

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Categorical Exclusion Checklist

Land Use Authorization for Land and Topographic Surveys Associated with the Friant-Kern Canal Reverse Pump-Back Project

CEC-18-014

Prepared by:

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Date: 4/25/18

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:

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: 4/25/2018

Approved by:

Michael P. Jackson

Michael P. Jackson, P.E.
Area Manager
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Date: 4/25/2018



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
South-Central California Area Office

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Background

The Friant-Kern Canal (FKC) is a part of the Bureau of Reclamation's Central Valley Project which provides water to the eastern portion of the San Joaquin Valley. The Applicant, Provost & Pritchard Consulting Group, proposes to conduct a land and topographic survey of three areas along the FKC. These surveys are required for the engineering design for the San Joaquin River Restoration Program's Reverse Flow project.

Nature of the Action

Reclamation proposes to issue a Land Use Authorization for land and topographic surveys of three areas on the FKC. The surveys will be at the following locations:

1. Deer Creek Crossing (FKC MP 102.69);
2. Lake Woollomes Check structure (FKC MP 121.51); and
3. Shafter Check structure (FKC MP 137.20).

The proposed will not result in any ground disturbance or land modification.

Environmental Commitments

The Applicant shall implement the following environmental protection measures to avoid and/or reduce environmental consequences associated with the Proposed Action:

- If any San Joaquin Kit Fox individuals or suspected dens are seen, a non-disturbance buffer of 50 feet will be implemented and the siting will be reported to Reclamation.
- Disturbance of any burrow with an entrance of 4-inches or greater will be avoided.
- All surveying will be conducted above the high-water line in the Deer Creek area.
- If any active bird nests are found, the proposed surveys will be conducted in such a manner as to avoid any direct disturbance.

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

Exclusion Category

516 DM 14.5 B (1). *Routine planning investigation activities where the impacts are expected to be localized, such as land classification surveys, topographic surveys, archaeological surveys, wildlife studies, economic studies, social studies, and other study activity during any planning, preconstruction, construction, or operation and maintenance phases.*

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.