

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Categorical Exclusion Checklist

Tracy Administration Building Rehabilitation

CEC-17-008

Prepared by:



Jennifer L. Lewis
Natural Resources Specialist
South-Central California Area Office

Date: May 12, 2017

Concurred by:

See Attachment A

Kevin Palmer
Mid-Pacific Regional Office
Regional Architectural Historian concurred with Item 8. Their determination has been placed within the project file.

Date: See Attachment A

Concurred by:



Lisa Buck
Wildlife Biologist
South-Central California Area Office

Date: 05/12/2017

Concurred by:



Rain L. Emerson
Supervisory Natural Resources Specialist
South-Central California Area Office
ITA Designee concurred with Item 11. Their determination has been placed within the project file.

Date: 05/19/2017

Approved by:



Michael P. Jackson, P.E.
Area Manager
South-Central California Area Office

Date: 5/19/2017



Background

The South-Central California Area Office of the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) has an office in Byron, California off of Kelso Road known as the Tracy Office (Figure 1). The Tracy Office maintains the Tracy Fish Collecting Facility and several other Reclamation facilities.

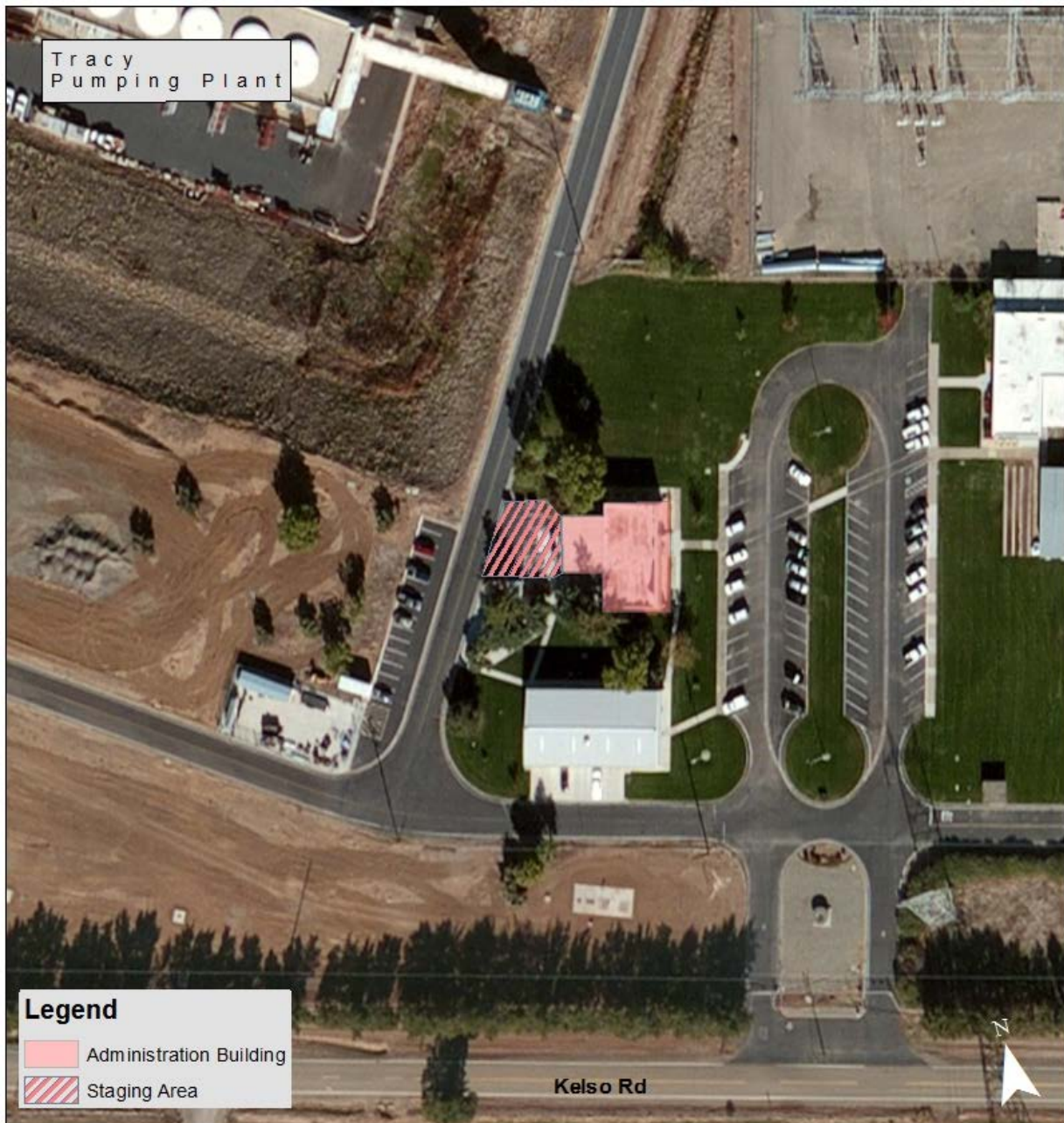


Figure 1 Project Location

Nature of the Action

Reclamation proposes to rehabilitate the exterior of the Tracy Office Administration Building. Specific actions include the following:

- Roof replacement/rehabilitation and raising the administration building parapet 4 inches higher to the existing 24-foot-high building for the re-roofing.
- Installation of shatter proof film on the east façade and north elevation windows facing the switchyard to prevent injury in the event an explosion.
- Repair of cracks in the interior stairwell stucco walls.
- Installation of a new air conditioner server rack in the computer server room that would be in keeping with the function of that room.

