

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Categorical Exclusion Checklist

Contra Costa Water District Potholing at the Contra Costa Canal Service Road and Highway 680 Crossing

CEC-18-036

Prepared by:

for *R. Emerson*
Brian Lopez
Natural Resources Specialist
South-Central California Area Office

Date: *10/10/2018*

Concurred by:

See Attachment A
Mark Carper, Archaeologist
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:

Ned Gruenhagen
Ned Gruenhagen
Wildlife Biologist
South-Central California Area Office

Date: *10/10/2018*

Concurred by:

R. 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: *10/10/2018*

Approved by:

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

Date: *10/10/2018*



Background

The Bay Area Infrastructure Financing Authority (BAIFA) and its partners, including the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), have been working on the development of express lanes and associated traffic-control elements along the southbound portion of Interstate 680 (I-680) from the City of Martinez to the Alameda County line. Part of these improvements has been the installation of electronic and fiber optic conduits for the tolling equipment and signage along the highway. Some of these transmission lines have been installed under and adjacent to the roadways utilizing horizontal directional drilling methods and trenching. One such location that these conduits have been installed is at the crossing of the I-680 over the Contra Costa Canal south of Pacheco Boulevard (Figure 1).

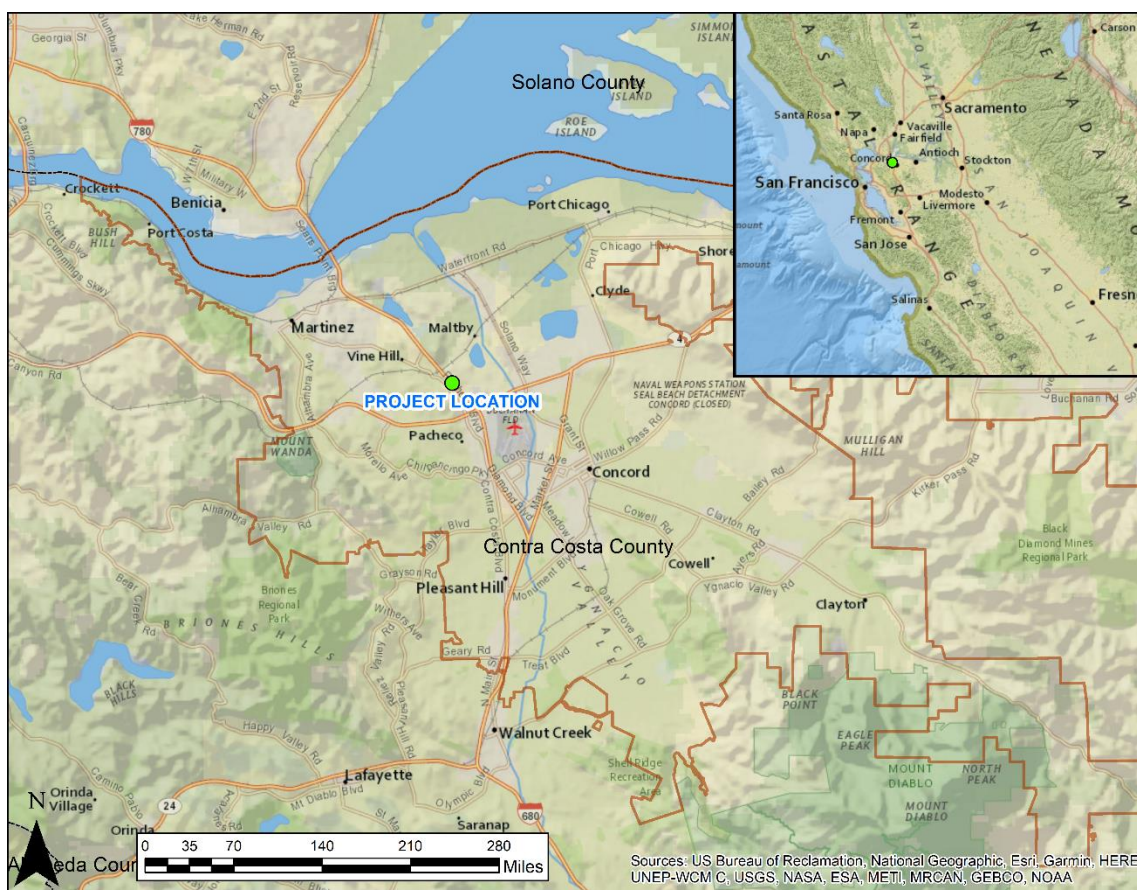


Figure 1 Project Location Map

The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) is the fee owner of the land where the canal passes under the I-680, and the canal predates the presence of the highway. However, this intersection of canal and highway is commonly referred to as a joint-use area, pursuant to agreement(s) between Reclamation and Caltrans. Contra Costa Water District (Contra Costa) operates and maintains the canal and associated roads, bridges, and other appurtenances pursuant to an operating agreement with Reclamation (Contract No. 14-06-200-6072A). Contra Costa also has

authority under its contract with Reclamation to allow certain land actions to occur on these areas under its jurisdiction.

