

RECLAMATION


Managing Water in the West

Categorical Exclusion Checklist

San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority 2015 Delta-Mendota Canal Expanded Reverse Flow Project

CEC-15-038

Prepared by:


Rain L. Emerson
Supervisory Natural Resources Specialist
South-Central California Area Office


Date: 06/30/2015

Concurred by:

See Attachment A
Archaeologist/Architectural Historian
Mid-Pacific Regional Office


Date: See Attachment A

Concurred by:


David E. Hyatt
Resources Management Division Chief
South-Central California Area Office

Date: 06/30/2015

Approved by:


Michael Jackson
Area Manager
South-Central California Area Office

Date: 6/30/2015



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

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Background

In order to address impacts of the severe drought and forecasted pumping restrictions at the C.W. “Bill” Jones Pumping Plant this summer, the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority (Authority), Reclamation’s non-federal operating entity for the San Luis Unit and Delta Division of the Central Valley Project (CVP), installed a temporary pumping plant at milepost (MP) 54.41 on the Delta-Mendota Canal (Check Structure No. 10) in order to reverse flow CVP and non-CVP water previously stored in San Luis Reservoir to CVP contractors located north of O’Neill Forebay. Since then, the Authority has determined that additional temporary facilities are needed in order to provide CVP and non-CVP water to the following contractors this summer: Byron-Bethany Irrigation District, Banta-Carbona Irrigation District, City of Tracy, Del Puerto Water District, Patterson Irrigation District, and West Stanislaus Irrigation District.

Nature of the Action

Reclamation proposes to approve the Authority’s installation of three temporary lift stations at MP 54.41 (Check Structure No. 10), MP 38.68 (Check Structure No. 7), and MP 24.43 (Check Structure No. 4) on the Delta-Mendota Canal (see Figure 1). Each lift station would include a series of pumps mounted within the downstream bays of the three check structures with the following capacities:

- Approximately 280 cfs at Check Structure No. 10
- Approximately 210 cfs at Check Structure No. 7
- Approximately 140 cfs at Check Structure No. 4

The reverse flow project would consist of three separate temporary lift stations. Each lift station would include a series of 300 horsepower vertical pumps each with a capacity of 70 cubic feet per second (cfs). The lift station would pump water from the downstream side of the check structure and lift the water over the closed radial gates and discharge into the upstream canal pool through a 30-inch diameter discharge pipe. The lift station at Check Structure No. 10 would have four pumps with a total capacity of 280 cfs. The second lift station, located at Check Structure No. 7, would have three pumps installed and would be able to pump approximately 210 cfs. The third lift station, located at Check Structure No. 4, would have a capacity to pump approximately 140 cfs.

Each lift station would be set up similarly, except for its pumping capacity. A structural steel framework would be anchored to the check structure pier walls and the pumping units would be set into position on the frame. The lift station for Check Structure No. 10 is shown in Figure 2. Each site will have electrical control panels, a properly sized engine generator and a fuel tank with a spill containment system. See Figures 3, 4, and 5 for site layout at each Check structure.

Security fencing will be installed at each site and a security guard will be stationed in a vehicle at each site to prevent vandalism/theft. Fence installation would be above ground secured with “T” posts. No ground disturbance would be required for installation or operation of the lift stations and associated infrastructure. The approximate footprint for these lift stations would be 30 feet

by 150 feet at each site. A crane would be required to set the steel framework, pumps, motors, and discharge pipes in place.

The lift stations would be operated, as needed, from June through September of 2015 to reverse flow up to 93,000 acre-feet of CVP and non-CVP water currently stored in San Luis Reservoir to Byron-Bethany Irrigation District, Banta-Carbona Irrigation District, City of Tracy, Del Puerto Water District, Patterson Irrigation District, and West Stanislaus Irrigation District. The water would be released from San Luis Reservoir into O’Neill Forebay and then into the Delta-Mendota Canal near Check No. 13. This water would then be pumped into the upper portion of the Delta-Mendota Canal from Check No. 10 to Check No. 4 via the temporary lift stations for delivery to the CVP contractors listed above. During operation, gates would be closed between the three Check Structures in order to create pools that would allow water to be pumped between the lift stations for delivery to the contractors.

