

Project title: **California Aqueduct MP 122.59R Pump Replacement Project**

Requested By: Donald Lash      Mail Code :      N0411      Phone:      916-353-4048

Date Submitted: 2-10-2017      Date Required: 3-1-2017

### **Description of the Project**

The Western Area Power Administration (WAPA), Sierra Nevada Region (SNR) provides power to a water pumping facility site referred to as Mile Post 122.59 (MP 122.59) which is operated and maintained by the Westlands Water District (WWD) in Fresno County, California. This is one of a series of water pumping facilities located along the California Aqueduct and are part of the San Luis Unit of the California Central Valley Project (CVP). WWD contracts with the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) to deliver CVP water to more than 700 farms in Fresno and King Counties. Reclamation owns the right-of-way (ROW) along the CA Aqueduct.

WWD is updating its water pumping capacity at MP 122.59. WAPA owns and maintains two transformers that supply power to the pumps located at this site.

In order to keep pace with the higher capacity pumps, WAPA will remove and update the existing transformers with one large capacity transformer. This large capacity transformer will require a new concrete pad for placement. WAPA will also install an underground electrical conduit that will be buried in a trench (approximately 10 feet long by 42 inches deep). This underground conduit will connect to a newly installed power pole. The pole will connect to the water pumps via above ground wires.

This work is schedule to take place in March 2017.

**Map(s)**

See attached Maps

**Figures(s)**

See attached Figures

**Work Order Number – 100386914**

**DWR Environmental Clearance Request/Permit**

To be completed by Environmental Only

### Action taken

Note: All Documentation is Attached

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|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Categorical Exclusion (CX) | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Integral Elements          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Assessment (EA)         | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> NEPA Attachment Sheet      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)  | <input type="checkbox"/> Environmental Requirements/Mitigation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Other Determinations:                 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Maps/Figures               |

**Determination:** Based on my review of information provided to me concerning the proposed action as NEPA Compliance Officer, I have determined that the proposed action meets the requirements for the categorical exclusion listed above. Therefore, I have determined that the proposed action may be categorically excluded from further NEPA review and documentation.

Donald Lash, acting for  
Gerald Robbins, Environment Manager

2-13-17  
 Date Approved

bcc:	File Code:	Assigned to: Donald Lash	Project #: 10386914	Environmental Specialist- Date: Donald Lash 2-10-2017
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Western Area Power Administration Sierra Nevada Region	<b>CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION (CX) DETERMINATION</b>	Project Number 10386914
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Integral Elements

**Project Title: California Aqueduct MP 122.59R Pump Replacement Project**

**Category of Action:**

**B1.3 Routine Maintenance**

(m) Repair and maintenance of transmission facilities, such as replacement of conductors of the same nominal voltage, poles, circuit breakers, transformers, capacitors, crossarms, insulators, and downed powerlines, in accordance, where appropriate, with 40 CFR part 761 (Polychlorinated Biphenyls Manufacturing, Processing, Distribution in Commerce, and Use Prohibitions) or its successor

**B4.6 Additions and modifications to transmission facilities**

Additions or modifications to electric power transmission facilities within a previously disturbed or developed facility area. Covered activities include, but are not limited to, switchyard rock grounding upgrades, secondary containment projects, paving projects, seismic upgrading, tower modifications, load shaping projects (such as the installation and use of flywheels and battery arrays), changing insulators, and replacement of poles, circuit breakers, conductors, transformers, and crossarms.

**Regulatory Requirements for a Categorical Exclusion Determination:** The Department of Energy (DOE), National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) Implementing Procedures, 10 CFR 1021.410(b) require the following determinations be made in order for a proposed action to be categorically excluded (see full text in regulation).

1. The proposed action fits within a class of action listed in Appendices A and B to Subpart D. For classes of actions listed in Appendix B, the following conditions are integral elements; i.e., to fit within a class, the proposal must not:
  - a. Threaten a violation of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, including requirements of DOE and/or Executive Orders;
  - b. Require siting and construction or major expansion of waste storage, disposal, recovery, or treatment facilities, but may include categorically excluded facilities;
  - c. Disturb hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or CERCLA-excluded petroleum and natural gas products that preexist in the environment such that there would be uncontrolled or un-permitted releases; or

