

# RECLAMATION

*Managing Water in the West*

## **Big Valley Rancheria Well Project**

**Federal Grant Agreement R17AV00016**

**Environmental Assessment 18-28-MP**





### **Mission Statements**

The Department of the Interior protects and manages the Nation's natural resources and cultural heritage; provides scientific and other information about those resources; and honors 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.



# Contents

|                   |  |                                     |
|-------------------|--|-------------------------------------|
| <b>Section 1</b>  | <b>Introduction.....</b>   | <b>3</b>                            |
| 1.1               | Background.....  | 3                                   |
| 1.2               | Need for Action.....   | 3                                   |
| <b>Section 2</b>  | <b>Alternatives Including the Proposed Action.....</b>           | <b>5</b>                            |
| 2.1               | No Action.....   | 5                                   |
| 2.2               | Proposed Action.....   | 5                                   |
| 2.3               | Schedule.....  | <b>Error! Bookmark not defined.</b> |
| <b>Section 3</b>  | <b>Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences .....</b> | <b>8</b>                            |
| 3.1               | No Action Alternative.....                                       | 8                                   |
| 3.2               | Proposed Action.....   | 8                                   |
| 3.2.1             | Indian Trust Assets .....  | 8                                   |
| 3.2.2             | Indian Sacred Sites.....   | 8                                   |
| 3.2.3             | Environmental Justice.....                                       | 8                                   |
| 3.2.4             | Cultural Resources .....   | 9                                   |
| 3.2.4.1           | Affected Environment .....                                       | 9                                   |
| 3.2.4.2           | Project Impacts.....   | 10                                  |
| 3.2.4.2.1         | No Action Alternative .....                                      | 10                                  |
| 3.2.4.2.2         | Proposed Action .....  | 10                                  |
| 3.2.5             | Biological Resources .....                                       | 10                                  |
| 3.2.5.1           | Affected Environment .....                                       | 10                                  |
| 3.2.5.2           | Project Impacts.....   | 11                                  |
| 3.2.6             | Cumulative Impacts .....   | 11                                  |
| <b>Section 4</b>  | <b>Consultation and Coordination .....</b>                       | <b>13</b>                           |
| 4.1               | Agencies and Persons Consulted .....                             | 13                                  |
| <b>Section 5</b>  | <b>References.....</b>   | <b>14</b>                           |
| <b>Appendix A</b> | <b>Indian Trust Assets Compliance.....</b>                       | <b>15</b>                           |
| <b>Appendix B</b> | <b>Cultural Resources Compliance.....</b>                        | <b>20</b>                           |

# List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

| <b>Acronym</b> | <b>Abbreviations</b>                 |
|----------------|--------------------------------------|
| APE            | Area of Potential Effect             |
| GHG            | Green House Gases                    |
| ITAs           | Indian Trust Assets                  |
| Reclamation    | Bureau of Reclamation                |
| SHPO           | State Historic Preservation Officer  |
| THPO           | Tribal Historic Preservation Officer |
| Tribe          | Big Valley Tribe of Pomo Indians     |

