

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION CHECKLIST

Mid-Pacific Region
Lahontan Basin Area Office

Project Name: Stampede Reservoir Weather Stations

CEC Number: LO-2011-1035

Cost Authority: A20-1912-4999-100-00-0-0

Date: 10/07/2011

Exclusion Category: *516 DM 14.5 D.10* – Issuance of permits, licenses, easements, and crossing agreements which provide right-of-way over Reclamation lands where the action does not allow for or lead to a major public or private action.

Nature of Action: Applicant has requested a revocable license to install and operate two weather stations at Stampede Reservoir. One station will be on northern most island and the other station will be mounted on a buoy in the water, north of the island.

The land based weather station consists of a metal tripod and will be anchored by 3, 12" long metal stakes placed in the ground. Each stake will be driven through the footings of the tripod legs, which will support the 10' high station tower. The footings of the tripod legs are 8 inches long by 4 inches wide. The sensors will be operated by a solar panel. No fencing will be installed around the tripod.

Soil disturbance will be isolated to the stake locations mentioned above.

The weather stations will be fully maintained, operated, and dismantled by employees of Desert Research Institute. The stations are temporary and will be at the Reservoir for a period of two years.

LBAO's action is to issue a revocable license which will allow the installation and operation of the weather stations at Stampede Reservoir.

Location:

SE1/4 S.19, T19N, R17E, M.D.M

Evaluation of Criteria for Categorical Exclusion

1. This action would have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. (40 CFR 1502.3).	☒ No ☐ Uncertain ☐ Yes
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2.	This action would have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA Section 102(2) (E) and 43 CFR 46.215 (c)].	☒ No ☐ Uncertain ☐ Yes
3.	This action will have significant impacts on public health or safety (43 CFR 46.215(a)).	☒ No ☐ Uncertain ☐ Yes
4.	This action would have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographical characteristics as historic or cultural resources; parks, recreation and refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principle drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (E.O. 11990); floodplains (E.O. 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas (43 CFR 46.215 (b)).	☒ No ☐ Uncertain ☐ Yes
5.	The action would have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risk (43 CFR 46.215 (d)).	☒ No ☐ Uncertain ☐ Yes
6.	This action would establish a precedent for future actions or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects (43 CFR 46.215 (e)).	☒ No ☐ Uncertain ☐ Yes
7.	This action would have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects (43 CFR 46.215 (f)).	☒ No ☐ Uncertain ☐ Yes
8.	This action would have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by the bureau (in coordination with a Reclamation cultural resources professional, RM LND 02-01 D(1)(a)) (43 CFR 46.215 (g)).	☒ No ☐ Uncertain ☐ Yes
9.	This action would have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species (43 CFR 46.215 (h)).	☒ No ☐ Uncertain ☐ Yes
10.	This action would violate a Federal, State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for protection of the environment (43 CFR 46.215 (i)).	☒ No ☐ Uncertain ☐ Yes

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11.	This action would have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (E.O. 12898) (43 CFR 46.215 (j)).	☒ No ☐ Uncertain ☐ Yes
12.	This action would limit access to and ceremonial use of Indian sacred sites on Federal lands by Indian religious practitioners or significantly adversely affect the physical integrity of such sacred sites (E.O. 13007 and 43 CFR 46.215 (k)).	☒ No ☐ Uncertain ☐ Yes
13.	This action would affect Indian Trust Assets. (To be completed by Reclamation official responsible for ITAs) (S.O. 3175; Policy Memorandum dated 12/15/93).	☒ No ☐ Uncertain ☐ Yes
14.	This action would contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native invasive species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth, or expansion of the range of such species (Federal Noxious Weed Control Act, E.O. 13112, and 43 CFR 46.215 (l)).	☒ No ☐ Uncertain ☐ Yes

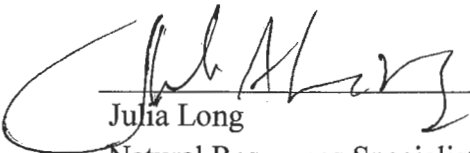
NEPA Action Recommended: Categorical Exclusion ☒ EA ☐ EIS ☐

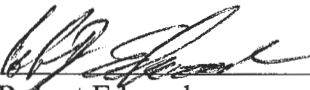
Environmental commitments, explanation, and/or remarks:

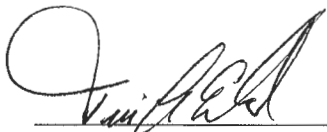
See the attached correspondence from the Mid-Pacific Region Cultural Resources Division regarding concurrence with Item 8 (cultural resources), and from Patricia Rivera regarding Item 13 (Indian Trust Assets).

