

# RECLAMATION

*Managing Water in the West*

## Finding of No Significant Impact

# Development of a Smart Water Grid at Blue Lake Rancheria

FONSI 19-07-MP

Prepared by:

  
Douglas Kleinsmith  
Natural Resource Specialist  
Mid-Pacific Regional Office

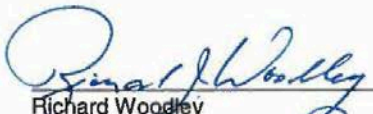
Date: 3/11/19

Reviewed by:

  
Kevin Clancy  
Native American Affairs Program Manager  
Mid-Pacific Regional Office

Date: 3/11/2019

Approved by:

  
Richard Woodley  
Regional Resources Manager  
Mid-Pacific Regional Office

Date: 3/12/19

# 1 Background

The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) to evaluate and disclose potential environmental impacts associated with providing funds to the Blue Lake Rancheria (BLR) to develop a “smart water grid” (SWG) at BLR. The SWG would provide BLR with a reliable potable water source, and help the tribe improve its water management while addressing drought and other resilience-related needs. The BLR is a federally recognized, Sovereign Indian nation located on 77 acres adjacent to the small town of Blue Lake in Humboldt County, California. The EA was available for public review on February 7, 2019. The review period ended on February 21, 2019. No comments were received on the EA.

## 2 Alternatives Including the Proposed Action

### 2.1 No Action

Under No Action, Reclamation would not provide a \$300,000 in WaterSmart grant funds to BLR to help construct a SMG on BLR property. Without funding by Reclamation, BLR would delay construction of the proposed action until funding from another source is available.

### 2.2 Proposed Action

Reclamation would provide \$300,000 in WaterSmart grant funds to BLR to help construct a SMG on BLR property. Construction of the SWG would involve installing new flow restrictors, meters, pumps, valves, filters, bypass and access manifolds, water treatment units, and a supervisory control and data acquisition system with web-based capabilities. These project elements would be connected to an existing wellhead and other existing infrastructure including the water treatment building, water main, and valve enclosures along existing pipes. Construction of a new water tank also is proposed. The size of the tank has yet to be determined, but could range from a 100,000-gallon tank down to a 10, 000-gallon tank.

## 3 Findings

Based on the attached EA, Reclamation finds that the Proposed Action is not a major Federal action that will significantly affect the quality of the human environment and preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement is not required. The EA was prepared in accordance with National Environmental Policy Act, Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR 1500-1508), and Department of the Interior regulations (43 CFR Part 46). Effects on environmental resources were examined and found to be absent or minor. That analysis is provided in the attached EA, and the analysis in the EA is hereby incorporated by reference.

Following are the reasons why the impacts of the proposed action are not significant:

1. The proposed action will not significantly affect public health or safety (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(2)).
2. The proposed action will not significantly impact natural resources and unique geographical characteristics such as historic or cultural resources; parks, recreation, and refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order (EO) 11990); flood plains (EO 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(3)).
3. The proposed action will not have possible effects on the human environment that are highly uncertain or involve unique or unknown risks (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(5)).
4. The proposed action will neither establish a precedent for future actions with significant effects nor represent a decision in principle about a future consideration (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(6)).
5. There is no potential for the effects to be considered highly controversial (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(4)).
6. The proposed action will not have significant cumulative impacts (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(7)).
7. The proposed action will not adversely affect any districts, sites, highways, structures, or objects listed in or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historic Places (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(8)). Pursuant to 54 USC § 306108, commonly known as Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, and its implementing regulations at 36 CFR Part 800, Reclamation determined that no historic properties would be affected and therefore, the proposed action will result in no significant impacts to cultural resources.
8. The proposed action will not affect listed or proposed threatened or endangered species (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(9)).
9. The proposed action will not violate Federal, state, tribal or local law or requirements imposed for the protection of the environment (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(10)).
10. The proposed action will not affect Indian Trust Assets (512 DM 2, Policy Memorandum dated December 15, 1993).
11. Implementing the proposed action will not disproportionately affect minorities or low-income populations and communities (EO 12898).
12. The proposed action will not 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 (EO 13007 and 512 DM 3).

