

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION CHECKLIST
2009 Water for America Challenge Grant
Shafter-Wasco Irrigation District & North Kern Water Storage District
Water Banking Improvement Project

South-Central California Area Office

September 23, 2009

Background: Shafter-Wasco Irrigation District (SWID) and North Kern Water Storage District (NKWSD) are located in the San Joaquin Valley portion of Kern County, California a few miles north of Bakersfield. Both districts surround the cities of Shafter and Wasco and share a common boundary on the eastern side of SWID and the western side of NKWD.

In the early 1990's, following an extended drought period (1987-1992), SWID and NKWSD constructed a temporary connection between NKWSD's Calloway canal and SWID's Lateral 134.4 pipeline in order to facilitate water banking and exchanges between the two districts (Figure 1 and 2). The interconnection consisted of 180 feet of 48-inch diameter pipe and 120 feet of 24-inch diameter pipe, each with a pumping capacity of 20 cubic feet per second (cfs), from the Calloway Canal to Lateral 134. The first improvements to this connection occurred in the winter of 2004-2005 which included the addition of a 72-inch butterfly valve in the existing 78-inch reinforced concrete pipe (RCP) Lateral 134.4 and a 48-inch tee (with butterfly and flange) in the connection to SWID's Lateral 134.4.

In 2007, additional improvements included the installation of a 60-inch RCP from the tee to a standpipe and from the standpipe to a manifold with the pump discharge lines.

In 2009, SWID and NKWSD applied to the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) for a Water for America Challenge Grant (Challenge Grant) to continue improvements to this connection.

Purpose and Need for Action: The purpose of the Proposed Action is to increase the capacity of existing infrastructure in order to move water between SWID and NKWSD. SWID and NKWSD need the Proposed Action to help better manage fluctuating water supplies in order to meet existing and future water demands.

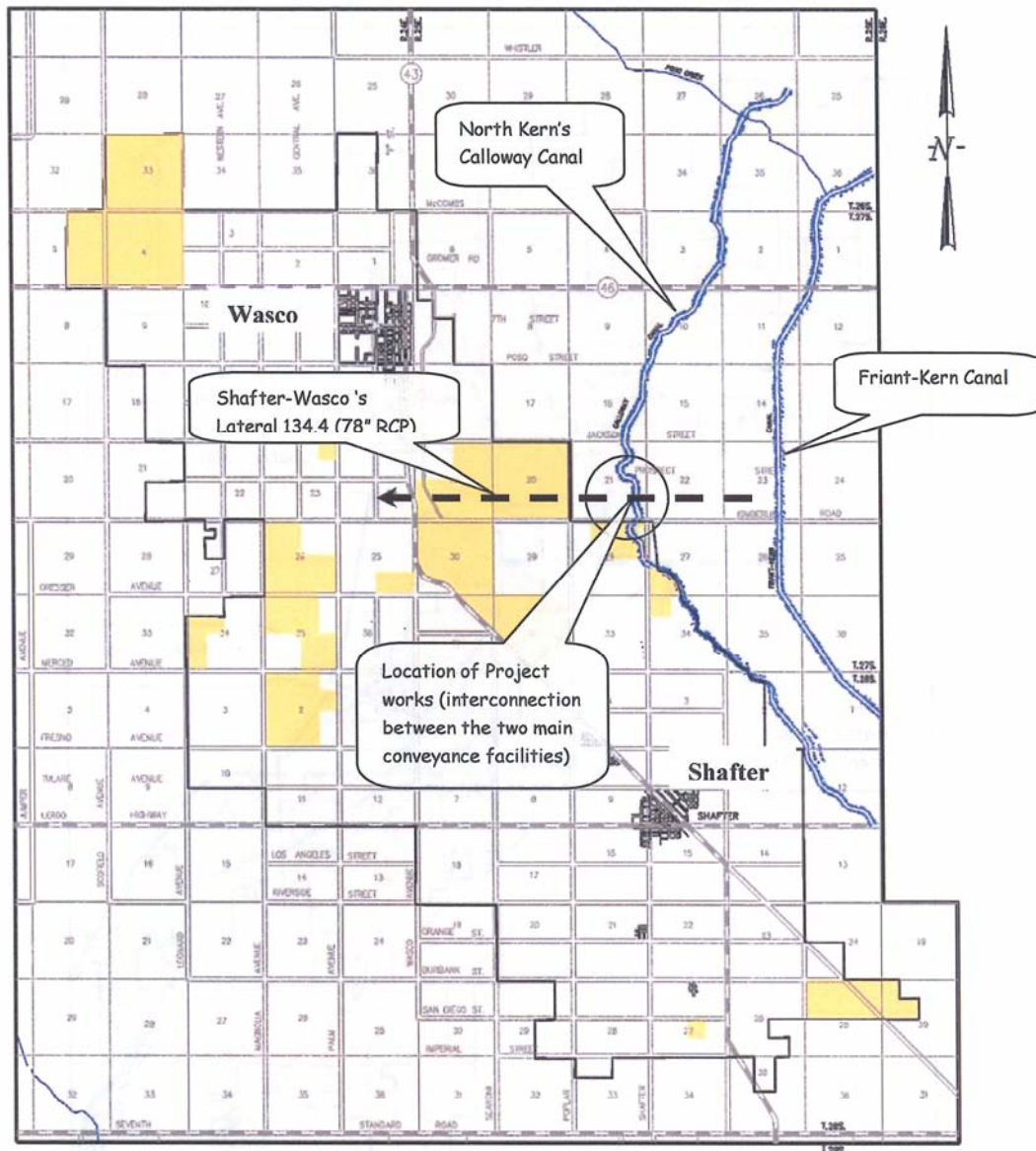
Proposed Action: Reclamation proposes to award a \$300,000 Challenge Grant to SWID and NKWSD for their Water Banking Improvement Project. The proposed award would partially fund the following improvements:

- Pumping Plant at Calloway Canal (Figure 3, 4, and 5)
 - Installation of three, 100 horsepower (hp), 35 cfs vertical pumps and motors to replace existing pumps
 - Installation of pump and motor control equipment (telemetry) & one Variable Frequency Drive controller
 - Installation of pump discharge manifold piping and appurtenances
 - Installation of two travelling water screens within Calloway Canal at inlet to the pump bays
- Discharge line to Calloway Canal from existing 10-foot standpipe (Figure 3, 4, and 5)

- 20-foot long excavation from existing standpipe to outlet in Calloway Canal. Excavation would be 10-foot deep, 10-foot wide at the bottom of the trench and up to 30-feet wide at the top of the trench.
- Removal of existing 48-inch steel blind flange on the northwest side of the existing standpipe and replacement with a 48-inch double-flanged butterfly valve.
- Installation of one 48- to 60-inch reducer with 48-inch Victaulic coupler between new butterfly valve and existing 60-inch RCP.
- Installation of one pre-cast outlet box in the Calloway Canal to connect to existing inlet box.