- d. Have the potential to cause significant impacts on environmentally sensitive resources, including, but not limited to, those listed in paragraph B(4) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B;
  - e. Involve genetically engineered organisms, synthetic biology, governmentally designated noxious weeds, or invasive species, unless the proposed activity would be contained or confined in a manner designed and operated to prevent unauthorized release into the environment and conducted in accordance with applicable requirements, such as those listed in paragraph B(5) of 10 CFR Part 1021, Subpart D, Appendix B.
2. There are no extraordinary circumstances related to the proposal which may affect the significance of the environmental effects of the proposal;
  3. The proposal has not been segmented to meet the definition of a categorical exclusion. The proposal is not connected to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant impacts (40 CFR 1508.27(b)(7)), and is not precluded by 40 CFR 1506.1 or 10 CFR 1021.211 concerning limitations on actions requiring preparation of an environmental impact statement.

**Results of Review:** In accordance with DOE environmental regulations (10 CFR 1021), WAPA reviewed the proposed action in terms of the level of NEPA review needed. Based on this review, WAPA has determined the proposal is encompassed within a class of action listed in Appendix B to Subpart D (10 CFR 1021.410) which do not require preparation of either an environmental impact statement (EIS) or an environmental assessment (EA).

The proposed action fits within the specified class(es) of action, the other regulatory requirements set forth above are met, and the proposed action is hereby categorically excluded from further NEPA review.



Western Area Power Administration,  
SIERRA NEVADA REGION  
NEPA Attachment Sheet

Project Number  
100386914

**PROJECT TITLE:**

**California Aqueduct MP 122.59R Pump Replacement Project**

**AFFECTED ENVIRONMENT**

California Aqueduct milepost (MP) 122.59 right side (R) is located 2.7 miles west-northwest of the intersection of Derrick Ave (Highway 33) and the Aqueduct, and 4 miles northwest of the town of Three Rocks. Habitat consists of ruderal, disturbed non-native grassland with mesquite trees by the toe of the embankment. Adjacent land use is almond orchard on all sides.

**REVIEW ACTION**

WAPA reviewed the environmental clearance request/permit issued by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) to WWD. DWR's permit and review covered the entirety of the project. Review of affected habitats, potential sensitive species, and restrictions on construction activities are sufficient to address biological concerns.

**CULTURAL AND HISTORIC RESULTS**



The area of potential effects (APE) for the pole and pad installation as well as the trench as described in this document is located in an area that has experienced extensive ground disturbance and grading. The APE is within disturbed areas created by construction of the California Aqueduct and the installation of water pumping facilities, existing underground pipes and electrical conduits as well as existing power poles. The area appears to have been extensively graded.

The activities proposed would not affect historic properties, should they be present.



Consultation on this project was completed on: SHPO consultation is not required. The determination is made that 36 CFR 800.3(a)(1) applies to this undertaking per the regulations below:

**§ 800.3 Initiation of the section 106 process.**

(a) *Establish undertaking.* The agency official shall determine whether the proposed Federal action is an undertaking as defined in § 800.16(y) and, if so, **whether it is a type of activity that has the potential to cause effects on historic properties.**

(1) *No potential to cause effects.* If the undertaking is a type of activity that does not have the potential to cause effects on historic properties, **assuming such historic properties were present**, the agency official has **no further obligations under section 106** or this part.



Mitigation required: None



Include in WAPA's annual report

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## BIOLOGICAL RESULTS

- Studies conducted, in order to evaluate potential impacts of the proposed project on special status species and/or their habitats, included background research to determine which special-status species and their habitats may occur within the project area and a review of habitat types in the project area. The DWR reviewed the entirety of the project, including site visits and discussion with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Although the heavily disturbed area was found to be wholly unsuitable for most sensitive species and only marginally suitable habitat for several species, several restrictions were listed as conditions of environmental clearance permit 2016-MP 122.59R-1, issued by DWR to Kelly Vandergon of WWD. These measures will ensure no impacts to sensitive biological resources.
- Mitigation required (see below)