# RECLAMATION

*Managing Water in the West*

## **Development of a Smart Water Grid At Blue Lake Rancheria**

**Federal Grant Agreement**

**Environmental Assessment 19-07-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.

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# List of Acronyms and Abbreviations

<b>Acronym</b>	<b>Abbreviations</b>
APE	Area of Potential Effect
BLR	Blue Lake Rancheria
GHG	Greenhouse Gases
ITAs	Indian Trust Assets
Reclamation	Bureau of Reclamation
SCADA	Supervisory Control and Data Acquisition
SWG	Smart Water Grid
THPO	Tribal Historic Preservation Officer





# 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 Blue Lake Rancheria (BLR) to develop a “smart water grid” (SWG) at BLR. The SWG would provide BLR with a reliable potable water source, and help the tribe improve its water management while addressing drought and other resilience-related needs. The BLR is a federally recognized, Sovereign Indian nation located on 77 acres adjacent to the small town of Blue Lake in Humboldt County, California (Figure 1).



Figure 1. Left, location of Blue Lake Rancheria in Humboldt County. Right: Location of key facilities and water grid infrastructure at the Blue Lake Rancheria.

## 1.2 Need for Action

Currently, BLR uses municipal water from the neighboring community of Blue Lake. Various wells on the BLR reservation provide water for irrigation and non-potable uses. Reliance on the municipal water supply is costly (owing to significant leaks in the water supply) and reduces self-sufficiency and resilience capacity to drought and other hazards due to lack of a tribal potable water system.

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

## **2.1 No Action**

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

## **2.2 Proposed Action**

Reclamation would provide a \$300,000 Tribal WaterSmart grant to BLR to help construct a SMG on BLR property. Construction of the SWG would involve installing new flow restrictors, meters, pumps, valves, filters, bypass and access manifolds, water treatment units, and a supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) system with web-based capabilities. These project elements would be connected to the ARRA Well wellhead and other existing infrastructure including the water treatment building, water main, and valve enclosures along existing pipes. Construction of a new water tank also is proposed. The size of the tank has yet to be determined, but could range from a 100,000 - gallon tank down to a 10, 000-gallon tank.

Installation of the SWG system would involve minimal ground disturbance, with most components (e.g., SCADA system and new meters, pumps, and valves) fitted, mounted, or otherwise connected to existing infrastructure. A new 100,000-gallon water tank would require excavation to approximately 3 feet deep within an approximately 40-foot by 40-foot area for a concrete pad footing; a smaller tank would require a smaller footprint, potentially with no concrete pad requirement. The water tank would be located in the vicinity of the existing water treatment building, requiring a minimal amount of trenching to connect with existing water lines. Construction of the tank and pad would take 3-6 months. The construction activities will not be continuous as the pad would be built, then allowed to cure before constructing the tank.

Figure 2 shows the project area at the BLR and the location of the ARRA well and treatment building. Figure 3 shows the most likely location for the water tank.



***\_\_\_\_\_ Rancheria Border      \_\_\_\_\_ Project Area***

*Potential Water Tank Locations are near the Treatment Building*

Figure 2. Project Area Blue Lake Rancheria Smart Water Grid.





Figure 3. Probable Location for Water Tank

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

## **3.1 No Action Alternative**

Under No Action, Reclamation would not provide a grant to BLR to help construct a SWG 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 would impact Indian hunting or fishing resources or water rights. 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**

The expenditure of Federal funds is an undertaking as defined in implementing regulations of the National Historic Preservation Act (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**

In an effort to identify historic properties in the area of potential effect (APE), Reclamation reviewed three cultural resources studies which have been completed in the vicinity of the project area, which taken together cover the APE in its entirety. No historic properties were identified in the project areas associated with any of these studies. Additionally, given that the current APE is located adjacent to the Mad River on deep floodplain deposits, the likelihood of encountering buried archaeological deposits during construction of the currently proposed project is very minimal.

