



— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION

Categorical Exclusion Checklist

Cachuma Lake Recreational Vehicle Park Renovation and Accessible Amphitheater Walkway CEC-22-040

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Background

The Parks Division of the County of Santa Barbara Community Services Department (County), under an operating agreement with the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation), administers the Lake Cachuma Campground as part of the Cachuma Lake Recreation Area located on the Santa Ynez River, approximately 25 miles northwest of Santa Barbara, California (Figure 1). The Cachuma Lake Recreational Vehicle (RV) Park is located on eight acres within the Cachuma Lake Recreation Area and was originally built in the late 1950s as a mobile home park. The original infrastructure remains in place, including cast iron sewer lines, galvanized water lines, and aluminum direct burial electrical supply lines. The County proposes to address years of deferred maintenance and approved fire suppression upgrades and improve the economic competitiveness and desirability of recreational opportunities at the RV Park by completing renovations, including replacement of the water, sewer and electrical utilities to meet current utility standards and the expectations of today's RV campers. The County additionally proposes to renovate several of the RV camper sites to be compliant with Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) accessibility requirements, and create an ADA-compliant walkway at the nearby Fireside Theater (also referred to as the Cachuma Lake Amphitheater). Together, the RV Park renovations and ADA-compliant walkway constitute the Proposed Project.

The original utility infrastructure at the Cachuma RV Park does not meet modern standards/codes. The Proposed Project will address years of deferred maintenance and fire suppression upgrades, and improve the economic competitiveness and desirability of recreational opportunities. The renovation will replace water, sewer, and electrical utilities with new utilities to meet code and the demands of today's RV campers, and will also improve accessibility.

