

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Categorical Exclusion Checklist

Land Use Authorization to PG&E for the Installation, Operation, and Maintenance of a Gas Pipeline Crossing Lateral 6.2 and Road 39 1/2 in Madera County

CEC-17-001

Prepared by: Kate Connor Date: 2/12/2018
Kate Connor
Natural Resources Specialist
South-Central California Area Office

Concurred by: See Attachment A Date: See Attachment A
Brandee Bruce
Architectural Historian
Mid-Pacific Regional Office
Regional Archeologist concurred with Item 8. Their determination has been placed within the project file.

Concurred by: Shauna McDonald Date: 2/12/18
Shauna McDonald
Wildlife Biologist
South-Central California Area Office

Concurred by: R. Emerson Date: 2/12/2018
Rain L. Emerson
Supervisory Natural Resources Specialist
South-Central California Area Office
ITA Designee concurred with Item 11. Their determination has been placed within the project file.

Approved by: Michael P. Jackson Date: 2/13/2018
Michael P. Jackson, P.E.
Area Manager
South-Central California Area Office



Background

Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) proposes to install approximately 7 miles of gas pipeline along Avenue 12, Road 39 ½, Avenue 14, and Road 204. PG&E has requested that the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) authorize the installation of a new gas pipeline under Lateral 6.2 (off of the Madera Canal) at Road 39 ½, one mile north of Avenue 12 in Madera County, California (Figure 1). The proposed project would provide reliable natural gas service to existing customers between Avenue 14 and Avenue 15 in northern Madera County.

Nature of the Action

Reclamation proposes to issue a 25-year land use authorization to PG&E for installation, operation, and maintenance of a gas pipeline within Reclamation right of way along Lateral 6.2 on the Madera Canal.

PG&E would install approximately 200-feet of 8-inch diameter plastic pipeline under the Lateral using 10-inch diameter bores. Bore depth would begin a minimum of 4-feet below ground level and a minimum of 5-feet below Lateral 6.2 (Figure 2). The bore pits where the pipeline boring would begin would be 12-feet long by 6-feet wide by 6-feet deep and located on the County right of way. Soil excavated during boring would be trucked off-site and disposed of per PG&E standards.

Equipment that would be used includes boring equipment and a vehicle. The staging area would be located at the PG&E owned substation on Avenue 12.

The Proposed Action on Reclamation lands would take approximately 2 days to complete.