#### **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. 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.

As the project would occur entirely on tribal lands, the BLR has assumed the responsibilities of the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) for Section 106 compliance, pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.(c)(2)(i)(A). Upon review of the current project in accordance with 36 CFR Part 800 requirements, Reclamation entered into consultation with the BLR Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO) regarding a finding of no historic properties affected for this undertaking. Through correspondence dated September 19, 2018, the THPO concurred with Reclamation's finding of no historic properties affected, pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4(d)(1). With receipt of the THPO response, Reclamation has fulfilled its Section 106 responsibilities related to this undertaking. (See Appendix B).

### **3.2.5 Biological Resources**

#### **3.2.5.1 Affected Environment**

The Proposed Action area has been heavily modified by development and has no natural vegetation (Figures 2 and 3). The only plants are introduced annual grasses and forbs and a few

shrubs. The California Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB) was queried on January 4, 2019 to identify those sensitive species and habitats recorded within the Korbel and Blue Lake USGS 7.5-minute topographic quads. Based on the search, coho salmon - southern Oregon / northern California ESU, eulachon, and steelhead - northern California DPS are the only federally-listed species with occurrences in the quads. There is no habitat for these or other potential sensitive species in the Proposed Action area.

### **3.2.5.2 Project Impacts**

The Proposed Action would cause direct impacts to a maximum of about 1600 square feet (0.04 acres) acres of non-native grassland and forbs due to construction of a new water tank. These impacts would be temporary. Other components of the SWG would be directly connected to existing infrastructure and not cause any ground disturbance. 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 animals, 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 0.04 acres which is less than the Garden Highway project, which disturbed 0.4 acres. 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/year, due to temporary project construction activities. The Proposed Action is smaller in magnitude. Operation of the treatment facility, SCADA system and other Proposed Action components would not change existing air quality.

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 North Coast 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 BLR and their THPO.

## Section 5 References

Californian Natural Diversity Database (CNDDDB), California Department of Fish and Wildlife. 2019. Accessed online January 4, 2019. <https://www.wildlife.ca.gov/Data/BIOS>.

# Appendix A Indian Trust Assets Compliance

<b>RRequested by</b>	Doug Kleinsmith
<b>Fund</b>	17XR0680A1
<b>WBS</b>	RX33080001150340E
<b>Fund Cost Center</b>	2015200
<b>Region # (if other than MP)</b>	
<b>Project Name</b>	Development of a Smart Water Grid At Blue Lake Rancheria
<b>CEC or EA Number</b>	
<b>Project Description (attach additional sheets if needed and include photos if appropriate)</b>	The Bureau of Reclamation proposes to provide a \$300,000 Tribal WaterSmart grant to Blue Lake Rancheria to help construct a Smart Water Grid. Currently, BLR uses municipal water from the neighboring community of Blue Lake. Various wells on the BLR reservation provide water for irrigation and non-potable uses. Reliance on the municipal water supply is costly (owing to significant leaks in the water supply) and reduces self-sufficiency and resilience.

<p><b>*Project Location (Township, Range, Section, e.g., T12 R5E S10, or Lat/Long cords, DD-MM-SS or decimal degrees). Include map(s)</b></p>	<p>See Figure 1 below  Lat: -124.0022  Long: 40.8842</p>
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<p><u>/s/ Doug Kleinsmith</u> Signature</p>	<p><u>Doug Kleinsmith</u> Printed name of preparer</p>	<p><u>1/3/19</u> Date</p>
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**ITA Determination:**