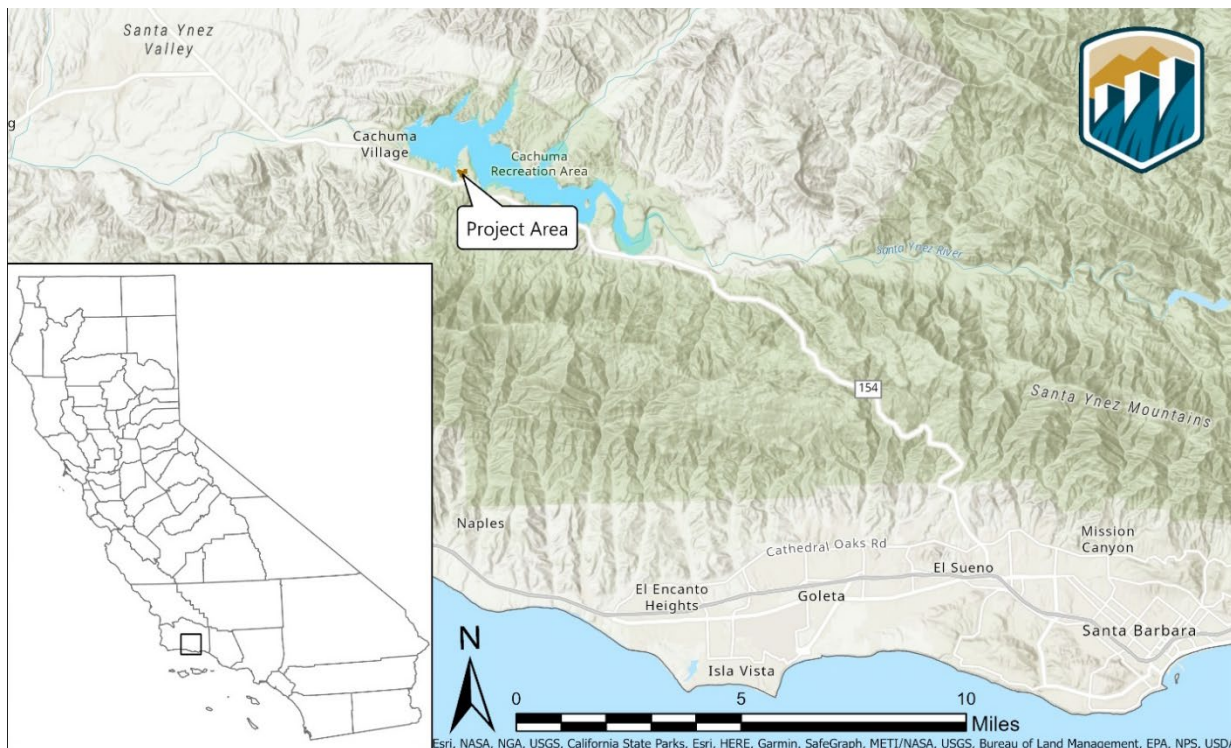


Figure 1. Cachuma Recreation Area and Vicinity

Proposed Action

Reclamation proposes to provide approvals to the County for their Cachuma Lake RV Park Renovations project and the ADA-accessible Amphitheater Walkway project (Proposed Project). Approval of the projects would be given in accordance with management agreement No 11-LC-20-0223, as the proposed projects are both consistent with the County's Recreation Management Plan (2012).

RV Park Renovations

The proposed RV Park Renovations project consists of grading and replacement of the concrete pads and asphalt within portions of the existing RV park. During the renovations, the 108 existing RV campsite areas would be replaced with 105 RV campsite areas (Figure 2). Utilities, including water, sewer, and electrical supply lines would be removed for those sites not being renovated, and replaced for the remaining campsite areas (Figure 3). The existing restroom/shower building would be demolished and a new structure would be constructed. Other miscellaneous site improvements would also take place.

While the entire site was disturbed during construction of the original mobile home park, there are areas where asphalt or concrete would be placed on existing non-hardscape areas during construction (Figure 4). The estimated depths of ground disturbance for concrete and asphalt rehabilitation/replacement are as follows:

- Asphalt roadway: 22 inches deep (and narrower than existing asphalt roadway)
- Concrete ribbon gutter: 36 inches wide x 6 inches deep (disturbance area would be within the existing asphalt roadway)
- Concrete RV pads: 20 feet wide by 24 inches deep
- Concrete walkway: 48 inches wide x 20 inches deep

Staging areas would be on existing disturbed areas and are anticipated to be the existing dirt parking lot located near the RV area/clubhouse and adjacent asphalt parking area. Equipment and materials will be stored behind a temporary fence and proper oil pans/protective ground covering will be utilized.

The anticipated equipment to be utilized during construction of the proposed improvements includes an excavator, a backhoe, a frontend loader, and 2-axle haul trucks.

Site demolition includes the narrowing of the main driveway loop, complete removal of the northwest segment of the driveway loop, removal and replacement of the existing concrete RV parking pads, removal of all existing light pole fixtures, removal of select telephone poles, removal of utility sheds and propane tanks, removal of tree stumps and dead or select non-native trees, and removal and replacement of the existing restroom/shower structure (1,549 square feet gross). There is one existing mobile home on site, and it would be demolished and replaced with one RV campsite area in the future.

Existing utilities running under the existing driveway loop and extending to each RV campsite area would be removed and replaced with long-term maintenance upgrades. An upgraded fire

suppression water line would also be installed in the same general locations under the existing asphalt roadway.