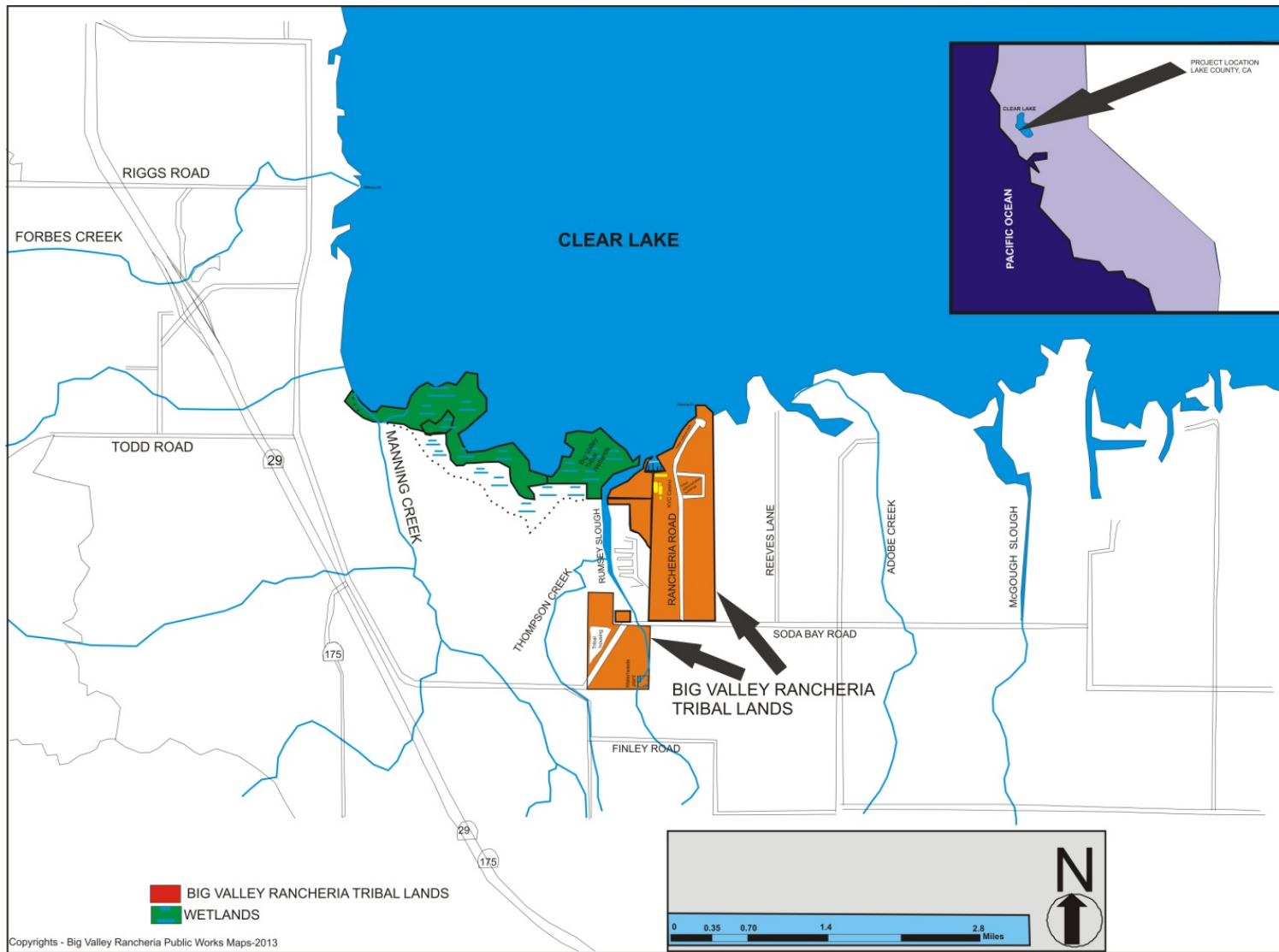
# **Section 1 Introduction**

## **1.1 Background**

In conformance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR 1500-1508), and Department of Interior Regulations (43 CFR Part 46), the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) prepared this Environmental Assessment to evaluate and disclose potential environmental impacts associated with providing funds to the Big Valley Band of Pomo Indians (Tribe) for the Big Valley Rancheria Drinking Water Facility Improvements project. The Tribe is a federally recognized tribe with approximately 350 acres of land located in Lake County, California, approximately 2 miles south of Lakeport on Clear Lake (See Figure 1). Big Valley Rancheria Water Treatment System requires a backup well to enhance water supply and reliability of the treated water delivered to the Tribal housing subdivision, the Konocti Vista Casino resort, a hotel, a marina, convenience store and a full-service RV Park, as well as, fire suppression. The well project is estimated to cost a total of \$207,445.

## **1.2 Need for Action**

The Big Valley Rancheria Water Treatment System requires an additional well to be used as a backup when the existing well is shut down for repairs and routine maintenance. The lack of a backup well creates a serious vulnerability for the Tribe to provide a continuous supply of water. In 2008, the existing well was out of service due to corrosion issues and the Tribe had to truck in water from outside sources. The situation is more serious now due the current expansion in housing and the Casino. The new well would provide increased capacity and reliability of the Tribe's water system to provide safe drinking water and sufficient fire suppression capacity during drought conditions prevalent in Clear Lake.



**Figure 1. Map of Clear Lake showing the location of Big Valley Rancheria Tribal lands**



# **Section 2 Alternatives Including the Proposed Action**

## **2.1 No Action**

Under No Action, Reclamation would not provide a grant to the Tribe to help construct a drinking well on Tribal property. Without funding by Reclamation, the Tribe would delay construction of the proposed action until funding from another source is available.

## **2.2 Proposed Action**

Reclamation would provide a \$100,000 Tribal WaterSmart grant to the Tribe to help construct a drinking water well on Tribal property. The project would entail drilling a new well, installing an electrical system for the well pump, and installing a pipeline to connect well to an existing supply line (See Figure 2). All work would be performed on land owned by the Tribe. The amount of land for the staging and work areas for the well, electrical system, and connection to the water supply line is approximately 0.18 acres.

