

Environmental Commitment Program

This form must accompany all Federal discretionary action approvals that require compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act and other applicable environmental laws.

Approval document¹: Assistance Agreement No. R10AP20119

Environmental Document²: FONSI/EA/IS-10-058, FID's Briggs Canal Improvement Project

On January 14, 2011 the President's Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) issued guidance for Federal agencies to implement, monitor and evaluate environmental commitments identified in Environmental Assessments and Environmental Impact Statements completed for compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA). This guidance also pertains to Categorical Exclusions when environmental commitments have been identified in order to meet the requirements for exclusion.

The Bureau of Reclamation's NEPA Handbook provides guidance on the establishment of an Environmental Commitment Program (ECP) to meet the CEQ guidance. The ECP is a system designed to implement, monitor and evaluate the environmental commitments identified in the NEPA document. These commitments fall under one or more of the following categories:

1. Commitments where no construction or ground disturbance is involved

These commitments are typically associated with water transfers, exchanges, Warren Act contracts and similar actions.

Required ☐ Not Required ☒

2. Commitments where construction or ground disturbance is involved

These commitments are typically associated with short-term construction impacts resulting from modifications to Federal facilities or modifications to non-Federal facilities where there is a Federal nexus such as Federal funds or approvals.

Required ☒ Not Required ☐

3. Long-term commitments

These commitments are typically associated with larger construction or ground disturbing activities where impacts to resources such as wetlands, special status species habitat or water quality may occur that require long-term mitigation and monitoring.

Required ☐ Not Required ☒

Note: If the "Not Required" boxes are checked on all three commitment categories, no further action is required. If any of the required boxes are checked please refer to the following Environmental Commitment table for a summary of the commitments required for environmental compliance. Please direct any questions or comments regarding the Environmental Commitment Program to:

Chuck Siek, Supervisory Natural Resources Specialist
Department of Interior, Bureau of Reclamation
1243 "N" Street, Fresno, CA 93721
(559) 487-5138 email at csiek@usbr.gov

¹Approval document types include but are not limited to: contracts and agreements, permits, licenses and grants.

²Environmental Document types include: Categorical Exclusion, Environmental Assessment/Finding of No Significant Impact and Environmental Impact Statement/Record of Decision



RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Environmental Commitment Table

South-Central California Area Office

Approval document: Assistance Agreement No. R10AP20119

Environmental Document: FONSI/EA/IS-10-058, FID's Briggs Canal Improvement Project

To be completed by Reclamation [Rain Healer, rhealer@usbr.gov , 559-487-5196] [Jennifer Lewis, jllewis@usbr.gov , 559-487-5197] [BranDee Bruce, bbruce@usbr.gov , 916-978-5039]						To be completed by [proponent]		
Resource	Commitment Category ³	Summary of Environmental Commitments ⁴	Timeframe for Implementation ⁵	Verification of Compliance ⁶		[Proponent] Point of Contact ⁷	Verification of Compliance (Authorizing Official)	
				Initials	Date		Initials	Date
Biological Resources	2	- Vehicles will use slow speeds (<15 miles per hour), especially at night, when driving through or around the project site to minimize potential for striking or disturbing animals. - All excavated, steep-walled holes or trenches more than 2-feet deep will be covered at the close of each working day by plywood or similar material to prevent inadvertent entrapment of wildlife during construction activities. If the trenches cannot be closed, one or more escape ramps constructed of earthen-fill or wooden planks shall be installed. Before such holes or trenches are filled, they will be thoroughly inspected for trapped animals. - Open pipes and culverts will be inspected before being moved or altered to prevent wildlife from being injured or trapped. - If special-status species are encountered during an inspection, they will be left alone to passively exit the area unless otherwise authorized by California Department of Fish and Game (916-445-0045) or United States Fish and Wildlife Service (916-414-6620).	During construction or ground-disturbing activities					

³ List category numbers checked on first page

⁴ Summarize environmental commitments from environmental document completed for action

⁵ List when environmental commitments must start/end

⁶ Verification by Reclamation that all environmental commitments have been implemented and a summary report has been completed as required

⁷ Proponent point of contact may be the individual responsible for a specific commitment or the Authorizing Official responsible for overall environmental compliance



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

ECP Tracking Form
Updated 10/25/2011

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Biological Resources	2	If any tree removal must take place during the bird nesting season (February-August) due to construction schedule constraints, pre-disturbance surveys for bird nesting activity shall be conducted by a qualified biologist no more than 15 days before tree removal. If active nests are located within the construction site, nests shall be buffered an appropriate distance as specified by a qualified biologist. Within that buffer no disturbance shall occur until after nesting season for the observed species is concluded. Pre-disturbance surveys for bird nesting activity shall include the trees on-site, burrows and open buildings (house/garage and shed).	No more than 15 days before tree removal if removal occurs between February 1 and August 31.					
Biological Resources	2	If construction activities must take place during the flowering season (July-September) for Sanford's arrowhead, a pre-disturbance survey for presence shall be conducted by a qualified biologist no more than 15 days before construction. If Sanford's arrowhead is found during survey, FID shall develop a salvage and relocation plan for all affected plants to a suitable protected area. The relocation shall occur prior the initiation of any Project activities that may impact Sanford's arrowhead. Monitoring shall be required during the relocation process until deemed complete by a qualified biologist.	No more than 15 days before construction if construction occurs during the flowering season (July-September).					
Cultural Resources	2	If, in the course of Project construction or operation, any archaeological or historical resources are uncovered, discovered, or otherwise detected or observed, activities within fifty feet of the find shall be ceased. A qualified archaeologist shall be contacted and advise the County of the site's significance. If the findings are deemed significant by the Fresno County Resources Management Agency, appropriate mitigation measures shall be required prior to any resumption of work in the affected area of the Project.	During Construction					



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Existing environmental documents: Reclamation would continue to require compliance with all commitments imposed by existing environmental documents, such as Biological Opinions and Programmatic Agreements.

Funding: The project proponent is responsible for all direct costs to implement, monitor and evaluate the environmental commitments described in the following table. The project proponent is also responsible for the costs incurred by Reclamation staff to monitor and evaluate the environmental commitments.



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