

Environmental Evaluation

The Allowance of the Installation of Sixteen Boat Slips at the Navajo Lake Marina, Navajo Unit, New Mexico



Department of Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
Western Colorado Area Office
Environmental and Planning Group

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Mission Statements

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The mission of the Bureau of Reclamation is to manage, develop, and protect water and related resources in an environmentally and economically sound manner in the interests of the American public.

Environmental Evaluation

Proposed agency action: The Allowance of the Installation of Sixteen Additional Boat Slips
at the Navajo Lake Marina

Location: San Juan County, New Mexico

Lead agency: Bureau of Reclamation, Western Colorado Area Office

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1 Introduction

1.1 Background

The proposed federal action is to allow New Mexico State Parks and its concessionaire, Navajo Dam Enterprises (NDE), to install sixteen additional boat slips at the Navajo Lake Marina (Marina) on the Pine arm of Navajo Reservoir (Figure 1). The proposed action would occur at Navajo Lake State Park on lands owned by Reclamation which encompass Navajo Reservoir, a Reclamation Project in northern New Mexico. The Marina was originally constructed in 1964 and has been expanded or modified several times since then, most recently in the winter of 2016/2017. The most recent modifications, implemented by NDE, included: the replacement of the store/office/restaurant facility, the addition of new slips, and the addition of a new fuel dock.

1.2 Purpose of this Environmental Evaluation

The purpose of this Environmental Evaluation¹ is to evaluate new information related to the allowance of the installation of sixteen additional boat slips at the Marina. The request for the additional boat slips occurred after the Final Environmental Assessment (FEA) for Project was finalized in October of 2016. The proposed boat slips are within the Marina footprint but were not analyzed in the FEA.

1.3 Regulatory Setting

According to Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations for implementing National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) (40 Code of Federal Regulations [CFR] 1502.9[c] [1]), a federal agency must prepare a supplement to a Final EIS (or FEA) if:

- The federal agency makes substantial changes in the proposed action that are relevant to its environmental effects.
- There are significant new circumstances or information relevant to the environmental concerns that bear on the proposed action or its impacts.

The purpose of this document is to determine if either of these thresholds has been met. If either has, then a supplement to the FEA would need to be prepared.

¹This Environmental Evaluation is a voluntary internal report.

Attachment 1.

