

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Draft Environmental Assessment

East Park Reservoir - Rattlesnake Point - Boat Launch Facility Project

EA-17-07



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation

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Mission Statements

The mission of the Department of the Interior is to protect and manage the Nation's natural resources and cultural heritage; provide scientific and other information about those resources; and honor its trust responsibilities or special commitments to American Indians, Alaska Natives, and affiliated island communities.

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 interest of the American public.

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Section 1 Introduction

This Environmental Assessment (EA) examines the potential direct, indirect, and cumulative impacts to the affected environment associated with Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) contractors constructing a boat launch facility at East Park Reservoir (EPR) in Colusa County, CA (Figure 1). The property on which the boat ramp would be constructed is owned by Reclamation and managed by Colusa County (County). The California State Parks Division of Boating and Waterways (Boating and Waterways) awarded a Harbors and Watercraft Revolving Fund (HWRF) planning grant for Reclamation to fund the project design and permitting in early February 2017. Reclamation would seek a second grant to fund the majority of the construction costs. The County would manage and maintain the boat ramp following its construction.

1.1 Background

East Park Dam, which forms East Park Reservoir (EPR), is part of the Orland Project located in Colusa County, California (Figure 1). Completed in 1910, the dam stores irrigation waters diverted and impounded from Little Stony Creek, Squaw Creek, and Little Indian Creek. East Park Reservoir is 2.7 miles long and encompasses 1,820 acres. The reservoir has a total capacity of 52,000 acre-feet (AF). There are 25 miles of shoreline, 10 miles of which are available for public use.

In 2004, the Bureau of Reclamation prepared a Resource Management Plan (RMP) for EPR (Tetra Tech 2004). This document was created in accordance with the Reclamation Management Act of 1992 and Reclamation's 2000-2005 Strategic Plan to manage, develop, and protect water and related resources in an environmentally and economically-sound manner in the interest of the American public. In addition, the RMP was crafted to be compatible with authorized project purposes of irrigation water storage.

In late 2013, Colusa County (County) entered into a reservoir-area specific Management Agreement (No 13-LC-20-0442) consistent with the goals and objectives of the RMP to serve as a cost share partner for recreational development at EPR. In this role, the County would assist Reclamation (and the Orland Unit Water Users' Association; OUWUA) in the administration, operation, and maintenance of recreation and related improvements and facilities at EPR.

To this end, and in accordance with the Management Agreement and associated goals and objectives of the RMP, the County and Reclamation propose to enhance the water-based recreational activities at EPR by constructing a boat launch facility at Rattlesnake Point on the reservoir's east side. Reclamation would fund a contractor to construct the boat launch facility, which would be managed and maintained by the County.

1.2 Need for the Proposed Action

EPR receives approximately 32,000 visitors annually. Currently, there is no improved boat launch facility at EPR; Boaters at EPR launch their motorized and non-motorized boats directly from the shoreline at rates of 2,088 and 232 launches per year, respectively (Boats and Waterways 2017). These launches from shoreline increase the risk of accident in entering the water and the potential for shoreline erosion.

An inspection of EPR's boating facilities on February 7, 2017 by Reclamation, the County and Boating and Waterways determined that upgrades to existing facilities are needed to improve the quality of the recreational experience, gain compliance with current Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) regulations, and reduce shoreline erosion associated with the present means of launching a boat directly from shore at multiple locations.

The purpose of the Proposed Action is to provide continued boating opportunities for the public at EPR with safe, accommodating and environmentally-responsible facilities.