Authority staff would conduct daily visits to the lift stations for visual inspection and to perform any required maintenance. The Authority would contract for fuel delivery from a local company and fuel would be delivered on a daily basis during operation. The Authority may also contract for night security to safeguard the site from vandals.

Environmental Commitments

The Authority and CVP contractors receiving this water shall implement the following environmental protection measures to avoid and/or reduce environmental consequences associated with the Proposed Action (Table 1). Environmental consequences for resource areas assume the measures specified would be fully implemented.

Table 1 Environmental Protection Measures and Commitments

| Resource | Protection Measure |
|----------------------|---|
| Air Quality | Prior to operation of the diesel pumps, the Authority shall acquire all necessary permitting from the San Joaquin Valley Air Pollution Control District and implement any required mitigation related to emission impacts. A copy of the permit and required mitigation, if applicable, will be provided to Reclamation prior to the start of pumping. |
| Biological Resources | No native or untilled land (fallow for three consecutive years or more) may be cultivated with this water without additional environmental analysis and approval. |
| | The Proposed Action shall not change the land use patterns of the cultivated or fallowed fields that do have some value to listed species or birds protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act (MBTA). |
| | All food-related trash items such as wrappers, cans, bottles, and food scraps must be removed daily from the Project Area and disposed of in closed containers. |
| | A qualified biologist or ornithologist will conduct pre-construction surveys for migratory birds and burrowing owls in the Project Area and for 200 meters upstream and downstream of the temporary pumping plant within 30 days prior to the delivery of pumping equipment or ground disturbing activities, according to the revised California Department of Fish and Game Staff Report on Burrowing Owl Mitigation (CDFG 2012), or current guidance. If owl occupied burrows or nesting is present within this area, further review shall be made involving a Reclamation biologist to determine what measures may be available to apply that would allow the Proposed Action to go forward. No action may be allowed that would result in take of a migratory bird, including by disturbing nesting migratory birds during the breeding |

| Resource | Protection Measure |
|-------------------|--|
| | <p>season (February 1 through August 31). Unless otherwise approved by a Reclamation biologist, a minimum 160-foot-wide buffer shall be placed around owl occupied burrows during the nonbreeding season (September 1 through January 31), and a 250-foot-wide buffer shall be placed around occupied burrows during the breeding season. Ground-disturbing activities shall not occur within the designated buffers without approval of a Reclamation biologist following a site evaluation.</p> <p>If installation/removal activities will occur during the nesting season (February 15 to August 15), preconstruction surveys for active Swainson's hawk nests will be conducted in and around all potential nest trees if any are present within 0.5 miles of project-related disturbance (including construction-related traffic). These surveys will be conducted in accordance with the Recommended Timing and Methodology for Swainson's Hawk Nesting Surveys in California's Central Valley (Swainson's Hawk Technical Advisory Committee 2000), or current guidance. If known or active nests are identified through preconstruction surveys or other means, a ½ mile buffer shall be established around all active nest sites if construction cannot be limited to occur outside the nesting season (February 15 through September 15). Worker awareness training will be conducted to ensure that avoidance measures are being implemented and biological monitoring shall be conducted to ascertain whether activities may occur and take would not result.</p> <p>A qualified biologist will conduct pre-construction surveys for San Joaquin kit fox no fewer than 14 days and no more than 30 days prior to the onset of any ground disturbing activity and the results from that survey provided to Reclamation before initiating the project. The Authority and CVP Contractors will implement the U.S. Fish And Wildlife Service (Service) Standardized Recommendations For Protection Of The Endangered San Joaquin Kit Fox Prior To Or During Ground Disturbance (Service 2011). If kit foxes or their dens are detected at any time, all construction activities associated with the project would be halted immediately. The project would be placed on hold until further analysis with Reclamation staff, and if necessary consultation with the Service, is complete. Additionally, all activity to service the temporary pumping system, including fueling shall occur during daylight hours. Vehicle speeds on non-public roadways (e.g. on the Delta-Mendota Canal levee access roadways) shall be 20 Miles Per Hour or less.</p> <p>Ground disturbance to burrows shall be avoided during installation and operation of the facilities.</p> <p>The nests of migratory birds (i.e. of Barn and Cliff swallows) shall not be physically disturbed during installation, operation, and removal of the facilities.</p> |
| Various Resources | <p>Use of the water shall comply with all federal, state, local, and tribal law, and requirements imposed for protection of the environment and Indian Trust Assets.</p> <p>No land conversions may occur as a result of the Proposed Action.</p> |

