

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Categorical Exclusion Checklist

Contra Costa Water District Canal Screen Facility at Milepost 23.25 Project

CEC-17-054

Prepared by:

Kathleen A. Linder

Kathleen A. Linder
Natural Resources Specialist
South-Central California Area Office

Date: 07/09/2018

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:

Rain L. Emerson

Rain L. Emerson
Environmental Compliance Branch Chief
South-Central California Area Office

ITA Designee concurred with Item 11. Their determination has been placed within the project file.

Date: 7/10/2018

Approved by:

Michael P. Jackson

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

Date: 7/10/2018



Background

In November 2014, Reclamation completed a Categorical Exclusion Checklist (CEC-014-010) for the replacement of an automated screen on the Contra Costa Canal Milepost (MP) 25.02. In 2015, Contra Costa Water District (Contra Costa) completed the project. The automated screen is currently powered by a portable generator and discharges debris into a trough to be manually loaded into a nearby dumpster.

In April 2017, Reclamation approved CEC-16-041 for a proposed improvement project of the above mentioned automated screen. However, construction of the improvement project was canceled after a lower cost alternative was identified.

Nature of the Action

Reclamation proposes to approve the relocation of the existing travelling (automated) screen from MP 25.02 to MP 23.25 on the Contra Costa Canal (Canal). The project will also make improvements to support a permanent facility at that location. Improvements include installation of the screen and a material handling system, platform over the Canal, concrete work pad, connection to existing Pacific Gas and Electric power service, site lighting, control panel, and water level sensor.

Environmental Commitments

Project construction is not expected to result in any impacts to archeological resources since the road sits on top of fill material from construction of the Canal. A No Effects Determination was made regarding Federal and State listed species under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as part of this National Environmental Policy Act review. With the implementation of the following environmental commitments, impacts to other biological resources, would be less than significant.

Contra Costa will implement the following environmental commitments to avoid any environmental consequences:

1. If any San Joaquin Kit Fox individuals or suspected dens are seen, all construction will stop immediately and the siting will be reported to Reclamation within 24 hours.
2. Disturbance of any burrow with an entrance of 4-inches or greater will be avoided.
3. All staging and construction locations will be flagged so that the operator will know the maximum extent of impacts.
4. The Applicant may choose to conduct a migratory bird nesting survey and, if no evidence of nesting is found, may move forward with the project. Or, the proposed action will not occur between February 1 and August 15 of the calendar year, so that disturbance of any breeding migratory birds will be avoided.

5. A U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service) approved biologist shall survey the work site prior to the onset of construction activities.
6. Before any construction activities begin, a Service approved biologist shall conduct a training session for construction personnel regarding potential sensitive species in this area.
7. Maximum vehicle speed in the work area shall be 20 miles per hour when off of county-maintained roads.
8. Work shall be conducted during the daytime, when the work area is dry (no sooner than 24 hours after rain).

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 project 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.

Attachment A: Cultural Resources Determination

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

MP-153 Tracking Number: 18-SCAO-087

Project Name: CCC Relocation of Traveling Canal Screen

NEPA Document: CEC-17-054

MP 153 Cultural Resources Reviewer: Mark Carper

NEPA Contact: Kathleen Linder

Determination: No Adverse Effects to Historic Properties

Date: June 20, 2018

This proposed undertaking by Reclamation is to authorize Contra Costa Water District (CCWD) to conduct the relocation of a traveling screen on the Reclamation-owned Contra Costa Canal (CCC), located in Contra Costa County. CCWD manages the CCC under agreement with Reclamation. 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).

In 2017, Reclamation approved an automated screen replacement project at MP 25.02 of the CCC by CCWD. Reclamation consulted with the California the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) in 2017 and received concurrence on our finding of no adverse effect as part of a pumping plants safety improvements project in early 2017.

To take advantage of existing PG&E power service, as opposed to incurring additional construction requirements at MP 25.02, CCWD proposes to relocate the screen to a diversion pump at MP 23.25. The project will entail the relocation and improvements to support a permanent facility at that location. Improvements include installation of the screen and a material handling system platform over the CCC, and a concrete work pad and connections to existing PG&E power service, site lighting, control panel, and water level sensor.