No groundbreaking and other intrusive construction work is planned during this project. Construction materials will be staged behind the building within the designated staging area. Construction equipment could include fork lifts, truck conveyors, scissor lifts, or other similar equipment. Because no digging activities will occur, equipment such as excavators, backhoes, loaders, or bobcats will not be utilized during the planned construction work.

Environmental Commitments

Reclamation or their contractor(s) shall ensure best management practices (BMPs) are in place to mitigate the potential for stormwater impacts from the staging area to avoid and/or reduce environmental consequences associated with the Proposed Action. Also, approval of the proposed re-roofing project is conditioned on the use of a gray flashing material applied to the raised parapet, and not a shiny metal material in order to lower the visual impact to an acceptable level for this historic property.

Environmental consequences for resource areas assume the measures specified would be fully implemented.

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.*

Evaluation of Criteria for Categorical Exclusion

Below is an evaluation of the extraordinary circumstances as required in 43 CFR 46.215.

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

Extraordinary Circumstance	No	Uncertain	Yes
practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (EO 13007, 43 CFR 46.215 (k), and 512 DM 3)).			
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)).	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<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.

Appendix A: Cultural Resources Determination

CULTURAL RESOURCE COMPLIANCE
Mid-Pacific Region
Division of Environmental Affairs
Cultural Resources Branch

MP-153 Tracking Number: 17-SCAO-085

Project Name: the C.W. Bill Jones Tracy Pumping Plant (Tracy Pumping Plant) Administration Building Rehabilitation-Re-roofing

NEPA Document: 17-008

MP 153 Cultural Resources Reviewer: Lex Palmer

Date: May 8, 2017

This proposed undertaking on Reclamation lands by CAL FIRE would authorize the proposed re-roofing of the Tracy Pumping Plant Administration Building in Alameda County. Reclamation determined that the authorization of this work is an undertaking as defined in 36 CFR § 800.16(y) and involves the type of activity that has the potential to cause effects on historic properties under 36 CFR § 800.3(a).

Based on historic properties identification efforts conducted by Reclamation cultural resources staff, Reclamation consulted with, and received concurrence from, the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) on a finding of no adverse effect to historic properties, pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.5(b). Consultation correspondence between Reclamation and the SHPO has been provided with this cultural resources compliance document for inclusion in the administrative record for this action.

Please note that the approval of the proposed re-roofing project is conditioned on the use of a gray flashing material applied to the raised parapet, and not a shiny metal material in order to lower the visual impact to an acceptable level for this historic property.

This document serves as notification that Section 106 compliance has been completed for this undertaking. Please note that if project activities subsequently change, additional NHPA Section 106 review, including further consultation with the SHPO, may be required. Thank you for providing the opportunity to comment on this project.

Attachment:

Letter: SHPO to Reclamation dated May 5, 2017

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

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www.ohp.parks.ca.gov



May 05, 2017

In reply refer to: BUR_2017_0405_001

Ms. Anastasia T. Leigh, Regional Environmental Officer
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Mid-Pacific Regional Office
2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, CA 95825-1898

Subject: Section 106 Consultation for C.W. Bill Jones Tracy Pumping Plant (Tracy Pumping Plant) Administration Building Rehabilitation, Alameda County, California (Project #17-SCAO-085)

Dear Ms. Leigh:

The Office of Historic Preservation (OHP) received on April 05, 2017 your letter initiating consultation on the above referenced undertaking under Section 106 of the NHPA (as amended), and its implementing regulations found at 36 CFR Part 800. Reclamation's currently proposed undertaking is to repair and rehabilitate the roof, install shatter-proof window film, repair stairwell cracks with in-kind materials, and place a new air conditioner server rack in the computer room at the Tracy Pumping Plant Administration Building in Alameda County, California. The Administration Building was constructed in 1952, as part of the original Tracy Pumping Plant building complex that includes the Pumping Plant (1951), Control Building (1951), a former Western Area Power Administration (WAPA) Guard Shack (c. 1952), and a Butler-style Warehouse-Laboratory Building (c. 1999-2000).