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.*

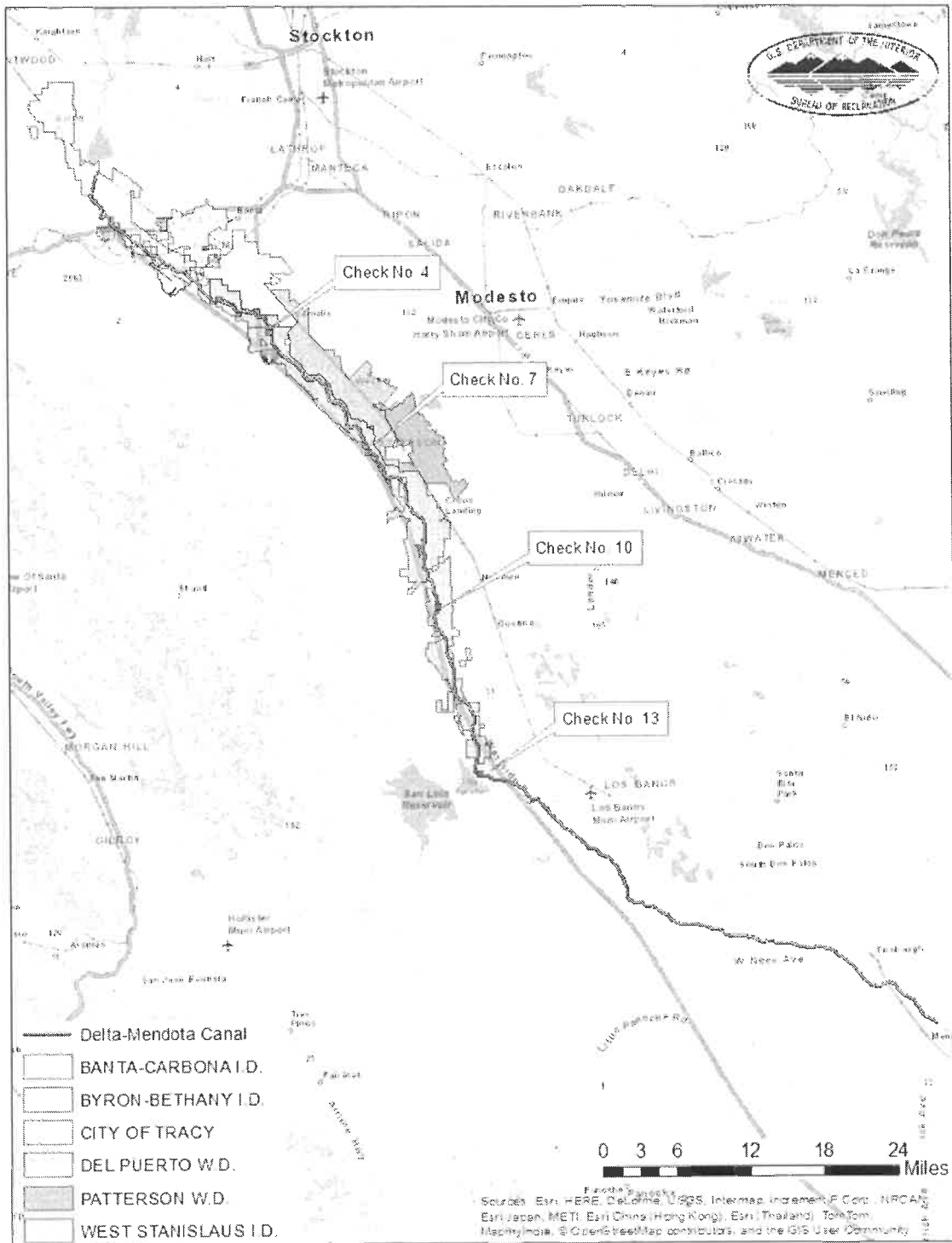


Figure 1 Proposed Action Area

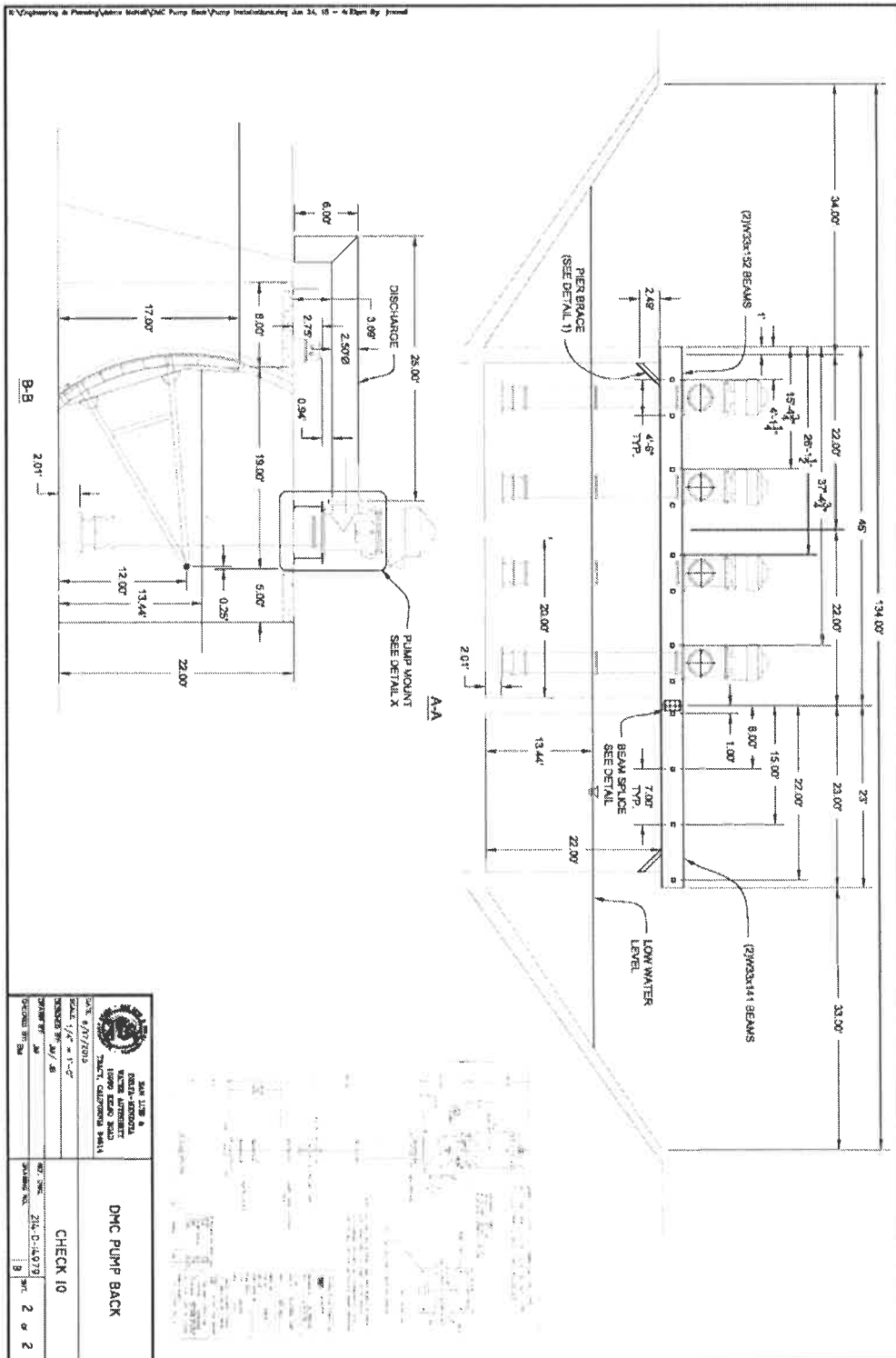


Figure 2 Design for Temporary Lift Station at Check Structure No. 10

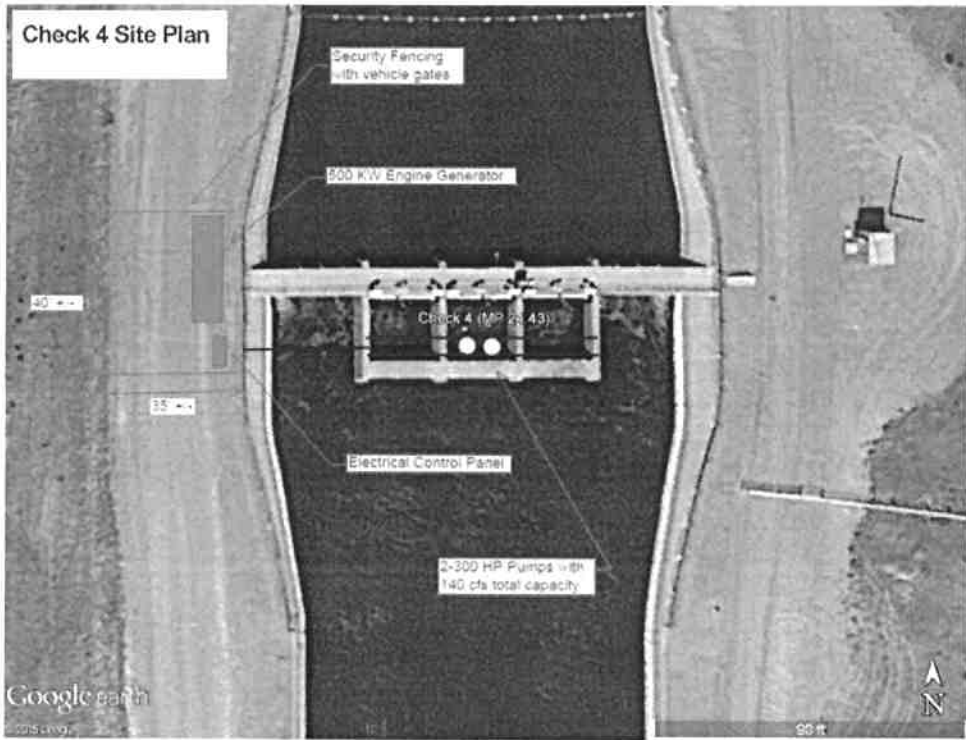