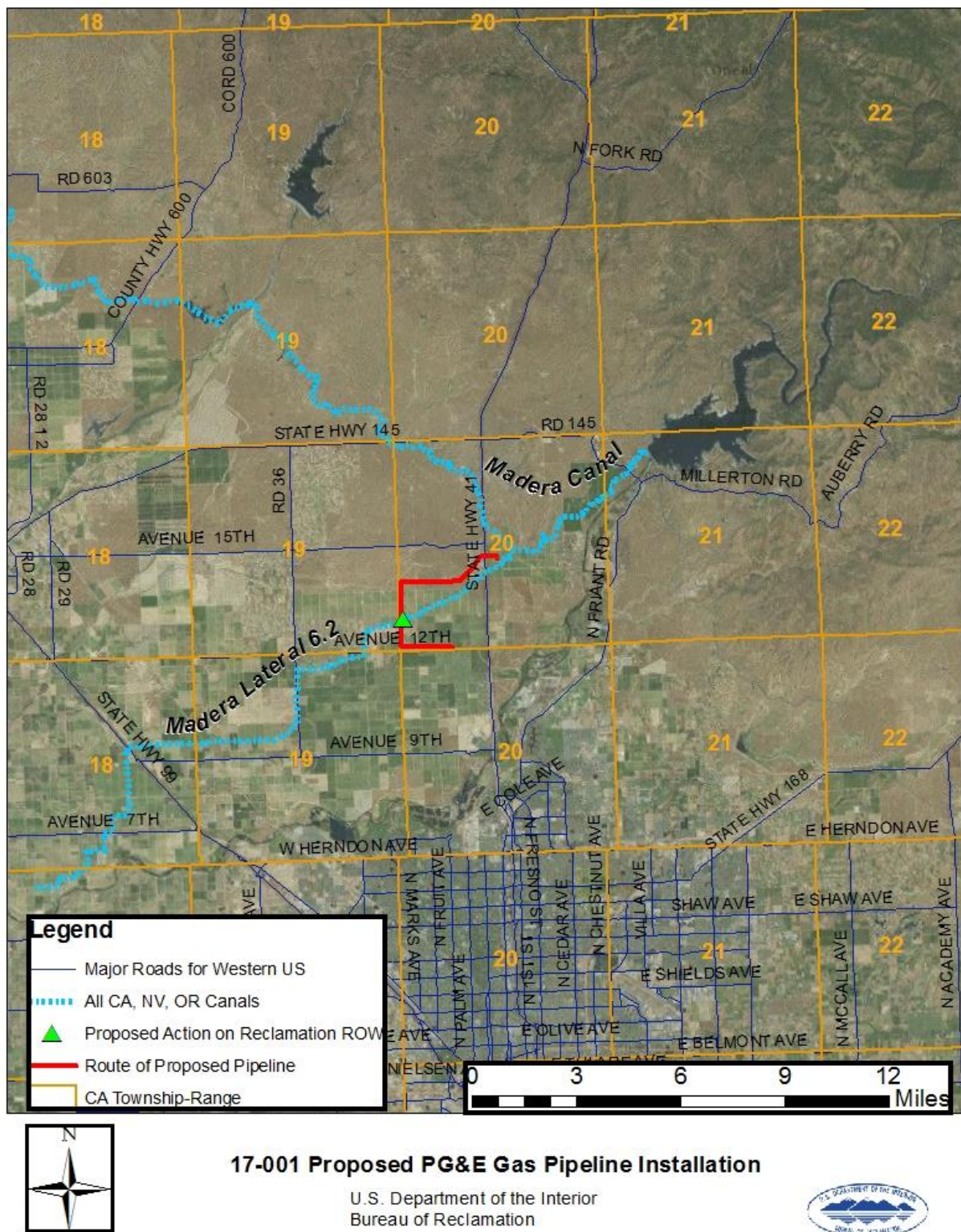


Figure 1 Project location

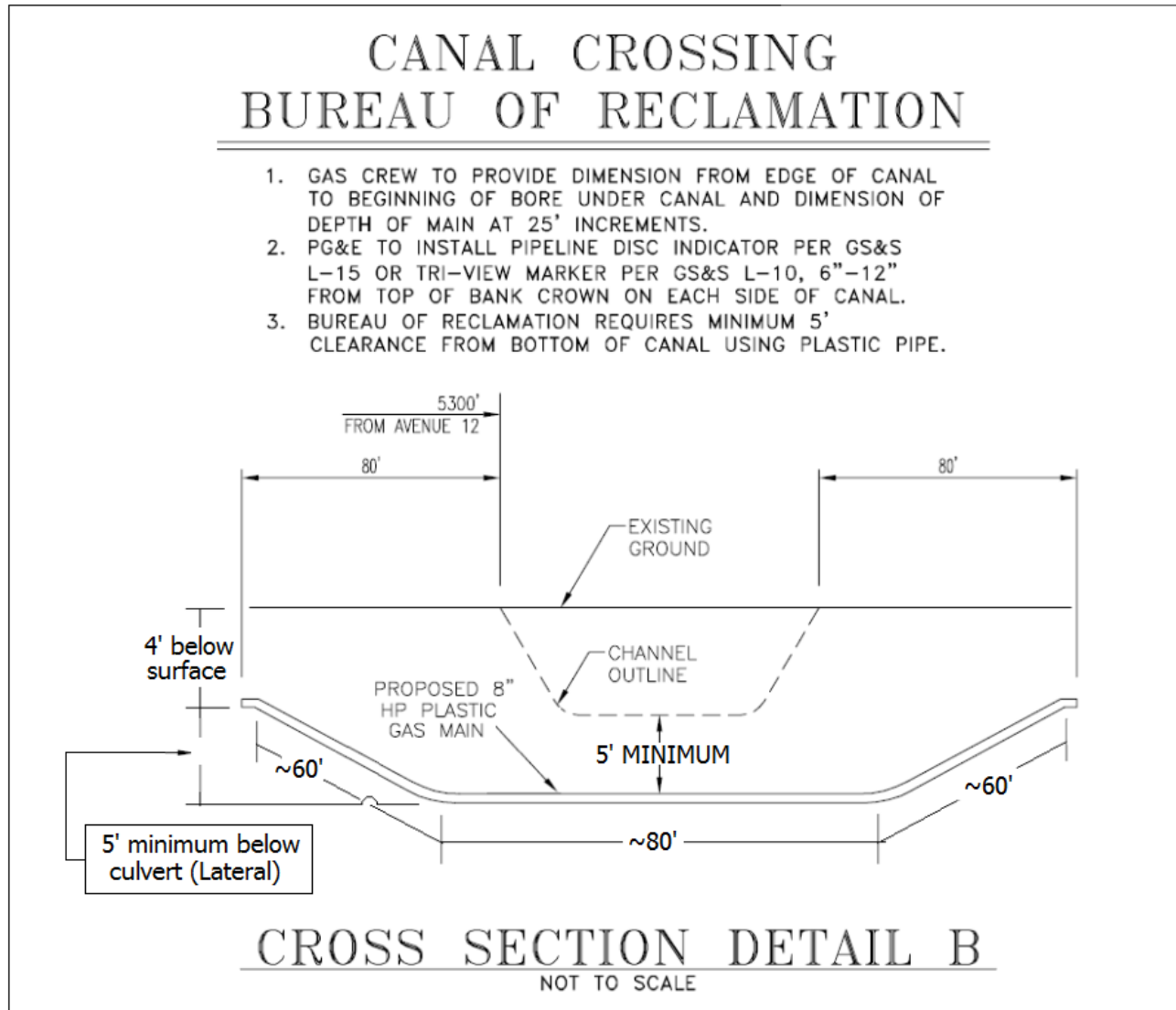


Figure 2 Proposed Action

Environmental Commitments

PG&E shall comply with any measures required under their San Joaquin Valley Habitat Conservation Plan/Section 10 permit. This includes exclusion of nesting by swallows from the culvert in the Action Area should the project take place during Cliff Swallow nesting season, if necessary. The nesting season can vary by year and location, but is typically from February to September.

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

Exclusion Category

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

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	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Extraordinary Circumstance	No	Uncertain	Yes
(43 CFR 46.215 (h)).			
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 RESOURCES COMPLIANCE
Division of Environmental Affairs
Cultural Resources Branch (MP-153)

MP-153 Tracking Number: 17-SCAO-059.001

Project Name: Land Use Authorization to Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) for the Installation, Operation, and Maintenance of a Gas Pipeline Crossing under Lateral 6.2, Madera County, California

NEPA Contact: Mary Connor (Kate), Natural Resource Specialist

MP 153 Cultural Resources Reviewer: Scott Williams, Archaeologist



Date: February 9, 2018

Reclamation proposes to approve the issuance of a 25-year land use authorization to PG&E for installation, operation, and maintenance of a gas pipeline within Reclamation's right-of-way for Lateral 6.2 off the Madera Canal. This action constitutes an undertaking with the potential to cause effects to historic properties, assuming such properties are present, requiring compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) as amended.

Based on historic properties identification efforts conducted by ECORP Consulting, Inc., , Reclamation consulted with, and received concurrence from, the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) on a finding of no historic properties affected pursuant to 36 CFR §800.4(d)(1). Consultation correspondence between Reclamation and the SHPO has been provided with this cultural resources compliance document for inclusion in the administrative record for this action.

I concur with Item 8 of CEC-17-001 that there will be no significant impacts from this action on historic properties.

This document serves as notification that Section 106 compliance has been completed for this undertaking. Please note that if project activities subsequently change, additional NHPA Section 106 review, including further consultation with the SHPO, may be required.