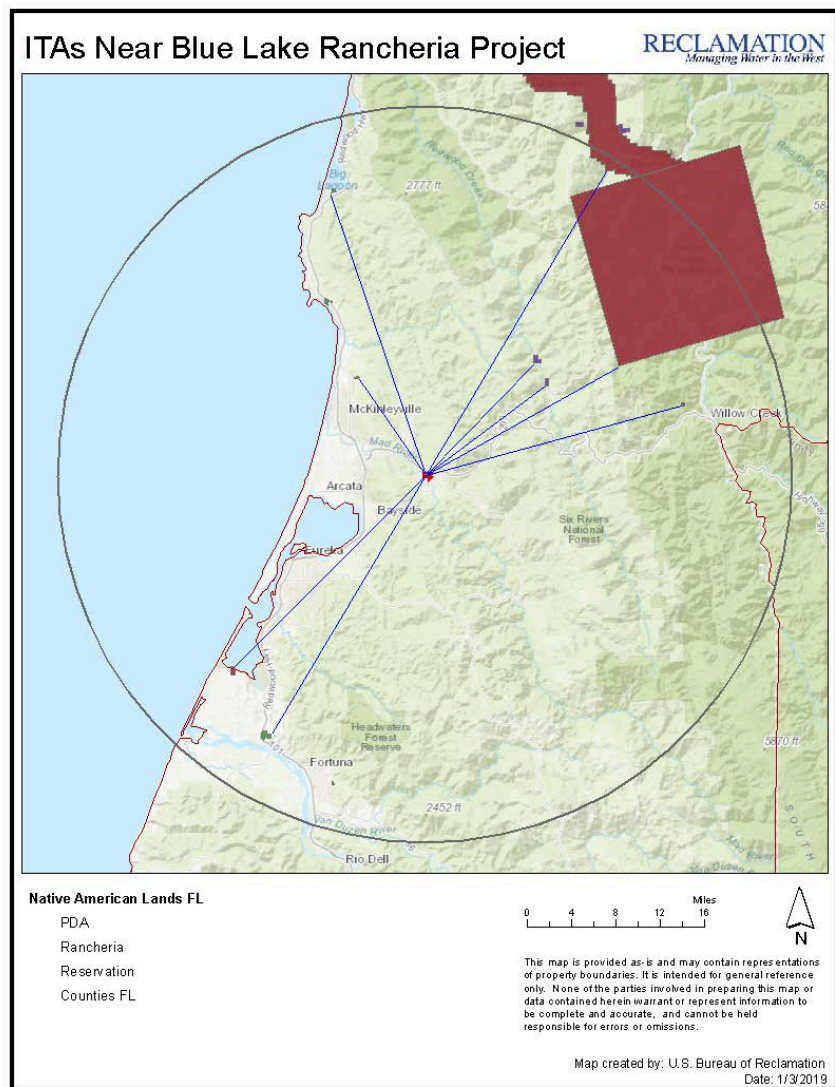
The closest ITA to the Proposed Action is the Blue Lake Rancheria ITA which is at the project site. This project is on land owned by Blue Lake Rancheria. The project proposed by the Tribe and it fully supported by its Council. (See attached Figure 2).

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. It is reasonable to assume that the proposed action will not have any impacts on ITAs.

<p><u><i>K.Clancy</i></u> Signature</p>	<p><u>Kevin Clancy</u> Printed name of approver</p>	<p><u>1/09/2019</u> Date</p>
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Figure 1.



# **Appendix B Cultural Resources Compliance**

**CULTURAL RESOURCES COMPLIANCE**  
**Division of Environmental Affairs**  
**Cultural Resources Branch (MP-153)**

**MP-153 Tracking Number:** 17-NCAO-224.001

**Project Name:** Blue Lake Rancheria (BLR) Smart Water Grid Development Project

**NEPA Document:** Environmental Assessment

**NEPA Contact:** Doug Kleinsmith, Natural Resource Specialist

**MP-153 Cultural Resources Reviewer:** Joanne Goodsell, Archaeologist

**Date:** September 28, 2018

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Reclamation proposes to partially fund the BLR Smart Water Grid Development Project through a WaterSMART Drought Response Program grant. The funding would be used to assist with planning, contractor selection, and the initial construction phase of a project involving the installation of new flow restrictors, meters, pumps, valves, filters, bypass and access manifolds, water treatment units, and a supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) system with web-based capabilities. These project elements would be connected to a well that was installed using Reclamation funding awarded to Blue Lake Rancheria in 2011, an action also reviewed for compliance with Title 54 USC § 306108, commonly known as Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, and its implementing regulations described at 36 CFR Part 800.

Reclamation determined the use of Federal funding for the current project constitutes 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). As the project will occur entirely on tribal lands, the BLR has assumed the responsibilities of the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) for Section 106 compliance, pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.(c)(2)(i)(A). Upon review of the current project in accordance with 36 CFR Part 800 requirements, Reclamation entered into consultation with the BLR Tribal Historic Preservation Officer (THPO) regarding a finding of no historic properties affected for this undertaking. Through correspondence dated September 19, 2018, the THPO concurred with Reclamation's finding of no historic properties affected, pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4(d)(1). With receipt of the THPO response, Reclamation has fulfilled its Section 106 responsibilities related to this undertaking.