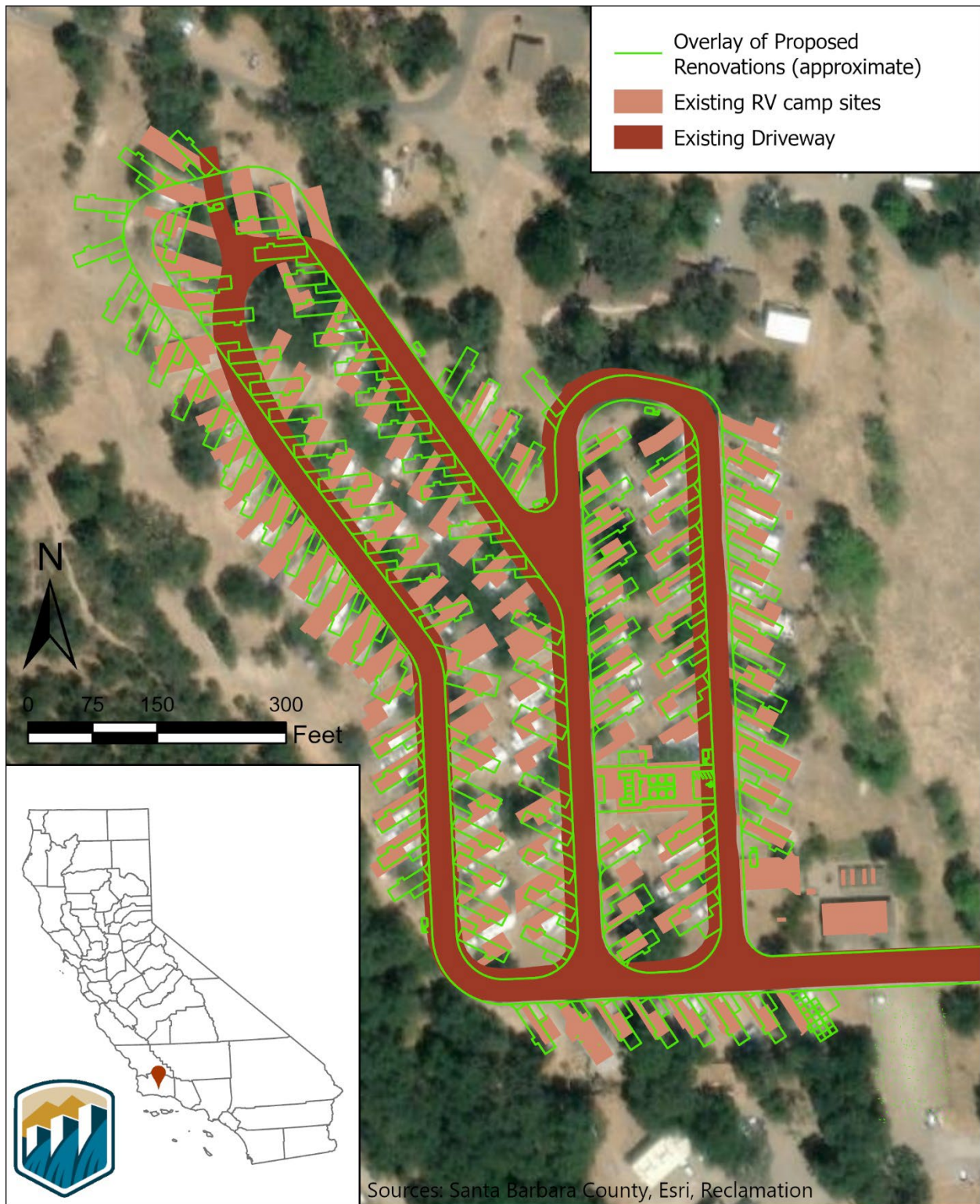


Figure 2. Existing RV Park with Overlay of Proposed Renovations (approximate)

Construction of the renovated RV campsites (Figure 3) would consist of grading of the narrowed asphalt roadway loop; replacement of the asphalt car parking at each RV campsite; replaced concrete RV parking pads; upgraded utility lines for electricity, data/communication, water and sewer; landscape improvements including new decomposed granite areas at each RV campsite, drought-tolerant native shrubs and trees; and one (1) firepit and one (1) picnic table at each site. Seven (7) of the sites would be ADA-compliant, and one (1) site would be designated as a group campsite.

