

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
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San Francisco, CA 94105-3901

**Amendment to the Categorical Exclusion for
Shasta County Elk Trail Area Annexation and Water System Improvements
September 2012**

The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 9 awarded a grant to Shasta County, California, in accordance with the Appropriations Act of FY2010 as described below:

Project Name: Shasta County Elk Trail Area Annexation and Water System Improvements Project
Estimated Total Project Cost: \$1,541,818
EPA Grant Assistance Amount: \$848,000.

EPA's issuance of a grant award for the project is a federal action requiring compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act (42 USC §§4321-4370f). A proposed action may be categorically excluded from detailed environmental review if the action fits within a category of action that is eligible for exclusion and the proposed action does not involve any extraordinary circumstances.

EPA originally issued a Categorical Exclusion for the Shasta County Elk Trail Area Annexation and Water System Improvements Project on July 23, 2010. The original project included: new 160,000-gallon and 140,000-gallon water storage tanks; approximately 67,000 feet of water main, supervisory valves, fire hydrants, and appurtenances; expansion of the water treatment plant building; replacement of two existing raw water pumps and addition of a third raw water pump.

After beginning activities to replace the raw water pumps and water main, supervisory valves, fire hydrant, and appurtenance installation, Shasta County discovered that a portion of Elk Trail Road fell apart due to heavy haul truck traffic. Part of the road was founded on a weak clay sub grade. The sub grade failed, making the road nearly impassable. Shasta County plans to restore this portion of the road to its original paved condition.

The original project activities (new 160,000-gallon and 140,000-gallon water storage tanks; approximately 67,000 feet of water main, supervisory valves, fire hydrants, and appurtenances; expansion of the water treatment plant building; replacement of two existing raw water pumps and addition of a third raw water pump) have begun, and were covered by the original Categorical Exclusion. This amendment addresses only the proposed changes to the remainder of the project.

Eligibility for Categorical Exclusion

This amendment to the original Categorical Exclusion for the Shasta County Elk Trail Area Annexation and Water System Improvements project is intended only to address the changes brought about by the County's proposed road repair to pre-construction condition. During project implementation Shasta County discovered that a portion of Elk Trail Road fell apart due to heavy haul truck traffic which occurred in order to initiate the project. The original road (constructed in the early 1990's) was built over soft clay. During the winter, once this sub-grade was saturated with water, the road began to fail in a few areas due to the construction traffic. These failures became a public safety concern. Some of the areas have been re-graded with non-project related funding, but not paved. The County proposes to repave these failed areas, and thus restore them to original, pre-construction condition. The project location and footprint are unchanged.

40 CFR §6.204(a)(1)(ii) allows a project to be categorically excluded when the project involves:

“Actions relating to existing infrastructure systems (such as sewer systems; drinking water supply systems; and stormwater systems, including combined sewer overflow systems) that involve minor upgrading, or minor expansion of system capacity or rehabilitation (including functional replacement) of the existing system and system components (such as the sewer collection network and treatment system; the system to collect, treat, store and distribute drinking water; and stormwater systems, including combined sewer overflow systems) or construction of new minor ancillary facilities adjacent to or on the same property as existing facilities. ...”

EPA Region 9 has determined the proposed change to the project is eligible for a categorical exclusion under 40 CFR §6.204(a)(1)(ii), as the change to the project is limited to the restoration of road conditions to pre-construction condition by repaving areas damaged as a result of the project.

Extraordinary Circumstances

EPA Region 9 has reviewed the proposed action to ascertain whether the proposed project involves any of the extraordinary circumstances identified at 40 CFR § 6.204(b)(1)-(10) and has made the following determinations.

- (1) The proposed action is not known or expected to have potentially significant environmental impacts on the quality of the human environment either individually or cumulatively over time.
- (2) The proposed action is not known or expected to have disproportionately high and adverse human health or environmental effects on any community, including minority communities, low-income communities, or federally-recognized Indian tribal communities.
- (3) The proposed action is not known or expected to significantly affect federally listed

threatened or endangered species or their critical habitats. The original consultation and analysis remains applicable because the project location is unchanged. The original Categorical Exclusion is attached.

(4) The proposed action is not known or expected to significantly affect national natural landmarks or any property with nationally significant historic, architectural, prehistoric, archeological, or cultural value, including but not limited to, property listed on or eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. EPA Region 9 has determined that no historical properties will be adversely affected under 36 CFR Part 800 for this project. The original consultation and analysis remain applicable because the project location is unchanged. The original Categorical Exclusion is attached.

(5) The proposed action is not known or expected to significantly affect environmentally important natural resource areas such as wetlands, floodplains, significant agricultural lands, aquifer recharge zones, coastal zones, barrier islands, wild and scenic rivers, and significant fish or wildlife habitat. The original analysis remains applicable because the project location remains unchanged. The original Categorical Exclusion is attached.

(6) The proposed action is not known or expected to cause significant adverse air quality effects.

(7) The proposed action is not known or expected to have a significant effect on the pattern and type of land use (industrial, commercial, agricultural, recreational, residential) or growth and distribution of population including altering the character of existing residential areas, and is consistent with state or local government, federally-recognized Indian tribe approved land use plans and federal land management plans. The original analysis remains applicable because the project location remains unchanged. The original Categorical Exclusion is attached.

(8) The proposed action is not known or expected to cause significant public controversy about a potential environmental impact of the proposed action.

(9) The proposed action is not known or expected to be associated with providing financial assistance to a federal agency through an interagency agreement for a project that is known or expected to have potentially significant environmental impacts.

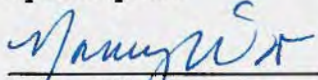
(10) The proposed action is not known or expected to conflict with federal, state or local government, or federally-recognized Indian tribe environmental, resource-protection, or land-use laws or regulations.

Finding

EPA Region 9 finds the proposed action conforms to the category of actions eligible for exclusion from detailed environmental review under 40 CFR §6.204(a)(1)(ii) and will not involve any extraordinary circumstances. Accordingly, EPA Region 9 will not prepare an environmental impact statement or an environmental assessment for the proposed project. EPA Region 9 may revoke this categorical exclusion if changes in the proposed action render it

ineligible for exclusion or if new evidence emerges which indicates that serious local or environmental issues exist or federal, state, or local laws would be violated.

This categorical exclusion is final upon signature by the Division Director. EPA Region 9 will not circulate this categorical exclusion for review, but will make it available to any individual upon request.



Nancy Woo
Acting Director, Water Division

9-22-12

Date