

CATEGORICAL EXCLUSION CHECKLIST

Project: CVPIA Sacramento River Spawning Gravel Addition Project at Keswick Dam

Date: October 5, 2010

Nature of Action: Place approximately 5,000 tons of clean/washed spawning gravel in the Sacramento River at the Keswick Dam injection site between August 22 and September 9, 2011 (see attached figures 1-2).

Exclusion category: Bureau of Reclamation Categorical Exclusion - 516 DM 6 Appendix 9 C. Project Implementation Activities, 3. Minor construction activities associated with authorized projects which correct unsatisfactory environmental conditions or which merely augment or supplement, or are enclosed within existing facilities.

Evaluation of Criteria for Categorical Exclusion

- | | | |
|----|--|--|
| 1. | This action or group of actions would have a significant effect on the quality of the human environment. | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncertain ___ Yes ___ |
| 2. | This action or group of actions would involve unresolved conflicts concerning alternative uses of available resources. | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncertain ___ Yes ___ |

Evaluation of Exceptions to Actions within Categorical Exclusion

- | | | |
|----|---|--|
| 1. | This action would have significant impacts on public health or safety. | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncertain ___ Yes ___ |
| 2. | This action would have significant impacts on natural resources and unique geographic characteristics such as historic or cultural resources; park, recreation or refuge lands; wilderness areas; wetlands, wild or scenic rivers, rivers placed on the nationwide river inventory, floodplains, national natural landmarks; sole or principal drinking water aquifers; migratory birds; prime or unique farmlands; and other ecologically significant or critical areas. (Same as appendix 516-DM-2, appendix 2 part 2.2). | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncertain ___ Yes ___ |
| 3. | This action will have highly controversial environmental effects. | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncertain ___ Yes ___ |
| 4. | This action will have highly uncertain or potentially significant environmental effects or involve unique or unknown environmental risk. | No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Uncertain ___ Yes ___ |

5. This action will establish a precedent for future actions or represent a decision in principle about future actions with potentially significant environmental effects. No Uncertain Yes
6. This action is related to other actions with individually insignificant but cumulative significant environmental effects. No Uncertain Yes
7. This action will significantly affect on properties listed or eligible for listing in the National Register of Historical Places. No Uncertain Yes
8. This action will significantly affect a species listed or proposed to be listed as endangered or threatened, or Critical Habitat for these species. No Uncertain Yes
9. This action threatens to violate Federal, state, local, executive or Secretarial orders, or tribal law or requirements imposed for protection of the environment. No Uncertain Yes
10. This action will affect Indian Trust Assets. No Uncertain Yes
11. This action will 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. No Uncertain Yes
12. This action will have a disproportionately high and adverse affect minority or low-income populations. No Uncertain Yes
13. This action will contribute to the introduction, continued existence, or spread of noxious weeds or non-native species known to occur in the area or actions that may promote the introduction, growth , or expansion of the range of such species. No Uncertain Yes

NEPA Action- Categorical Exclusion: x
EA
EIS

Environmental commitments, explanation, and/or remarks:

The proposed project will place approximately 5,000 tons of clean/washed spawning gravel into the Sacramento River at the Keswick Dam injection site (40° 36' 32.68" N, 122° 26' 47.53" W), between August 22, 2011 and September 9, 2011.

The proposed project is being conducted under Section 3406 (b)(13) of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act. This Section mandates spawning gravel additions to the upper Sacramento River to mitigate for impacts to anadromous fish habitat resulting from the construction Shasta and Keswick Dams. The proposed project will improve both the quantity and quality of spawning habitat for anadromous fish. No direct or indirect adverse impacts to the environment are expected. Since 1997, gravel injections at the Keswick Dam site have occurred eight times and this year's injection will be identical to all previous years. Gravel will be end-dumped from a 100-foot high terrace with gravel remaining on the terrace/cliff face until mobilized by high winter flows. Gravel will only encroach into the wetted river channel approximately 25 feet, with the majority being retained above the water surface.

Other permits obtained for the project include a NOAA Fisheries Section 7 consultation, Corps of Engineers Nationwide Permit number 27, and a California Regional Water Quality Control Board Section 401 Permit.