This document conveys the completion of the cultural resources review and Section 106 process related to the proposed action. Please retain a copy of this document with the proposed action administrative record. Should the proposed action change, additional review under Section 106, possibly including further consultation with the BLR THPO, may be required.



IN REPLY  
REFER TO:

## United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION  
Mid-Pacific Regional Office  
2800 Cottage Way  
Sacramento, California 95825-1898

**AUG 28 2018**

MP-153  
ENV-3.00

CERTIFIED RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

Ms. Janet P. Eidsness  
Tribal Historic Preservation Officer  
Blue Lake Rancheria  
P.O. Box 428  
Blue Lake, CA 95525-0428

Subject: National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Section 106 Consultation for the Blue Lake Rancheria (BLR) Smart Water Grid Development Project, Humboldt County, California (Project #17-NCAO-224.001)

Dear Ms. Eidsness:

The Bureau of Reclamation is initiating consultation under Title 54 U.S.C. § 306108, commonly known as Section 106 of the NHPA, and its implementing regulations found at 36 CFR Part 800, for the Smart Water Grid Development Project, located on BLR trust lands in Humboldt County, California (Figure 1). Reclamation proposes to partially fund the project through its WaterSMART Drought Response Program. The use of Federal funding for the project constitutes 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). As the project will occur entirely on tribal lands, and the BLR has assumed the responsibilities of the State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) for Section 106 compliance, pursuant to 36 CFR § 800.(c)(2)(i)(A), we are entering into consultation with you in lieu of the SHPO and notifying you of our finding of no historic properties affected for this undertaking.

In 2011, Reclamation consulted with your office regarding an undertaking involving funding for the development of a well (Well 1) on tribal land. In 2017, BLR requested Reclamation funding to assist with planning, contractor selection, and the initial construction phase of the currently proposed project for which Well 1 serves as the water source. Construction of the current project would involve installing new flow restrictors, meters, pumps, valves, filters, bypass and access manifolds, water treatment units, and a supervisory control and data acquisition (SCADA) system with web-based capabilities. These project elements would be connected to the Well 1 wellhead and other existing infrastructure including the water treatment building, water main, and valve enclosures along existing pipes. Construction of a new water tank also is proposed. The size of the tank has yet to be determined, but could range from a 100,000-gallon tank down to a 10,000-gallon tank.



Installation of the smart water grid system would involve minimal ground disturbance, with most components (e.g., SCADA system and new meters, pumps, and valves) fitted, mounted, or otherwise connected to existing infrastructure. A new 100,000-gallon water tank would require excavation to approximately 3 feet deep within an approximately 40-foot by 40-foot area for a concrete pad footing; a smaller tank would require a smaller footprint, potentially with no concrete pad requirement. The water tank would be located in the vicinity of the existing water treatment building, requiring a minimal amount of trenching to connect with existing water lines.

Reclamation determined the area of potential effects (APE) for the undertaking consists of all locations where ground disturbance associated with the project may occur. Because the project has yet to be fully designed, Reclamation expanded the APE study area to include an approximately 10-acre area that encompasses the locations where the Well 1 project and related infrastructure was constructed in 2011, and adjacent BLR buildings, structures, and parking areas associated with the BLR casino and tribal offices. This 10-acre area comprises the maximum geographic extent within which components of the currently proposed project would be installed. The maximum vertical APE would be up to 3 feet deep if a concrete pad is required for water tank construction. The APE study area is located in Sec. 19, T. 6 N., R. 2 E., Mount Diablo Meridian, as depicted on the Blue Lake and Arcata North 7.5' U.S. Geological Survey topographic quadrangles (Figures 1 and 2).

In an effort to identify historic properties in the APE, Reclamation reviewed past project files and associated information. We also communicated with your office by email and spoke with you via conference call on August 1, 2018, during which we requested information to assist in our historic properties identification efforts. You indicated during the call that, based on previous conversations with the BLR tribal council, the tribe is supportive of the proposed project and has no concerns related to historic properties in the APE. You also indicated that three cultural resources studies have been completed in the vicinity of the project area on behalf of BLR, which taken together cover the current APE in its entirety.