The horizontal drilling operation described above took place without prior Reclamation or Contra Costa knowledge or authorization. The drilling resulted in contact with unforeseen concrete and reinforced iron bar (rebar) near the service road underpass that runs near the canal. The origin of these materials is unknown. With the possibility that these materials are part of the footings for the retaining walls of the service road underpass, the conduits being drilled in this operation were abandoned in place to avoid additional impacts. An assessment of potential damages to the retaining wall structure at this joint-use area through exploratory drilling (potholing) has been requested.

Nature of the Action

Contra Costa, pursuant to its operating agreement with Reclamation, proposes to authorize BAIFA and its contractors to conduct exploratory drilling (potholing) in approximately six locations in order to investigate the impacts of the previous horizontal directional drilling operation (Figure 2). This will be accomplished by precisely locating the drilled conduits using ground-penetrating radar and excavating using a truck-mounted drill rig and an auger or high pressure water excavation system. These potholes will be approximately 9-inches in diameter and 10 to 15 feet deep. This excavation process is solely for data collection purposes; detailed notes and pictures will be taken to document the findings. If no footings within the Reclamation right-of-way were impacted by the horizontal drilling operation, then no further work will be done. If additional buried and previously undiscovered materials are found as a result of this project, then further actions required to effect a remedy or repair will be investigated. In either case, the potholing will be immediately backfilled with the spoil material and/or concrete slurry and all necessary documentation will be provided to Contra Costa and BAIFA.

Environmental Commitments

Contra Costa shall implement the following environmental protection measures to avoid environmental consequences associated with the Proposed Action:

- If the drilling is to occur between February and August, the tree at the south drill site shall be observed for nesting birds and the approach sites for drill rig or other vehicles traversing any vegetated areas (e.g., to reach the drilling locations) shall be walked and searched for bird nests. If a nest is located, a qualified biologist shall survey the nest and determine if take of migratory birds can be avoided. The biologist shall determine if take can be avoided and develop recommendation(s) to do so, if possible; in order to undertake the action, the recommendation(s) for avoidance of take shall be implemented. Alternately, the Project can be conducted outside the nesting season, when no take would occur.
- No pothole may be left unfilled or uncovered overnight. If a pothole cannot be filled, tight fitting material (e.g. staked plywood) shall be placed over the hole and maintained as such until the pothole is filled.

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

Exclusion Category

516 DM 14.5 B (3). *Data collection studies that involve test excavations for cultural resources investigations or test pitting, drilling, or seismic investigations for geologic exploration purposes where impacts will be localized.*