Attachments:

Letter: Reclamation to SHPO dated January 19, 2018

Letter: SHPO to Reclamation dated February 5, 2018



United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Mid-Pacific Regional Office
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, CA 95825-1898

JAN 19 2018

IN REPLY REFER TO:

MP-153
ENV-3.00

SPECIAL DELIVERY - HAND DELIVERED

Ms. Julianne Polanco
State Historic Preservation Officer
Office of Historic Preservation
1725 23rd Street, Suite 100
Sacramento, CA 95816

Subject: National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Section 106 Consultation for a Land Use Authorization to Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) for the Installation, Operation, and Maintenance of a Gas Pipeline Crossing under Lateral 6.2, Madera County, California (Project 17-SCAO-059.001)

Dear Ms. Polanco:

The Bureau of Reclamation is initiating consultation under Title 54 USC § 306108, commonly known as Section 106 of the NHPA, and its implementing regulations found at 36 CFR Part 800 regarding Reclamation's issuance of a 25-year land use authorization to PG&E for installation, operation, and maintenance of a gas pipeline within Reclamation's right-of-way for Lateral 6.2 off the Madera Canal in Madera County, California (Enclosure 1). The Madera Canal is a feature of the Friant Division of the Central Valley Project. PG&E proposes to install a new gas pipeline along Avenue 12, Road 39 ½, Avenue 14, and Road 204. PG&E has requested that Reclamation authorize the installation of the gas pipeline under Lateral 6.2 at Road 39 ½, one mile north of Avenue 12. Issuance of this authorization constitutes an undertaking as defined in 36 CFR § 800.16(y) and is a type of activity that has the potential to cause effects on historic properties under 36 CFR § 800.3(a). Reclamation is consulting with you pursuant to the 36 CFR Part 800 regulations, which implement Section 106, and are notifying you of our finding of no historic properties affected pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.4(d)(1).

With this authorization, PG&E would install approximately 200 feet of 8-inch-diameter plastic pipeline under Lateral 6.2 using 10-inch-diameter bores. Pits measuring 12 feet long by 6 feet wide by 6 feet deep would be excavated at both ends of the boring alignment for access to allow boring 4 to 5 feet underneath the lateral, down to as deep as 30 feet below the surface. The bore pits would be located on Madera County's right-of-way for Road 39 ½ (Enclosure 2). Soil excavated during boring would be trucked off-site and disposed of per PG&E standards. Equipment that would be used includes boring equipment and a vehicle.