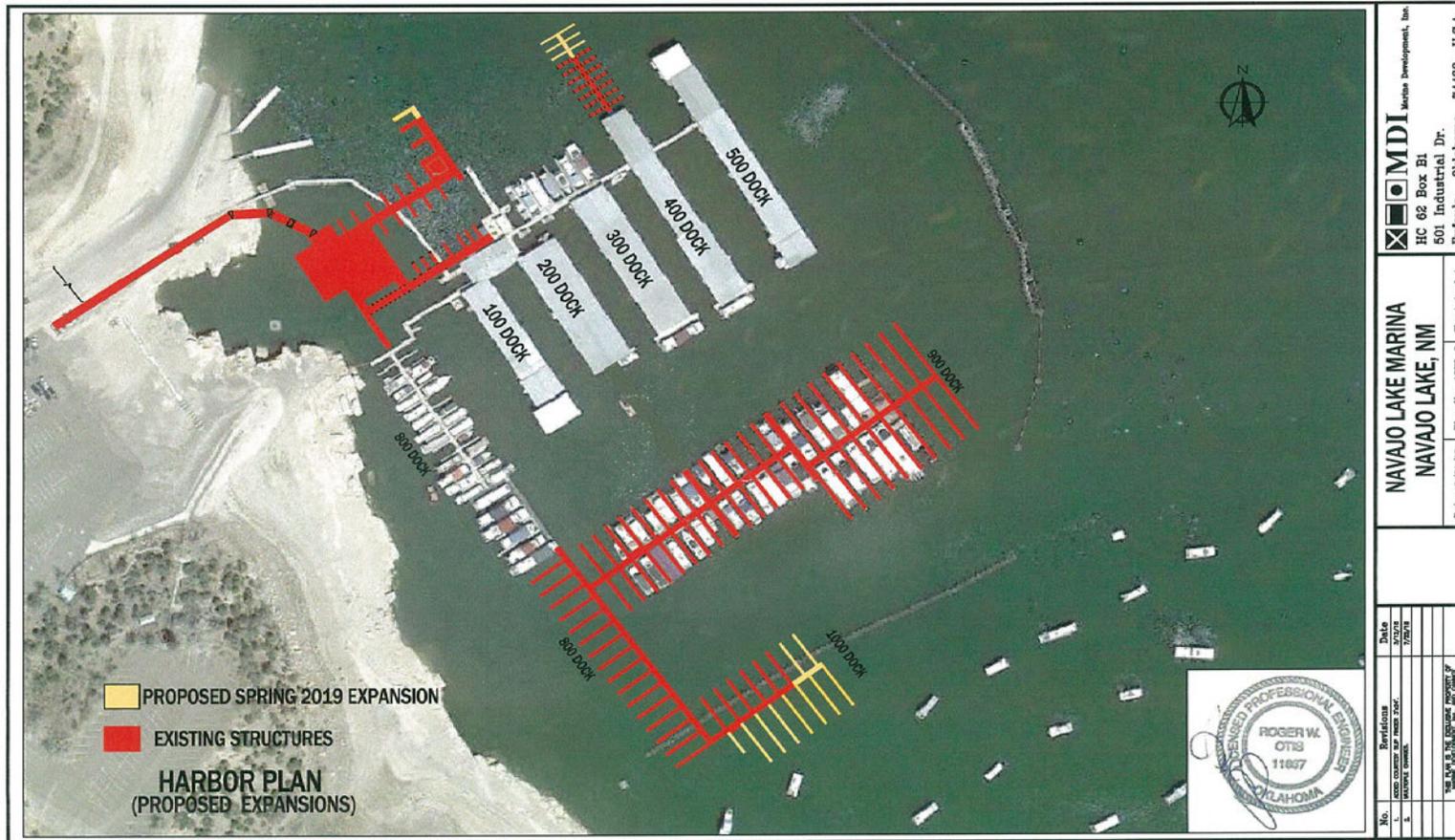


Figure 1. Overview of Navajo Lake Marina and Project Area

2 New Information Related to the Allowance of the Installation of Sixteen Additional Boat Slips at the Marina

2.1 Installation of Additional Boat Slips

NDE has experienced high demand from the general boating public for additional boat slips at the Marina. The boat slips will include additional rental slips and one additional courtesy slip at the fuel dock to meet the increased needs of the recreating public. To the existing 1000 Dock NDE proposes to install two 20'x60' open slips, six 21'x75' open slips, and one 20'x40' open slip (Figure 2). To the existing Fuel Dock NDE proposes to install one 12'x26' open slip (Figure 3). To the existing 400 Dock NDE proposes to install six 12'x26' covered slips (Figure 3). The docks will pre-fabricated off-site (Figure 4) and delivered by truck to the Marina. The docks will be loaded onto a service barge from the boat ramp parking lot and moved to the site where they will be attached to the existing docks. No land-based disturbance will occur as a result of this project. The installation of the docks will require 9.26 cubic yards of concrete anchor to be discharged into the reservoir. NDE will secure a Section 404 Nationwide Permit from the Army Corps of Engineers for this undertaking. The proposed starting date for this undertaking is Spring, 2019.

3 Environmental Impacts

3.1 Vegetation

3.1.1 Impacts Analyzed in the FEA

All activities proposed for this project will occur on the water or in the paved parking lot. The only activities occurring on land will be the short-term staging of various construction equipment and supplies in the parking lot. As a result, no vegetation will be disturbed during staging or construction activities.

3.1.2 Potential Impacts Resulting from Installation of Additional Boat Slips

Construction Activities associated with the installation of the new finger docks will not result in any ground disturbance and there will be no impacts to vegetation.