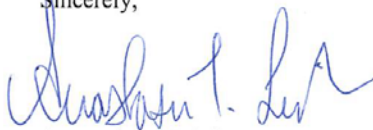
By email dated August 1, 2018, you provided Reclamation with copies of two of those studies (Mooney & Associates 2000 and Van Kirk 2003), and a document titled *Protocol for Inadvertent Archaeological Discoveries for Blue Lake Rancheria Tribal Lands*. We referenced the third study (Rohde and Roscoe 2005) in our 2011 Section 106 consultation with you regarding the Well 1 project and retained a copy in our project files. Since the BLR Tribal Historic Preservation Office maintains the inventory of all cultural resources studies and site records associated with BLR land, Reclamation determined no additional records search would be required for this undertaking. Based on our communications, we also determined the previous level of inventory as adequate, with no additional pedestrian survey required.

The three cultural resources studies mentioned above were conducted prior to the construction of the BLR casino (Mooney & Associates 2000), a 200-space parking lot on tribal land (Van Kirk 2003), and the transfer of a neighboring 40-acre parcel into tribal trust (Rohde and Roscoe 2005). No historic properties were identified in the project areas associated with any of these studies. Additionally, as discussed in our call, given that the current APE is located adjacent to the

Mad River on deep floodplain deposits, the likelihood of encountering buried archaeological deposits during construction of the currently proposed project is very minimal.

Based on the above information, Reclamation has reached a finding of no historic properties affected for the proposed undertaking. We invite your comments on the delineation of the APE and the appropriateness of our historic properties identification efforts. We are also notifying you of our finding of no historic properties affected, pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800.4(d)(1). In the unlikely event of a post-review discovery, the procedures described in the BLR protocol, or otherwise required under 36 CFR § 800.13, will be followed. If you have any questions or concerns regarding this undertaking, please contact Ms. Joanne Goodsell, Archaeologist, at 916-978-4694 or [jgoodsell@usbr.gov](mailto:jgoodsell@usbr.gov).

Sincerely,



Anastasia T. Leigh  
Regional Environmental Officer

Enclosures - 2

#### References

##### Mooney & Associates

2000 *Cultural Resource Inventory for a Portion of the Blue Lake Rancheria, Humboldt County, California*. Prepared for Environmental Science Associates, Sacramento, CA.