Reclamation is seeking comments on the adequacy of defining the Area of Potential Effects (APE), on its historic property identification efforts and on its finding. Included in the submittal is the following report:

- *Project Tracking No: 17-SCAO-085: C.W. Bill Jones Pumping Plant Administration Building Rehabilitation Project; C.W. Bill Jones Pumping Plant Administration Building Rehabilitation Project, Alameda County, CA: Mid-Pacific Region; March 2017. (By: Lex Palmer, Architectural Historian, Bureau of Reclamation, Mid-Pacific Region, Division of Environmental Affairs, Cultural Resources Branch, 2800 Cottage Way, MP-153, Sacramento, CA 95825.) [Palmer 2017]*

The area of potential effects (APE) for the current undertaking consists of the Administration Building footprint and the adjacent paved areas on the east facade and west elevation that will be utilized to stage construction materials and equipment. The APE measures 130 feet long east-west by 80 feet wide north-south for a total of 10,400 square feet. There is no vertical APE, as no excavation will occur.

Reclamation has determined that consultation with Indian tribes is not necessary for this undertaking due to a lack of potential for direct or indirect effects to properties of religious

or cultural significance. The APE is in a previously disturbed area composed of engineered fill from the 1942-1952 building complex construction. Equipment and materials for the currently proposed project will be staged on the existing paved parking lots and there will be no potential for ground disturbance.

In an effort to identify historic properties, Reclamation reviewed its cultural resources site index, project histories, and real property records. PAR Environmental Services, Inc. (PAR) inventoried the Tracy Pumping Station in 2001 and recorded the Warehouse- Laboratory Building and Administration Building as site P-01-010442 and the Tracy Substation as site P-01-010443. However, the PAR building descriptions are incomplete as PAR was unable to access the gated property. As part of the current effort, Reclamation conducted a reconnaissance level inventory of the Tracy Pumping Plant building complex on February 22, 2017, with a focus on the Administration Building, both exterior and interior, and has updated site form P-01-010442 and also its general inventory of the Administrative Building (Palmer 2017: Appendix A-site forms; Appendix B-Building Interior Characterization).

PAR evaluated the Tracy Pumping Station as eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). Reclamation has previously evaluated the Tracy Pumping Plant itself, not the Pumping Plant building complex, as a contributing element to the Central Valley Project (CVP) under NRHP Criteria A and C. Through the February 22, 2017 inventory Reclamation has determined that the Control Building and Pumping Plant exterior and interior have a remarkable degree of integrity and that the Control Building, which regulates the Tracy Pumping Plant, is eligible for the NRHP under Criteria A and C for its association with the Pumping Plant mission. For the current undertaking, Reclamation evaluated the Administration Building as being eligible for listing in the NRHP as part of the Tracy Pumping Plant building complex. The building complex includes the Pumping Plant, Control Building, and the former WAPA Guard Shack, which together form the basis of a historic district.

Reclamations considers the Administration Building and Tracy Pumping Plant building complex eligible under NRHP Criterion A for their association with the Cold War Period (1946-1989) of historic significance. In addition, the Administration Building is eligible, under NRHP Criterion C, for its Modernist architectural details with Brutalist influences that are also seen in the Control Room and Pumping Plant. Background research could not determine if there is any association with a notable architect or construction firm.

Although Reclamation mentions a second phase of work, which will occur when future funding becomes available, no specific project details or definition of an undertaking were included with the currently submitted documentation. As part of the February 22, 2017 on-site survey, Reclamation performed an inventory and analysis of the Administration Building interior space to determine integrity levels and what character-defining elements might be present (Palmer 2017: Appendix B). Reclamation concludes that the extant interior elements of the Administration Building are plain and austere and therefore unremarkable.

Reclamation applied the criteria of adverse effect on historic properties for the currently proposed undertaking. Reclamation concludes that none of the currently proposed rehabilitation activities will be visible from the Control Building and Pumping Plant,

will not change the overall Pumping Plant building complex setting, nor will it adversely affect any of the characteristics that make the C. W. Jones Tracy Pumping Plant Administration Building eligible for listing in the NRHP.

After OHP staff review of the documentation, the following comments are offered:

- Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4(a)(1), there are no objections to the APE as defined;
- Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4(b), Reclamation has documented a reasonable and good faith effort to identify historic properties within the area of potential effects.
- I cannot comment on the mentioned future “phase two” planned undertaking as no defined project scope details or specific definition of such an undertaking were provided in the current submittal.
- Although plain, spare and austere the interior elements of the first and second floor of the interior of the Administration are reasonably intact and cohesive in design and are character-defining features of the Administration Building (Appendix B).
- Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4(c)(2), I concur that the Administration Building and Tracy Pumping Plant building complex are eligible under NRHP Criterion A for their association with the Cold War Period (1946-1989) of historic significance. In addition, the Administration Building is eligible, under NRHP Criterion C, for its Modernist architectural details with Brutalist influences that are also seen in the Control Room and Pumping Plant.
- Reclamation has determined that the currently proposed undertaking, as described in “1.0 Description of the Undertaking” (Palmer 2017: pg. 2) will result in no adverse effect to the historic properties affected. Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.5(b), **I concur.**

Please be advised that under certain circumstances, such as unanticipated discovery or a change in project description, Reclamation may have additional future responsibilities for this undertaking under 36 CFR Part 800 (as amended). Should you require further information, please contact Jeanette Schulz at Jeanette.Schulz@parks.ca.gov or (916) 445-7031.

Sincerely,



Julianne Polanco
State Historic Preservation Officer