

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

National Environmental Policy Act Categorical Exclusion Checklist

COPY
ORIGINAL

Categorical Exclusion No.: 10-SCAO-008-CX

DATE: MAR 17 2010

PROJECT: Tustin Legacy Well 1 Project

NATURE OF ACTION:

Cooperative Agreement No. R10AC35R04 provides American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 funding for the Irvine Ranch Water District to design and construct Tustin Legacy Well 1 near the southwest corner of former Marine Corps Air Station (MCAS) Tustin, Orange County, California. The well will provide hydro-geologic data on groundwater quality, zone of influence, and projected yield that will be used to design additional wells and a treatment facility for the full-scale Tustin Legacy Wellfield Project.

EXCLUSION CATEGORY:

516 DM 14.5 B(1) – Routine planning investigation activities where the impacts are expected to be localized, such as land classification studies, topographic surveys, archaeological surveys, wildlife studies, economic studies, social studies and other study activity during any planning, preconstruction, construction, or operation and maintenance phases.

EVALUATION OF EXCEPTIONS TO ACTIONS WITHIN CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION

Would the action:	No	Uncertain	Yes
1. Have significant impacts on public health or safety?	X		
2. Have significant impacts on such natural resources and unique geographic characteristics as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wild or scenic rivers; national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; prime farmlands; wetlands (Executive Order 11990); floodplains (Executive Order 11988); national monuments; migratory birds; and other ecologically significant or critical areas?	X		
3. Have highly controversial environmental effects or involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources [NEPA section 102(2)(E)]?	X		
4. Have highly uncertain and potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risks?	X		
5. Establish a precedent for future action or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects?	X		
6. Have a direct relationship to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulatively significant environmental effects?	X		



U.S. Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
Lower Colorado Region
Southern California Area Office
Temecula, California

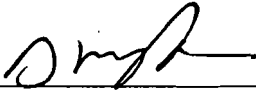
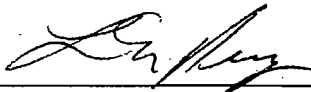
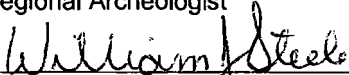
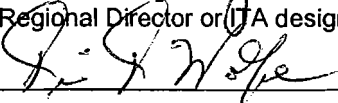
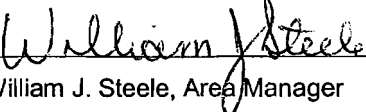
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| 7. Have significant impacts on properties listed, or eligible for listing, on the National Register of Historic Places as determined by either the bureau or office? | X | _____ | _____ |
| 8. Have significant impacts on species listed, or proposed to be listed, on the List of Endangered or Threatened Species, or have significant impacts on designated Critical Habitat for these species? | X | _____ | _____ |
| 9. Violate a Federal law, or a State, local, or tribal law or requirement imposed for the protection of the environment? | X | _____ | _____ |
| 10. Have a disproportionately high and adverse effect on low income or minority populations (Executive Order 12898)? | X | _____ | _____ |
| 11. 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 (Executive Order 13007)? | X | _____ | _____ |
| 12. Adversely affect Indian Trust Assets? | X | _____ | _____ |
| 13. 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 and Executive Order 13112)? | X | _____ | _____ |

EXPLANATION/REMARKS

The groundwater well is a routine planning investigation activity. Impacts are expected to be localized and limited to 5,000 sq ft at former MCAS Tustin. An Initial Study (SCH No. 2009121071) prepared under the California Environmental Quality Act found that the project would not create substantial adverse effects. Redevelopment of former MCAS Tustin was approved under an MOA among Department of the Navy, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, and California State Historic Preservation Officer.

COMMITMENTS:

Cultural Resources: Should cultural resources be discovered during project construction, all ground disturbing activities in the area of the archeological resource will stop and the Regional Archeologist, Pat Hicks, will be contacted at 702-293-8359. Construction will not resume in the area of the discovery until all mitigative measures developed in consultation with the State Historic Preservation Officer have been completed.

Preparer's Signature:	<u></u>	Date: <u>3/17/2010</u>
	Doug McPherson, Environmental Protection Specialist	
Concurrence with Item 7:	<u></u>	Date: <u>3/17/2010</u>
	Regional Archeologist	
Concurrence with Item 12:	<u></u>	Date: <u>3/17/2010</u>
	Regional Director or I/A designee	
Recommended:	<u></u>	Date: <u>3-17-10</u>
	Dennis Wolfe, Area Engineer	
Approved:	<u></u>	Date: <u>3/17/2010</u>
	William J. Steele, Area Manager	