3.2 Wildlife, Threatened and Endangered Species and Critical Habitat

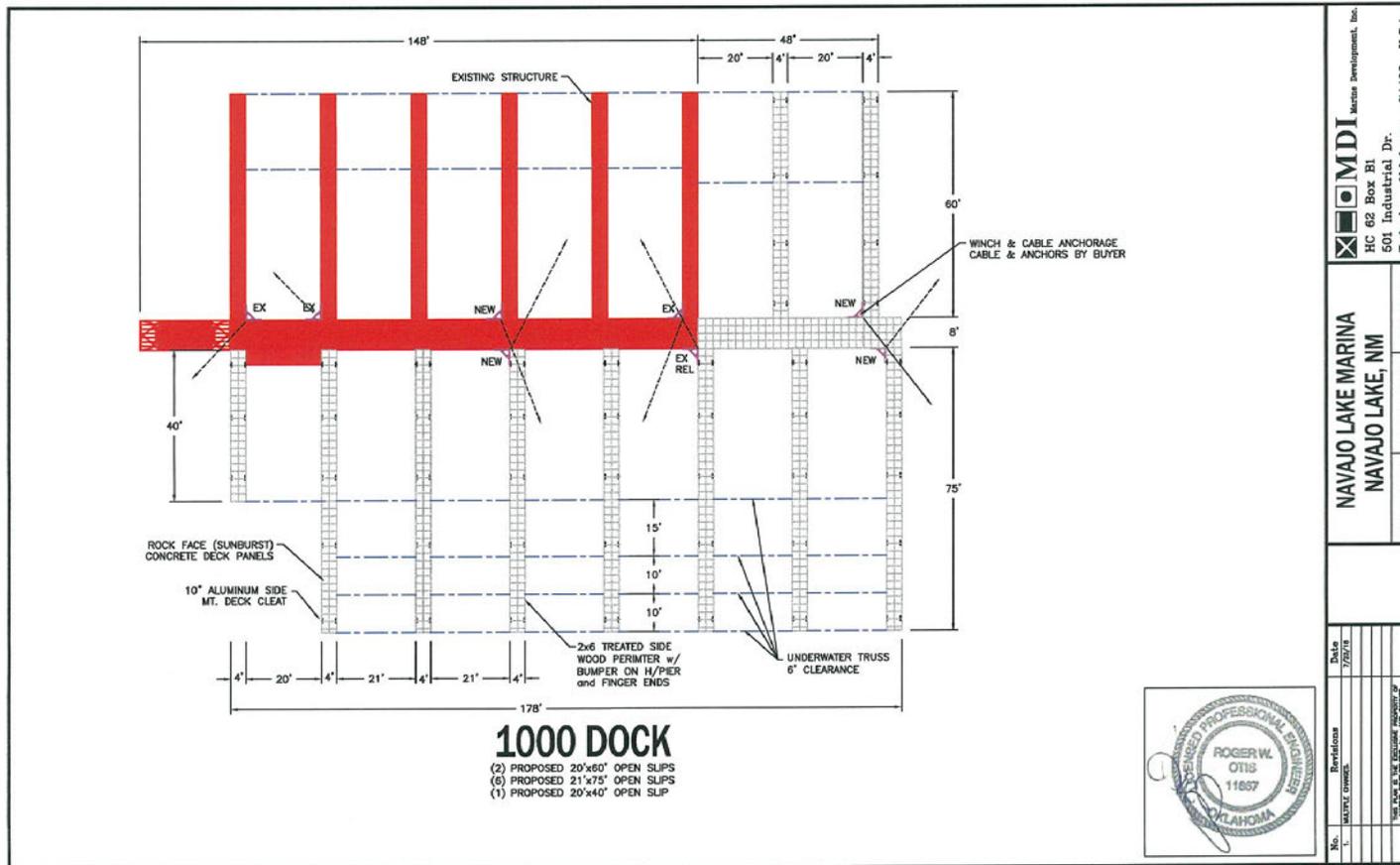
3.2.1 Impacts to Threatened and Endangered Species Analyzed in the FEA

Southwestern willow flycatcher (Empidonax trailii extimus)

This species has nested in the park below the dam along the San Juan River, but is not known to occur in or near the project area. Stopover and nesting habitat exists within Navajo State Park, but there is no quality migratory or nesting habitat in the project area.