### **2.2.1 Access and Staging**

Access to the site would be along existing road ways. The staging/work area would be approximate 60 feet x 80 feet which is the space needed by the well driller to position the rig, equipment, and install the well. The staging area would allow for the temporary storage of the following:

- Drill rig
- Doghouse (temporary container structure), where the drill rig tools would be stored
- Air compressors for air that blasts through the drill bit bringing the cuttings to surface
- Mud Pump to circulate water up and down the hole
- Diesel fuel storage tank and catchment pad
- An electric power generating plant to provide power and lighting for the rig
- Pipe-Racks for the pipe run into and out of the hole during the drilling
- Drilling waste collection dumpster

### **2.2.2 Drilling the Well**

The first phase is a test hole and water quality analysis. If the water is found and quality of water is good, then the actual drilling of the well would begin. An initial 8-inch test hole would be drilled to approximately 160 feet using a mud rotary method that would allow collection of continuous intact sediment samples. These samples would identify the subsurface soil structure and would be logged. The samples would be used to develop the well screening intervals.

Once the well is drilled, the borehole would be lined with 12-inch Polyvinyl Chloride well casing and stainless steel well screen. A gravel/sand pack (100% silica sand) would surround the well

casing from the bottom of the well to 50-feet below the surface. A sanitary seal of cement slurry delivered to the site would be pumped from 50 feet below the surface to the surface. Drilling spoils would be hauled off site to an appropriate waste handling facility.

The well casing would be cleaned using an air-blasted method to clear the screens from debris. A temporary pump would be inserted into the well to perform a step draw down test for 8 hours to determine how the groundwater responds and the proper pump size. The waste water extracted from the well would be discharged into the evaporation ponds located to the east of the well drilling area.

A 4-foot by 4-foot concrete pad would be installed around the well casing and a protective casing. Four steel posts and a brass identification marker would be installed in the pad. A structure of wood or concrete block would protect the well and pump from the elements and theft.

### **2.2.3 Installing the Electrical System**

The electrical system serving the well pump would include the placement of a new pole and 460-volt service drop. An electrical line would be trenched for a distance of 300 feet and connect to the well. California Electrical Code of Regulations require electric lines to be buried no less than 12 inches. This would require a trench of approximately 12 inches wide and 2 feet deep. The trenching work would be performed with either a Bobcat with a trenching attachment or with hand digging tools. The working area around the trench would be approximately 3 feet on either side.

### **2.2.4 Installing the Pipeline**

A new pipeline would be installed to connect the well to an existing water supply line. The water supply line ties into the water treatment plant. The pipeline would be trenched for a distance of 15 feet and connect to the supply line. The trenching work would be performed with hand tools. California Plumbing Code of Regulations requires the pipe to be buried no less than 18 inches and bedded with gravel at a minimum of 4 inches. This would require a trench of approximately 18 inches wide and 3 feet deep. The working area around the trench would be approximately 3 feet on either side.

## **2.3 Schedule**

The testing and drilling the well is anticipated to take 2 weeks and anticipated to begin the last two weeks of September, 2018. The other components of pump, pump building and power would happen in the winter months. Trenching and installing the electrical system, trenching and installing the connection to the supply line, and other activities would begin in February, 2019. The well would be active in June 2019.

# Big Valley Well Site

Big Valley Rancheria Well Project



**Legend**

- Well Site
- Existing Electrical Pole
- Buried Electrical Transmission Line
- Intertie (15 feet)
- Existing Conveyance
- Staging Area (~60 ft x ~80 ft)



Datum: WGS 1984  
Prepared by: Kaitlin Flahive, Bureau of Reclamation  
2800 Cottage Way, MP-152, Sacramento, CA, 95825  
Service Layer Credits: Esri, HERE, Garmin, ©  
OpenStreetMap contributors, and the GIS user community



Figure 2. Proposed Well Site and Connections

# **Section 3 Affected Environment and Environmental Consequences**

## **3.1 No Action Alternative**

Under No Action, Reclamation would not provide a grant to the Tribe to help construct a drinking well on Tribal property. Without funding by Reclamation, the Tribe would delay construction of the proposed action until funding from another source is available. The effects of the No Action would be the same or less as the Proposed Action, and thus no further analysis is necessary for No Action.

## **3.2 Proposed Action**

### **3.2.1 Indian Trust Assets**

Indian Trust Assets (ITAs) are legal interests in assets that are held in trust by the United States for federally recognized Indian tribes or individuals. The closest ITA to the Proposed Action is the rancheria which is the Tribe's reservation land and where the project is located.

Based on the nature of the planned work, it does not appear to be in an area that will impact Indian hunting or fishing resources or water rights nor is the proposed activity on actual Indian lands. It is reasonable to assume that the proposed action would not have any impacts on ITAs. This project was proposed and is support by the Tribe's Council. (See Appendix A).

### **3.2.2 Indian Sacred Sites**

Sacred sites are defined in Executive Order 13007 (May 24, 1996) as "any specific, discrete, narrowly delineated location on Federal land that is identified by an Indian tribe, or Indian individual determined to be an appropriately authoritative representative of an Indian religion, as sacred by virtue of its established religious significance to, or ceremonial use by, an Indian religion; provided that the tribe or appropriately authoritative representative of an Indian religion has informed the agency of the existence of such a site." The Proposed Action is not located on federal land and therefore would not affect or prohibit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites.