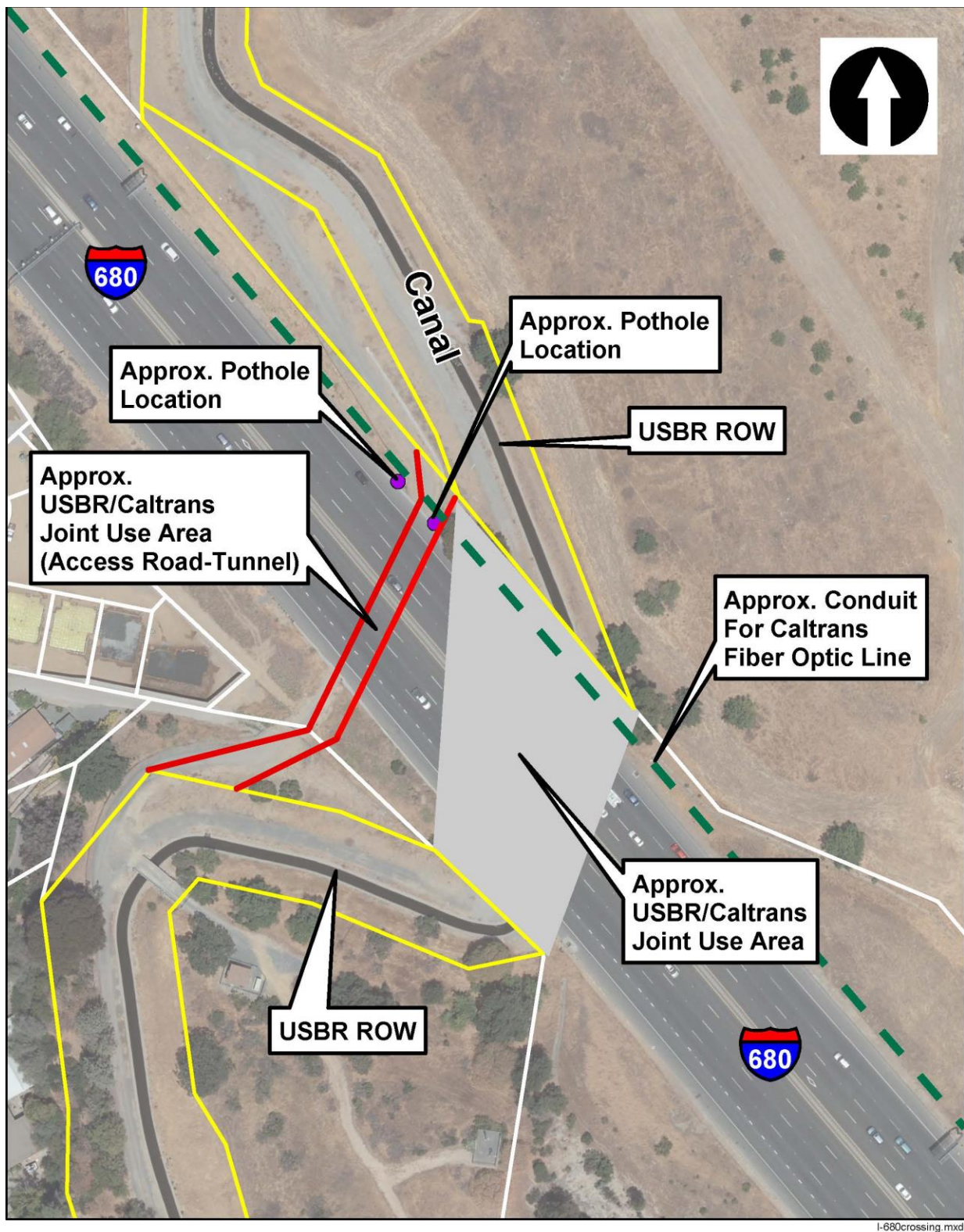


Figure 2 Potholing Locations

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 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-163

Project Name: CCWD Potholing at the CCC Service Road and Highway 680 Crossing Project

NEPA Document: CEC-18-036

MP 153 Cultural Resources Reviewer: Mark Carper

NEPA Contact: Brian Lopez

Determination: No Historic Properties Affected

Date: October 10, 2018

Reclamation proposes to authorize CCWD to allow Bay Area Infrastructure Financing Authority (BAIFA) and its contractors to access Reclamation land near Martinez. Access is required for exploratory drilling (potholing) in approximately six locations to investigate the impacts of a previous horizontal directional drilling operation. Authorization of the proposed work on Federal property constitutes an undertaking as defined in 36 CFR § 800.16(y), which is a type of activity that has the potential to cause effects on historic properties under 36 CFR § 800.3(a).

BAIFA and the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), have been working on the development of express lanes and associated traffic-control elements along the southbound portion of Interstate Highway 680 (I-680) from the City of Martinez to the Alameda County line. Part of these improvements has been the installation of electronic and fiber optic conduits for the tolling equipment and signage along the highway. Some of these transmission lines have been installed adjacent to the roadways using horizontal directional drilling methods and trenching.

As part of the above described improvements, a horizontal drilling operation took place for the installation of fiber optic conduits unknowingly on land owned by Reclamation and without prior Reclamation authorization. This drilling resulted in contact with unforeseen concrete and reinforced iron bar (rebar) somewhere in the vicinity of the service road underpass that runs near the CCC. It is believed that the materials are part of the footings for the retaining walls of the service road underpass, the conduits being drilled in this operation were abandoned in place to avoid additional impacts. An assessment has been

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

requested to determine the origins of the concrete and rebar material discovered at this joint-use area. To assess the impacts, BAIFA proposes to drill up to six potholes (9-inch diameter) to a depth of 10 to 15 feet using a truck-mounted auger. All ground disturbance will be within engineered fill material associated with the construction of the I-680 and the subject underpass.

Reclamation determined that the area of potential effects (APE) includes the entirety of the construction-related activities for the project. The APE is located in Section 22, T. 2 N., R. 2 W., Mount Diablo Base and Meridian, as depicted on the Vine Hill 7.5' U.S. Geological Survey topographic quadrangle map. The APE for the proposed project encapsulates approximately 0.01 acres and includes all ground disturbing activities. The vertical APE is a maximum of 15 feet for the potholing. The entirety of the project is within disturbed engineered fill.