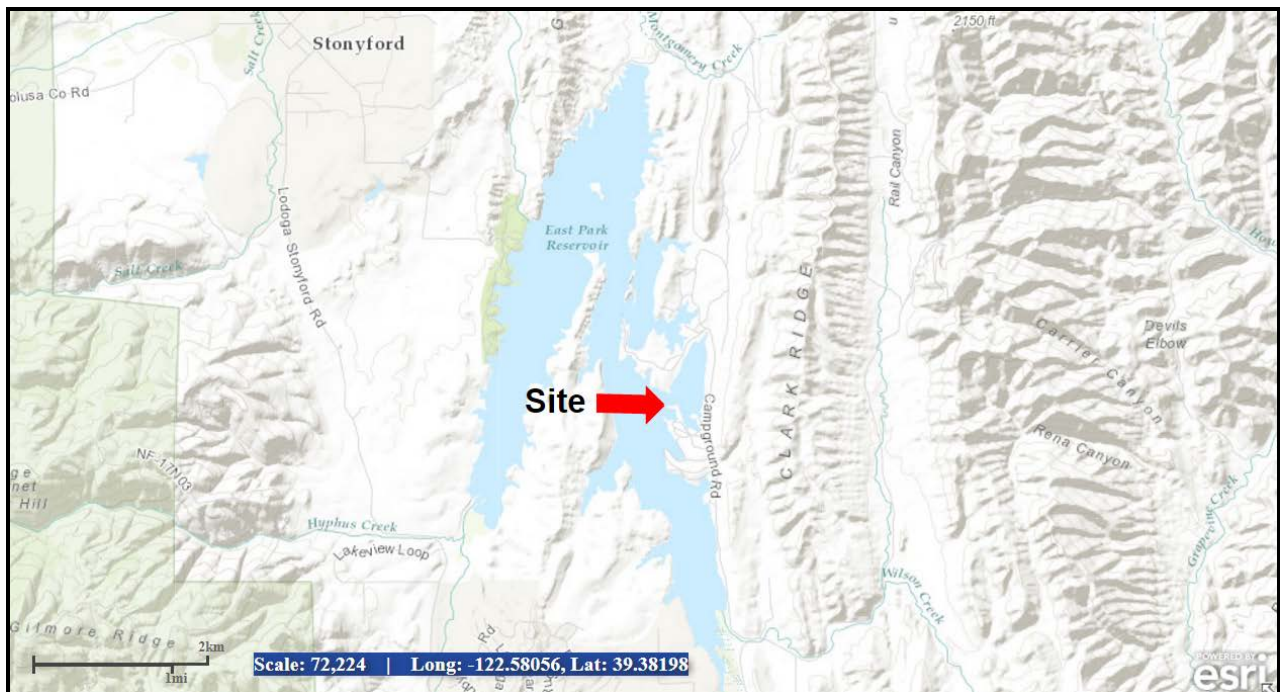


Figure 1. Project Location

Section 2 Alternatives Including the Proposed Action

This EA considers two possible actions: the No Action Alternative and the Proposed Action. The No Action Alternative reflects future conditions without the Proposed Action and serves as a basis of comparison for determining potential effects to the human environment.

2.1 No Action Alternative

Under the No Action Alternative, Reclamation would not construct the boat launch facility. Boaters would continue to launch from the shoreline in the action area and elsewhere along EPR's shoreline. No ADA-accessible facilities associated with the new boat launch facility would be constructed. The location of the boat launch is currently unpaved dirt and would remain so under the No Action Alternative.

2.2 Proposed Action

The Project includes construction of a single-lane boat ramp, dock and paved parking and access road, sidewalk and associated amenities. The boat ramp will be a "V"-groove concrete slab, approximately 200 ft long by 20 ft wide. The dock will be a cable-guided float, approximately 60 ft long, connected to a gang plank and dock landing. The paved areas will accommodate approximately 18 vehicle and trailer parking spaces. Two parking spaces will be ADA-compliant and will provide closer, more accommodating access to the boat ramp from the parking area. The sidewalk will be ADA-compliant and connect the dock to the existing restroom and the ADA parking. Additional project amenities will include an information kiosk, directional signage, animal-resistant trash receptacles, and a project credit sign (Figure 2).

The Project is currently in the conceptual phase of design. The determination of whether the ramp will be cast-in-place or pre-cast will be based on further design review. Regardless, the Project will be designed and constructed in conformance with the Boating and Waterways guidance document *Layout, Design and Construction Handbook for Small Craft Boat Launching Facilities* (Boating and Waterways 1991). Construction is expected to begin in September 2018, following typical seasonal reservoir drawdown, to facilitate work required on the reservoir bed that would limit the need for dewatering in that portion of the construction area. The work would take approximately two months to complete. The County would manage and maintain the boat ramp and associated facilities following its construction.

