

**OFFICE OF HISTORIC PRESERVATION
DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION**

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March 29, 2010

In Reply Refer To: EPA100218A

Howard Kahan
United States Environmental Protection Agency
Region IX Southern California Field Office
600 Wilshire Blvd. Suite 1460
Los Angeles, CA 980017

Re: City of Big Bear Lake Department of Water and Power Infrastructure Improvement Projects

Dear Mr. Kahan:

Pursuant to 36 CFR Part 800 (as amended 8-05-04) regulations implementing Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Region IX Southern California Field Office, is seeking my comments on its determination of effects that the proposed undertaking will have on historic properties. The undertaking consists of the construction or replacement of approximately seven miles of pipelines and the drilling and/or equipping of six wells in the Big Bear Lake Department of Water and Power service area. The APE consists of 33 pipeline segments located within existing road rights-of-way totaling 37,121 linear feet with all activity taking place within the existing roads right-of-way excavating 5 to 10 feet below the surface and six well sites with a construction footprint of 100 x 100 feet and a 15' x 20' footprint when completed. Pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4(a) (1), I find your APE adequate for this undertaking. The APE lies within Sections 11-13, 23, and 24 of T2N, R1W and Sections 10, 15, 20-24, and 26-27, T2N R1E and Sections 19-20, T2N R2E, San Bernardino Base Meridian. In addition to your letter of February 12, 2010, you have submitted the following document as evidence of your efforts to identify historic properties in the APE:

- *Identification and Evaluation of Historic Properties: Big Bear Lake Department of Water and Power Infrastructure Improvement Project* (Bai "Tom" Tang and Michael Hogan; CRM TECH.: December 2009).

Based on their identification efforts, both research at the San Bernardino Information Center and pedestrian survey of the APE, the EPA and DWP have concluded that there are no historic properties located within the project area. There are however several cultural resources adjacent to the APE and there is record of one site, 36-007049, the Rim of the World Drive dating to 1916 that crosses the APE. The historic road could not be relocated in the field and its course has been thoroughly developed including houses built atop the route. The EPA has determined that the appropriate finding of effect for this undertaking is that of No Historic Properties Affected with the condition of an archaeological monitor present during ground disturbing activities while in "highly sensitive" areas as noted in your letter and report. After reviewing your letter and supporting documentation, pursuant to 36 CFR 800.4(c)(1), I suggest a finding of No Adverse Effects with conditions due to the remaining potential eligibility of the rest of site 36-007049 although that section of the route may no longer be visible, however the current plan should remain in place.

Be advised that under certain circumstances, such as unanticipated discovery or a change in project description, the EPA may have additional future responsibilities for this undertaking under 36 CFR Part 800. Thank you for seeking my comments and for considering historic properties in planning your project. If you require further information, please contact Trevor Pratt of my staff at phone 916-651-0831 or email tpratt@parks.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

Susan H. Stratton for

Milford Wayne Donaldson, FAIA
State Historic Preservation Officer