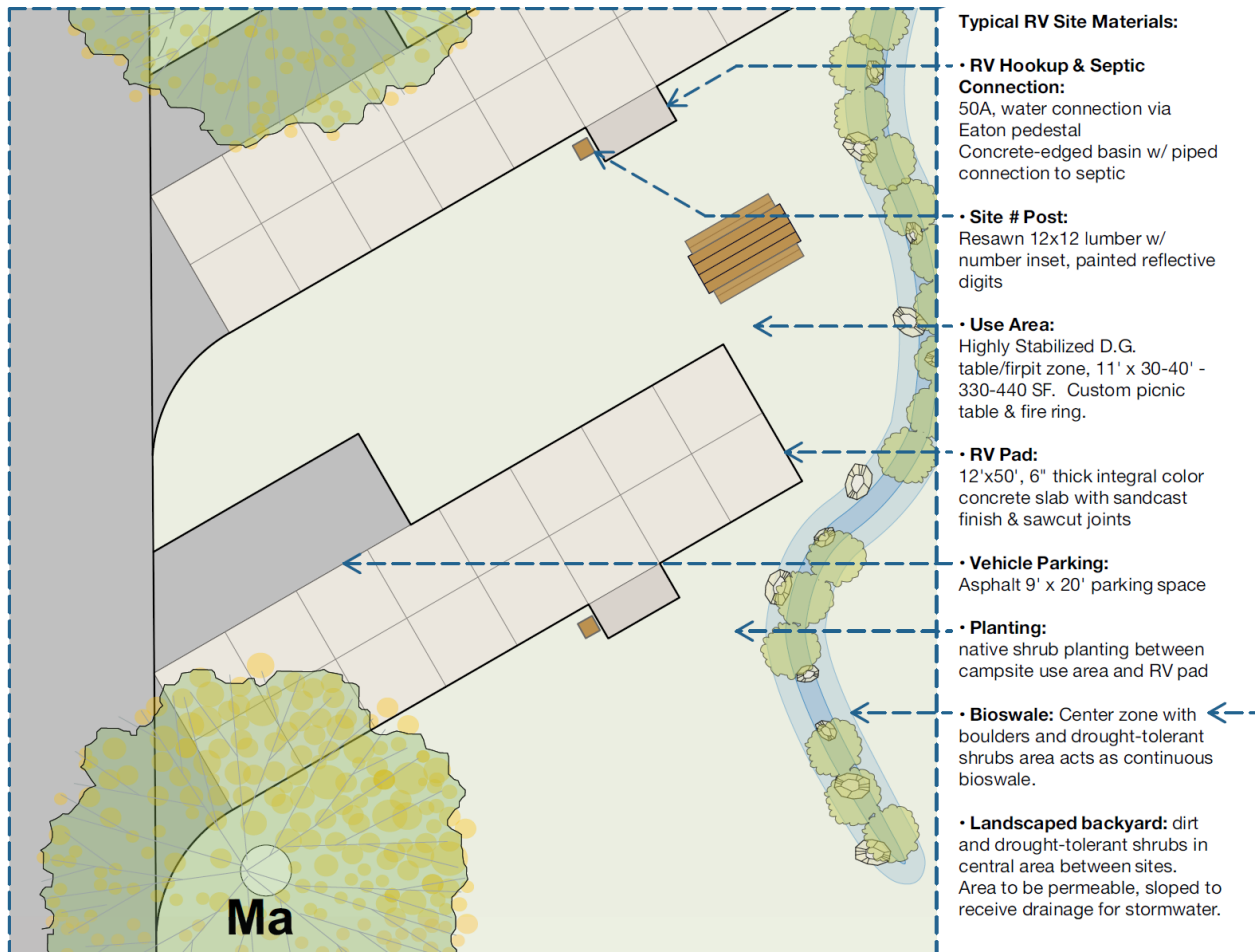


Figure 3. Proposed Design of Renovated RV Campsite

Proposed building components include a new restroom/shower structure. The structure would be located in the area that is currently the existing restroom/shower structure to limit potential impacts to archaeologically sensitive areas. Construction in this area would consist of demolition of the existing structure, grading (over-excavation and re-compaction), a new foundation and slab on grade, new utility lines for electricity, data/communication, propane gas, water and sewer, and installation of a flat plate solar thermal collector system. The structure would include six ADA-compliant single-occupant unisex restrooms, two (2) ADA-compliant single-occupant showers, four (4) single occupant showers, and a support area for utilities.

Proposed trash enclosure structures would be located throughout the site, near the existing trash locations on site. Construction in these areas would consist of demolition, grading (over-

excavation and re-compaction), a new perimeter footing and slab on grade, and new utility lines for electricity. There are seven (7) trash enclosure structures proposed – six (6) of which would contain one (1) 4-cubic yard trash dumpster, and one (1) of which will contain two (2) 4 cubic-yard trash dumpsters. All enclosures will also contain ash cans and miscellaneous utility panels.