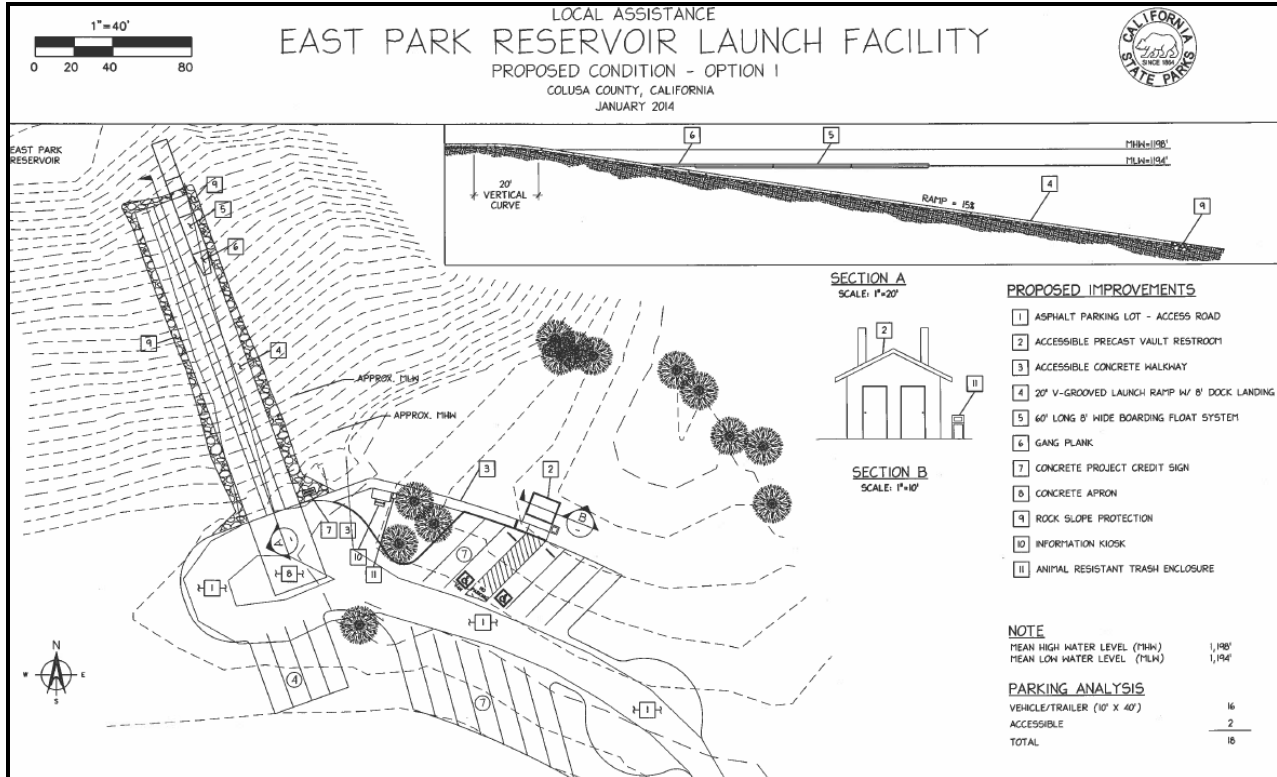


Figure 2. Conceptual Site Plan for Facility Upgrades

Construction equipment is anticipated to include: a backhoe, bulldozer, dump truck, paving machine, roller compactor, concrete truck, delivery trucks and generators. Trees on Rattlesnake Point will be trimmed to allow for equipment access and staging that would occur within the existing dirt and gravel parking area. Up to one tree may need to be removed. Areas to be used for the sidewalk and paving will also require grubbing and rough grading.

Surficial sediment removal and/or in-water grading and placement of aggregate base material will be necessary to assure an adequate base to support the ramp. The depth and volume of sediment removal, if any, will be determined by geotechnical borings and/or topographic and bathymetric surveys to be conducted to support the final design. Any sediment removed from the location of the ramp construction will be spread on-site nearby.



Figure 3. Approximate Locations of Boat Launch Facility Improvements

2.2.1 Environmental Commitments

Reclamation’s Contractor(s) 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. Copies of any environmental compliance reports shall be submitted to Reclamation.

Table 1. Environmental Protection Measures and Commitments.

Resource	Protection Measure
Air Quality	Reclamation or its Contractor(s) shall implement Best Management Practices (BMPs) for fugitive dust control, as appropriate based on site conditions at the time of construction. These BMPs may include site and road watering and reductions in equipment travel speed.
Water Quality	Reclamation shall obtain all permits necessary for the protection of water quality during construction activities. Permits shall include, but may not be limited to, a CWA (Clean Water Act), Section 404 permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) for fill of wetlands or waters of the United States, and a CWA, Section 401 Water Quality Certification from Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board. Copies of all permits shall be retained by Reclamation and the Contractor and be made available at the site during construction activities. In addition, Reclamation and its Contractor(s) would implement BMPs), as necessary to adequately address the potential for water quality impacts from construction associated with the Proposed Action. These BMPs would include, but may not be limited to, those for spill prevention and sediment and erosion control.
Biological Resources	A qualified biologist shall conduct pre-construction surveys for active raptor nests should construction or pre-construction activities (tree removal and/or trimming and grubbing) commence during the avian nesting season for birds of prey and migratory birds (between February 1 and August 31). The pre-construction survey shall be conducted within a 1/2 mile radius of the construction area. The pre-construction survey shall be conducted within 15 days prior to commencement of construction activities. If surveys show that

Resource	Protection Measure
	<p>there is no evidence of nests, then no avoidance and minimization or additional best management practices shall be required. If any active nests are located in the vicinity of the construction area, a buffer zone shall be established around the nests. A qualified biologist shall monitor nests during construction to evaluate potential nesting disturbance by construction activities. The biologist shall delineate the buffer zone with construction tape or pin flags within 100 feet of the active nest and maintain the buffer zone until the end of breeding season or when the young have fledged. Reclamation shall be contacted if establishing a 100-foot buffer zone is impractical.</p>
Various	<p>The footprint for new infrastructure and facilities is sited within an area previously disturbed and within an area zoned for recreational use.</p>

Section 3 Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences

This section identifies the potentially affected environment and the environmental consequences involved with the Proposed Action and the No Action Alternative, in addition to environmental trends and conditions that currently exist.

3.1 Resources Eliminated from Further Analysis

Reclamation analyzed the affected environment and determined that the Proposed Action did not have the potential to cause direct, indirect, or cumulative adverse effects to the resources listed in Table 2.

Table 2. Resources Eliminated from Further Analysis.