Yellow-billed cuckoo (Coccyzus americanus)

Yellow-billed cuckoo habitat does not occur at or near the project area.



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NAVAJO LAKE MARINA NAVAJO LAKE, NM	
Date: 8/21/18 Plan No. 1379-0 Sheet 3 of 4	
No. 1.	Date: 7/29/18 Revisions:

Figure 2. Proposed Additional Boat Slips at the 1000 Dock

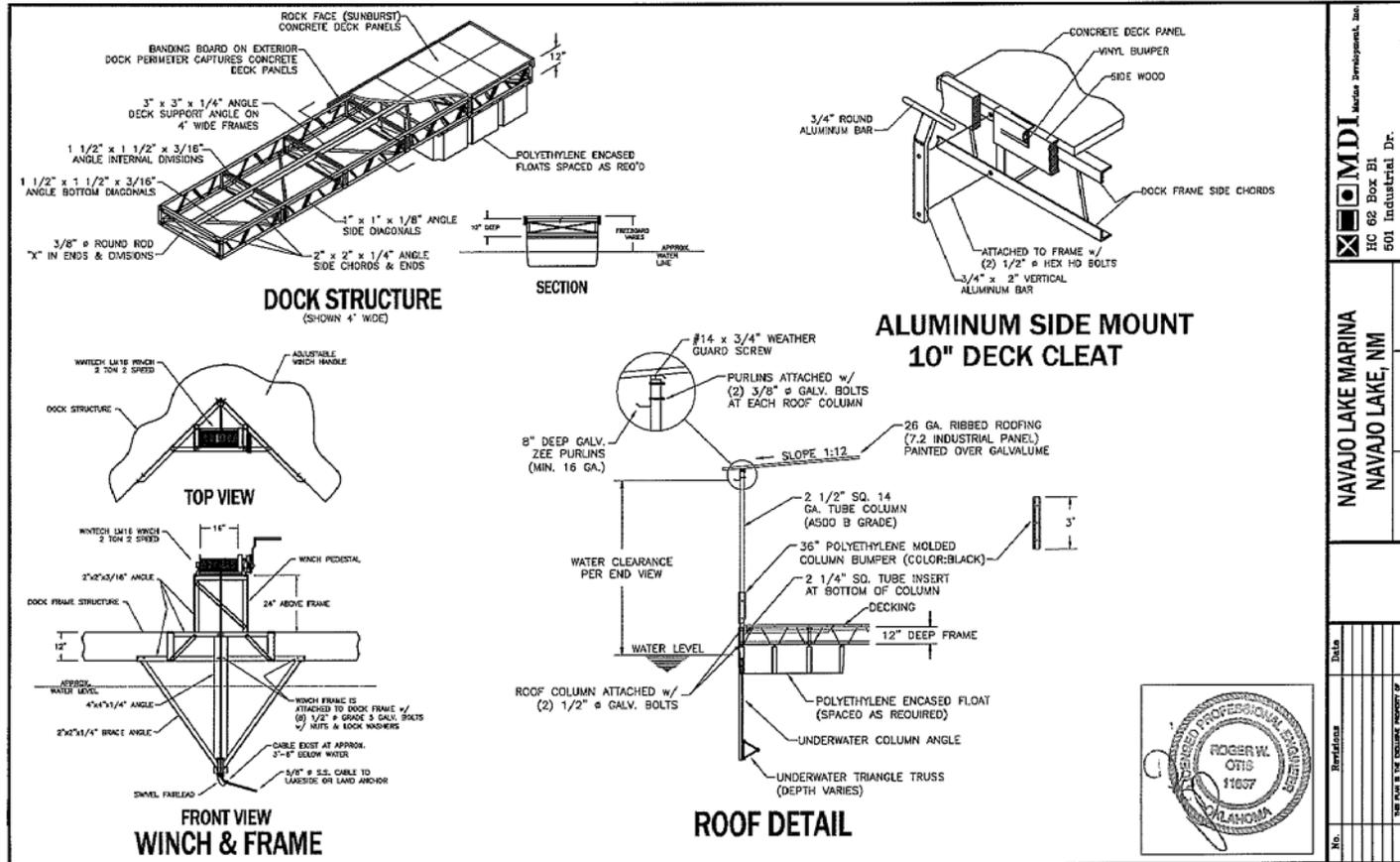


Figure 4. Proposed Boat Slip Design and Installation Techniques

Colorado pikeminnow (Ptychocheilus lucius)