### **3.2.3 Environmental Justice**

Executive Order 12898 requires each Federal agency to identify and address disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects, including social and economic effects of its program, policies, and activities on minority populations and low-income populations. Reclamation has not identified adverse human health or environmental effects on any population because of implementing the Proposed Action. Therefore, implementing the Proposed Action would not have a significant or disproportionately negative impact on low-income or minority

individuals within the Proposed Action area. The residents are a minority population but they would benefit from the Proposed Action.

### **3.2.4 Cultural Resources**

Cultural resources is a broad term that includes prehistoric, historic, architectural, and traditional cultural properties. Title 54 U.S.C. 300101 et seq., formerly and commonly known as the National Historic Preservation Act is the primary legislation for Federal historic preservation. Section 106 of the National Historic Property Act (54 U.S.C. 306108) requires Federal agencies to take into consideration the effects of their undertakings on historic properties and to afford the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation an opportunity to comment. Historic properties are those cultural resources that are listed on or eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. The implementing regulations at 36 CFR Part 800 for Section 106 describe the process that the Federal agency takes to identify historic properties within the area of potential effects and to assess the effects that the proposed undertaking will have on those historic properties, through consultations with the State Historic Preservation Officer, Indian tribes, and other identified consulting and interested parties.

Reclamation proposes to provide funding to the Tribe. The expenditure of Federal funds is an undertaking as defined in 36 CFR § 800.16(y) and is a type of activity that has the potential to cause effects on historic properties under 36 CFR § 800.3(a).

#### **3.2.4.1 Affected Environment**

To identify historic properties in the Area of Potential Effect (APE), the Tribe provided Reclamation with a 2017 cultural resources inventory report prepared for a Water Treatment and commercial development project in the vicinity. The current project is situated within the report's APE. No cultural resources were identified within the current APE.

Pursuant to the regulations at 36 CFR § 800.3(f)(2), Reclamation identified the Big Valley Rancheria as an Indian tribe who might attach religious and cultural significance to historic properties within the APE. Since the project is situated on Tribal lands, Reclamation conducted a site visit and met with the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO) in October 2017. During this time, the THPO was informed of the regulatory requirements of the Section 106 process and was offered the opportunity to identify any concerns the proposed project might pose to cultural resources. None were identified and the THPO had no concerns of cultural resources in the project area. With the departure of the THPO, Reclamation is currently consulting directly with the Tribe. Reclamation will work with the Tribe to address any concerns that may arise regarding the proposed undertaking.

Using these identification efforts, and contingent upon any concerns expressed by the Tribe, Reclamation entered into consultation with the California State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) with a notification of a determination of no historic properties affected for the proposed project.

### **3.2.4.2 Project Impacts**

#### **3.2.4.2.1 No Action Alternative**

Under the no action alternative, Reclamation would not award the Tribe with a grant to help fund the proposed project. There would be no change in operations. Conditions related to cultural resources would remain the same as existing conditions.

#### **3.2.4.2.2 Proposed Action**

The Proposed Action is the type of activity that has the potential to affect historic properties. Cultural resource investigations and Tribal consultation identified no cultural resources within the APE and a determination of no historic properties affected was made. As such, no cultural resources would be affected because of implementing the Proposed Action. Based on review of the available information, Reclamation initiated consultation with the Tribe and the SHPO on July 19, 2018 on a finding that the Proposed Action would have no adverse effect on historic properties, pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.5(b). SHPO concurred with the determination on August 13, 2018.

### **3.2.5 Biological Resources**

#### **3.2.5.1 Affected Environment**

A query was conducted on April 3, 2018 at the Information for Planning and Consultation site of the U. S. Fish & Wildlife Service to identify threatened or endangered species and critical habitats that could potentially occur within the study area. A query also was conducted of both the most recent CNPS Inventory of Rare and Endangered Plants (On-line-8th Edition) and the California Natural Diversity Database on April 11, 2018 to identify rare plant occurrences and Sensitive Plant Community occurrences within the Lakeport USGS quadrangle and the 8 contiguous quads. A search of the California Natural Diversity Database for all sensitive species was done on June 4, 2018.

A survey of the project site and adjacent areas was conducted on March 15, 2017, April 12, 2018 and May 12, 2018 to identify the presence of sensitive plant species or habitats that could support sensitive species especially those known to occur within the nine-quad search area. The area was traversed on foot, while recording all observed plant species. During the surveys, 70 vascular taxa were identified, ten of which are California native plant species and 60 are exotic. Of the 60-exotic species, four are listed in the California Department of Food and Agriculture noxious weed list or the United States Department of Agriculture California Noxious Weed List as noxious. One non-vascular plant was identified. All areas surveyed are characterized as non-native or exotic grasslands (Hulse-Stephens, 2018).