Resource	Reason Eliminated
Environmental Justice	The Proposed Action would not cause dislocation, changes in employment, or increase flood, drought, or disease nor would it disproportionately impact economically disadvantaged or minority populations.
Indian Sacred Sites	The Proposed Action would not limit access to ceremonial use of Indian Sacred Sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites. Therefore, there would be no impacts to Indian Sacred Sites as a result of the Proposed Action.
Indian Trust Assets	The Proposed Action would not impact Indian Trust Assets (ITA) as there are none in the Proposed Action area. The nearest ITA is located approximately five miles northwest of the Project location.
Land Use	The Proposed Action would not change the area's land use designation, as the footprint for new infrastructure and facilities is sited within an area previously disturbed and within an area zoned for recreational use. There would be no impact to land use as a result of the Proposed Action. Improvements would also be consistent with the EPR RMP / EA (Tetra Tech 2004).
Air Quality	The US EPA promulgated the General Conformity Rule (40 CFR 93 Subpart B) to ensure that Federal actions are consistent with a State Implementation Plan's purpose of eliminating or reducing the severity and number of violations of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for criteria air pollutants and achieving expeditious attainment of those standards. The general conformity regulations apply to a proposed Federal action in a non-attainment or maintenance area if the total of direct and indirect emissions of the relevant criteria pollutants and precursor pollutants caused by the Proposed Action equal or exceed certain <i>de minimis</i> amounts, thus requiring the Federal agency to make a determination of general conformity. The Proposed Action is in an area classified as "attainment" for all NAAQS. A conformity analysis is not required.
Climate Change	CO ₂ emissions from construction associated with the Proposed Action were estimated as 24 metric tons per year, and well below the 25,000 metric ton mandatory reporting limit for stationary sources established by the Council on Environmental Quality. Although there are currently no reporting requirements for greenhouse gas emissions from construction, CO ₂ emissions from the Proposed Action would be temporary and below those for a state or local project that trigger the need for a permit from the CCAPCB. While any increase in greenhouse gas emissions would add to the global inventory of gases that would contribute to global climate change, the Proposed Action would result in minimal to no measurable increase in greenhouse gases emissions and a net increase in greenhouse gases emissions among the pool of greenhouse gases would not be detectable.

3.2 Water Resources

3.2.1 Affected Environment

EPR was created by the construction of East Park Dam as part of the Orland Project, which supplies water to approximately 21,000 acres of irrigable land under the operational control of the OUWUA. The reservoir receives and stores Orland Project water from the Little Stony Creek, Squaw Creek, and Little Indian Creek. Water may be exchanged among East Park, Stony Gorge, and Black Butte Reservoirs to maximize the conservation utilization of the stored water.

The average annual runoff or inflow of Little Stony Creek into EPR is 63,900 acre-feet (AF) and is driven more by rainfall than snowmelt. EPR can fill to its maximum capacity of 52,000 AF in spring. Low flows prevail from June through October. Under typical operating conditions, reservoir storage ranges between approximately 16,000 and 47,000 AF (CDEC 2017), depending on supply needs and hydrologic conditions.

Although EPR is used as a recreational resource in addition to being used as irrigation water source for OUWUA district customers, is not used as a drinking water source. EPR has a relatively high rate of sedimentation and turbidity which is exacerbated by waves and wakes from boats, cattle grazing, mining and other activities. Combined with low water levels and warm water temperatures, nutrient loads in inflow have resulted in algae blooms in EPR during late summer months.

3.2.2 Environmental Consequences

No Action

Under the No Action Alternative, there would be no impacts to operations of EPR. The reservoir would continue to receive and store water for irrigation purposes. There would no potential impact on water resources associated with construction activities in the action area under the No Action Alternative. However, the action area would not receive a minor, long-term reduction in erosion and sediment inputs to surface water, from the elimination of shoreline launches, from which surface water quality in the reservoir would benefit.

Proposed Action

As with the No Action Alternative, there would be no impact to operations of EPR from the Proposed Action. However, during construction, surface water quality can be affected through erosion and sedimentation, a temporary increase in turbidity due to runoff from construction areas, or inadvertent spilling of construction-related chemicals. Due to the size and duration of construction activities, and their location in an area of continued disturbance from boat and vehicular traffic, these potential impacts are anticipated to be minor, short-term, and temporary relative to baseline conditions.

Reclamation and its Contractor(s) would obtain any necessary regulatory permits for the Proposed Action. The Project construction will include in-water elements that qualify as dredge or fill of waters of the US under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (CWA). Based on discussions with the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), permitting needs are anticipated to

include approval for CWA Section 404 project coverage under the USACE's Nationwide permit #42 for the construction or expansion of recreational facilities. In conjunction with the USACE permitting process, Reclamation will apply to the Regional Water Quality Control Board for a water quality certification under CWA Section 401 which regulates discharges to navigable waters.

In addition to any permit conditions related to the protection of water resources, Reclamation and its Contractor(s) would implement best management practices (BMPs), as necessary to adequately address the potential for water quality impacts from construction associated with the Proposed Action. These BMPs would include, but may not be limited to, those for spill prevention and sediment and erosion control.