Construction equipment to be used would include an excavator, backhoe, welder, and boom truck. During construction, staging would occur at the project site. Movement of materials to and from the construction site would be done via existing paved roads that provide direct access to the project site. Construction would take place during the winter dewatering season and require approximately 9 months to complete.

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.



SHAFTER-WASCO IRRIGATION DISTRICT

LEGEND

- SHAFTER-WASCO NON-SERVICE AREA
- SHAFTER-WASCO SERVICE AREA
- DISTRICT BOUNDARY

Figure 1. Proposed Action in relation to SWID.

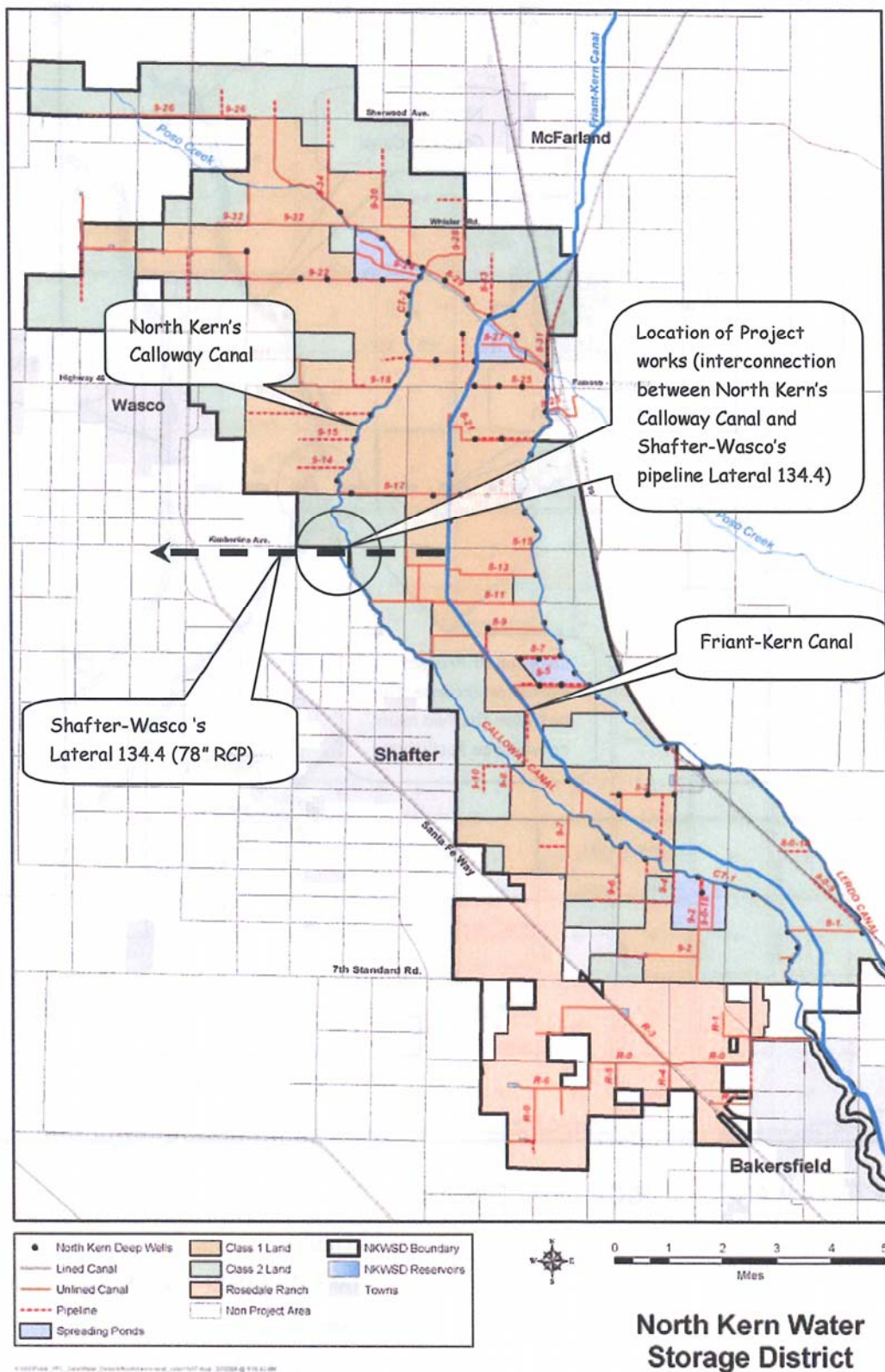


Figure 2. Proposed Action in relation to NKWSD.