The area of potential effects (APE) includes the bore pits and the boring underneath Lateral 6.2. The APE is located entirely within Sections 30 and 31 of T. 11 S., R. 20 E., Mount Diablo Meridian, as depicted on the Lanes Bridge, California, 7.5' U.S. Geological Survey topographic quadrangle map (Enclosure 1). The APE measures 260 feet north-south by 100 feet east-west and covers a total of 0.2 acres (Enclosure 2). Based on the depth of construction activities, the maximum vertical APE is as deep as 30 feet as it passes under the lateral (Enclosure 3: Figure 2). The above ground activities will be temporary and limited to temporary staging and construction. There will be little visual evidence of the proposed gas line after installation; therefore, indirect effects will be minimal.

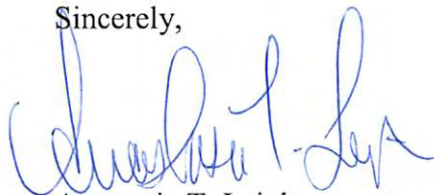
A cultural resource inventory (Enclosure 3) was completed by ECORP Consulting, Inc. (ECORP), a third party cultural resources contractor, on behalf of PG&E. ECORP defined their project area (also called APE by ECORP) as larger than Reclamation's APE for this undertaking. Reclamation's APE lies within ECORP's larger project area/APE and the identification efforts included Reclamation's APE. In an effort to identify historic properties, ECORP completed a record search at the Southern San Joaquin Valley Information Center of the California Historical Resource Information System and conducted a pedestrian survey of their project area. ECORP identified Lateral 6.2 off the Madera Canal, Road 39 ½ and a poured concrete bridge where the road crosses Lateral 6.2, and an isolated glass bottle fragment in the Lateral 6.2 bank. Road 39 ½ where the bore pits will be excavated is the only cultural resource within Reclamation's APE. The other identified cultural resources are outside the APE and will be avoided entirely by the boring activities. ECORP evaluated Road 39 ½ for its eligibility for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (National Register), recommending that Road 39 ½ is not eligible under any criteria found at 36 CFR § 60.4. Reclamation agrees with ECORP's eligibility recommendation.

The vertical APE is situated within three natural soil unit types with a low probability for buried cultural resources, as discussed by ECORP (Enclosure 3). Reclamation also reviewed *A Geoarchaeological Overview and Assessment of Caltrans Districts 6 and 9* (Meyers, Rosenthal, and Young, 2010) and confirmed the analysis and sensitivity for *in situ* buried cultural resources within the APE. Disturbances from the construction of Road 39 ½ and Lateral 6.2 and the resultant engineered fill in the APE were not discussed in either report. This evidence combined indicates that the likelihood for buried, stratified cultural deposits within the APE is low.

Pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.4(a)(4), Reclamation invited the Table Mountain Rancheria Tribe, the California Valley Miwok Tribe, the North Fork Rancheria of Mono Indians of California, and the Picayune Rancheria of Chukchansi Indians of California to assist in identifying historic properties of concern that may be affected by the proposed undertaking. Pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.4(a)(3), Reclamation also invited the following Native American representatives to identify issues regarding effects on historic properties: Mr. Robert Ledger, Mr. Ron Goode, Ms. Katherine Erolinda Perez, Ms. Lois Martin, and Mr. Kenneth Woodrow. To date, only Mr. Tiger Paulk of the California Valley Miwok Tribe has replied. Mr. Paulk had no concerns; however, he would like to be notified if any prehistoric resources are identified. Reclamation will work to address any concerns that may be raised in the future, and contact your office as appropriate.

Based on the above and enclosed information, Reclamation has reached a finding of no historic properties affected for our undertaking. We invite your comments on our delineation of the APE and our efforts to identify historic properties. We request concurrence that Road 39 ½ is not eligible for the National Register and are notifying your office of our finding of no historic properties affected pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800.4(d)(1). In the event of a post-review discovery, Reclamation will follow the procedures outlined at 36 CFR § 800.13 and consult as required. If you have any questions concerning this undertaking, please contact Mr. Scott Williams, Archeologist, at 916-978-5042 or sawilliams@usbr.gov.

Sincerely,



Anastasia T. Leigh
Regional Environmental Officer

Enclosures – 3

Reference:

Meyer, Jack, Jeffrey S. Rosenthal, and Craig D. Young
2010 *A Geoarchaeological Overview and Assessment of Caltrans Districts 6 and 9. Cultural Resource Inventory of Caltrans District 6/9 Rural Conventional Highways. EA 06-0A7408*
TEA Grant. Far Western Anthropological Research, Inc. for Caltrans District 6.