Collectively, Reclamation's BMPs and any supplementation BMPs or monitoring required by the permits would assure that construction activities would not have a significant impact on surface water quality.

Additionally, the reduction or elimination of shoreline launches following the construction activities for the Proposed Action would result in a minor long-term reduction in erosion and sediment inputs to the water and improvement in surface water quality.

Cumulative Impacts

Impacts from the No Action Alternative are limited to a continuation of sediment inputs to the reservoir from shoreline launches. These impacts are minor and would not contribute significantly to a cumulative impact to water resources when added to other actions in the surrounding area.

The Proposed Action, when added to other actions in the surrounding area, and without the inclusion of BMPs, could have minor impacts on water quality. However, the Proposed Action, as well as the other construction activities, would be covered by the permitting programs established by the CWA, designed to minimize and mitigate adverse impacts to protected water bodies, including EPR. Typical conditions include measures to control stormwater runoff, soil erosion, and the potential for spills of objectionable materials during construction. It is expected that these measures would be adequate to mitigate the risk of adverse cumulative impacts to water resources from the Proposed Action.

3.3 Recreation

EPR receives approximately 32,000 visitors annually. Currently, there is no improved boat launch facility at EPR; Boaters at EPR launch their motorized and non-motorized boats directly from the shoreline at rates of 2,088 and 232 launches per year, respectively (Boats and Waterways 2017).

3.3.1 Affected Environment

East Park Recreation Area is a 4,288-acre Recreation Area, consisting of the 1,820-acre EPR and approximately 2,468 acres of surrounding land. There are 25 miles of shoreline, 10 miles of

which are available for public use. Most camping and day use activities occur at or near the water on the reservoir's east side. Day use activities include boating, jet-ski use, kayaking, canoeing, birding, wildlife and wildflower viewing, nature hiking, picnicking, fishing and photography. Group events are typically allowed by permit. The season of use is approximately April through October, depending on weather conditions and water levels.

EPR has been described as having a primitive setting. Dirt and gravel roads are used as hiking paths. Tent and RV camping areas are informally delineated by signs and locations of facilities such as restrooms and garbage dumpsters, and by vehicle control barriers. Although there is one designated boat launch area, there are no improved boat ramps or docks in the park. According to the 2004 EA, "the lack of designated boat ramps causes mud and erosion problems, conflicts between boaters and other reservoir users, and other safety issues." Some, but not all, of the recreational facilities at EPR are ADA-compliant. (For further details of existing recreational uses at EPR, please see the Final East Park Reservoir Resource Management Plan and Environmental Assessment (EPR RMP / EA; Tetra Tech 2004).

The County currently manages recreation activities on the reservoir and the recreational lands surrounding the reservoir pursuant to an agreement with Reclamation charges a \$4 or \$8 fee per vehicle for day use, for County residents and visitors from outside the County, respectively. This day use fee covers entry, parking, and boat launching. The County is not planning to raise the day use fee or add a separate boat launch fee after Project completion.

The Rattlesnake Point peninsula is accessed by a dirt and gravel road that runs parallel to EPR's eastern shore. In addition to boat launching, the peninsula is used for tent and RV camping. No formally designated parking and camping areas have been established. Picnic tables and a vault restroom are the only improvements.

The peninsula itself is mostly dirt and gravel and dotted with oak trees with sparse vegetation, including yellow star thistle and other invasive species, along its fringe. Aquatic vegetation along the north side of the peninsula is largely limited to a small stand of rushes, approximately 20 feet west of the proposed ramp site.

3.3.2 Environmental Consequences

No Action

Under the No Action Alternative, recreation facilities at Rattlesnake Point would not be installed or improved. Accordingly, visitors and recreationists with disabilities, in particular, would have continued limited access to boating opportunities at EPR.

Proposed Action

Under the Proposed Action, improvements would enhance EPR public services and safety and comply with ADA accessibility requirements. No additional fees would be imposed to support the new boat launch facility.

The Proposed Action is consistent with the EPR RMP / EA for the enhancement of current recreational uses and facilities (Tetra Tech 2004). The RMP /EA includes management actions

to enhance, replace, or upgrade existing recreational uses and facilities and installation of new facilities to expand or complement existing uses and facilities. During construction of these improvements, some existing recreational opportunities may be temporarily unavailable for use resulting in minor, short-term and temporary impacts to recreation. However, the recreational improvements would result in long-term beneficial impacts to recreation.

The enhanced recreation opportunities could result in greater visitor use. This increased use is not anticipated to be significant due to the remote location of the park. According to Boats and Waterways, the increase in motorized launches at EPR following construction is forecasted as approximately 5% (Boating and Waterways 2017).

In addition to the potential to increase park visitation, the installation of the new boat ramp has the potential to further concentrate boat launches on Rattlesnake Point. While their boats would be better protected from impacts with the reservoir bottom, users may experience delays in entering and exiting the water.