The automated screen will be unbolted from concrete abutments at MP 25.02 and removed from the CCC by crane. The existing walkway platform at MP 25.02 will remain in place.

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

The screen will be transported by truck to MP 23.25, where it will be placed onto the floor of the CCC and secured by bolting the support bar to the sides of existing concrete abutments, similar to the current installation.

A new walkway platform over the CCC will be anchored to the existing concrete abutments at MP 23.25 and constructed of galvanized steel beams and plank grating with safety railing along the east and west sides. The platform will support conveyors and allow CCWD staff to perform maintenance on the conveyors and screen.

The material handling system will include a horizontal belt conveyor to receive material as it falls off the automated screen and move it north to an inclined belt conveyor that drops material directly into a dumpster. The conveyors will be anchored to the platform over the CCC and a new concrete work pad. The new work pad will be a slab-on-grade design and measure approximately 36 feet by 30 feet by 0.5 feet thick. It will be constructed adjacent to the CCC on the north side within the berm area used currently for vehicle access and parking.

Electrical power will be used at the new facility for the screen, water spray pump, material handling conveyors, control panel, and site lighting directed toward the screen, platform, work pad, and road. Two poles with LED lights will be installed, each with a concrete foundation requiring excavation approximately 7 feet deep and 2 feet in diameter. One new conduit trench will be installed within the roadway area, from the new power panel to the work pad. Approximate dimensions are 2 feet wide, 4 feet deep, and 75 feet long. Project staging areas will be limited to existing gravel surfaces intended for vehicle access within Reclamation's right-of-way and do not require any improvements.

In an effort to identify historic properties in the APE, Reclamation reviewed its cultural resources site index, project histories, and real property records. Reclamation contractors completed the 47-mile-long CCC in 1948, which originates at Rock Slough and terminates in the Martinez Reservoir. Reclamation has previously evaluated the CCC as a contributing element to the Central Valley Project (CVP) under National Register of Historic Places (National Register) Criterion A, for its association with stemming salinity intrusion in Suisun Bay and as the first operational CVP facility. Reclamation did not conduct an inventory of the project areas as all ground disturbance associated with these projects would take place in the canal prism and berm composed of canal construction spoils. Mr. Mark Carper, Reclamation Archaeologist, conducted a project site visit with CCWD

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

personnel to inspect the work-site location and to clarify questions regarding project construction and implementation on May 1, 2018.

The entirety of the project is contained within the engineered fill of the CCC's northern berm or within the built environment of the canal itself. As such, the proposed project has no potential to affect sites of religious or cultural significance to Indian tribes or other Native Americans. Reclamation did not consult with these groups for this undertaking.

Reclamation applied the criteria of adverse effect [36 CFR § 800.5(a)(1)] and the Secretary of the Interior's Standards for the Treatment of Historic Properties [36 CFR § 68.3(a)] to the proposed project and determined that the proposed project will result in no significant alterations to the historic characteristics that make this canal segment, or the CCC, eligible for the National Register. The proposed relocation of the automated canal debris screen is consistent with the purpose of this structure, and also will not affect the eligibility of the CCC. The CCC would still retain its integrity of feeling and association of a water conveyance system. The use of in-kind materials (concrete, steel) is in keeping with the original construction materials and design.

Reclamation initiated consultation with SHPO on May 15, 2018 with a notification of a determination of no adverse effects to historic properties for the proposed project. SHPO concurred with the determination in a letter dated June 13, 2018.