## COMPLIANCE RESULTS

- Recycled Materials Quantities:** All materials generated from the project that can be recycled, shall be recycled. Submit quantities of all recycled material by category to the COR within 30 days of recycling and prior to submittal of final invoice. Record quantities of material by category that is salvaged, recycled, reused, or reprocessed.
- Disposal of Waste Material:** Dispose or recycle waste material in accordance with applicable Federal, State, and local regulations and ordinances. Coordinate with COR regarding sampling and signatures on manifests for wastes materials if required. Submit quantities of total project waste material disposal as listed below to the COR prior to submittal of final invoice.
- 1) Unregulated Wastes (i.e., trash): Volume in cubic yards or weight in pounds. 2) Hazardous or Universal Wastes: Weight in pounds. 3) PCB Wastes (If applicable): Weight in pounds.
- 4) Other regulated wastes (e.g., lead-based paint or asbestos): Weight in pounds (specify type of waste in report).
- Pollutant Spill Prevention, Notification, and Cleanup:** The Spill Prevention, Notification, and Cleanup Plan is expected to be a brief description of the measures taken by the contractor to prevent spills, to notify in the event of a spill, to train personnel, and to describe the company's commitment of manpower, equipment, and material which would be mobilized in the event of a spill. The plan should describe those elements in proportion to the risks posed by the project. This not intended to be the Spill Prevention, Control and Countermeasures Plan, as specified in 40 CFR 112. Those plans are required by law for facilities with  $\geq 1320$  gallons of oil storage.
- Prevention of Air Pollution:** Federal law requires the protection of air quality under the Clean Air Act. All activities on this project shall be compliant with Federal, State, and local regulations, and with any associated State Implementation Plans. Best management practices will be used to minimize emissions on the project.
- This project is exempt from a general conformity determination under the **Clean Air Act General Conformity Requirements and the NEPA Process** DOE guidance document exempting transfers of land, facilities, title, and real properties through an enforceable contract or lease agreement where the delivery of the deed is required to occur promptly and the Federal agency does not retain authority to control emissions.
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**Prevention of Greenhouse Gas Emissions:** Federal law requires the reporting of emissions under the Greenhouse Gas Regulation 40CFR98. Installation of Sulfur Hexafluoride breakers shall be reported to property managers and documented in Maximo. All emissions of sulfur hexafluoride on this project shall be reported to Environment. Installation and maintenance of equipment containing sulfur hexafluoride or any other greenhouse gas shall be in accordance with management practices designed to eliminate emissions.

**Prevention of Water Pollution:** Federal law requires the protection of water quality under the Clean Air Act. The project is exempt from the General Permit for Stormwater Discharges Associated with Construction and Land Disturbance Activities issued by the California State Water Board because it consists of routine maintenance activities in an existing right of way, and because the proposed staging areas occurring outside that existing right of way measure collectively less than one acre. Construction activities must therefore remain strictly within the boundaries specified in the plans in order to qualify for this exemption. Best management practices will be used to control runoff from the project areas.

**MITIGATION**

Other Mitigation: Not Required

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Western Area Power Administration Sierra Nevada Region	<b>Environmental Requirements for the California Aqueduct MP 122.59R Pump Replacement Project</b>	<b>Project Number</b> 100386914
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**ITEMS CHECKED ARE APPLICABLE TO THIS PROJECT.**

**General**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Under the Migratory Bird Treaty Act of 1918, migratory bird species and their nests and eggs are protected from injury or death. As a condition of environmental clearance permit 2016-MP 122.59R-1, issued by DWR to Kelly Vandergon of WWD, the permit holder will contact DWR's environmental scientist to perform bird nesting surveys for any work occurring after January 31, 2017, and appropriate avoidance measures will be prescribed.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Routine maintenance activities will be avoided from mid-March through mid-June in the vicinity of structures.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Road maintenance operations will be conducted to minimize soil erosion. The United States Forest Service's Best Management Practices, Forest Practices, and Forest Practices Rules of the California Department of Forestry will be implemented where practical.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Culverts will be sized to match storms that may occur during the life of the road to minimize the potential for access road washouts under high intensity storms.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Excavated material will not be stock piled or deposited on or near stream banks, lake shorelines, or other water course perimeters where they could be washed away by high water or storm run-off or could significantly impact the water course.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Vegetative management plans will be followed as appropriate.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	In areas where excavation is not required, vegetation will be left in place whenever possible and original contours maintained in an undisturbed condition.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Habitat diversity will be maintained to the greatest extent feasible.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Brush blades will be used on bulldozers in clearing operations where such use will help preserve the cover crop of grass, low-growing brush, etc.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Dispose of all cleared vegetation in an appropriate manner.
<input type="checkbox"/>	The biologist will determine whether a sensitive habitat is present at the maintenance site. If special status species are identified in the area, maintenance will receive approval from Environment prior to initiating any maintenance.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Environment will be contacted immediately: a. If there is a "take" of a special status species or action affecting their critical habitat, and/or b. If archeological, paleontological, or historic evidence is found.
<input type="checkbox"/>	No paint or permanent discoloring agents will be applied to rocks or vegetation.
<input type="checkbox"/>	If used, survey stakes will be removed as a part of the final clean up.
<input type="checkbox"/>	All work on access and maintenance roads must stay within the existing prism of the roads.