Cumulative Impacts

Limitations on boating access associated with the No Action Alternative are not anticipated to contribute to a significant cumulative impact on recreation when added to other actions in the area.

New EPR recreational facilities that would be constructed under this Proposed Action, and any future similar projects, would have long-term beneficial impacts on recreation. Visitation could be expected to increase due to improvements to facilities and access trails that would make the reservoir and shoreline more accessible to a wider range of visitors, including disabled visitors and other recreationists who may have trouble negotiating unpaved surfaces. This increased use is not anticipated to be significant due to the remote location of the park. Therefore, no significant long term cumulative impacts on recreation are anticipated from the Proposed Action when added to impacts from other actions in the area.

3.4 Biological Resources

3.4.1 Affected Environment

Species found commonly in EPR or on surrounding land in the park include: channel catfish, largemouth and smallmouth bass, bluegill, rainbow trout, wild pigs, coyotes, blacktail deer, tule elk, ground squirrels, black-tailed jackrabbits, Canada geese, bald eagles, a wide variety of ducks and species, and the tri-colored blackbird, as well as wildflowers including the adobe lily and Colusa lily. Terrestrial habitat within the park is a combination of oak woodland/grassland with invasive species such as yellow starthistle and medusahead in low lying areas along the reservoir, and chamise chaparral in the upland areas (Tetra Tech 2004).

Reclamation obtained an official list of species protected under the Federal Endangered Species Act (ESA) Section 7 for the Proposed Action area from the US Fish and Wildlife Service's (Service 2017) Information for Planning and Consultation (IPaC) website on January 31 and August 11, 2017. Additional information on the listed species' habitat and range was obtained

elsewhere on the Service’s Environmental Conservation Online System (ECOS) website and in the California Department of Fish and Wildlife’s (CDFW) California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB 2017). Reclamation researched the CNDDDB, and its Biographic Information and Observation System (BIOS) mapping complement, for recorded sitings of Federally-listed species in the vicinity of the Project. The information obtained from the Service and CDFW websites was supplemented with other information in Reclamation files to complete Table 3 below.

Table 3. Federally Listed Species and Critical Habitat

Common Name	Scientific Name	Federal Listing Status	Critical Habitat	Effect Determination
Amphibians				
California red-legged frog	<i>Rana draytonii</i>	threatened	designated	No effect. No dense, shrubby or emergent riparian vegetation in Proposed Action area. Predatory species present in action area. Nearest reported occurrence of species recorded in CNDDDB is approximately 50 miles south in Napa Co.
Birds				
Northern spotted owl	<i>Strix occidentalis caurina</i>	threatened	designated	No effect. No suitable habitat (old growth and/or highly dense forest) in the Proposed Action area. Nearest reported occurrence of species reported in CNDDDB Spotted Owl Viewer is 9 miles west in Mendocino National Forest.
Crustaceans				
vernal pool fairy shrimp	<i>Branchinecta lynchi</i>	threatened	designated	No effect. No vernal pools or seasonal wetlands in the Proposed Action area. Nearest reported occurrence of species recorded in CNDDDB is 19 miles east across I-5 in Glenn Co.
vernal pool tadpole shrimp	<i>Lepidurus packardii</i>	endangered	designated	No effect. No vernal pools in the Proposed Action area. Nearest reported occurrence of species recorded in CNDDDB is 17 miles east across I-5 in Glenn Co.
Fish				
delta smelt	<i>Hypomesus transpacificus</i>	threatened	designated	No effect. EPR is outside the current range for the species as verified on ECOS July 17, 2017.
Central Valley steelhead	<i>Oncorhynchus mykiss</i>	threatened	designated	No effect. EPR is not a receiving water body for waters that serve as steelhead habitat.
Flowering Plants				
Keck’s Checker-mallow	<i>Sidalcea keckii</i>	endangered	designated	No effect. Species not listed in Proposed Action area.
Reptiles				
giant garter snake	<i>Thamnophis gigas</i>	threatened	none	No effect. The Proposed Action area is on the margin of the current range for this species. No suitable upland habitat or aquatic vegetative cover to support this species is available in the Proposed Action area. Nearest occurrence of species reported in CNDDDB is in agricultural area 15 miles east.

There is no critical habitat in the Proposed Action area. Suitable habitat for the majority of the species listed in Table 3 is not present at the site. No documented occurrences of any of the species listed in Table 3 have been recorded in the CNDDDB or BIOS in the vicinity of the site with the exception of Keck's checker-mallow (*Sidalcea keckii*). The nearest siting of Keck's checker-mallow was reported approximately 0.8 miles from Rattlesnake Point. Technical assistance provided by USFWS in conjunction with other projects at EPR determined that the distinct population segment listed under ESA Section 7 is not the same as that found near EPR (Reclamation 2016).

3.4.2 Environmental Consequences

Neither general nor critical habitat for Federally-listed species is present in the action area or vicinity. Therefore, neither the Proposed Action nor the No Action Alternative would impact Federally-listed species or their habitat.