Preparer:

Tom T. Kisanuki May 13, 2011
Fishery Biologist Date

Concurrence with Item 7:

See Attached
Regional Archeologist Date

Concurrence with Item 10 and 11:

See Attached
ITA Designee Date

Concurrence:

[Signature] 5/14/2011
Northern California Area NEPA Coordinator Date

Concurrence:

[Signature] 5/25/11
Environmental and Natural Resources
Division Chief Date

Approval:

[Signature] June 1, 2011
Northern California Area Manager Date

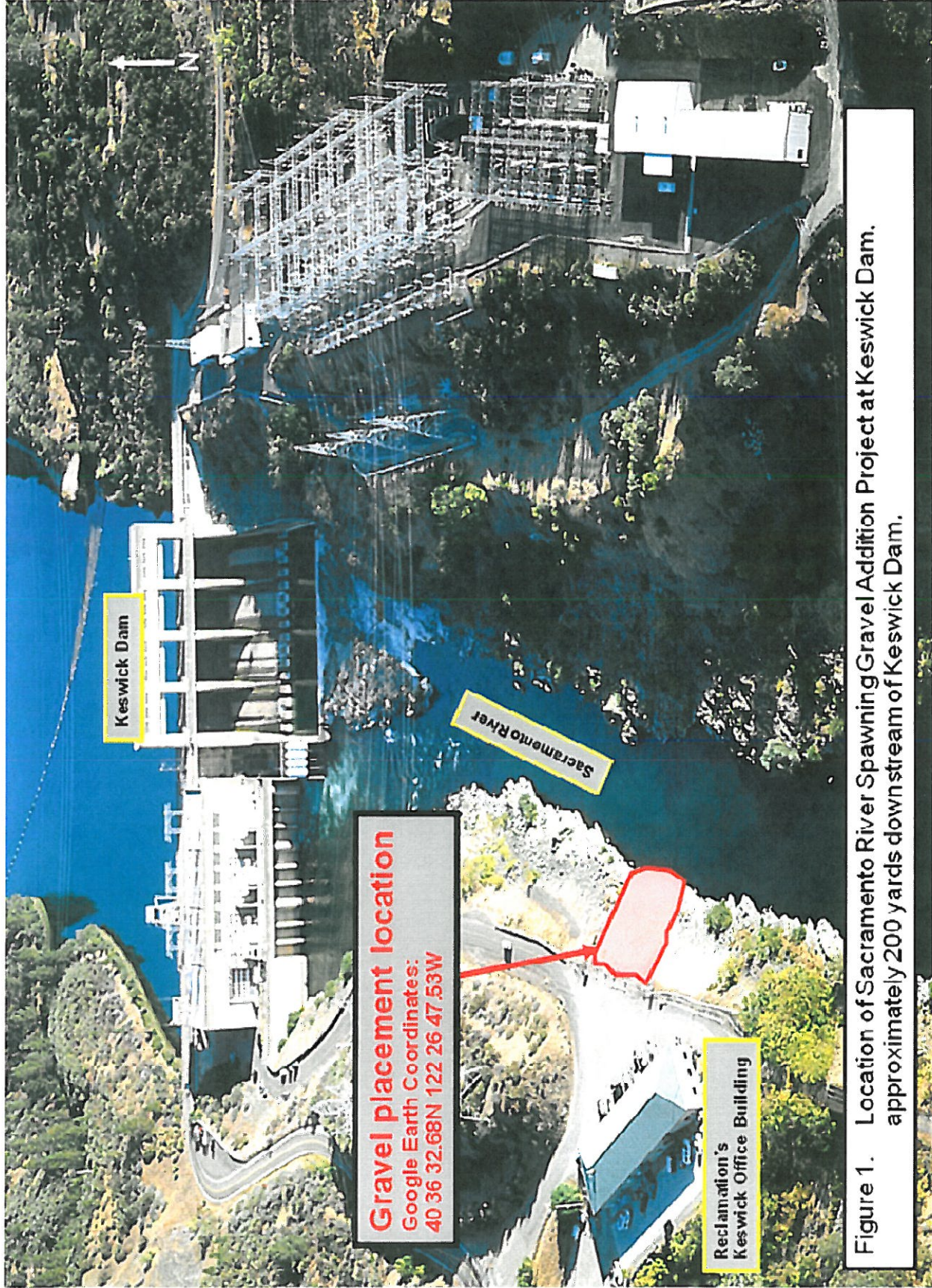


Figure 1. Location of Sacramento River Spawning Gravel Addition Project at Keswick Dam, approximately 200 yards downstream of Keswick Dam.

