholze, Archaeologist



Date: June 11, 2018

The Bureau of Reclamation proposes to issue consent document to approve Pacific, Gas, and Electric's (PG&E) request to install, operate, and maintain an overhead powerline over the South Canal of the Orland Project. PG&E's contractor will the install, operate and maintain a power line over the South Canal of the Orland Project, located on a 66-feet wide easement owned by the United States. The proposed power line will supply electricity to an irrigation system pump located on Orland Project land owned by Larry Reimers and improved with an almond orchard. The power line will originate from an existing power pole. No pole erection or other construction will take place within the Reclamation's right-of-way.

Reclamation determined the proposed action constitutes a Federal undertaking, as defined at 36 CFR § 800.16(y), that has no potential to cause effects on 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 have no impacts on cultural resources. Based on analysis of the project activities, I concur with Item 8 in CEC-18-07 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 NHPA Section 106 process and cultural resources review for this undertaking. Please retain a copy in the administrative record for this action. Should the proposed action change, additional NHPA Section 106 review, possibly including consultation with the California State Historic Preservation Officer, may be necessary.