Figure 3 Site Plan for Temporary Lift Station at Check Structure No. 4

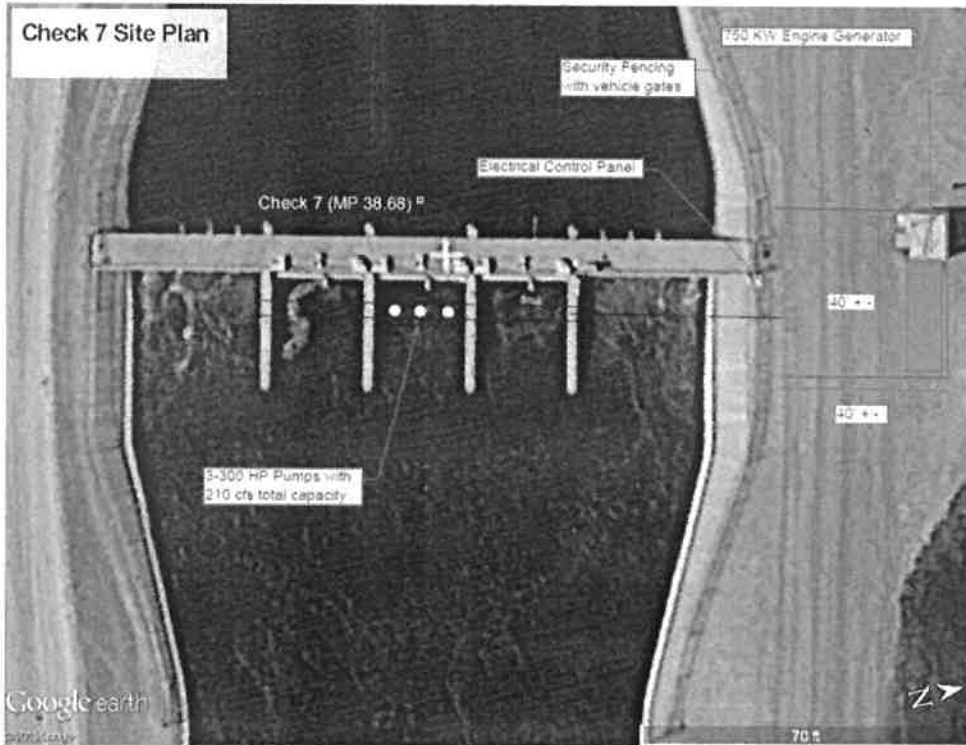


Figure 4 Temporary Lift Station at Check Structure No. 7

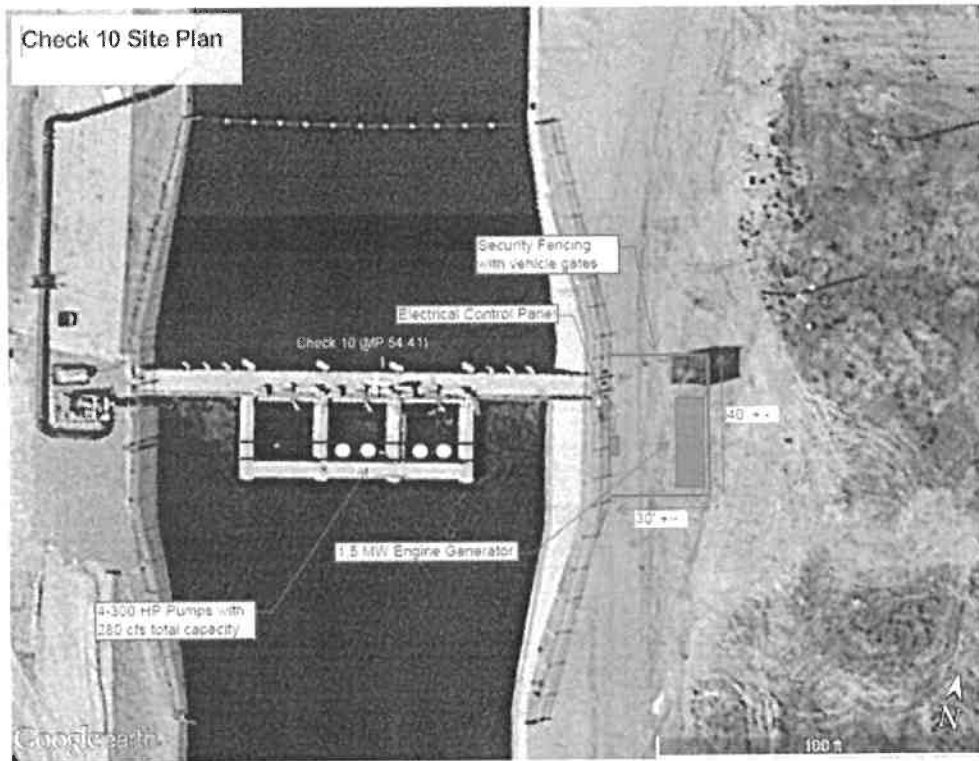


Figure 5 Temporary Lift Station at Check Structure No. 10

Evaluation of Criteria for Categorical Exclusion

- | | | | |
|--|---|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. This action would have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment (40 CFR 1502.3). | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 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 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 3. This action would have significant impacts on public health or safety (43 CFR 46.215(a)). | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> |