No Action

Under the No Action Alternative, the reservoir and park would continue to be operated and maintained as they are currently. There would be no minor, short-term and temporary negative impact on land or in-water in the action area from construction activities associated with the Proposed Action under the No Action Alternative that would impact species. However, the action area would not receive the minor, long-term reduction in erosion and sediment inputs to the water, from the elimination of shoreline launches, from which species may benefit.

Proposed Action

Under the Proposed Action, potential impacts to biological resources would be limited to a disturbance of sediment that could affect species in general, directly, or indirectly through an impact on water quality. Due to the size and duration of construction activities, and their location in an area of continued disturbance from boat and vehicular traffic, these potential direct and indirect impacts are anticipated to be minor, short-term, and temporary. The use of erosion and sediment control BMPs and permitting requirements for CWA Sections 401 and 404 would further reduce or eliminate the potential for water quality impacts that could indirectly affect biological resources. In addition, the reduction or elimination of shoreline launches following the construction activities for the Proposed Action would result in a minor, long-term reduction in erosion and sediment inputs to the water, from which species may benefit marginally.

Cumulative Impacts

Neither the Proposed Action nor the No Action Alternative would result in any direct or indirect impacts to Federally-listed or other species. Therefore, neither the Proposed Action nor the No Action Alternative would contribute cumulatively to any impacts to those resources when considered in conjunction with other actions in the area.

3.5 Cultural Resources

Cultural resources is a broad term that includes prehistoric, historic, architectural, and traditional cultural properties. The National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) of 1966 is the primary Federal legislation that outlines the Federal Government's responsibility to cultural resources. Section 106 of the NHPA requires the Federal Government to take into consideration the effects

of an undertaking on cultural resources listed on or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (National Register); such resources are referred to as historic properties.

The Section 106 process is outlined in the Federal regulations at 36 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Part 800. These regulations describe the process that the Federal agency (Reclamation) takes to identify cultural resources and the level of effect that the proposed undertaking will have on historic properties. In summary, Reclamation must first determine if the action is the type of action that has the potential to affect historic properties. If the action is the type of action to affect historic properties, Reclamation must identify the area of potential effects (APE), determine if historic properties are present within that APE, determine the effect that the undertaking will have on historic properties, and consult with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), to seek concurrence on Reclamation's findings. In addition, Reclamation is required through the Section 106 process to consult with Indian Tribes concerning the identification of sites of religious or cultural significance, and consult with individuals or groups who are entitled to be consulting parties or have requested to be consulting parties.

3.5.1 Affected Environment

In an effort to identify historic properties in the APE, Reclamation reviewed existing documentation regarding archaeological investigations within and in the vicinity of the APE. As part of a previous nearby project investigation, in 2014 Reclamation conducted a record search through the Northwest Information Center encapsulating the reservoir with a quarter-mile buffer (NWIC File No.:14-0070). This record search identified no recorded resources within the current APE. In addition, Reclamation conducted a pedestrian survey of the currently proposed APE, which resulted in no cultural resources identified. The landscape is mostly developed as a recreation area, with disturbances from shoreline boat launch areas and the construction of existing facilities for camping, parking, and toilets. Because of this disturbed setting, the potential for the presence of intact subsurface cultural deposits is considered negligible.

3.5.2 Environmental Consequences

No Action

Under the No Action Alternative, existing conditions would persist. No construction activities associated with the Proposed Action would occur. As a result, the No Action Alternative would not result in impacts to cultural resources.

Proposed Action

Pursuant to the regulations at 36 CFR § 800.3(f)(2), Reclamation identified the Paskenta Band of Nomlaki Indians, the Enterprise Rancheria of Maidu Indians, the Cortina Band of Indians, and the Colusa Indian Community Council as potentially having interests in the project area. Reclamation sent a letter to the tribes on April 2, 2017, inviting their participation in the Section 106 process. Reclamation received no responses from the notified tribes.

No historic properties were identified with the APE during the investigation. As a result, Reclamation made a determination of No Historic Properties Affected for the proposed Project pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.4(d)(1). Reclamation initiated consultation with SHPO on May 30, 2017 with a determination of No Historic Properties Affected for the proposed Project. SHPO concurred with the determination in a letter dated June 21, 2017.

Cumulative Impacts

Neither the Proposed Action nor the No Action Alternative would result in any direct or indirect impacts to cultural resources. Therefore, neither the Proposed Action nor the No Action Alternative would contribute cumulatively to any impacts to those resources when considered in conjunction with other actions in the area.

Section 4 Consultation and Coordination

4.1 Public Review Period

Reclamation will provide the public with an opportunity to comment on the draft EA during a 14-day public review period.

4.2 Endangered Species Act (16 USC § 1531 et seq.)

Section 7 of the ESA requires Federal agencies, in consultation with the Secretary of the Interior, to ensure that their actions do not jeopardize the continued existence of endangered or threatened species, or result in the destruction or adverse modification of the critical habitat of these species.

Reclamation determined that there would be no effect to species Federally-listed as endangered or threatened from the Proposed Action; therefore, the USFWS was not consulted.