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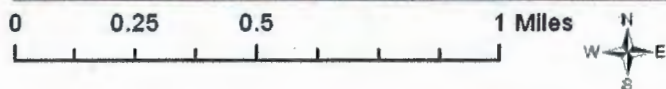
Prepared by:  Date: 10/07/2011
Edward DeCarlo
Water and Lands Specialist

Recommended:  Date: 10/07/2011
Julia Long
Natural Resources Specialist

Concurrence:  Date: 10/11/2011
Robert Edwards
Resource Division Manager

Approved:  Date: 10/12/11
Terri Edwards
Deputy Area Manager

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Long, Julia A

From: Dunay, Amy L
Sent: Friday, October 07, 2011 11:11 AM
To: Long, Julia A
Cc: DeCarlo, Edward J; Perry, Laureen (Laurie) M; Soule, William E; Williams, Scott A; Goodsell, Joanne E; Nickels, Adam M; Barnes, Amy J; Bruce, Brandee E; Overly, Stephen A; Fogerty, John A
Subject: RE: LO-2011-1035

Tracking #12-LBAO-002
Project: CEC for Weather Measuring Stations

Location: Stampede Reservoir, Nevada County, California.

Categorical Exclusion LO-2011-1035

Julia,

The proposed undertaking to grant a revocable license to allow access to Reclamation lands for the installation and monitoring of two weather stations on a buoy and an island within Stampede Reservoir is the type of undertaking that has no potential to cause effects to historic properties, assuming such properties are present. The land based weather station will be installed on the northernmost island within the reservoir and will be anchored to the ground via three 12-inch long metal stakes driven through the footings of the station's tripod legs. Very little ground disturbance will occur. The water-based weather station will be bolted to a buoy just north of the island. Both weather stations will be installed by hand, and their locations will be accessed via boat and foot during the summer months and snow shoe during the winter months. No substantial ground disturbance is necessary or anticipated.

As the proposed action has no potential to effect historic properties pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.3(a)(1), no further consideration under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act is required. I concur with line item 8 of the CEC LO-2011-1035, dated 10-06-2011.

Thank you for the opportunity to review the proposed action. Please place a copy of this memo with the CEC administrative record.

Best,

Amy Dunay, M.A., R.P.A
Archaeologist
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
Mid-Pacific Region
2800 Cottage Way, MP-153
Sacramento, CA 95825

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adunay@usbr.gov

From: Long, Julia A
Sent: Thursday, October 06, 2011 10:15 AM
To: Dunay, Amy L
Cc: DeCarlo, Edward J
Subject: LO-2011-1035

Hi Amy,

Attached is the CEC and map for your review and concurrence. It is for authorizing the installation and operation of two weather stations at Stampede Reservoir. The cost authority is included on the CEC. Please let me know if you have any questions.

For your reference this project was logged in as 12-LBAO-002.

Julia Long
Natural Resources Specialist
Lahontan Basin Area Office
Bureau of Reclamation
705 North Plaza St. Suite 320
Carson City, NV 89701
Ph: 775-884-8372
Fax: 775-882-7592
jlong@usbr.gov

Long, Julia A

From: Rivera, Patricia L
Sent: Thursday, October 06, 2011 10:13 AM
To: Long, Julia A
Subject: RE: LO-2011-1035 ITA Request

Julia,

I reviewed the proposed action to approve the applicant's request for a revocable license to install and operate two weather stations at Stampede Reservoir. One station will be on the northern most island and the other station will be mounted on a buoy in the water, north of the island.

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Soil disturbance will be isolated to the stake locations mentioned above.

The weather stations will be fully maintained, operated, and dismantled by employees of Desert Research Institute. The stations are temporary and will be at the Reservoir for a period of two years.

LBAO's action is to issue a revocable license which will allow the installation and operation of the weather stations at Stampede Reservoir.

The proposed action does not have a potential to affect Indian Trust Assets.

Patricia