This species does not occur in the project area. Critical habitat for this species occurs in the San Juan River downstream of the park, below the confluence with the Animas River. This species Critical habitat for this species does not occur in the park or in the project area.

Razorback sucker (Xyrauchen texanus)

This species does not occur in the project area and critical habitat for this species does not occur in the park or in the project area.

Zuni bluehead sucker (Catostomus discobolus yarrow)

This habitat does not exist in or near the project area.

Knowlton's cactus (Pediocactus knowltonii)

While general habitat conditions exist in the park, this species is only known from one site along the Pine River near the New Mexico-Colorado border. Appropriate habitat does not occur in the project area. This species does not occur in the park or in the project area.

Mancos milk-vetch (Astragalus humillimus)

No suitable habitat occurs in the project area. This species is not known to occur in the Navajo State Park and is not present in the project area

Mesa Verde cactus (Scelocactus mesae-verdae)

No suitable habitat occurs in the project area. This species is not known to occur in Navajo State Park and is not present in the project area

Canada lynx (Lynx canadensis)

Suitable habitat does not occur in or near the project area.

New Mexico meadow jumping mouse (Zapus hudsonius luteus)

Suitable habitat for this species does not occur in or near the project area. This Species does not occur in the project area.

3.2.2 Potential Impacts Resulting from Installation of Additional Boat Slips

Southwestern willow flycatcher

There are no southwestern willow flycatchers or southwestern willow flycatcher habitat in the project area. Therefore, the installation of additional boat slips will have no effect on the southwestern willow flycatcher.

Yellow-billed cuckoo

There are no yellow-billed cuckoos or yellow-billed cuckoo habitat in the project area. Therefore, the installation of additional boat slips will have no effect on the yellow-billed cuckoo.

Colorado pikeminnow

There are no Colorado pikeminnows or Colorado pikeminnow habitat in the project area. Therefore, the installation of additional boat slips will have no effect on the Colorado pikeminnow.

Razorback sucker

There are no razorback suckers or razorback sucker habitat in the project area. Therefore, the installation of additional boat slips will have no effect on the razorback sucker.

Zuni bluehead sucker

There are no Zuni bluehead suckers or Zuni bluehead sucker habitat in the project area. Therefore, the installation of additional boat slips will have no effect on the Zuni bluehead sucker.

Knowlton's cactus

There are no Knowlton's cactii or Knowlton's cactus habitat in the project area. Therefore, the installation of additional boat slips will have no effect on Knowlton's cactus.

Mancos milk-vetch

There are no Mancos milk-vetch individuals or Mancos milk-vetch habitat in the project area. Therefore, the installation of additional boat slips will have no effect on Mancos milk vetch.

Mesa Verde cactus

There are no Mesa Verde cactii or Mesa Verde cactus habitat in the project area. Therefore, the installation of additional boat slips will have no effect on Mesa Verde cactus.

Canada lynx

There are no Canada lynx or Canada lynx habitat in the project area. Therefore, the installation of additional boat slips will have no effect on the Canada lynx.

New Mexico meadow jumping mouse

There are no New Mexico meadow jumping mice or New Mexico meadow jumping mouse habitat in the project area. Therefore, the installation of additional boat slips will have no effect on the New Mexico meadow jumping mouse.