**Threatened and Endangered Species**

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Federal law prohibits the taking of endangered, threatened, proposed or candidate wildlife and plants, and destruction or adverse modification of designated Critical Habitat. Federal law also prohibits the taking of birds protected by the Migratory Bird Treaty Act, and the Bald and
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	Golden Eagle Protection Act. "Take" means to pursue, hunt, shoot, wound, kill, trap, capture or collect a protected animal or any part thereof, or attempt to do any of those things.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Known Occurrence of Protected Species or Habitat: Following issuance of the notice to proceed, and prior to the start of construction, WAPA will provide training to all contractor and subcontractor personnel involved in the construction activity. Untrained personnel shall not be allowed in the construction area. WAPA will provide two sets of drawings showing known sensitive areas located on or immediately adjacent to the transmission line right-of-way and/or facility. These areas shall be considered avoidance areas. Prior to any construction activity, the avoidance areas shall be marked on the ground in a manner approved by the COR. If access is absolutely necessary, the contractor shall first obtain permission from the COR, noting that a WAPA and/or other government or tribal agency biologist may be required to accompany personnel and equipment. Ground markings shall be maintained through the duration of the contract. WAPA will remove the markings during or following final inspection of the project.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Unknown Occurrence of Protected Species or Habitat: If evidence of a protected species is found in the project area, the contractor shall immediately notify the COR and provide the location and nature of the findings. The contractor shall stop all activity in the vicinity of the protected species or habitat and not proceed until directed to do so by the COR.
<input type="checkbox"/>	Prior to the start of project activities, all personnel will participate in environmental awareness training which will inform them of the sensitive habitats within the project area, the species that have the potential to occur in the project area, and the avoidance and minimization measures that are to be adhered to during project activities. Any new crew members that start after project activities have started will be given the environmental awareness training prior to starting work on site.
<input type="checkbox"/>	General Mitigation/Avoidance Measures: The Contractor shall follow all species specific conservation measures listed below as applicable to each site, in coordination with WAPA's Natural Resources Point of Contact (POC) and the COR.

### Perennial Streams and Rivers

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<p>The following activities will be prohibited at all times within 100 feet of a seep, spring, pond, lake, river, stream, or marsh, and their associated habitats:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Vehicle access, except on existing access and maintenance roads, unless approved by Natural Resources</li> <li>• Dumping, stockpiling, or burying of any material, except as required for specific O&amp;M activities (e.g., rip-rap)</li> <li>• Mixing of pesticides, herbicides, or other potentially toxic chemicals</li> <li>• Open petroleum products</li> </ul> <p>Equipment will be stored, fueled, and maintained in a vehicle staging area 300 feet or the maximum distance possible from any seep, spring, pond, lake, river, stream, marsh, or their associated habitats. Vehicles will be inspected daily for fluid leaks before leaving the staging area.</p>
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	All spills of fuel or hydraulic fluid would be immediately cleaned up according to WAPA's guidelines for hazardous material handling.

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### Compliance Regulatory Requirements

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	No violations of applicable statutory, regulatory, or permit requirements for environment, safety, and health, including requirements of DOE and/or Executive Orders will be permitted.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	There will be no uncontrolled or un-permitted releases of hazardous substances, pollutants, contaminants, or petroleum and natural gas products to avoid adversely affecting environmentally sensitive resources.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	In the event of a Hazardous Material/Waste spill Environment and the COR will be contacted, dispatch notified, and the appropriate Federal, State, and local regulating authority notified depending on the type and size of the spill (For further guidance, please see Environment.)
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Hazardous Materials/Waste on-site to consider: Fueling of equipment; In the right of way, place spill drip pans (or similar) below fueling areas, spill kit and tools available nearby to stop the flow of fuel spills, and employees trained in spill response.
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Hazardous Materials/Waste need to be removed off site for disposal/recycling
<input type="checkbox"/>	Piping and oil sampling required
<input type="checkbox"/>	Material Analytical Data: See attached results for reference
<input type="checkbox"/>	Erosion control measures to be taken to prevent sediment from reaching river
<input type="checkbox"/>	Soil Sampling