
MADERA IRRIGATION DISTRICT WATER SUPPLY ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

FINAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT STATEMENT

Appendix E: State Historic Preservation Officer Concurrence Letter

June 2011

**OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION**

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August 31, 2009

In Reply Refer To: BUR090813A

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

Re: Madera Irrigation District Water Supply Enhancement Project, Madera County, California (Project No. 07-SCAO-005)

Dear Mr. Chotkowski:

Thank you for seeking my consultation regarding the proposed Madera Irrigation District (MID) Water Supply Enhancement Project. 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 seeking my comments regarding the effects that the subject project will have on historic properties. The BUR proposes to approve the banking (ground water recharge) of Central Valley Project (CVP) water outside of MID's service area at Madera Ranch. The BUR has identified this action as an undertaking pursuant to review under Section 106 regulations.

The BUR has determined that the Area of Potential Effects (APE) for this undertaking consists of the proposed locations of water recharge, new wells and lift stations, locations of canal extensions and improvements, and buried recovery pipelines. Swale recharge and in-lieu recharge areas (existing irrigated fields) are not included in the APE as no construction activities are proposed in those areas. In addition to your letter of August 11, 2009, you have submitted the following document in support of your efforts to identify and evaluate historic properties in the project APE:

- *Cultural Resources Inventory and Evaluation for the Madera Irrigation District Water Supply Enhancement Project, Madera County, California* (ICF Jones & Stokes: July 2009).

The records search and archaeological survey by the BUR resulted in the identification of 16 historic-era cultural resources in the APE as follows:

- 1) P-20-2402 (9.7 Km segment of Gravelly Ford Canal).
- 2) P-20-2385 (single-lane dirt ranch road)

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- 3) P-20-2386 (single-lane dirt ranch road)
- 4) P-20-2400 (levee and associated irrigation ditches)
- 5) P-20-2389 (concrete footings)
- 6) CA-MAD-2309H (water extraction location and possible residence)
- 7) P-20-2390 (single-lane dirt ranch road)
- 8) P-20-2393 (irrigation ditch)
- 9) P-20-2394 (levee and associated irrigation ditches)
- 10) CA-MAD-2310H (water pumping location)
- 11) P-20-2398 (concrete irrigation ditch)
- 12) P-20-2399 (dry pond)
- 13) Main No. 1 Canal (earthen irrigation canal with concrete gates and crossings)
- 14) Main No. 2 Canal (earthen irrigation canal with concrete gates and crossings)
- 15) Section 8 Canal (earthen irrigation ditch)
- 16) 24.2 Canal (earthen irrigation canal with concrete gates and crossings)

The BUR has determined that none of these historic-era ranching and farming/irrigation features is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under any criteria. The analysis in the supporting documentation (ICF Jones & Stokes: July 2009) has concluded that most of these features lack sufficient associations, characteristics, and integrity to warrant NRHP eligibility. In particular, the large irrigation features in the APE such as Main No. 1 Canal, Main No. 2 Canal, Section 8 Canal, and 24.2 Canal, although originally constructed in the late 19th to early 20th centuries, have been modified and updated so frequently, as changes in irrigation/agriculture occurred, that they are essentially indistinguishable from modern canals.

After reviewing your letter and supporting documentation, I concur with your determination that none of the 16 historic-era cultural resources located in the project APE are eligible for the NRHP. Accordingly, I have no objection to your finding of No Historic Properties Affected. 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 916-654-4614 or email wsoule@parks.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Susan K. Shattler for

Milford Wayne Donaldson, FAIA
State Historic Preservation Officer