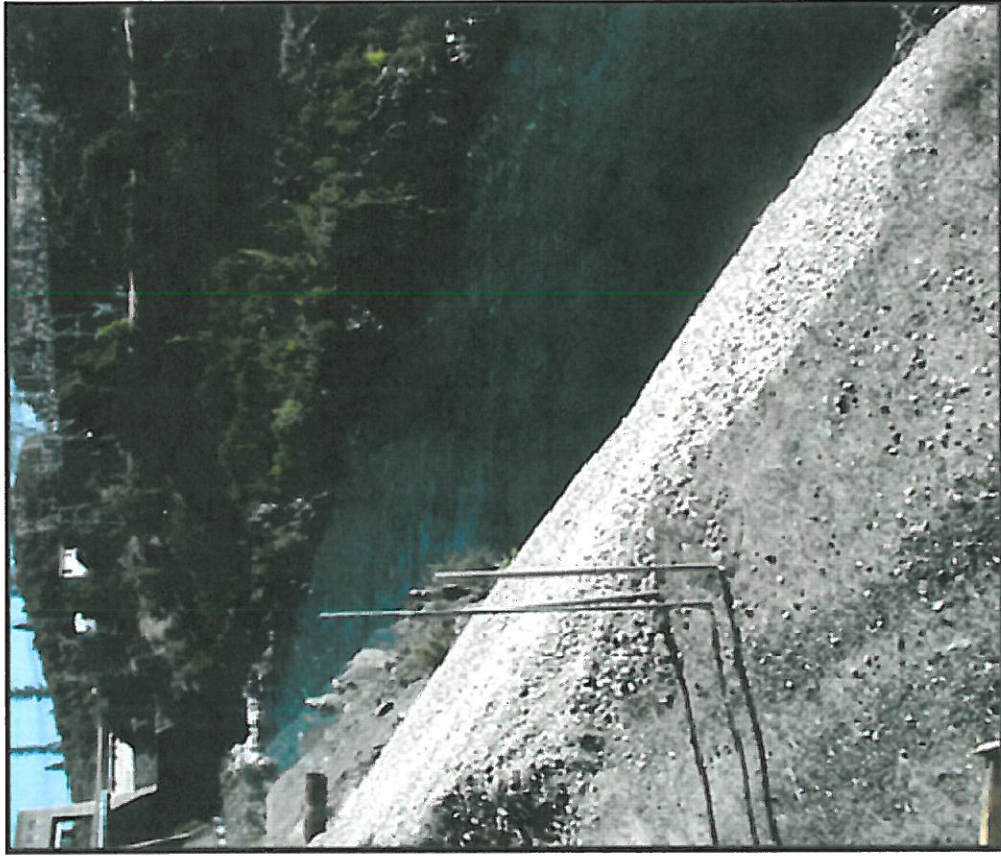


Figure 2. Project photographs of the Sacramento River Spawning Gravel Addition Project at Keswick Dam.

Regional Archeologist Concurrence

>> Jim West 01/16/04 01:54PM >>>

The proposed gravel injection will have no effect on historic properties. A records check of our files indicates that there are no previously recorded archeological sites in the Area of Potential Effect.

No Indian Trust Assets will be affected.

Exclusion category: 516 DM 9.C.3

Please place a copy of this concurrence with the CEC.

(Thanks for including the excellent air photos with the locations mapped.)

G. James West
Regional Archeologist
Bureau of Reclamation- Mid Pacific Region
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, CA 95825
(916) 978-5041
FAX (916) 978-5055

From: James DeStaso
To: West, Jim
Date: 1/16/2004 11:43 AM
Subject: CEC - Archeological Review
CC: Welch, Patrick

Hi Jim,

When you have a minute could you please review this CEC for two gravel injection projects along the Sacramento River near Redding.

Each of the two projects have been implemented multiple times in the past and have received your archeological/ITA concurrence. We've been using your approval(s) from several years ago, so I figure I'd get a more recent one from you to stay transparent (plus I think Mike Ryan or Buford suggested getting a recent concurrence for this year's projects).

Thanks for your help and hope all is going well for you.

Jim

Jim De Staso
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, Northern California Area Office
16349 Shasta Dam Blvd.
Shasta Lake, CA 96019
Phone: 530-276-2046 Fax: 530-275-2441
Email: jdestaso@mp.usbr.gov

ITA Concurrence

From: Frank Perniciaro
To: DeStaso, James
Date: 27-Jan-2005 3:33:47 PM
Subject: Re: ITA Review - Sacramento River Gravel

Hi Jim,

You're good to go on ITAs -- thanks for the chance to review.