The site is presently utilized for municipal services and exotic plants dominate plant cover in all areas studied. None of the ten native plants species were listed endangered or threatened or sensitive species. There is no habitat for any sensitive animal species.



Figure 3. Proposed Well Site

### **3.2.5.2 Project Impacts**

The proposed action would cause direct impacts to approximately 0.18 acres of non-native grassland. These impacts would be temporary and would be confined to the existing canal, dirt access road surfaces, and a nearby open field. No listed or proposed threatened or endangered species occur on or near the project site. There is no suitable habitat for any listed threatened or endangered species. Therefore, the implementation of Proposed Action would not affect any listed or sensitive plants or plant communities.

### **3.2.6 Cumulative Impacts**

Per Council on Environmental Quality regulations for implementing the procedural provisions of National Environmental Policy Act, a cumulative impact is defined as *the impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonably foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (Federal or non-Federal) or person undertakes such other actions. Cumulative impacts can result from individually minor but collectively significant actions taking place over a period of time* (40 CFR 1508.7).

Greenhouse gas (GHG) impacts are considered to be cumulative impacts since any increase in greenhouse gas emissions would add to the existing inventory of gases that could contribute to climate change. A comparative analysis was used to analyze GHG impacts. Reclamation provided a grant in 2015 to the Garden Highway Mutual Water Company for the System Modernization and Real-Time Monitoring and Control Project in Sutter County. The Proposed

Action would disturb approximately 0.18 acres which is less than the Garden Highway project, which disturbed 0.4 acres. Construction for the Proposed Action would last 11 months which is longer than the Garden Highway project but the work is much less extensive. Using CalEEMOD Windows Version 2013.2.2, GHG emissions for the Garden Highway project was estimated to be 13.22 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalents, due to temporary project construction activities. The Proposed Action is smaller in magnitude. There would be no on-going operational emissions.

In California, Assembly Bill 32 established 25,000 metric tons/year as the threshold for mandatory emissions reporting for stationary sources. However, California did not establish a threshold for cumulative emissions from temporary mobile sources such as construction equipment, which would be lower than permanent stationary sources. The Proposed Action is in the Lake County Air Quality Management District which does not have any thresholds for GHG. The adjacent Bay Area Air Quality Management District has a threshold for GHG for construction of 1,100 metric tons/year. The Proposed Action's emission is below 1,100 metric tons/year and the contribution of GHG is negligible. Due to the size and nature of the project (i.e. emission would only be released during construction activities, those activities are temporary and short term) GHG emissions are minor and are not anticipated to contribute to an adverse effect on global climate change.



## **Section 4 Consultation and Coordination**

### **4.1 Agencies and Persons Consulted**

Reclamation consulted with the Tribe and the SHPO.

## Section 5 References

Californian Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB), California Department of Fish and Wildlife. 2018. Accessed online June 4, 2018. <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Data/BIOS>. Council on Environmental Quality. 2018.

Hulse-Stephens, Geri. 2018. Big Valley Botanical Survey Report. May 29, 2018.

U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 2018. List of threatened and endangered species. Generated through IPaC. Sacramento, CA.

# **Appendix A Indian Trust Assets Compliance**

10/22/2015

**Indian Trust Assets  
Request Form (MP Region)**

Submit your request to your office's ITA designee or to MP-400, attention Kevin Clancy.

**Date:**

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Requested by</b><br><small>(office/program)</small>  | Doug Kleinsmith   |
| <b>Fund</b>   | 18XRO680G1  |
| <b>WBS</b>  | RX152330000190001   |
| <b>Fund Cost Center</b>   | 2015200   |
| <b>Region #</b><br><small>(if other than MP)</small>  |   |
| <b>Project Name</b>   | Big Valley Rancheria Drinking Water Facility Improvements   |
| <b>CEC or EA Number</b>   |   |
| <b>Project Description</b><br><small>(attach additional sheets if needed and include photos if appropriate)</small> | The Bureau of Reclamation proposes to provide a \$100,000 Tribal WaterSmart grant to the Big Valley Rancheria to help construct a drinking water well on Tribal property. |

10/22/2015

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>*Project Location<br/>(Township, Range,<br/>Section, e.g., T12<br/>R5E S10, or<br/>Lat/Long cords,<br/>DD-MM-SS or<br/>decimal degrees).<br/>Include map(s)</b> | See Figure 1 below<br><br>Lat: -122.89<br>Long: 39.01 |
|--|---|

/s/ Doug Kleinsmith                      Doug Kleinsmith                      4/4/18  
Signature                                      Printed name of preparer                      Date

**ITA Determination:**

The closest ITA to the Proposed Action is the Big Valley Band of Poma Indians of Big Valley. The project is located on the Tribe's reservation land. There will be a tribal monitor on site during drilling and trenching activities. (See attached Figure 2).