##### Rohde, Jerry and James Roscoe

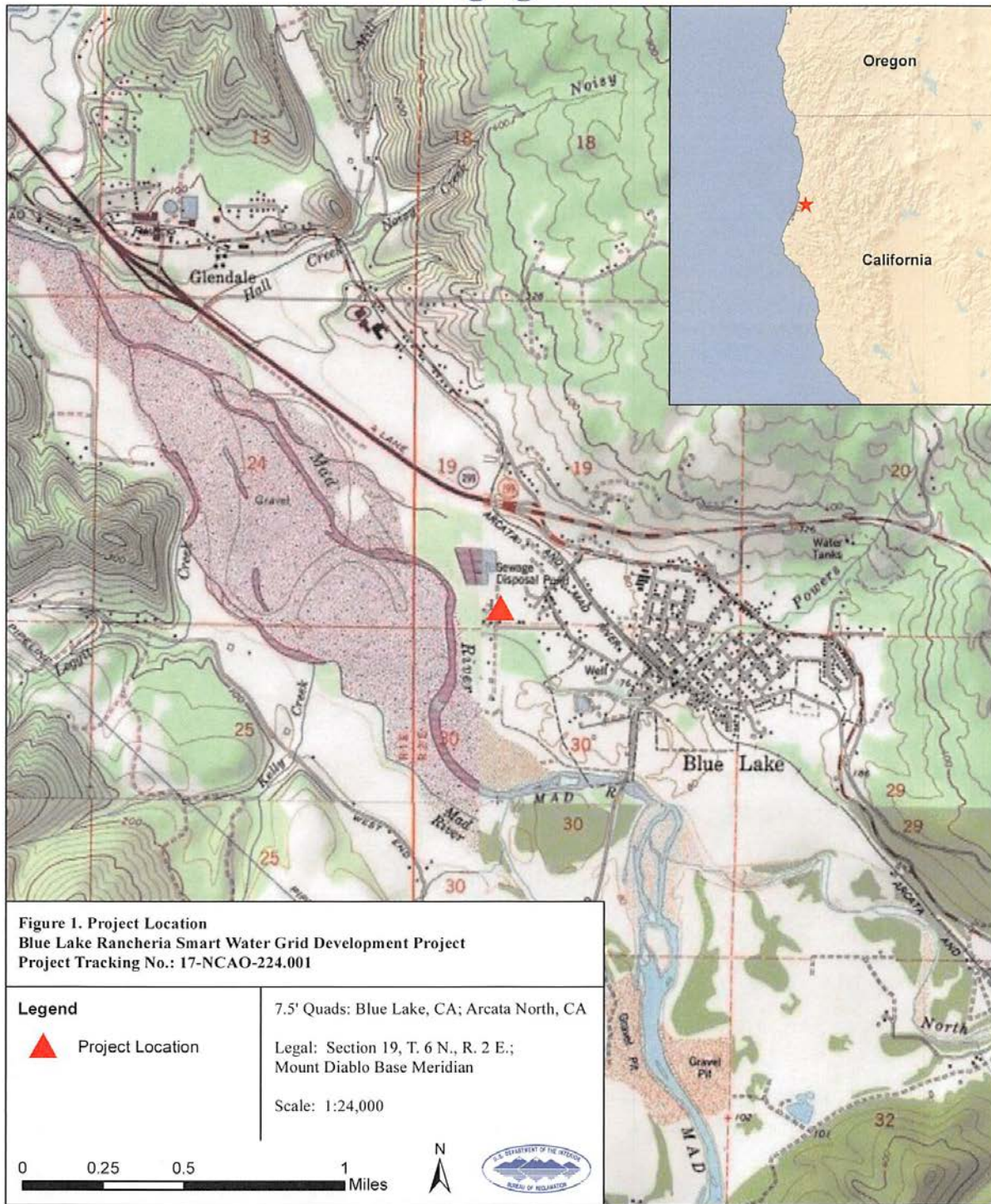
2005 *A Cultural Resources Investigation of the Blue Lake Rancheria Fee-to-Trust APN 312-111-26, Located in Blue Lake, Humboldt County, California*. Prepared by Roscoe and Associates for the Blue Lake Rancheria Environmental Programs Department.

##### Van Kirk, Susan

2003 *Historic Resources Report: Brown/Segal Barn, Blue Lake California*. Report on file with Blue Lake Rancheria Tribal Historic Preservation Office.