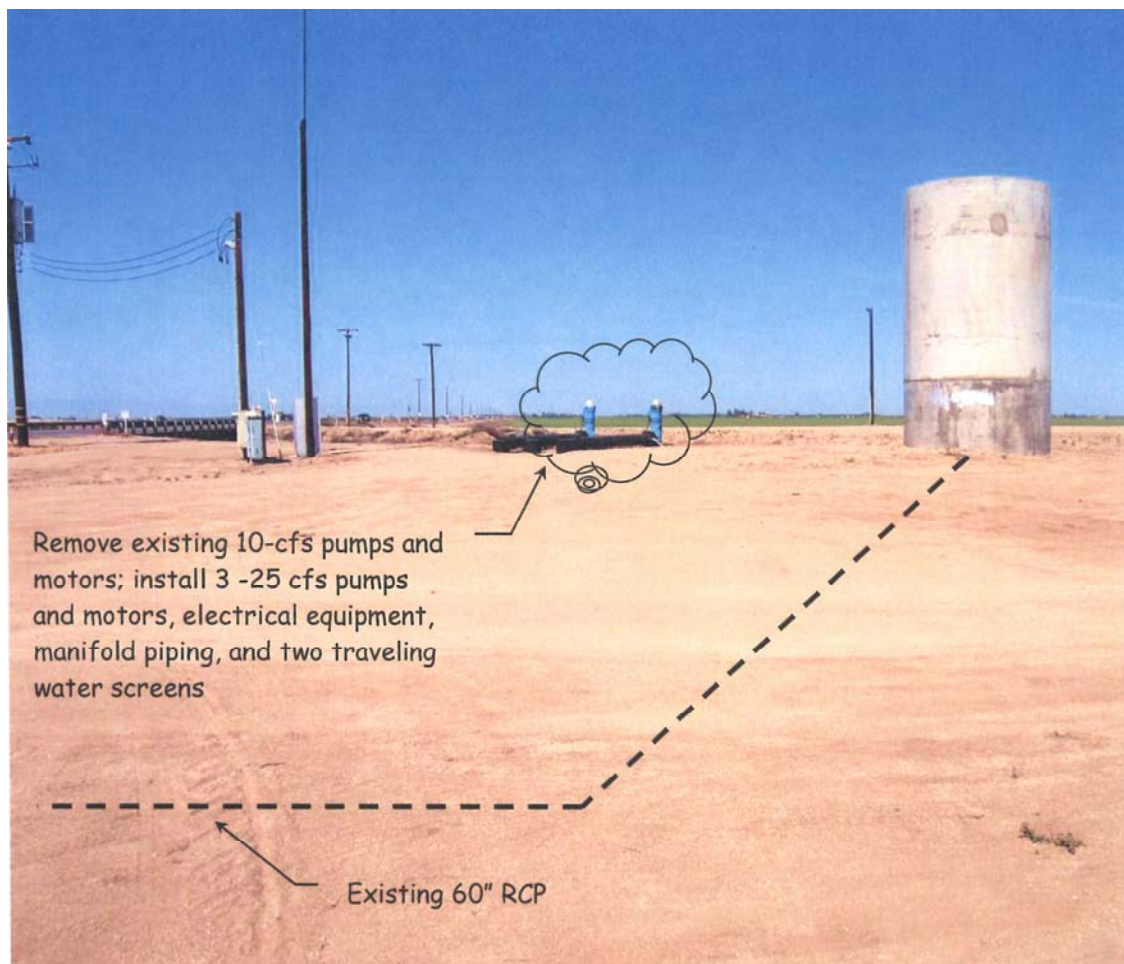


Figure 3. Photograph of existing standpipe and pumping station at Calloway Canal.

Note: work to be done falls within the ballooned and labeled areas only.

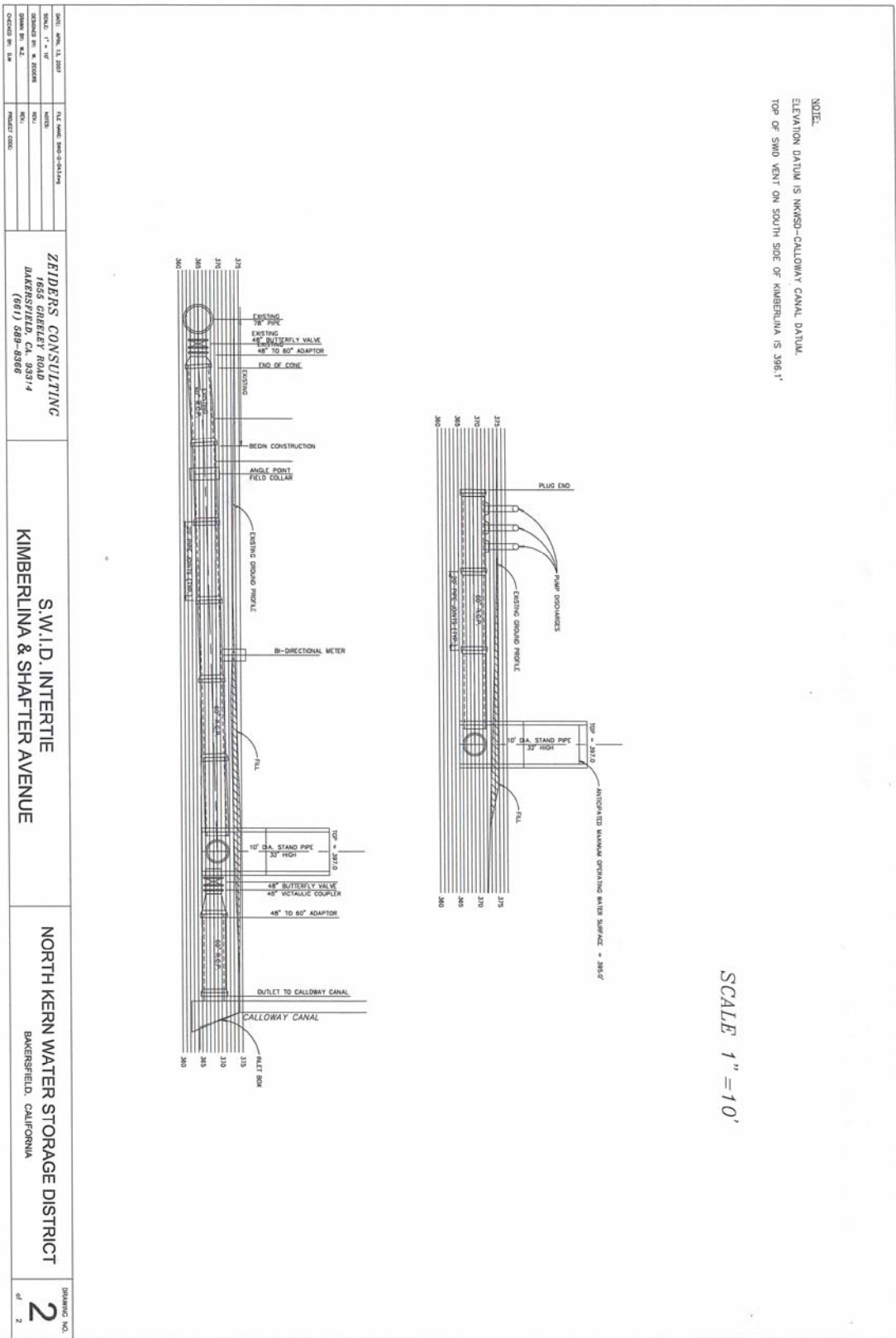


Figure 5. Design for Proposed Action.