3.3 Cultural Resources

3.3.1 Impacts Analyzed in the FEA

Because of the age of the original structure that forms the existing store/restaurant, the NMSP's archaeologist reviewed the project with NDE and evaluated it for historic characteristics and significance, and registered the ship's store with the New Mexico Historic Preservation Division that assigned it a Historic Cultural Property Inventory (HCPI) number, HCPI 41129. In addition, because the gas dock may contain original 1964 elements, it was also evaluated and was registered with the state as HCPI 41130.

Applying the criteria set forth in the National Register Bulletin for designating a property for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, it is apparent that neither the store/office nor fuel dock buildings at the Marina qualify. The buildings have no association with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history nor with the lives of significant persons in our past. Archival research has demonstrated that the National Park Service had no role in building the Marina as part of its historically significant Mission 66 program at the Park. The metal shed construction style is not a distinctive characteristic of a type, period or method of construction, or one that represents the work of a master or that possesses high artistic value, or that represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction. Finally, those buildings are not likely to yield information important to history or prehistory, nor have they yielded such. Nor do the buildings meet any of the Criteria Considerations outlined in the National Register Bulletin. Lastly, because the store/restaurant and fuel dock structures are not historically significant nor eligible for listing on the National Register, any viewshed obstructions resulting from the installation of the new facilities will not be significant on the existing Marina structures nor on any historically significant properties on the shore, such as the Park's visitor center. All proposed additions to the marina will occur within its existing location, and none of the additions are proposed to be more than one story in height, similar to the current buildings that will be replaced. As a result, the undertaking will not introduce new areas of potential viewshed impacts to and from historic sites, prehistoric sites, and traditional cultural places, nor will it introduce significant height changes within the existing marina.

3.3.2 Potential Impacts Resulting from Installation of Additional Boat Slips

The existing docks where the additional boat slips will be located is part of the structures and area evaluated previously as part of the FEA. The additional

proposed boat slips will be installed within the existing Marina location, and will not be more than one story in height, similar to the current buildings that were replaced in the recent Marina improvements. As a result, the undertaking will not introduce new areas of potential viewshed impacts to and from historic sites, prehistoric sites, and traditional cultural places, nor will it introduce significant height changes within the existing Marina. No new impacts to cultural resources are anticipated as a result of the installation of additional finger docks. Reclamation consulted on project effects with the New Mexico State Historic Preservation Officer who concurred with Reclamation's determination of No Historic Properties Affected.

3.4 Socio-Economic Impact

3.4.1 Impacts Analyzed in the FEA

The Proposed Action is expected to result in a positive benefit to the social and economic conditions of the area. Increased revenues from the new store and restaurant, and the new gas dock and its increased services, will mean higher marina revenues and higher concession fees paid to NMSP. The ability to stock a wider variety of goods at the store will improve the lake experience for both boaters and campers at NMSP. Esthetic improvements to the Marina will improve the overall experience for Park visitors and create better working conditions for Marina staff. An improved Park experience can lead to increased visitation and an increase in economic activity for local businesses and the state.

3.4.2 Potential Impacts Resulting from Installation of Additional Boat Slips

The boat slips will provide additional needed docking space for boaters launching or taking out at the Marina. As such, the installation of additional boat slips will likely improve the overall experience for the boating public and will not result in any negative impacts to the socioeconomic circumstances of the area.

4 Conclusion

This evaluation concludes that allowing the installation of sixteen additional boat slips at the Marina does not meet the criteria for preparation of a supplemental EA (40 CFR 1502.9[c] [1]). The installation of sixteen additional boat slips is not considered a substantial change to the Proposed Action that is relevant to its environmental effects. It does not constitute significant new circumstances or information relevant to the environmental concerns that bear on the proposed action or its impacts. As shown in this Environmental Evaluation, the potential impacts of the installation of sixteen additional boat slips at the Marina are very close to those of the Proposed Action and are well within the range of the impacts disclosed in the FEA. Therefore, preparation of a supplement to the FEA is not necessary.

This report is available to all parties interested in the project and supports the NEPA process undertaken to evaluate the Proposed Federal Action. A copy of this report is posted on Reclamation's website: <https://www.usbr.gov/uc/envdocs/index.html>.