

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Categorical Exclusion Checklist

Madera Irrigation District – Root Creek Water District Exclusion Project

CEC-18-044

Prepared by:

Kathleen A. Linder

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

Date: 09/21/2018

Concurred by:

See Attachment A

Scott Williams
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: 09/28/2018

Approved by:

Michael P. Jackson

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

Date: 09/28/2018



Background

The Madera Irrigation District (District) encompasses an area of approximately 139,665 acres. The District operates a primarily gravity irrigation distribution system with approximately 300 miles of open flow canal systems, as well as 150 miles of large diameter pipelines.

The District has a Central Valley Project (CVP) repayment contract with the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) providing up to 85,000 acre feet (AF) of Class 1 and 186,000 AF of Class 2 water per year from the Friant Division (Millerton Lake). The CVP water is released from Millerton Lake through the Friant Dam, and then conveyed through the Madera Canal for delivery into the District's service area.

Nature of the Action

The District has requested Reclamation's approval to exclude 320 acres of land currently within District's federal service area for federal water deliveries. The excluded land (one parcel) would go back to Root Creek Water District, a non-CVP contractor. The 320-acre parcel had previously been an inclusion into the District's federal service area from Root Creek Water District, which is now requesting to have the 320-acre parcel re-annexed into its boundary. The Proposed Action is strictly administrative, no ground disturbance or modification of any facility would occur.

Exclusion Category

516 DM 14.5 D (4). *Administration and implementation of project repayment and water service contracts, including approval of organizational or other administrative changes in contracting entities brought about by inclusion or exclusion of lands in these contracts.*

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"/>
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 Environmental Assessment or Environmental Impact Statement.

Attachment A: Cultural Resources Determination

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

MP-153 Tracking Number: 18-SCAO-186

Project Name: Madera Irrigation District – Root Creek Water District Exclusion

NEPA Document: CEC-18-044

NEPA Contact: Kathleen Linder, Natural Resource Specialist

MP 153 Cultural Resources Reviewer: Scott Williams, Archaeologist 

Date: September 21, 2018

Reclamation proposes to approve the exclusion of 320 acres of land in Madera County, currently within District's federal service area for federal water deliveries. The excluded land (one parcel) would go back to Root Creek Water District, a non-Central Valley Project contractor. This is the type of undertaking that does not have the potential to cause effects to historic properties, should such properties be present, pursuant to the NHPA Section 106 regulations codified at 36 CFR § 800.3(a)(1). Reclamation has no further obligations under NHPA Section 106, pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.3(a)(1).

The 320-acre parcel had previously been an inclusion into the District's federal service area from Root Creek Water District, who are now requesting to have the 320-acre parcel re-annexed into its boundary. The Proposed Action is strictly administrative, no ground disturbance or modification of any facility would occur.

This document is intended to convey the completion of the NHPA Section 106 process for this undertaking. I concur with item 8 that this action would not 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). 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.