Evaluation of Criteria for Categorical Exclusion

- | | | | |
|---|-------------|----------------|-----|
| 1. This action or group of actions would have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. | No <u>X</u> | Uncertain ____ | Yes |
| 2. This action or group of actions would involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources. | No <u>X</u> | Uncertain ____ | Yes |

Evaluation of Exemptions to Actions within Categorical Exclusion

- | | | | |
|--|-------------|----------------|-----|
| 1. This action would have significant adverse effects on public health or safety. | No <u>X</u> | Uncertain ____ | Yes |
| 2. This action would have an adverse effect on unique geological features such as wetlands, wild or scenic rivers, refuges, flood plains, rivers placed on the nationwide river inventory, or prime or unique farmlands. (Same as 516 DM 2, Appendix 2, Part 2.2). | No <u>X</u> | Uncertain ____ | Yes |
| 3. This action will have highly controversial environmental effects. | No <u>X</u> | Uncertain ____ | Yes |
| 4. This action will have highly uncertain environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks. | No <u>X</u> | Uncertain ____ | Yes |
| 5. This action will establish a precedent for future actions. | No <u>X</u> | Uncertain ____ | Yes |
| 6. This action is related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulative significant environmental effects. | No <u>X</u> | Uncertain ____ | Yes |

- | | | | |
|--|-------------|----------------|-----|
| 7. This action will affect properties listed or eligible to be listed in the National Register of Historical Places. | No <u>X</u> | Uncertain ____ | Yes |
| 8. This action will adversely affect a species listed or proposed to be listed as endangered or threatened. | No <u>X</u> | Uncertain ____ | Yes |
| 9. This action threatens to violate Federal, State, Local or Tribal law or requirements imposed for protection of the environment. | No <u>X</u> | Uncertain ____ | Yes |
| 10. This action will affect Indian Trust Assets. | No <u>X</u> | Uncertain ____ | Yes |
| 11. This action will disproportionately affect minority or low-income populations. | No <u>X</u> | Uncertain ____ | Yes |

NEPA Action: Categorical Exclusion X

Environmental commitments, explanation, and/or remarks:

☒ Yes ☐ No Environmental commitments are required and attached.

☒ San Joaquin Kit Fox Avoidance and Minimization Measures

☐ Giant Garter Snake Avoidance and Minimization Measures

☐ California Tiger Salamander Avoidance and Minimization Measures

☐ California Red-Legged Frog Avoidance and Minimization Measures

☐ Other:

Air Quality:

Air quality emissions for this project are well below the *de minimus* thresholds for the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District; therefore there are no air quality impacts associated with this project. Dust control measures would be implemented during all earth disturbing activities.


Prepared by:

Rain HealerDate: September 23, 2009

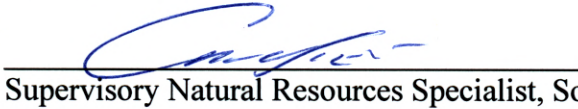
South-Central California Area Office

Regional Archeologist concurrence with Item 7:
See attachment.ITA Designee concurrence with Item 10:
See attachment.

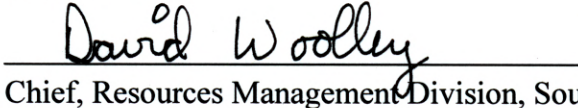
Concur:


Wildlife Biologist, South-Central California Area OfficeDate: Feb. 7, 2011

Concur:


Supervisory Natural Resources Specialist, South-Central California Area OfficeDate: 2/7/2011

Concur:


Chief, Resources Management Division, South-Central California Area OfficeDate: 2-9-11

acting

Approved:


Deputy Area Manager, South-Central California Area OfficeDate: 2/11/11

Project: CEC-09-82 Water for America Challenge, 2009, Grant Shafter-Wasco Irrigation District & North Kern Water Storage District Water Banking Improvement Project
Location: Wasco Quad; Kern County

I reviewed Reclamation's proposed action of issuing a *Water for America Challenge Grant* award to Shafter-Wasco Irrigation District (SWID) and North Kern Water Storage District (NKWSD) to improve water banking and exchanges between the two districts located in Kern County. The proposed action includes improving existing connection between NKWSD and SWID Lateral 134.4 pipeline by replacing the pumping plant and discharge line.

An excavator, backhoe, welder, and boom truck are required equipment to complete the proposed action. There will also be a staging area next to the site and any movement of materials will be conducted on existing paved roads. Construction will take approximately 9 month to complete and will occur during the winter dewatering season.

California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB 2009) records were searched for listed species that may occur in the project area and include San Joaquin kit fox (*Vulpes macrotis mutica*: SJKF) (Fig. 1).

SJKF is recorded near the project area and could use the site for movement and or foraging habitat (CNDDDB 2009). Therefore, the standard kit fox avoidance measures (USFWS 1999) need to be attached and followed. No effect to SJKF is therefore anticipated.

No critical habitat occurs within the area affected by the Proposed Action and so none of the primary constituent elements of any critical habitat would be affected.

Thank you,

Jennifer L. Lewis

Project: CEC-09-82 Water for America Challenge, 2009, Grant Shafter-Wasco Irrigation District & North Kern Water Storage District Water Banking Improvement Project
Location: Wasco Quad; Kern County

References

CNDDDB (California Natural Diversity Database). 2009. California Department of Fish and Game's Natural Diversity Database, Version 3.1.1. RareFind 3. May 2, 2009.

USFWS (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service) 1999. Standardized Recommendations for Protection of the San Joaquin Kit Fox Prior to or During Ground Disturbance. Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office, US Fish and Wildlife Service, 6/1999.

Project: CEC-09-82 Water for America Challenge, 2009, Grant Shafter-Wasco Irrigation District & North Kern Water Storage District Water Banking Improvement Project
Location: Wasco Quad; Kern County

