

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Categorical Exclusion Checklist

Westlands Water District License Renewals for San Luis Canal and Coalinga Canal

CEC-18-002

Prepared by:

Kate Connor

Kate Connor
Natural Resources Specialist
South-Central California Area Office

Date: 1/16/2018

Concurred by:

See Attachment A

Gary Scholze
Archaeologist/Architectural Historian
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:

Lisa Buck

Lisa Buck
Wildlife Biologist
South-Central California Area Office

Date: 1/16/2018

Concurred by:

R Emerson

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.

Date: 2/2/2018

Approved by:

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

Date: 2/2/2018



Background

The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) issued land use authorizations to Westlands Water (Westlands) associated with temporary diversion facilities located along the San Luis and Coalinga Canals (Contract Nos. 6-07-20-L6637 and 08-LC-20-9641A, respectively). As the land use authorizations were going to expire, Westlands requested approval from Reclamation to renew the licenses. Reclamation analyzed the proposed renewal of the two licenses which would allow the continued operation and maintenance of specific existing facilities located along the San Luis and Coalinga Canals in Categorical Exclusion Checklist (CEC)-16-046, entitled Westlands Water District License Renewals for San Luis Canal and Coalinga Canal. The CEC was completed on February 2, 2017. Since then, Westlands has requested the addition of four existing facilities that had not been included in the list covered in CEC-16-046.

Reclamation is preparing this CEC to revise the previous list covered in 16-046. As there is no change in the scope of what was previously covered in the determinations for CEC-16-046, Reclamation is using them for this CEC which supersedes CEC-16-046.

Nature of the Action

Reclamation will issue land use authorizations to Westlands for the continued operation and maintenance of the existing temporary facilities located along the San Luis and Coalinga Canals for a period of up to five years. The existing facilities are listed in Table 1 and Table 2.

No new construction or modification of existing facilities will occur as part of the Proposed Action. In addition, water conveyed via these facilities will comply with all existing requirements for use of water conveyed in these facilities, including the commitment that no untitled, natural, or undeveloped lands shall be placed into agricultural production and no land shall be converted for other uses without evidence of Endangered Species Act compliance.

Table 1 Westlands Temporary Diversion Facilities located along San Luis Canal

Canal Mile Post	Lessee/Operator
105.20L	R.A. Sano Farms
114.00R	Baker Farming
114.64R	Blackburn Family
114.90R	Baker Farming
114.92R	Baker Farming
115.44R	James Trust, Justin
116.02R	Hansen Farms
116.32R	Hansen Farms
116.91R	Panoche Creek Trust
117.42R	Panoche Creek Trust
118.49R	Calico Farms
119.56RA	Panoche Farming Co.
119.56RB	Coburn Ranch
119.60R	Kamm South, LLC
119.63RA	Gargiulo, Inc.
119.63RB	Bibi Assemi Rev Tr
120.86R	Coburn Ranch

Canal Mile Post	Lessee/Operator
120.87R	Kamm South, LLC
122.02R	915 Farms
122.04RA	Granville Farms, LP
122.04RB	FNF Farms, LLC
122.59R	Granville Farms, LP
123.89R	Cantua Orchards, LLC
124.16R	Panoche Pistachios
124.19R	Cantua Orchards, LLC
125.35R	Burford Ranch
125.36R	Burford Ranch
128.49R	Brooks Farm
141.29R	Double D Farms
142.57R	Double D Farms
142.60R	Harris Farms Inc.
142.61R	Harris Farms Inc.
147.75R	Britz-Mendota TIC
149.59R	Batth Farms
150.48R	Batth Farms

Table 2 Westlands Temporary Diversion Facilities located along the Coalinga Canal

Canal Mile Post	Lessee/Operator
2.94A-C	Harris Farms
2.95 A-B	Harris Farms
4.86R	Worth Farms
5.38L	Pappas Farming Co. II
5.84L	I-5 Property Services
7.03R	Pappas Family Farming III
7.04L	Harris Farms
8.05R	Wood Ag Management
8.13L A-B	Bear Canyon Farms, Inc.
9.15L A-C	Higashi Farming Co.
11.48L	Woolf Enterprises
11.52R	California Pistachios
13.76R	Westlands Water District
13.78R	Coalinga Pistachios
13.86L	Coalinga Pistachios
14.54R	Wonderful Nut Orchards, LLC
14.55R	Pleasant Valley WCP
14.56R A-B	Jayne Avenue Almonds
14.57R B-D	Dresick Farms, Inc.
14.58R	Shows Family Farms, LP
14.59R	Kings River Produce, Inc.

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

- | | | | |
|---|---|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. This action would have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment (40 CFR 1502.3). | No
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain
<input type="checkbox"/> | Yes
<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)). | No
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain
<input type="checkbox"/> | Yes
<input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. This action would have significant impacts on public health or safety (43 CFR 46.215(a)). | No
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain
<input type="checkbox"/> | Yes
<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)). | 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) (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) (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
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain
<input type="checkbox"/> | Yes
<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)). | No
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain
<input type="checkbox"/> | Yes
<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-070

Project Name: Westlands Water District License Renewals for San Luis Canal and Coalinga Canal

NEPA Document: SCAO-CEC- 18-002

NEPA Contact: Kate Connor, Natural Resources Specialist

MP-153 Cultural Resources Reviewer: Gary Scholze, Archaeologist

Date: January 24, 2018



Reclamation proposes to renew the expired license (Contract No. 6-07-20-L6637) for up to 5 years, which would allow Westlands to continue to operate and maintain the temporary diversion facilities on Reclamation's San Luis Canal right of way. Reclamation also proposes to renew the license (Contract No. 08-LC-20-9641A) for up to 5 years, which would allow Westlands to operate and maintain temporary diversion facilities on Reclamation's Coalinga Canal right of way, as well as, to divert water along the Coalinga near Milepost 18.52. No additional facilities would be constructed nor would any other construction or additional diversion (beyond that which has already been permitted) from the San Luis Canal occur as part of the proposed action. No ground disturbance or change in use will be required.

Reclamation determined that the proposed action is the type of undertaking that does not have the potential to cause effects on historic properties, should such properties be present, pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.3(a)(1). As such, Reclamation has no further obligations under 54 U.S.C. § 306108, commonly known as Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA). Based on analysis of the project activities, I concur with Item 8 in the CEC that the proposed action for this project 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 cultural resources review and NHPA Section 106 process for this undertaking. The proposed action would have no impacts on cultural resources. Please retain a copy of this document with the administrative record for the proposed action. Should the proposed action change, additional review under Section 106, possibly including consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer, may be required.