I concur with Item 8 on CCAO- CEC-17-054. 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

June 13, 2018

In reply refer to: BUR_2018_0515_004

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 Relocation of Contra Costa Water District's (CCWD) Relocation of Traveling Canal Screen at Milepost (MP) 25.02 to MP 23.25, Contra Costa County, California (Project #18-SCAO-087)

Dear Ms. Leigh:

The State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) received on May 15, 2018 your letter initiating consultation on the above referenced undertaking to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (as currently amended) and its implementing regulations found at 36 CFR Part 800. The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) owns the Contra Costa Canal (CCC) and has a management agreement with the CCWD. CCWD proposes to relocate a traveling canal screen for better access to power sources. Reclamation states that authorizing the work is an undertaking that may cause effects to historic properties. Submitted documentation is:

- *Enclosure 1: Project Maps-Figure 1: Project Location (overlaid USGS Quad); Figure 2: Area of Potential Effects (overlaid Aerial photo map).*
- *Enclosure 2: Previous Reclamation-SHPO no adverse effect consultation for similar canal screen project (Reclamation letter-January 20, 2017; SHPO response-February 16, 2017)*
- *Enclosure 3: Construction Components- aerial photo with overlaid labels for elements.*
- *Enclosure 4: Photos: "Workspace Overview: Face east"; "Proposed screen location: Face south."*

Reclamation initiated consultation in 2017 for a CCWD updating of equipment and facilities, including an automated screen replacement project at MP 25.02 of the CCC. Reclamation received SHPO concurrence on a finding of no adverse effect as part of this initial safety improvements project (February 16, 2017: OHP Project # BUR_2017_0126_001).

Subsequently, CCWD has decided to take advantage of existing PG&E power service, Rather than incurring additional construction for a new service at MP 25.02. Therefore, CCWD proposes to relocate the screen to a diversion pump at MP 23.25. Improvements include installing the screen and a material handling system platform over the CCC, adding a concrete work pad and new connections to existing PG&E power service, placing site lighting, a control panel, and a water level sensor. The relocated screen will be placed into the floor of the CCC and bolted to existing concrete abutments. A new walkway platform, consisting of galvanized steel beams, plank grating and safety railing, will also be bolted to the concrete abutments. The platform will allow maintenance staff to access and clean the conveyors and screen. A new material handling system will connect to a new 36 foot by 30 foot work pad to be constructed on the adjacent canal berm. Electrical power will run all equipment and two poles with LED lights will be installed next to the concrete pads. Excavation for the pole supports will require a seven foot deep by 2-foot diameter hole.

A 75 foot long by 2-foot wide and 4-foot deep trench will be need for conduit lines. Existing gravel surfaces will be used for access and staging activities.

The Area of Potential Effects (APE) includes the entirety of the construction-related activities for the project. The total APE acreage is less than 0.5 acre and the maximum vertical APE is seven feet for installing the base of the light poles.

Reclamation reviewed its cultural resources library for historic properties identification efforts. The 47-mile-long CCC was built in 1948, and originates at Rock Slough and terminates in the Martinez Reservoir. Reclamation previously evaluated the CCC as a contributing element to the Central Valley Project (CVP) under National Register of Historic Places (National Register) Criterion A, for its association with stemming salinity intrusion in Suisun Bay and as the first operational CVP facility. Reclamation did not do an inventory of the project area as all associated ground disturbance will be in the canal prism and berm composed of canal construction spoils. Reclamation did conduct a project site visit with CCWD personnel to inspect the location and to clarify questions regarding proposed project construction and implementation (May 1, 2018).

As the entirety of the project is contained within engineered fill of the CCC's northern berm or within the built environment of the canal itself, the proposed project has no potential to affect sites of religious or cultural significance to Indian tribes, or interested Native American organizations. Therefore, Reclamation did not consult with these groups.

Reclamation finds that the proposed project will result in no significant alterations to the historic characteristics that make this canal segment, and the overall CCC, eligible for the National Register. The proposed relocation, and use of in-kind materials, for the automated canal debris screen is consistent with the purpose of this structure, and the CCC will still retain its integrity of feeling and association of a water conveyance system.

Reclamation finds that the project is a *no adverse effect to historic properties* outcome and requests concurrence with its effect finding. After review, these 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 made a reasonable and good faith effort to appropriately identify historic properties within the area of potential effects.*
- *Reclamation finds that the proposed undertaking will result in no adverse effect to historic properties. Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.5(b), **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 currently amended). Should you require further information, please contact Jeanette Schulz at Jeanette.Schulz@parks.ca.gov or her desk phone is: (916) 445-7031.

Sincerely,



Julianne Polanco
State Historic Preservation Officer