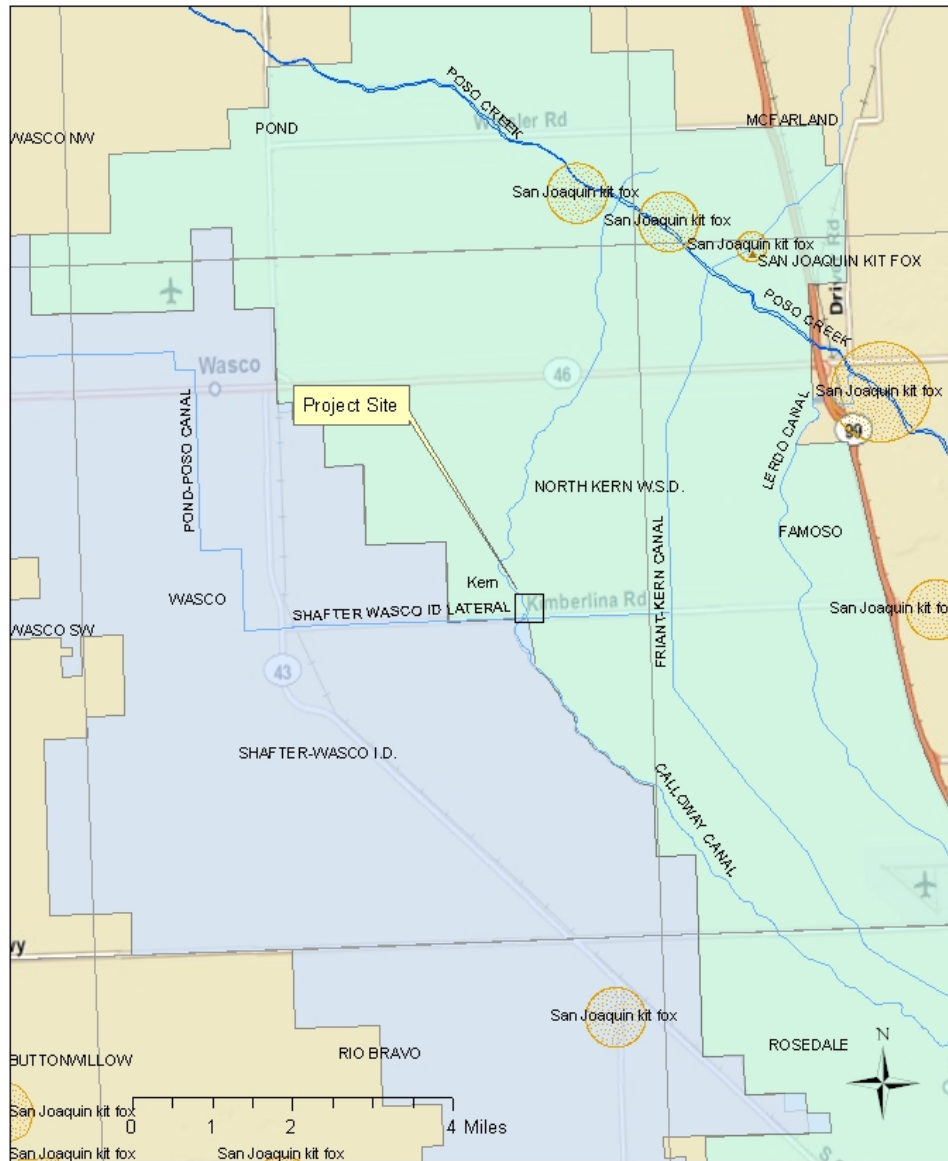


Fig. 1. CEC-09-82 Listed Species within SWID and NKWSD

**U.S. FISH AND WILDLIFE SERVICE
STANDARDIZED RECOMMENDATIONS
FOR PROTECTION OF THE SAN JOAQUIN KIT FOX
PRIOR TO OR DURING GROUND DISTURBANCE**

Prepared by the Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office
June 1999

INTRODUCTION

The following document includes many of the San Joaquin kit fox (*Vulpes macrotis mutica*) protection measures typically recommended by the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service), prior to and during ground disturbance activities. However, incorporating relevant sections of these guidelines into the proposed project is not the only action required under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act). Project applicants should contact the Service in Sacramento to determine the full range of requirements that apply to your project; the address and telephone number are given at the end of this document. Formal authorization for the project may be required under either section 7 or section 10 of the Act. Implementation of the measures presented in this document may be necessary to avoid violating the provisions of the Act, including the prohibition against "take" (defined as killing, harming, or harassing a listed species, including actions that damage or destroy its habitat). Such protection measures may also be required under the terms of a biological opinion pursuant to section 7 of the Act resulting in incidental take authorization (authorization), or an incidental take permit (permit) pursuant to section 10 of the Act. The specific measures implemented to protect kit fox for any given project shall be determined by the Service based upon the applicant's consultation with the Service.

The purpose of this document is to make information on kit fox protection strategies readily available and to help standardize the methods and definitions currently employed to achieve kit fox protection. The measures outlined in this document are subject to modification or revision at the discretion of the Service.

All surveys, den destructions, and monitoring described in this document must be conducted by a qualified biologist. A qualified biologist (biologist) means any person who has completed at least four years of university training in wildlife biology or a related science and/or has demonstrated field experience in the identification and life history of the San Joaquin kit fox. In addition, biologist(s) must be able to identify coyote, red fox, gray fox, and kit fox tracks, and to have seen a kit fox in the wild, at a zoo, or as a museum mount.

SMALL PROJECTS

Small projects are considered to be those projects with small foot prints such as an individual in-fill oil well, communication tower, or bridge repair. These projects must stand alone and not be part of, or in any way connected to larger projects (i.e., bridge repair or improvement to serve a

future urban development). The Service recommends that on these small projects, the biologist survey the proposed project boundary and a 200-foot area outside of the project footprint to identify habitat features, and make recommendations on situating the project to minimize or avoid impacts. If habitat features cannot be completely avoided, then preconstruction surveys should be conducted.

Preconstruction/preactivity surveys shall be conducted no less than 14 days and no more than 30 days prior to the beginning of ground disturbance and/or construction activities or any project activity likely to impact the San Joaquin kit fox. Surveys should identify kit fox habitat features on the project site and evaluate use by kit fox and, if possible, and assess the potential impacts to the kit fox by the proposed activity. The status of all dens should be determined and mapped (see Survey Protocol).

Written results of preconstruction/preactivity surveys must be received by the Service within five days after survey completion and prior to the start of ground disturbance and/or construction activities. If a natal/pupping den is discovered within the project area or within 200-feet of the project boundary, the Service shall be immediately notified. If the preconstruction/preactivity survey reveals an active natal pupping or new information, the project applicant should contact the Service immediately to obtain the necessary take authorization/permit.

If take authorization/permit has already been issued, then the biologist may proceed with den destruction within the project boundary, except natal/pupping dens (active or inactive). Protective exclusion zones can be placed around all known and potential dens which occur outside the project footprint (conversely, the project boundary can be demarcated, see den destruction section).

OTHER PROJECTS

It is likely that all other projects occurring within kit fox habitat will require a take authorization/permit from the Service. This determination would be made by the Service during the early evaluation process (see Survey Protocol). These other projects would include, but are not limited to: linear projects; projects with large footprints such as urban development; and projects which in themselves may be small but have far reaching impacts (i.e., water storage or conveyance facilities that promote urban growth or agriculture, etc.).

The take authorization/permit issued by the Service may incorporate some or all of the protection measures presented in this document. The take authorization/permit may include measures specific to the needs of the project, and those requirements supersede any requirements found in this document.

EXCLUSION ZONES

The configuration of exclusion zones around the kit fox dens should have a radius measured outward from the entrance or cluster of entrances. The following radii are minimums, and if they cannot be followed the Service must be contacted:

Potential den	50 feet
Known den	100 feet
Natal/pupping den (occupied <u>and</u> unoccupied)	Service must be contacted
Atypical den	50 feet

Known den: To ensure protection, the exclusion zone should be demarcated by fencing that encircles each den at the appropriate distance and does not prevent access to the den by kit foxes. Exclusion zone fencing should be maintained until all construction related or operational disturbances have been terminated. At that time, all fencing shall be removed to avoid attracting subsequent attention to the dens.