Based on the nature of the planned work it does not appear to be in an area that will impact Indian hunting or fishing resources or water rights nor is the proposed activity on actual Indian lands. It is reasonable to assume that the proposed action will not have any impacts on ITAs. This project was proposed and is support by the Tribe's Council.

K. Clancy                                      Kevin Clancy                                      4/4/2018  
Signature                                      Printed name of approver                      Date

10/22/2015

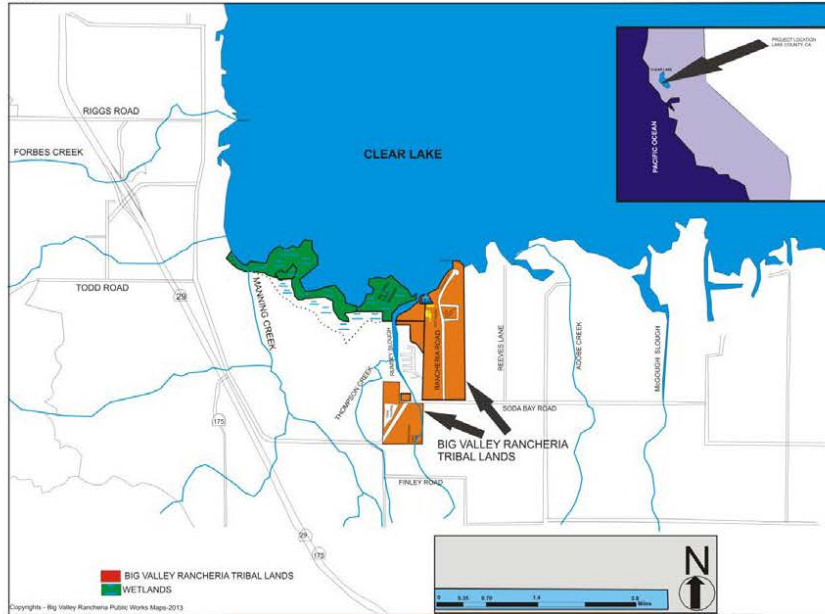


Figure 1.