# RECLAMATION

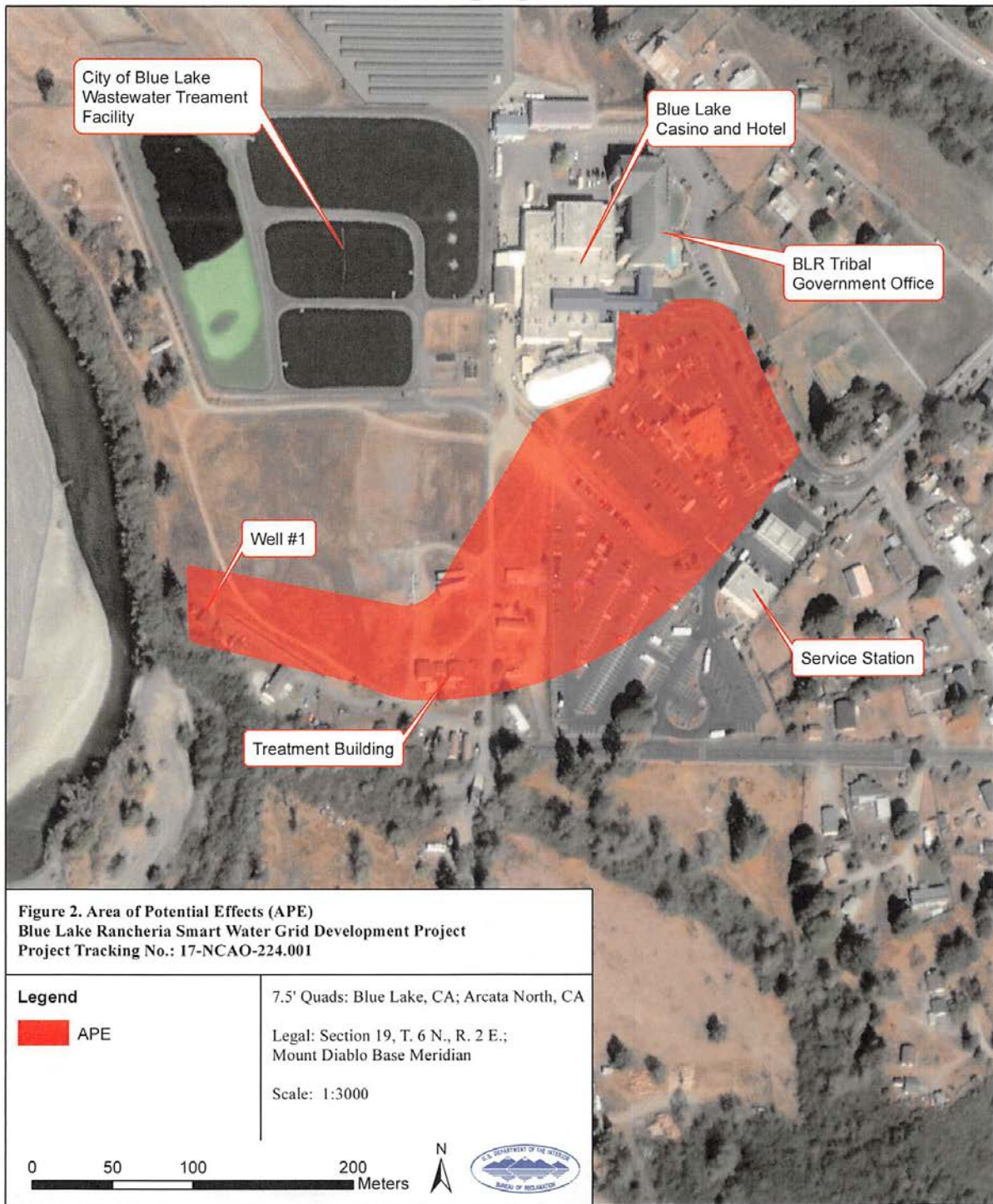
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Goodsell, Joanne &lt;jgoodsell@usbr.gov&gt;

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**[EXTERNAL] Blue Lake THPO comment on Section 106 Undertaking findings of USDI, Bureau of Reclamation, Smart Water Grid Development Project At Blue Lake Rancheria, California**

1 message

Janet Eidsness &lt;JEidsness@bluelakerancheria-nsn.gov&gt;

Wed, Sep 19, 2018 at 3:55 PM

To: "jgoodsell@usbr.gov" &lt;jgoodsell@usbr.gov&gt;

Cc: Stephen Kullmann &lt;skullmann@bluelakerancheria-nsn.gov&gt;, Michelle Fuller &lt;MFuller@bluelakerancheria-nsn.gov&gt;

Dear Joanne:

I am in receipt of the letter dated 8/28/18 from USDA BOR Regional Environmental Officer Anastasia Leigh regarding the NHPA Section 106 consultation for the subject undertaking in Humboldt County, CA (Project #17-NCAD-224.001). I greatly appreciated the thoroughness of your Section 106 research findings and reasoning for establishing the described undertaking, the Area of Potential Effects (APE), and review of relevant historical and archaeological studies, which revealed that no historic properties have been identified in the APE for this undertaking.

I concur with your findings, notably, "no historic properties affected" pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4(d)(1). It is also prudent and I agree with your plan for post-review discoveries per 36 CFR 800.13, by conditioning the project with the updated *Protocol for Inadvertent Archaeological Discoveries for Blue Lake Rancheria Tribal Lands* that I provided to you earlier.

The Tribe appreciates working with BOR staff to implement this important project.

Best regards,

/- signed -/

Janet P. Eidsness, M.A.

Tribal Heritage Preservation Officer (THPO)

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