FINDING: This Reclamation project is being implemented under Section 3406 (b)(13) of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act . The project calls for spawning gravel additions to the upper Sacramento River to mitigate for negative impacts to anadromous fish habitat resulting from the construction Shasta and Keswick Dams. This action does not affect Indian trust assets and therefore I concur with the finding in Item 10 of the CVPIA Sacramento River Spawning Gravel Addition Project at Keswick Dam and Salt Creek CEC, by NCAO, dated January 26, 2005.

NATURE OF ACTION: The proposed project is being conducted under Section 3406 (b)(13) of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act. This Section mandates spawning gravel additions to the upper Sacramento River to mitigate for negative impacts to anadromous fish habitat resulting from the construction Shasta and Keswick Dams. The project will place approximately 8000 tons of spawning gravel in the Sacramento River at two locations: 1) 4000 tons placed at the Keswick Dam injection site; and 2) 4000 tons placed at the Salt Creek site.

The proposed project will improve both the quantity and quality of spawning habitat for anadromous fish. No direct or indirect adverse impacts to the environment are expected. This project has been implemented five times over the past seven years, and this year's injection will be identical to all previous years.

At the Salt Creek site, gravel will be placed onto the riverbank and a rubber-tired front-end loader will push gravel into the river forming a fan shaped raised terrace above the water line. The terrace will not exceed one-half the width of the wetted channel. No equipment will enter the wetted river channel. At the Keswick Dam site, gravel will be end-dumped from a 100-foot high terrace. Injected gravel will remain on the terrace until mobilized by high winter flows. Gravel will only encroach into the wetted river channel approximately 25 feet, with the majority being retained above the water surface.

Other permits being obtained for the project include: NOAA Fisheries Section 7 consultation, Corps of Engineers Nationwide Permit number 27, City of Redding Encroachment Permit, Regional Water Quality Control Board Section 401 Permit, State Lands Commission Use Permit; and right-of-way permission from a private landowners.

LOCATION: 1 mile downstream of Keswick Dam and at the entry point of Salt Creek into the Sacramento River. Salt Creek site is 40° 35' 42.94" N, 122° 26' 10.71" W, and the Keswick Dam site is 40° 36' 00.95" N, 122° 26' 42.58" W.

SCHEDULE: The action is planned between August 29, 2005 and September 30, 2005.

PROJECT PROPONENT: Bureau of Reclamation

INDIAN TRUST ASSET ANALYSIS: The proposed action will place approximately 8000 tons of spawning gravel into the Sacramento River, 4000 tons placed at the Salt Creek site, under the provisions of Section 3406 (b)(13) of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act. There are no foreseeable impacts to ITAs as a result of this action. There are no ITAs in the project areas. No downstream tribes have federally reserved fishing rights on the Sacramento River, however, even if this was the case, the project is a benefit to anadromous fish. I concur with the finding in Item 10 of the CEC for the CVPIA Sacramento River Spawning Gravel Addition Project at Keswick Dam and Salt Creek, developed by NCAO, dated January 26, 2005. The

nearest Indian trust assets (held in trust for the Redding Rancheria) are located approximately 8 air miles south of the proposed action.

DEFINITION of INDIAN TRUST ASSETS: The United States has a trust responsibility to protect and maintain rights reserved by, or granted to, federally recognized tribes and individual Indians, by treaties, statutes, and executive orders. These rights are sometimes further interpreted through court decisions and regulations. The trust responsibility requires that all federal agencies, including Reclamation, take all actions reasonably necessary to protect Indian trust assets (Reclamation 1994).

Indian Trust Assets are legal interests in property held in trust by the federal government for federally recognized Indian tribes or individual Indians. "Assets" are anything owned that has monetary value. "Legal interest" means there is a property interest for which there is a legal remedy, such as compensation or injunction, if there is improper interference. Indian trust assets do not include things in which a tribe or individual Indians have no legal interest (Reclamation 1994).

Indian Trust Assets can be real property, physical assets or intangible property rights, such as a lease, or a right to use something. Indian Trust Assets cannot be sold, leased, or otherwise alienated without United States' approval. While most Indian trust assets are located on-reservation, they can also be located off-reservation. Examples of things that can be Indian Trust Assets are land, minerals, hunting and fishing rights, water rights, and instream flows. Off-reservation cultural resources located on non-trust land, are usually not Indian trust assets (Reclamation 1994).

