

Appendix D: Cultural Resources Determination

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

MP-153 Tracking Number: 16-SCAO-184

Project Name: City of Huron (City) Land Use Authorization for Agricultural Use of Reclamation Lands

NEPA Document: EA Number 16-011

MP 153 Cultural Resources Reviewer: Amy J. Barnes

Date: June 5, 2017

This proposed undertaking by Reclamation is to issue a 25-year land use authorization to the City to develop a farming operation on a portion of Reclamation lands immediately northeast of Huron, California. This is the type of action that has the potential to cause effects to historic properties pursuant to 36 CFR §800.3 of the Section 106 implementing regulations. As a result of this determination, Reclamation implemented the steps in the Section 106 process as outlined at §800.3 to §800.6.

The City, as part of a larger recycled water improvements project at its existing waste water treatment plant (WWTP), is proposing to develop infrastructure to irrigate approximately 150 acres of Reclamation land with treated effluent from the WWTP. The City's recycled water improvements project involves lining six existing earthen evaporation/percolation ponds and constructing two new pump stations at the WWTP, and installing approximately 12,494 linear feet (2.4 miles) of 21-to-24-inch diameter pipelines, three diversion structures, sprinkler valves, and a tail water pond to facilitate the farming operation on Reclamation land. A more detailed description of the City's WWTP project elements is provided in Enclosure 3.

The area of potential effects (APE) consists of approximately 220 acres in total. This includes the 38-acre portion of the City's WWTP to be improved and the 188 acres of Reclamation's lands proposed for agricultural development and use. The depth of ground disturbance associated with project construction would vary by project element, ranging from 12 to 27 feet deep for the pump stations, 7 to 10 feet deep for the pipelines, and up to 12 feet deep for the tail water pond. The APE is located in Section 1, T. 20 S., R. 17 E., Mount Diablo Baseline and Meridian, as depicted on the Huron 7.5' U.S. Geological Survey topographic quadrangle map. The lands surrounding the APE are predominantly agricultural. The Reclamation-owned parcel is part of the lands acquired for Reclamation's Central Valley Project adjacent to the west side of the San Luis Canal/California Aqueduct.

The historic property identification efforts included a review of Reclamation project records, internal records of cultural resources surveys, sites, and project data. The City contracted Applied EarthWorks, Incorporated to conduct a cultural resources inventory of the APE. One historic era cultural resource was identified within the APE: a segment of the Goshen Division of the Southern Pacific Railroad (P-10-003930). This segment of railroad was not evaluated for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) because the new pipeline from the WWTP will be bored approximately 5-10 feet underneath the track foundation, and will stay at least 30 feet away from each side, completely avoiding the railroad alignment.

Applied EarthWorks contacted the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) to request a Sacred Lands File search. The NAHC responded that no known cultural resources are within the APE and provided a list of Native American individuals or organizations that may have knowledge of cultural

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resources in the APE. Applied EarthWorks sent letters to the list of contacts provided by the NAHC and received one response. The Table Mountain Rancheria replied to indicate that the project is outside their area of interest.

Pursuant to the regulations at 36 CFR § 800.3(f)(2), Reclamation identified the Picayune Rancheria of the Chukchansi Indians of California, Santa Rosa Rancheria, and Tule River Indian Tribe as Indian tribes who might attach religious and cultural significance to historic properties within the APE, and sent letters to invite their participation in the Section 106 process pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.4(a)(4). No such properties have been identified through consultations with these Indian tribes.

Reclamation entered into consultation with the California State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) on May 3, 2017, notifying them regarding a finding of “no historic properties affected pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800.4(d)(1).” SHPO responded on June 2, 2017 with no objections to Reclamations’ findings and determination (consultations attached).

After reviewing the EA, dated April 2017 entitled *City of Huron Land Use Authorization* (EA Number 16-011), I concur that this action would not have 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.

**OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION
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June 02, 2017

Reply to: BUR_2017_00503_003

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 City of Huron Land Use Authorization for Agricultural Use of Reclamation Lands, Stanislaus County, California (16-SCAO-184)

Dear Ms. Leigh:

Reclamation is initiating consultation in accordance with Section 106 as amended, and its implementing regulations that are found at 36 CFR Part 800. Reclamation proposes to issue a 25-year land use authorization to the City of Huron to develop a farming operation for wastewater treatment on a portion of Reclamation lands immediately northeast of Huron, California. Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4(d)(1) Reclamation has determined a finding of no historic properties affected and requests concurrence. Submitted documents include:

- *Enclosure 1: Project Area Map (USGS Quad)*
- *Enclosure 2: Diagram of proposed project for the City of Huron Land Use Authorization for Agricultural Use of Reclamation Lands (aerial photography).*
- *Enclosure 3: Detailed Project Description and Scope of Work*
- *Enclosure 4: Cultural Resources Inventory for the City of Huron Recycled Wastewater Project, Fresno County, CA; August, 2016 [By: K. Asselin & R. Baloian, Applied Earthworks Inc., Fresno, CA][For: Crawford & Bowen Planning, Inc., Visalia, CA]*

The City of Huron, as part of a larger recycled water improvements project at its existing wastewater treatment plant, will develop infrastructure to irrigate about 150 acres of Reclamation land with its treated effluent. Alfalfa will then uptake nitrogen from the effluent to stop nitrogen seepage into the groundwater, which complies with a Waste Discharge Requirements Order to control groundwater nitrate concentrations. This requires lining six existing earthen evaporation/percolation ponds, building two new pump stations; and installing about 12,494 linear feet (2.4 miles) of 21-to-24-inch pipelines, three diversion structures, sprinkler valves, and a tail water pond to facilitate the farming operation.

The area of potential effects (APE) consists of around 220 acres in total. This includes a 38-acre portion of the treatment plant to be improved and 188 acres of Reclamation's lands proposed for agricultural development and use. The depth of ground disturbance varies by project element, ranging from 7 to 10 feet deep for the pipelines, up to 12 feet deep for the tail water pond and 12 to 27 feet deep for the pump stations. Surrounding lands are predominantly in agricultural development with rural access roads.

For historic properties identification efforts, Reclamation reviewed its internal project records and records of cultural resources surveys, sites, and project data. The City of

Huron contracted Applied EarthWorks, Incorporated to conduct a cultural resources inventory and provide a summary report (Applied Earthworks 2016). The only identified resource within the APE is a previously unrecorded segment of the Goshen Division of the Southern Pacific Railroad (P-10-003930). Because the new pipeline alignment will be bored beneath the railroad tracks and right-of-way, completely avoiding the resource by about 30 feet on each side, this segment of railroad was not evaluated for eligibility for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP). No other resources were identified during the record search or the field survey. Review of geoarchaeological data for the APE indicates a moderate to low potential for any buried deposits.

Applied EarthWorks contacted the Native American Heritage Commission (NAHC) to request a Sacred Lands File search. The NAHC responded that no known cultural resources are within the APE and sent a list of Native American individuals or organizations that may have knowledge of cultural resources. Applied EarthWorks sent letters and received some responses. The Table Mountain Rancheria replied to indicate that the project is outside their area of interest. The Santa Rosa Tachi Yokuts Tribe remarked that the project may have the potential to affect a nearby Tachian Village of *Holón* and recommended that a monitor be in place to assist in identifying any finds that may be unearthed (Applied Earthworks 2016: p. 15).

Reclamation identified the Picayune Rancheria of the Chukchansi Indians of California, Santa Rosa Rancheria, and Tule River Indian Tribe as tribes who might attach religious and cultural significance to historic properties and sent letters to invite their participation in the Section 106 process. Reclamation states that no such properties have been identified by consultations with these Indian tribes and, should any concerns be subsequently raised, Reclamation will work to address them and make notifications as required.

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.
- Reclamation has determined that the proposed undertaking will result in no historic properties affected. Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4(d)(1), **I do not object.**

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