- | | No | Uncertain | Yes |
|---|-------------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 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)). | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 5. This action would have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks (43 CFR 46.215(d)). | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 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)). | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 7. This action would have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects (43 CFR 46.215 (f)). | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 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)). | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 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)). | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 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)). | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 11. This action would affect ITAs (512 DM 2, Policy Memorandum dated December 15, 1993). | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 12. This action would have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (EO 12898) (43 CFR 46.215 (j)). | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> | <input type="checkbox"/> |

- | | | | |
|--|---|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 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 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 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 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> | Uncertain <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes <input type="checkbox"/> |

NEPA Action: Categorical Exclusion

The Proposed Action is covered by the exclusion category and no extraordinary circumstances exist. The Action is excluded from further documentation in an EA or EIS.

Attachment A: Cultural Resources Determination

CULTURAL RESOURCES COMPLIANCE
Division of Environmental Affairs
Cultural Resources Branch (MP-153)

MP-153 Tracking Number: 15-SCAO-184

Project Name: National Historic Preservation Act Compliance for the Proposed San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority 2015 Delta-Mendota Canal Expanded Reverse Flow Project, Stanislaus County, California

Categorical Exclusion Checklist: CEC-15-038

NEPA Contact: Rain Emerson, Natural Resource Specialist

MP 153 Cultural Resources Reviewer: Lauren Perry, Regional Archaeologist



Date: June 30, 2015

Reclamation proposes to approve the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority's installation of three temporary lift stations at MP 54.41 (Check Structure No. 10), MP 38.68 (Check Structure No. 7), and MP 24.43 (Check Structure No. 4) on the Delta-Mendota Canal (DMC). Each lift station would include a series of pumps mounted within the downstream bays of the three check structures with the following capacities: approximately 280 cfs at Check Structure No. 10; approximately 210 cfs at Check Structure No. 7; and approximately 140 cfs at Check Structure No. 4.

The reverse flow project would consist of three separate temporary lift stations. Each lift station would be set up similarly, except for its pumping capacity. A structural steel framework would be anchored to the check structure pier walls and the pumping units would be set into position on the frame. Each site will have electrical control panels, a properly sized engine generator and a fuel tank with a spill containment system. Security fencing will be installed at each site and a security guard will be stationed in a vehicle at each site to prevent vandalism/theft. Fence installation would be above ground secured with "T" posts. No ground disturbance would be required for installation or operation of the lift stations and associated infrastructure. The approximate footprint for these lift stations would be 30 feet by 150 feet at each site. A crane would be required to set the steel framework, pumps, motors, and discharge pipes in place.

Reclamation's approval of this project constitutes an undertaking with the potential to cause effects to historic properties, assuming such properties are present, requiring compliance with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) as amended. Historic properties identification resulted in the DMC, a component of the Central Valley Project, as the only historic property within the project area. Reclamation finds of no adverse effect to historic properties pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.5(b) for this action.

Reclamation previously consulted under NHPA Section 106 for the lift station at Check Structure No.10, receiving concurrence from the California State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) on June 5, 2015 (MP-153 Tracking No. 15-SCAO-133). A separate submission to SHPO for the expanded lift stations at Check Structures No. 4 and No. 7 has been made with the

same finding of no adverse effect to historic properties. Please note that if project activities subsequently change, additional NHPA Section 106 review, including further consultation with the SHPO, may be required.

I concur with Evaluation Criteria numbers 8 and 13 of CEC-15-038 that this action will have no significant impacts on historic properties or on Indian sacred sites.