Frank Perniciaro
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>>> James DeStaso 1/26/2005 1:46:58 PM >>>
Hi Frank,

I wanted to get an ITA review from you for the work described in the attached CEC. In a nutshell, Reclamation expects to place clean spawning gravel into the Sacramento River at two locations, Keswick Dam and Salt Creek. Both of these sites have received gravel additions multiple times over the past eight years. The Keswick Site injects gravel immediately at the Keswick Office Building parking lot. The Salt Creek Site, about one mile downstream from Keswick Dam, uses already existing roads to access the site. The only disturbance at either location will be vehicular/truck traffic; the landscape will not be disturbed except for tire tracks.

Thanks for your help and if you have any questions please give me a call.

Cheers,
Jim

Jim De Staso
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National Marine Fisheries Service Not Likely To Adversely Affect Concurrence



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
 NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES SERVICE
 Southwest Region
 501 West Ocean Boulevard, Suite 4200
 Long Beach, California 90802-4213

APR 19 2010

In response refer to: 12/21/10
 2010/01365

OFFICIAL FILE		RECEIVED
DATE	TIME	
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Mr. James De Staso III
 U.S. Bureau of Reclamation
 Northern California Area Office
 16349 Shasta Dam Boulevard
 Shasta Lake, California 96019-8400


Dear Mr. De Staso:

This letter is in response to your letter of March 18, 2010, requesting NOAA's National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) concurrence that the proposed multi-year Central Valley Project Improvement Act Spawning Gravel Restoration Program on the Sacramento River near Redding, California, may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect, Federally listed endangered winter-run Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*), threatened spring-run Chinook salmon (*O. tshawytscha*), threatened Central Valley steelhead (*O. mykiss*), threatened Southern Distinct Population Segment of North American green sturgeon (*Acipenser medirostris*), or any of their respective designated critical habitats.

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) plans on placing clean spawning gravel annually into the Sacramento River at either the Keswick Dam site or Salt Creek site between August and September, 2011 to 2015. The objective of the proposed project is to restore salmonid spawning habitat lost as a result of the construction of Shasta Dam. Spawning gravel has been added annually to the Keswick Dam and/or Salt Creek sites seventeen times since 1997. NMFS has consulted with Reclamation on this project since 1997 resulting in concurrence that the project is not likely to adversely affect Federally listed anadromous fish species. An annual average of 6,264 tons have been placed at the Keswick site, while an annual average of 12,650 tons have been placed at the Salt Creek site since 1997. Past injections have been successfully mobilized by high river flows and subsequently deposited downstream to form active spawning riffles. Past monitoring has shown that gravel augmentation has been transported downstream and utilized for spawning by winter-run Chinook salmon and Central Valley steelhead.

Injections at the Keswick Dam and Salt Creek sites would likely alternate annually beginning with Salt Creek in 2011. From the Keswick Dam injection site, gravel will be dumped from a 100-foot-high cliff. Gravel will only encroach into the wetted river channel approximately 25 feet, with the vast majority being retained above the water surface. The amount of gravel injected at this site will not exceed 10,000 tons annually. From the Salt Creek injection site, gravel will be placed onto the river bank and slowly pushed into the river using a rubber-tired front-end loader to form an approximate 250-foot-long raised gravel delta extending about half

Classification	E100-7.06
Project	GF
Contract	100 25699
Draw	10793



way across the wetted channel. The amount of gravel at this site will not exceed 30,000 tons annually. At both sites injected gravel will remain in place until mobilized by high winter flows. Gravel will be collected from deposits that are outside active stream channels which would not have naturally contributed to the river and will be of a size and shape considered to be optimal for successful salmonid spawning.

The following measures designed to minimize adverse impacts to the riverine ecosystem have been incorporated into the proposed project work plan:

1. The August to September time frame was selected in coordination with NMFS, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the California Department of Fish and Game as the period of lowest potential impacts to salmonids. It allows the addition of materials at the tail end of winter-run fry emergence and the beginning of fall-run adult spawning in the area.
2. The project location is in an area of the Sacramento River that has a bedrock streambed, therefore no redds would be present or impacted.
3. The spawning gravel will be washed at least once and have a cleanliness value of 85 or higher, based on Caltrans Test #227, to minimize the introduction of fine sediments into the river. Gravel will also be completely free of oils, clay, debris, and organic material.
4. Gravel used in this project will be uncrushed, rounded "natural river rock" with no sharp edges. Gravel will have the following size requirements: 95-100 percent passing through a 5-inch sieve; 75-85 percent passing through a 2-inch sieve; 40-50 percent passing through a 1-inch sieve; 25-35 percent passing through a ¾-inch sieve; 10-20 percent passing through a ½-inch sieve; and 0-5 percent passing through a ¼-inch sieve.