4.3 National Historic Preservation Act (16 U.S.C. § 470 et seq.)

Title 54 U.S.C. § 306108 (formerly 16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.) requires Federal agencies to consider the effects of their undertakings on historic properties, properties determined eligible for inclusion in the National Register, and to afford the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation an opportunity to comment. Compliance with Section 106 follows a series of steps, identified in its implementing regulations found at 36 CFR Part 800, that include identifying consulting and interested parties, identifying historic properties within the area of potential effect, and assessing effects on any identified historic properties, through consultations with the State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO), Indian tribes and other consulting parties.

On May 30, 2017, Reclamation consulted with the SHPO on a finding of No Historic Properties Affected. SHPO concurred with the finding on June 21, 2017 (see Appendix A).

4.3 Clean Water Act (33 U.S.C. § 1251 et seq.)

Section 404 of the CWA authorizes the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to issue permits to regulate the discharge of “dredged or fill materials into waters of the United States” (33 U.S.C. § 1344). Section 401 of the CWA (33 U.S.C. § 1311) requires any applicant for an individual CWA Section 404 dredge and fill discharge permit to first obtain certification from the state that the activity associated with dredging or filling will comply with applicable state effluent and water quality standards. This certification must be approved or waived prior to the issuance of a permit for dredging and filling. Reclamation would obtain all necessary permits for

the Proposed Action as required under the CWA prior to the start of construction. Reclamation's Contractor would adhere to the general requirements and any additional terms and conditions of the permits during construction and pre-construction activities. (See Section 3.3.2 for details.)

Section 5 Preparers and Reviewers

Megan Simon, Natural Resources Specialist, NCAO - preparer

Mark Carper, Archaeologist, MP-153

Paul Zedonis, Supervisory Natural Resources Specialist, NCAO – reviewer

Section 6 References

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Appendix A: Cultural Resources Determination

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

MP-153 Tracking Number: 17-NCAO-090

Project Name: East Park Reservoir Boat Ramp Project

NEPA Document: EA-17-07-NCAO

MP 153 Cultural Resources Reviewer: Mark Carper

NEPA Contact: Megan Simon

Determination: No Historic Properties Affected

Date: June 22, 2017

Reclamation is proposing to make improvements to a boat launch facility at Rattlesnake Point within the East Park Reservoir in Colusa County, California. The proposed project is situated on land owned and managed by Reclamation. Reclamation determined that the proposed construction activity by Reclamation on federal lands 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).

The purpose of the proposed project is to further improve recreational users' experience at the reservoir while limiting shoreline erosion resulting from makeshift boat launches. The proposed project would entail installing the following: a single-lane boat launch, a 60-foot cable boarding float, asphaltting the current gravel parking lot, an addition of an Americans with Disabilities Act compliant path, an information kiosk, and signage. The single-lane boat launch will involve laying down an aggregate base upon which 6-8" pre-cast concrete slab panels will be placed. The boarding float would then be affixed to the launch.

In an effort to identify historic properties in the APE, Reclamation reviewed existing documentation regarding archaeological investigations within and in the vicinity of the APE. As part of a previous nearby project investigation, in 2014 Reclamation conducted a record search through the Northwest Information Center encapsulating the reservoir with a quarter-mile buffer (NWIC File No.:14-0070). This record search identified no recorded resources within the current APE. In addition, Reclamation Archaeologist Mr. Jeremy Foin conducted a pedestrian survey of the APE on April 21, 2017 during which no cultural resources were identified.

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

Pursuant to the regulations at 36 CFR § 800.3(f)(2), Reclamation identified the Paskenta Band of Nomlaki Indians, the Enterprise Rancheria of Maidu Indians, the Cortina Band of Indians, and the Colusa Indian Community Council as potentially having interests in the project area. Pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.4(a)(4), Reclamation contacted these tribes by letter dated April 2, 2017 and invited their participation in the Section 106 process. There were no responses received from the tribes.

Reclamation initiated consultation with California the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) on May 30, 2017 with a notification of a determination of no historic properties affected for the proposed project. SHPO concurred with the determination in a letter dated June 21, 2017.

The proposed action would have no significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places.

This memorandum is intended to convey the completion of the NHPA Section 106 process for this undertaking. Please retain a copy in the administrative record for this action. Should changes be made to this project, additional NHPA Section 106 review, possibly including consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer, may be necessary. Thank you for providing the opportunity to comment.

Appendix B: Indian Trust Asset Determination



Simon, Megan <msimon@usbr.gov>

ITA Review - East Park Boat Launch and Parking Area

Simon, Megan <msimon@usbr.gov>
To: "Zedonis, Paul" <pzedonis@usbr.gov>

Tue, Jan 31, 2017 at 4:58 PM

I have examined the referenced proposal and have determined that the facility is at least 5 miles from the closest Indian Trust Asset.

I have determined that there is no likelihood that this action will adversely impact Indian Trust Assets.

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Megan K. Simon
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