10/22/2015

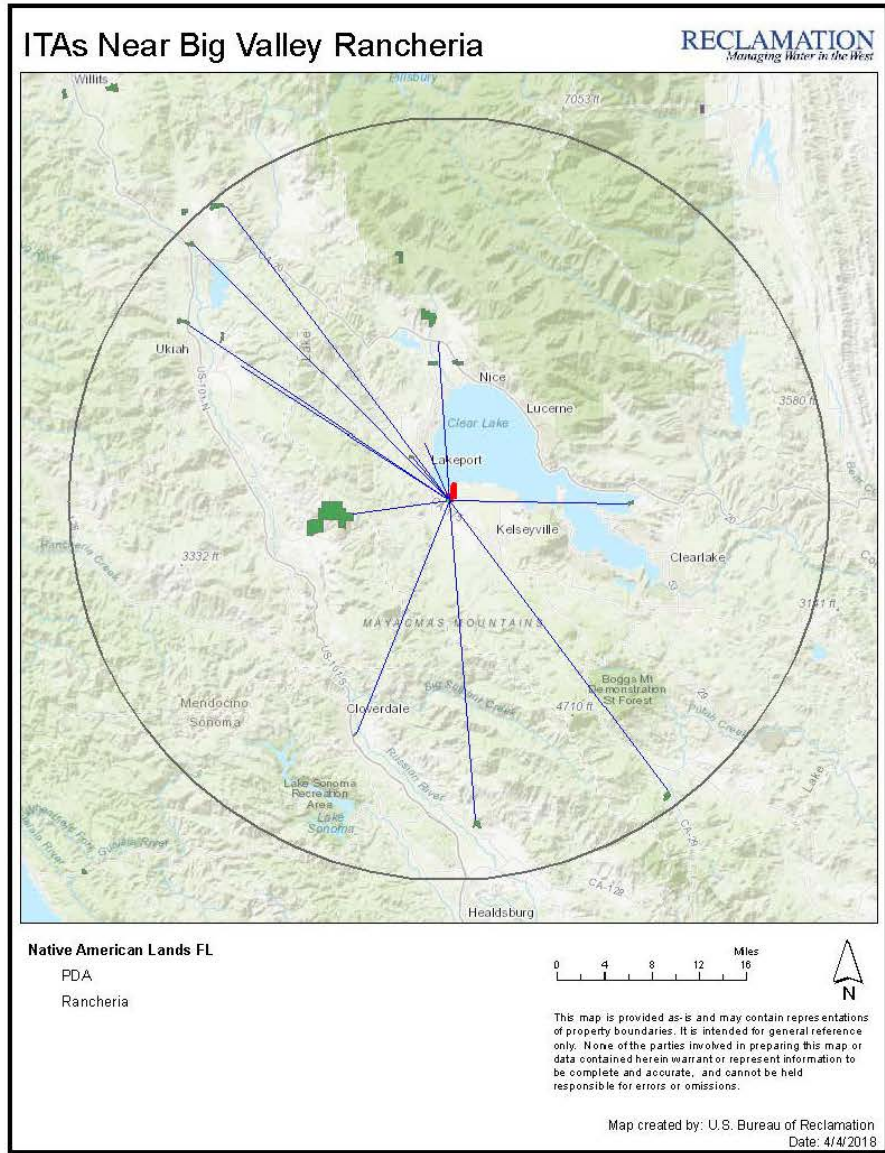


Figure 2.

# **Appendix B Cultural Resources Compliance**



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

**MP-153 Tracking Number:** 17-NCAO-242

**Project Name:** Big Valley Rancheria Well and Pipeline Project

**NEPA Document:** EA

**MP 153 Cultural Resources Reviewer:** Mark Carper

**NEPA Contact:** Douglas Kleinsmith

**Determination:** No Historic Properties Affected

**Date:** 21 August 2018

---

Reclamation proposes to authorize funding to the Big Valley Band of Pomo Indians for the proposed Big Valley Rancheria Well and Pipeline Project in Lake County, California. Reclamation determined that the use of Federal funds 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 proposed project will include drilling a water well, trenching and installing a water conveyance pipeline, constructing a well house and pad, electrical components, and related ancillary operating equipment. Specifically, the project entails an 8-inch hole to be drilled to approximately 160 feet using a mud rotary method. The borehole will be lined with a 12-inch PVC well casing and a stainless steel well screen. A gravel/sand pack (100% silica sand) will surround the PVC casing from the bottom of the well to 50 feet below the surface. A sanitary seal of cement slurry will be pumped around the PVC from 50 feet below the surface to the surface. Drilling spoils will be hauled off site to an appropriate waste handling facility.

In addition, a 4-foot by 4-foot concrete pad will be installed around the protective casing. Four steel posts and a brass identification marker will be installed in the pad. A structure of wood and/or concrete block will protect the well and pump from the elements and theft.

The well will be connected to an existing electrical system via the installation of a new pole and a 460-volt service drop. An electrical line will be connected to the well and installed underground for a distance of 300 feet. This will require a trench of approximately 12

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

inches wide and 2 feet deep. The trenching work will be performed using a Bobcat with a trenching attachment and/or by hand using digging tools. The working area will be approximately 3 feet on both sides of the trench. Finally, the well will be connected to the existing supply line to the existing water treatment plant via a 15-foot supply line. The supply line will require a 15-foot-long trench of approximately 18 inches wide and 3 feet deep. The trench will be excavated using hand tools. The working area around the trench will be approximately 3 feet on either side.

In an effort to identify historic properties in the APE, Big Valley Rancheria provided Reclamation with a 2017 cultural resources inventory report prepared by Wolf Creek Archaeology for a Water Treatment and commercial development project in the vicinity. The current project is situated within the report's APE. No cultural resources were identified within the current APE.

In accordance with Section 101(d)(2), the Big Valley Band of Pomo Indians had formally assumed the responsibilities of the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) for purposes of Section 106 compliance on their tribal lands. Pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.2(c)(2)(i), for an Indian tribe that has assumed the responsibility for SHPO for Section 106 on tribal lands under Section 101(d)(2), the agency official shall consult with the Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO) in lieu of the SHPO regarding undertakings occurring or affecting historic properties on tribal lands. Reclamation had been working directly with the Big Valley Band of Pomo Indians THPO regarding the project; however, Reclamation was recently informed that the THPO had resigned the position currently leaving the Tribe without a THPO. Pursuant to the regulations at 36 CFR § 800.3(f)(2), Reclamation identified the Big Valley Rancheria as an Indian tribe who might attach religious and cultural significance to historic properties within the APE. As the project is situated on Big Valley Rancheria lands, Mr. Mark Carper, Reclamation Archaeologist, conducted a site visit and met with the THPO in October 2017. During this time, the THPO was informed of the regulatory requirements of the Section 106 process and offered the opportunity to identify any concerns the proposed project might pose to cultural resources. None were identified and the THPO had no concerns of cultural resources in the project area. With the departure of the THPO, Reclamation continued consultation with the Tribe. No concerns were identified.

Reclamation initiated consultation with California the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) on July 19, 2017 with a notification of a determination of no historic properties

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

affected for the proposed project. SHPO concurred with the determination in a letter dated August 13, 2018.

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.



DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION  
OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Lisa Ann L. Mangat, Director

Julianne Polanco, State Historic Preservation Officer  
1725 23rd Street, Suite 100, Sacramento, CA 95816-7100  
Telephone: (916) 445-7000 FAX: (916) 445-7053  
calshpo.ohp@parks.ca.gov www.ohp.parks.ca.gov

August 13, 2018

In reply refer to: BUR\_2018\_0719\_001

VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

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: Big Valley Rancheria Well and Pipeline Project,  
Lake County, California (17-NCAO-242).

Dear Ms. Leigh:

The State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) received on July 19, 2018 your letter initiating consultation on the above referenced undertaking to comply with Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (as currently amended) (Act) and its implementing regulations found at 36 CFR Part 800. The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) proposes to issue funding to assist with the Big Valley Rancheria Well and Pipeline Installation Project. The Big Valley Rancheria is located at the upper Clear Lake section's south shore, just south-east of the city of Lakeport in Lake County.

In accordance with Section 101(d)(2) of the Act, the Big Valley Band of Pomo Indians had formally assumed the responsibilities of the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) for purposes of Section 106 compliance on their tribal lands. Reclamation had been consulting with the Tribal Preservation Officer (THPO) in lieu of the SHPO regarding undertakings occurring, or affecting historic properties, on tribal land, including this proposed well project. However, Reclamation was recently informed that the current THPO had resigned, leaving the Tribe without a THPO. Reclamation is therefore, pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4(d)(1), entering into consultation with the SHPO for this undertaking and making notification of its finding of *no historic properties affected*. Documentation submitted is:

- Enclosure 1: Project Maps – Figure 1: Project Location (overlaid USGS Quad Map); Figure 2: Area of Potential Effects (APE) – Close-up of APE location (overlaid Aerial Photo Map).
- Enclosure 2: Report - Historic Property Survey Report for the Big Valley Rancheria Water Treatment Plant and Commercial Development Projects; March 19, 2017. [By: J.W. Parker, PhD; Archaeological Research, Lucerne, CA] [For: J. Gichuki, Public Works Manager, Big Valley Band of Pomo Indians, Lakeport, CA] [Parker 2017]

Project elements include drilling a water well, trenching for and installing a water pipeline, building a well house and pad, and adding electrical components and related ancillary operating equipment. The well-hole will be an 8-inch hole drilled to about 160 feet deep via a mud rotary method. A gravel/sand pack (100% silica sand) will surround an installed PVC casing, going from the bottom of the well to 50 feet below the surface. A sanitary seal of cement slurry will be pumped around the PVC from 50 feet below the surface to the surface. Drilling spoils will be hauled off site to an appropriate waste handling facility.

In addition, a 4-foot by 4-foot concrete pad will be installed around the protective casing. Four steel posts and a brass identification marker will be installed in the pad. A structure of wood and/or concrete block will protect the well and pump from the elements and theft.

Connection to an existing electrical system requires a new pole with 460-volt service drop and 300 feet of new electrical line placed within a 12-inch trench that is 2 feet deep and a final new supply line placed within a 15-foot-long trench of about 18 inches wide and 3 feet deep. A working area of about 3-feet around all trenches is included in the APE.

The area of potential effects (APE) encompasses less than 1 acre and includes all access, work and staging areas. The vertical APE will vary, but will have a maximum depth of about 3-feet for the trenches and 160 feet for the well drilling.

For historic properties identification, Big Valley Rancheria provided a recent cultural resources inventory report for a Water Treatment and commercial development project in the vicinity (Parker 2017). The current project is situated within the report's APE. Research indicates the southern portion of the APE had been developed as a pear orchard, now abandoned. The northern portion has roads, a parking lot and a commercial building. No cultural resources were identified and the probability of buried deposits is very low as the soils are deposits from nearby creek and slough overflow (Parker 2017: 5; 16; 18).

Because the project is situated on Big Valley Rancheria lands, Mr. Mark Carper, Mid-Pacific Reclamation Archaeologist, conducted a site visit and met with the THPO in October 2017. At the meeting, the THPO was informed of the regulatory requirements of the Section 106 process and offered the opportunity to identify concerns for any effects that the proposed project might pose to any properties of religious or cultural significance. None were identified and the THPO had no concerns for cultural resources in the project area. With the departure of the THPO, Reclamation is currently consulting directly with the Tribe and will continue to work with them to address any future concerns that may arise regarding the proposed undertaking and will make notifications as required.

Reclamation reached a finding of *no historic properties affected* for the undertaking and requests comments on delineation of the APE, on the appropriateness of the historic properties identification efforts and seeks concurrence with its finding. After review by OHP, 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 appropriately identify historic properties;
- Reclamation finds 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 currently amended). Should you require further information, please contact Jeanette Schulz at [Jeanette.Schulz@parks.ca.gov](mailto:Jeanette.Schulz@parks.ca.gov) or her desk phone is: (916) 445-7031.

Sincerely,



Julianne Polanco  
State Historic Preservation Officer