ESA Section 7 Consultation

Based on our review of the proposed project and the best scientific and commercial information currently available, and provided that the above-listed conservation measures are strictly adhered to, NMFS concurs with your determination that the proposed multi-year Central Valley Project Improvement Act Spawning Gravel Restoration Program may affect, but is not likely to adversely affect, listed anadromous fish or any of their designated critical habitat. The potential for adverse effects is discountable and not expected to reach the level where take will occur for the following reasons: (1) the time frame avoids juvenile Chinook and steelhead incubation and emergence as well as the sturgeon spring spawning period; (2) the use of in-river flows rather than heavy equipment to slowly distribute gravels downstream thereby allowing juveniles and adults sufficient opportunity to avoid any disturbance around the injection site; (3) the use of washed gravel to avoid turbidity and sediments entering the river; and (4) the use of rounded river rock of the size preferred by spawning salmonids. Designated critical habitat in the action area, including the riparian areas along the bank, would not be adversely effected since the same injection site as previous years is being used (*i.e.*, the project site is devoid of any vegetation at the end of the road).

This concludes informal consultation for the proposed project. Reinitiation of consultation is required where discretionary Federal agency involvement or control over the action has been retained (or is authorized by law) and if: (1) new information reveals effects of the action that may affect listed species or critical habitat in a manner or to an extent not previously considered; (2) the action is subsequently modified in a manner that causes an effect to the listed species or critical habitat not considered; or (3) a new species is listed or critical habitat designated that may be affected by the action.

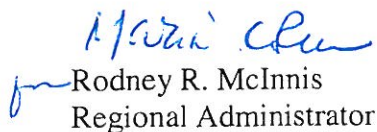
Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) and Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act Consultation (FWCA)

The action area has been identified as Essential Fish Habitat (EFH) for all races of Central Valley Chinook salmon (*Oncorhynchus tshawytscha*) including the fall/late fall-run in Amendment 14 of the Pacific Salmon Fishery Management Plan pursuant to the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (MSA). Federal action agencies are mandated by the MSA (Section 305[b][2]) to consult with NMFS on all actions that may adversely affect EFH, and NMFS must provide EFH conservation recommendations back to those agencies (Section 305[b][4][A]). Because the proposed action includes conservation measures designed to avoid impacts to salmonid habitat, and is in fact designed to enhance and increase spawning habitat in the Sacramento River, NMFS concurs with Reclamation that the proposed action will not adversely affect EFH. Therefore, additional EFH Conservation Recommendations are not being provided at this time; however, if there are substantial revisions to the proposed action, the lead Federal agency will need to reinitiate EFH consultation.

The purpose of the FWCA is to ensure that wildlife conservation receives equal consideration, and is coordinated with other aspects of water resources development [16 U.S.C. 661]. The FWCA establishes a consultation requirement for Federal departments and agencies that undertake any action that proposes to modify any stream or other body of water for any purpose, including navigation and drainage (16 U.S.C 662(a)). Consistent with this consultation requirement, NMFS provides recommendations and comments to Federal action agencies for the purpose of conserving fish and wildlife resources. The FWCA provides the opportunity to offer recommendations for the conservation of species and habitats beyond those currently managed under the ESA and MSA. Because the proposed project is designed to minimize impacts to aquatic habitats and to improve spawning habitat conditions for aquatic species, NMFS has no additional FWCA comments to provide.

Please contact Ms. Naseem Alston at (916) 930-3655, or via e-mail at naseem.alston@noaa.gov, if you have any questions concerning this correspondence or require additional information.

Sincerely,


Rodney R. McInnis
Regional Administrator

cc: Copy to file - AR# 151422SWR2006SA00076
NMFS-PRD, Long Beach, CA
Mr. Jim Smith, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 10950 Tyler Road, Red Bluff, CA 96080
Ms. Tricia Bratcher, California Department of Fish and Game, 601 Locust St., Redding, CA
96001