Potential and Atypical dens: Placement of 4-5 flagged stakes 50 feet from the den entrance(s) will suffice to identify the den location; fencing will not be required, but the exclusion zone must be observed.

Construction and other project activities should be prohibited or greatly restricted within these exclusion zones. Only essential vehicle operation on existing roads and foot traffic should be permitted. Otherwise, all construction, vehicle operation, material storage, or any other type of surface-disturbing activity should be prohibited within the exclusion zones.

DESTRUCTION OF DENS

Disturbance to all San Joaquin kit fox dens should be avoided to the maximum extent possible. Protection provided by kit fox dens for use as shelter, escape, cover, and reproduction is vital to the survival of the species. Limited destruction of kit fox dens may be allowed, if avoidance is not a reasonable alternative, provided the following procedures are observed. The value to kit foxes of potential, known, and natal/pupping dens differ and therefore, each den type needs a different level of protection. **Destruction of any known or natal/pupping kit fox den requires take authorization/permit from the Service.**

Natal/pupping dens: Natal or pupping dens which are occupied will not be destroyed until the pups and adults have vacated and then only after consultation with the Service. Therefore, project activities at some den sites may have to be postponed.

Known Dens: Known dens occurring within the footprint of the activity must be monitored for three days with tracking medium or an infra-red beam camera to determine the current use. If no kit fox activity is observed during this period, the den should be destroyed immediately to preclude subsequent use. If kit fox activity is observed at the den during this period, the den should be monitored for at least five consecutive days from the time of the observation to allow any resident animal to move to another den during its normal activity. Use of the den can be discouraged during this period by partially plugging its entrances(s) with soil in such a manner that any resident animal can escape easily. Only when the den is determined to be unoccupied may the den be excavated under the direction of the biologist. If the animal is still present after five or more consecutive days of plugging and monitoring, the den may have to be excavated when, in the judgment of a biologist, it is temporarily vacant, for example during the animal's normal foraging activities. The Service encourages hand excavation, but realizes that soil conditions may necessitate the use of excavating equipment. However, extreme caution must be exercised.

Destruction of the den should be accomplished by careful excavation until it is certain that no kit foxes are inside. The den should be fully excavated, filled with dirt and compacted to ensure that kit foxes cannot reenter or use the den during the construction period. If at any point during excavation a kit fox is discovered inside the den, the excavation activity shall cease immediately and monitoring of the den as described above should be resumed. Destruction of the den may be completed when in the judgement of the biologist, the animal has escaped from the partially destroyed den.

Potential Dens: If a take authorization/permit has been obtained from the Service, den destruction may proceed without monitoring, unless other restrictions were issued with the take authorization/permit. If no take authorization/permit has been issued, then potential dens should be monitored as if they were known dens. If any den was considered to be a potential den, but is later determined during monitoring or destruction to be currently, or previously used by kit fox (e.g., if kit fox sign is found inside), then destruction shall cease and the Service shall be notified immediately.

CONSTRUCTION AND OPERATIONAL REQUIREMENTS

Habitat subject to permanent and temporary construction disturbances and other types of project-related disturbance should be minimized. Project designs should limit or cluster permanent project features to the smallest area possible while still permitting project goals to be achieved. To minimize temporary disturbances, all project-related vehicle traffic should be restricted to established roads, construction areas, and other designated areas. These areas should also be

included in preconstruction surveys and, to the extent possible, should be established in locations disturbed by previous activities to prevent further impacts.

1. Project-related vehicles should observe a 20-mph speed limit in all project areas, except on county roads and State and Federal highways; this is particularly important at night when kit foxes are most active. To the extent possible, night-time construction should be minimized. Off-road traffic outside of designated project areas should be prohibited.
2. To prevent inadvertent entrapment of kit foxes or other animals during the construction phase of a project, all excavated, steep-walled holes or trenches more than 2 feet deep should be covered at the close of each working day by plywood or similar materials, or provided with one or more escape ramps constructed of earth fill or wooden planks. Before such holes or trenches are filled, they should be thoroughly inspected for trapped animals. If at any time a trapped or injured kit fox is discovered, the procedures under number 13 of this section must be followed.
3. Kit foxes are attracted to den-like structures such as pipes and may enter stored pipe becoming trapped or injured. All construction pipes, culverts, or similar structures with a diameter of 4-inches or greater that are stored at a construction site for one or more overnight periods should be thoroughly inspected for kit foxes before the pipe is subsequently buried, capped, or otherwise used or moved in any way. If a kit fox is discovered inside a pipe, that section of pipe should not be moved until the Service has been consulted. If necessary, and under the direct supervision of the biologist, the pipe may be moved once to remove it from the path of construction activity, until the fox has escaped.
4. All food-related trash items such as wrappers, cans, bottles, and food scraps should be disposed of in closed containers and removed at least once a week from a construction or project site.
5. No firearms shall be allowed on the project site.
6. To prevent harassment, mortality of kit foxes or destruction of dens by dogs or cats, no pets should be permitted on project sites.
7. Use of rodenticides and herbicides in project areas should be restricted. This is necessary to prevent primary or secondary poisoning of kit foxes and the depletion of prey populations on which they depend. All uses of such compounds should observe label and other restrictions mandated by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, California Department of Food and Agriculture, and other State and Federal legislation, as well as additional project-related restrictions deemed necessary by the Service. If rodent control

must be conducted, zinc phosphide should be used because of proven lower risk to kit fox.

8. A representative shall be appointed by the project proponent who will be the contact source for any employee or contractor who might inadvertently kill or injure a kit fox or who finds a dead, injured or entrapped individual. The representative will be identified during the employee education program. The representative's name and telephone number shall be provided to the Service.
9. An employee education program should be conducted for any project that has expected impacts to kit fox or other endangered species. The program should consist of a brief presentation by persons knowledgeable in kit fox biology and legislative protection to explain endangered species concerns to contractors, their employees, and military and agency personnel involved in the project. The program should include the following: a description of the San Joaquin kit fox and its habitat needs; a report of the occurrence of kit fox in the project area; an explanation of the status of the species and its protection under the Endangered Species Act; and a list of measures being taken to reduce impacts to the species during project construction and implementation. A fact sheet conveying this information should be prepared for distribution to the above-mentioned people and anyone else who may enter the project site.
10. Upon completion of the project, all areas subject to temporary ground disturbances, including storage and staging areas, temporary roads, pipeline corridors, etc. should be re-contoured if necessary, and revegetated to promote restoration of the area to pre-project conditions. An area subject to "temporary" disturbance means any area that is disturbed during the project, but that after project completion will not be subject to further disturbance and has the potential to be revegetated. Appropriate methods and plant species used to revegetate such areas should be determined on a site-specific basis in consultation with the Service, California Department of Fish and Game (CDFG), and revegetation experts.
11. In the case of trapped animals, escape ramps or structures should be installed immediately to allow the animal(s) to escape, or the Service should be contacted for advice.
12. Any contractor, employee, or military or agency personnel who inadvertently kills or injures a San Joaquin kit fox shall immediately report the incident to their representative. This representative shall contact the CDFG immediately in the case of a dead, injured or entrapped kit fox. The CDFG contact for immediate assistance is State Dispatch at (916) 445-0045. They will contact the local warden or biologist.
13. The Sacramento Fish and Wildlife Office and CDFG will be notified in writing within three working days of the accidental death or injury to a San Joaquin kit fox during