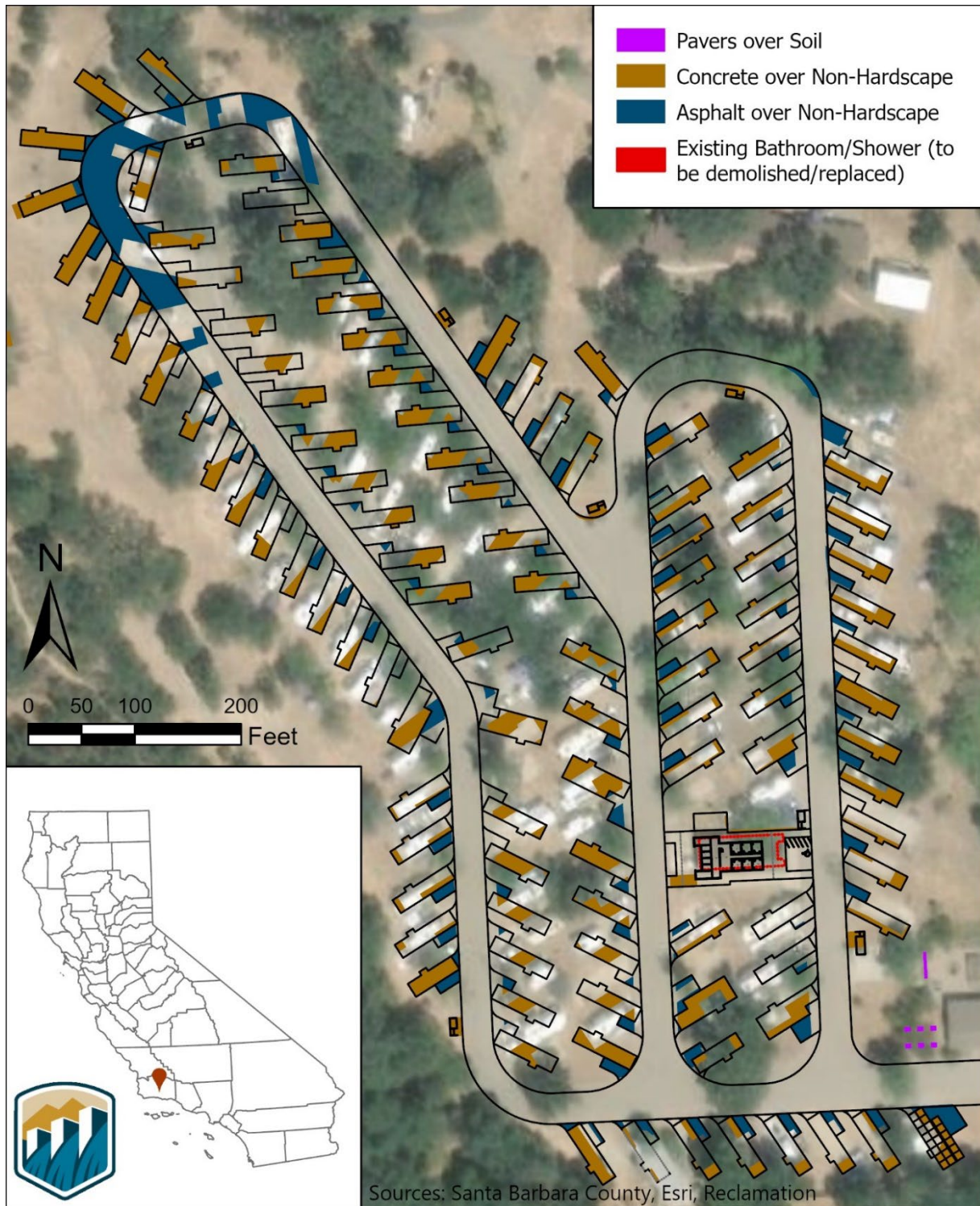


Figure 4. Hardscape Features included in Proposed Renovations

A two-car parking area is located just east of the proposed restroom and shower building. Asphalt at the truck parking area located just west of the existing clubhouse and trellis area used to accommodate catering and deliveries would be replaced.

Pedestrian pathways constructed of decomposed granite would connect the RV campsite area to the nature center and general store to the northeast, and the Borona Shores and Borona Butte areas to the northwest. Additional pathways are proposed cutting through the RV campsite area.

New landscaping will include drought-tolerant native trees and shrubs throughout the RV park, a berm running north/south along the eastern-most RV sites, and a recreational activity area directly west and north of the existing Club House. The recreational area west of the Club House would be renovated to include new golf putting greens, picnic tables and benches, and ping-pong tables. The recreational area north of the Club House would include a linear log-walk climbing experience derived from existing wood logs sourced on-site.

Proposed electrical service upgrades on site would require new transformers and switchgear located near the southeast gravel parking lot south of the Club House. Power will be routed from the switchgear to the new Restroom and Shower Structure and distributed across the site to the proposed distribution panels located within the trash enclosures. From there, power would tie into the proposed 50 amp pedestal hook-ups at each RV campsite.