In an effort to identify historic properties in the APE, Reclamation reviewed the Historic Property Survey Report (HPSR) prepared by Caltrans in support of the Backhaul Communications Network Project, within which the current APE is situated and the proposed potholing project is in support. The CCC, a National Register of Historic Places-eligible property, is adjacent to the project APE as I-680 crosses over the canal at this location; however, the canal is outside the APE and will not be affected by the potholing. No historic properties were identified within the APE.

The entirety of the project is contained within the engineered fill of the I-680 corridor. 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 initiated consultation with California the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) on August 30, 2018 with a notification of a determination of no historic properties affected for the proposed project. SHPO concurred with the determination in a letter dated October 8, 2018.

After reviewing CEC-18-036 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

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

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

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calshpo.ohp@parks.ca.gov

www.ohp.parks.ca.gov

October 05, 2018

In reply refer to: BUR_2018_0912_002

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

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: Contra Costa Water District (CCWD) Potholing
at the Contra Costa Canal (CCC) Service Road and Highway 680 Crossing
Project, Contra Costa County, California (18-SCAO-163)

Dear Ms. Leigh:

The State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) received on September 12, 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) proposes to authorize CCWD to allow the Bay Area Infrastructure Financing Authority (BAIFA) and its contractors to access Reclamation land near Martinez. Access is required for exploratory drilling (potholing) in about six locations to investigate the impacts of a previous horizontal directional drilling operation. Reclamation has concluded a finding of *no historic properties affected* and seeks concurrence. Provided documentation is:

- Enclosure 1: Maps: Figure –Project Location (overlaid USGS Quad Map); Figure 2-Area of Potential Effects (overlaid Aerial Photo map).
- Enclosure 2: Report on Disk: California Department of Transportation: Historic Property Survey Report-District 04, Alameda and Contra Costa Counties; Route 680, Post Miles ALA PM 20.15 – CC PM 24.5; Project # EA 3G950 (414000489); May 26, 2015; 706 pp. [By: C. DeBaker, Senior Archaeologist, Garcia and Associates, San Rafael, CA] [For: District 4 Caltrans, Oakland, CA]

BAIFA and the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans), have been working on developing express lanes and associated traffic-control elements along the southbound portion of Interstate Highway 680 (I-680) from the City of Martinez to the Alameda County line. Improvements include installing electronic and fiber optic conduits for the tolling equipment and signage along the highway. Some transmission lines have been installed adjacent to the roadways using horizontal directional drilling methods and trenching.

During the project, a horizontal drilling operation took place that put fiber optic conduits unknowingly on land owned by Reclamation and without prior Reclamation authorization to enter its Right-of-Way (ROW). This drilling resulted in contact with unforeseen concrete and reinforced iron bar (rebar) somewhere in the vicinity of the service road underpass that runs near the CCC. It is believed that the materials are part of the footings for the retaining walls of the service road underpass; the conduits being drilled in this operation were abandoned in place to avoid additional impacts. An assessment has been requested to determine the origins of the concrete and rebar material discovered at this joint-use area. To assess the impacts, BAIFA proposes to drill up to six potholes (9-inch diameter) to a depth of 10 to 15 feet using a truck-mounted auger. All ground disturbance will be within engineered fill material associated with the construction of the I-680 and the subject underpass.

The APE for the proposed project totals about 0.01 acres and includes all ground disturbing activities. The vertical APE is a maximum of 15 feet for the potholing. The entirety of the project is within disturbed engineered fill.

For historic properties identification efforts, Reclamation reviewed a Caltrans Historic Property Survey Report prepared in support of the Backhaul Communications Network Project within which the current APE is situated and which the proposed potholing project supports (Enclosure 2). The Contra Costa Canal, a National Register of Historic Places-eligible property, is adjacent to the project APE as I-680 crosses over the canal at this location; however, the canal is outside the APE and will not be affected by the potholing. No other historic properties were identified within, or near, the APE.

Reclamation determined that consultation with Indian tribes was not necessary for this undertaking because of the limited APE and minimal visual effects. No sites of religious or cultural significance are expected to be present, and ground disturbance will take place entirely within previously engineered fill.

Reclamation applied the criteria of adverse effect for the undertaking, at 36 CFR 800.5(a), and finds that the proposed project will result in *no historic properties affected* due to the proposed modification taking place in the existing heavily modified ROW of the crossing.

Based on past land use, and the scope of current project activities, Reclamation finds that the project is a *no historic properties affected* outcome and requests review and comment on their finding of effect for this undertaking. The SHPO has the following comments:

- 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 appropriately identify historic properties within the APE;
- Reclamation finds that the proposed undertaking will result in no historic properties affected. 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 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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Julianne', followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Julianne Polanco
State Historic Preservation Officer