project related activities. Notification must include the date, time, and location of the incident or of the finding of a dead or injured animal and any other pertinent information. The Service contact is the Chief of the Division of Endangered Species, at the addresses and telephone numbers given below. The CDFG contact is Mr. Ron Schlorff at 1416 9th Street, Sacramento, California 95814, (916) 654-4262.

Any project-related information required by the Service or questions concerning the above conditions or their implementation may be directed in writing to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service at:

Endangered Species Division
2800 Cottage Way, Suite W2605
Sacramento, California 95825-1846
(916) 414-6620

"Take" - Section 9 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended (Act) prohibits the "take" of any federally listed endangered species by any person (an individual, corporation, partnership, trust, association, etc.) subject to the jurisdiction of the United States. As defined in the Act, take means " . . . to harass, harm, pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture, or collect, or attempt to engage in any such conduct." Thus, not only is a listed animal protected from activities such as hunting, but also from actions that damage or destroy its habitat.

"Dens" - San Joaquin kit fox dens may be located in areas of low, moderate, or steep topography. Den characteristics are listed below, however, the specific characteristics of individual dens may vary and occupied dens may lack some or all of these features. Therefore, caution must be exercised in determining the status of any den. Typical dens may include the following: (1) one or more entrances that are approximately 5 to 8 inches in diameter; (2) dirt berms adjacent to the entrances; (3) kit fox tracks, scat, or prey remains in the vicinity of the den; (4) matted vegetation adjacent to the den entrances; and (5) manmade features such as culverts, pipes, and canal banks.

"Known den" - Any existing natural den or manmade structure that is used or has been used at any time in the past by a San Joaquin kit fox. Evidence of use may include historical records, past or current radiotelemetry or spotlighting data, kit fox sign such as tracks, scat, and/or prey remains, or other reasonable proof that a given den is being or has been used by a kit fox. The Service discourages use of the terms "active" and "inactive" when referring to any kit fox den because a great percentage of occupied dens show no evidence of use, and because kit foxes change dens often, with the result that the status of a given den may change frequently and abruptly.

"Potential Den" - Any subterranean hole within the species' range that has entrances of appropriate dimensions for which available evidence is insufficient to conclude that it is being used or has been used by a kit fox. Potential dens shall include the following: (1) any suitable subterranean hole; or (2) any den or burrow of another species (e.g., coyote, badger, red fox, or ground squirrel) that otherwise has appropriate characteristics for kit fox use.

"Natal or Pupping Den" - Any den used by kit foxes to whelp and/or rear their pups. Natal/pupping dens may be larger with more numerous entrances than dens occupied exclusively by adults. These dens typically have more kit fox tracks, scat, and prey remains in the vicinity of the den, and may have a broader apron of matted dirt and/or vegetation at one or more entrances. A natal den, defined as a den in which kit fox pups are actually whelped but not necessarily reared, is a more restrictive version of the pupping den. In practice, however, it is difficult to distinguish between the two, therefore, for purposes of this definition either term applies.

"Atypical Den" - Any manmade structure which has been or is being occupied by a San Joaquin kit fox. Atypical dens may include pipes, culverts, and diggings beneath concrete slabs and buildings.

Healer, Rain L

From: Barnes, Amy J
Sent: Tuesday, February 01, 2011 8:20 AM
To: Healer, Rain L
Cc: Perry, Laureen (Laurie) M; Nickels, Adam M; Overly, Stephen A; Bruce, Brandee E; Goodsell, Joanne E; Fogerty, John A; Dunay, Amy L; Siek, Charles R
Subject: 09-82 SWID-NKWSD Exchange Pipeline Improvement Project (09-SCAO-347)
Attachments: 09-SCAO-347 SWID-NKWSD pipeline SHPO reply 01-27-11.pdf

Tracking #09-SCAO-347

Project: 09-82 SWID-NKWSD Exchange Pipeline Improvement Project

Location: Kern County; Wasco 7.5' USGS topographic quadrangle.
sec. 21 and 22, T. 27 S., R. 25 E., Mount Diablo Meridian

Exclusion Category: 516 DM 14.5D (1)

The activities associated with Reclamation awarding a Water for America Challenge Grant to the Shafter-Wasco Irrigation District (SWID) and North Kern Water Storage District (NKWSD) to improve a water exchange pipeline between the Calloway Canal and the Lateral 134.4 pipeline will result in no adverse effects to historic properties. The water exchange pipeline connecting the Calloway Canal and Lateral 134.4 is located adjacent to the north side of Kimberlina Road at the intersection of Shafter Avenue and surrounded by agricultural fields. The proposed project will involve replacing the existing 10 cubic foot per second (cfs) pumps and motors with three 100 horsepower (hp), 35 cfs vertical pumps and motors; installing new pump and motor control equipment; replacing the pump discharge manifold pipes; installing two travelling water screens at the inlet to the pump bays within the Calloway Canal; installing a new 60-inch diameter discharge pipeline from the existing standpipe to the outlet in the Calloway Canal; and installing a new pre-cast outlet box next to, and connected with, the existing inlet box in the Calloway Canal. The trench for the new discharge pipeline will measure approximately 25 feet long, 10 feet deep, 10 feet wide at the bottom of the trench, and up to 30 feet wide at the top of the trench. The pump manifold pipes that will be replaced are above ground and will not require excavation. Construction equipment to be used will include an excavator, backhoe, welder, and boom truck. During construction, staging will occur at the project site. Movement of materials to and from the construction site will be done via existing paved roads that provide direct access to the project site. All project activities are limited to existing roads and the developed water exchange facility that includes the stand pipe, pumps, and pipelines.