The proposed electrical switch gear would be designed accordingly to accommodate the tie-in of a future 260 kW photovoltaic panel array (i.e., solar array) located in the Trailer Storage area southwest of the RV campsites.

ADA-Accessible Amphitheater Walkway

For the ADA-accessible Amphitheater Walkway portion of the project, the County would construct an ADA-compliant pathway to connect pedestrians to the existing Cachuma Lake Amphitheater (Figure 5). The current pathway is not ADA-accessible.

The project consists of grading and installation of a decomposed granite walkway 5 feet wide and 10 inches deep. There are three (3) potential interpretive panel stations along the way with anticipated steel posts that would have a similar 10-inch max depth.

The staging area would be the existing dirt amphitheater parking lot area located at the top of the proposed ADA walkway. The anticipated equipment to be utilized for construction of the walkway includes a frontend loader and a backhoe. Equipment and materials would be stored behind a temporary fence and proper oil pans/protective ground covering would be utilized.



Figure 5. ADA-Accessible Amphitheater Walkway Design Plans

Environmental Commitments

The County shall implement the following environmental protection measures to avoid environmental consequences associated with the Proposed Action:

- Work on the Proposed Project will be avoided during or after significant rainfall. Work shall not begin during rain or when the forecast probability of rain for a workday is 30% or greater. If rainfall greater than 0.5 inches has occurred in the 24-hour period prior to any planned work activity, work shall not begin until a qualified biologist has surveyed the work area to the extent possible for dispersing California red-legged frogs and has found none present. If rainfall greater than 0.5 inches occurs after work has begun, the work shall be suspended until the rain stops and until after the qualified biologist has re-surveyed the work area to the extent possible for dispersing California red-legged frogs and has found none present.
- Before the start of work on the Proposed Project each morning, a qualified biologist shall check for California red-legged frogs under all vehicles and equipment, and in any areas to be subjected to vegetation removal and/or ground disturbance. If a California red-legged frog is found, the following actions will be taken immediately: a) work on the

Proposed Project shall be suspended, and b) Reclamation and the Service will be contacted for further guidance as to any immediate action necessary to protect the species.

- All equipment will be maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's directions so there will be no leaks of fluids such as gasoline, oils, or solvents.
- Work on the Proposed Project shall begin no earlier than a half hour before sunrise and shall cease at least a half hour before sunset.
- If work on the Proposed Project is scheduled to occur during the migratory bird nesting season (February 1 through August 31), prior to the start of work a qualified biologist shall conduct a survey for nesting migratory birds in the Action Area and in areas of suitable nesting habitat within 150 feet of the Action Area. If an active nest is found during the survey, a non-disturbance buffer of 150 feet shall be established around the nest until the young have fledged or until a qualified biologist determines that the nest is no longer active. If an active nest is present within 150 feet of the Action Area, a qualified biologist shall be on site to monitor the nest(s) during demolition and construction of the Project to ensure avoidance buffers are maintained and there is no take of migratory birds. If an active nest is found and the recommended avoidance buffer is not feasible, the avoidance buffer may be reduced at the discretion of the monitoring biologist, and with written consent from Reclamation. If the monitoring biologist determines that a reduced buffer is warranted based on, but not limited to, species-specific information, site lines from the nest to the work site and observations of the nesting birds' reaction to project activities; Reclamation will determine whether to allow the reduced buffer based on the written explanation.

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

Exclusion Category

516 DM 14.5 C (3). Minor construction activities associated with authorized projects which correct unsatisfactory environmental conditions, or which merely augment or supplement, or are enclosed within existing facilities.

Extraordinary Circumstances

Below is documentation that Reclamation considered whether there were extraordinary circumstances associated with the action as required in 40 CFR 1501.4(b). The criteria reflect the Extraordinary Circumstances detailed in 43 CFR 46.215, the requirements of Executive Orders (EOs), and Reclamation policy on Indian Trust Assets (ITAs)

Extraordinary Circumstance	Yes, No, or Uncertain
(1) This action would have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment (40 CFR 1502.3)	No

Extraordinary Circumstance	Yes, No, or Uncertain
(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
(3) This action would have significant impacts on public health or safety (43 CFR 46.215(a)).	No
(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
(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
(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
(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
(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
(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
(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
(11) This action would affect ITAs (512 DM 2, Policy Memorandum dated December 15, 1993).	No
(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
(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
(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

NEPA Action Recommended

This 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.