In an effort to identify historic properties, Reclamation reviewed its internal site and survey information and project data. Reclamation also requested a search of SWID and NKWSD records pertaining to the Calloway Canal. The Calloway Canal has not been evaluated for listing on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Evaluating the canal in its entirety was outside the scope of this project; therefore, Reclamation assumed, for the purposes of this undertaking, that the Calloway Canal is eligible for inclusion in the NRHP under Criterion A on the local level for its association with irrigation and agricultural development in the San Joaquin Valley. Reclamation determined that the proposed improvements to existing water exchange pipeline will not adversely affect the qualities that would make the Calloway Canal eligible for inclusion on the NRHP. Replacing the pumps, manifold pipes, and discharge pipe, as well as adding screens to the inlet structure, all of which are of a similar type and function as those already in use, will not diminish their integrity of design or appearance of the canal. The proposed modifications are consistent with the purpose and function for which the facility was built and will not affect the ability to deliver water.

Reclamation consulted with SHPO on January 4, 2011 regarding a finding of no adverse effects to historic properties pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800.5(b). SHPO concurred with Reclamations' findings and determination on January 27, 2011.

As the proposed action will not adversely affect historic properties, and SHPO has concurred, Reclamations' responsibilities under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act are fulfilled. I concur with Item 7 of CEC 09-82, dated September 23, 2009.

Thank you for the opportunity to review the proposed action. Please place a copy of this concurrence and attached correspondence with the CEC administrative record.

Amy J. Barnes
Archaeologist
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Mid-Pacific Region, MP-153
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January 27, 2011

In Reply Refer To: BUR110105A

Michael A. Chotkowski
Acting Regional Environmental Officer
United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
Mid-Pacific Regional Office
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, CA 95825-1898

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION OFFICIAL FILE COPY RECEIVED		
JAN 31 2011		
CODE	ACTION	SURNAME & DATE
150	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	1/31/2011 [signature]

Re: Proposed Pipeline Improvement Project near Wasco, Kern County, California
(Project No.09-SCAO-347).

Dear Mr. Chotkowski:

Thank you for consulting with me regarding the above noted undertaking. Pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800 (as amended 8-05-04) regulations implementing Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), the Bureau of Reclamation (BUR) is the lead federal agency for this undertaking and is seeking my comments on the effects that the proposed project will have on historic properties. The BUR is proposing to award a "Water for America Challenge Grant" to the Shafter-Wasco Irrigation District (SWID) and the North Kern Water Storage District (NKPWS) to construct this project. The BUR has identified this use of federal expenditures as an undertaking subject to review under Section 106 regulations.

Currently, a temporary, 180-foot long, 48-inch diameter pipeline connects NKPWS's Calloway Canal to SWID's Lateral 134.4 (72-inch diameter concrete pipeline). Using the BUR's grant funds, the two water agencies propose to replace this pipeline and diversion features with a new permanent facility. The BUR has determined that the Area of Potential Effects (APE) for the proposed undertaking, including all access and staging locations, totals approximately 0.5 acre. Identification efforts by the BUR have concluded that the only historic property in the APE is the Calloway Canal. This 30-mile long water conveyance feature was originally constructed in the late 19th century to divert water from the Kern River for irrigation purposes.

Lacking the resources to fully evaluate the Calloway Canal, the BUR is treating it as eligible, for the purposes of this undertaking only, for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) under criterion A. Under this strategy, the BUR has determined that the proposed undertaking, which will consist of the replacement of existing facilities including pumps, manifold pipes, and discharge pipes and the addition of a new screen to the inlet structure, are standard types of upgrades and maintenance and will not adversely affect the qualities that impart NRHP eligibility to the Calloway Canal.

Classification	ENR 300
Project	214
Control No.	11007333
Folder I.D.	1147982
Date Input & Initials	1-31-2011 [signature]

After having reviewed your letter of January 04, 2011, and supporting documentation, I have no objection to your finding of No Adverse Effect for this undertaking. Be advised that under certain circumstances, such as unanticipated discovery or a change in project description, the BUR may have additional future responsibilities for this undertaking under 36 CFR Part 800. Thank you for seeking my comments and for considering historic properties in planning your project. If you require further information, please contact William Soule, Associate State Archeologist, at phone 916-445-7022 or email wsoule@parks.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Susan H Stratton for

Milford Wayne Donaldson, FAIA
State Historic Preservation Officer

Healer, Rain L

From: Rivera, Patricia L
Sent: Wednesday, September 23, 2009 8:40 AM
To: Healer, Rain L
Subject: RE: CEC-09-82 Water banking improvement project

Rain,

I reviewed the proposed action to award a Water for America Challenge Grant to Shafter Wasco Irrigation District (SWID) and North Kern Water Storage District (NKWSD). The Proposed Action includes:

- Pumping Plant at Calloway Canal
 - Removal of existing 10 cfs pumps and motors and replacement with three 100 horsepower (hp), 35 cfs vertical pumps and motors
 - Installation of pump and motor control equipment (telemetry) & one VFD controller
 - Installation of pump discharge manifold piping and appurtenances
 - Installation of two travelling water screens within Calloway Canal at inlet to the pump bays
 - Discharge line to Calloway Canal from existing 10-foot standpipe
 - 20-foot long excavation from existing standpipe to outlet in Calloway Canal. Excavation would be 10-foot deep, 10-foot wide at the bottom of the trench and up to 30-feet wide at the top of the trench.
 - Removal of existing 48-inch steel blind flange on the northwest side of the existing standpipe and replacement with a 48-inch double-flanged butterfly valve.
 - Installation of one 48- to 60-inch reducer with 48-inch Victaulic coupler between new butterfly valve and existing 60-inch RCP.
 - Installation of one pre-cast outlet box in the Calloway Canal to connect to existing inlet box.

Construction equipment to be used would include an excavator, backhoe, welder, and boom truck. During construction, staging would occur at the project site. Movement of materials to and from the construction site would be done via existing paved roads that provide direct access to the project site. Construction would take approximately 9 months during the winter dewatering season.

The proposed action does not affect Indian Trust Assets. The nearest ITA is Tule River Reservation approximately 39 miles NE of the project location.

Patricia

From: Healer, Rain L
Sent: Tuesday, September 22, 2009 2:23 PM
To: Rivera, Patricia L; Robbins, Eleanor J (Ellie); Williams, Mary D (Diane)
Subject: CEC-09-82 Water banking improvement project

Patricia,

I have attached CEC-09-82 2009 Water for America Challenge Grant Shafter-Wasco Irrigation District and North Kern Water Storage District Water Banking Improvements Project for review.

Rain L. Healer
Natural Resource Specialist
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