

An Archaeological Survey and Historic Buildings Assessment of the Crowley Lake Fish Camp, Crowley Lake, California



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Mono County Community Development Department

Redacted version for Mitigated Negative Declaration
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Management Summary

In cooperation with Bauer Planning and Environmental Services, Inc., Trans-Sierran Archaeological Research (TSAR) has conducted a records review, archaeological survey, and historic buildings assessment of the Crowley Lake Fish Camp, in Mono County, California. This work was initiated for the Mono County Community Development Department as part of environmental reviews conducted to meet the requirements of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The Crowley Lake Fish Camp Project currently under CEQA review includes obtaining approvals and permits, as needed, for existing uses and proposed modifications that are under the jurisdiction of Mono County. Historical resources (buildings, structures, or archeological resources) are considered part of the environment and are subject to review under CEQA.

The Crowley Lake Fish Camp is located on land owned by the City of Los Angeles and managed by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP). It has been in use as a recreational facility for over 70 years, beginning shortly after Crowley Lake was created in 1941. Although existing and proposed uses are largely confined to the eastern third of the lease area, the entire 188-acre lease area was surveyed for cultural resources to facilitate project planning.

During the survey, five sites were identified and recorded: three Native American archaeological sites, and two historic-period archaeological sites. Site records and locational information, which are confidential and for administrative use only, have been removed from this report, but will be on file with the Mono County Community Development Department and with the Eastern Information Center of the California Historical Resources Inventory System. Four of the five archaeological sites should be treated as eligible for the California Register of Historical Resources; one site and 24 isolates are considered not eligible for the Register. However, none of the sites lie within areas currently developed or proposed for development, and none would be affected by the project.

Eight structures at Crowley Lake Fish Camp are over 25 years old: the public restroom, two ramadas, the boathouse, the flammable storage facility, the well house, and two small wooden buildings owned by LADWP. Of these, the only structure recommended as potentially eligible for the California Register of Historical Resources is one of the LADWP buildings. This building, labeled “shed” on the project map, is not included in the proposed project and will not be affected.

Therefore, the proposed Crowley Lake Fish Camp Project would have no adverse effect on historical resources.

Title page photo: Whisky Creek, at the east boundary of the project area, view toward south.

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Introduction

In cooperation with Bauer Planning and Environmental Services, Inc., Trans-Sierran Archaeological Research (TSAR) has conducted a records review, archaeological survey, and historic buildings assessment of the Crowley Lake Fish Camp, in Mono County, California. This work was initiated for the Mono County Community Development Department, as part of a proposed project which includes updating approvals and permits, as needed, for existing and proposed uses that are currently under the jurisdiction of Mono County. The Crowley Lake Fish Camp, located on land owned by the City of Los Angeles and managed by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP), has been in use as a recreational facility for over 70 years, since Crowley Lake was created in 1941.

Some of the facilities and infrastructure were constructed under the authority of Mono County permits and approvals, but several improvements predate the county's permitting process; other uses have been undertaken informally or with LADWP permission, and lack necessary county permits and approvals. The Mono County Community Development Department has contracted with Bauer Planning and Environmental Services, Inc., to prepare a Mitigated Negative Declaration that examines the potential effects of authorizing the current and proposed uses.

Under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), environmental reviews must consider a project's potential effects on cultural resources eligible for inclusion on the California Register of Historical Resources, and on unique archaeological resources. Under California's Assembly Bill 52, any Tribe that is traditionally and culturally affiliated to the geographic area where a project is located can request that the lead agency provide notification to the tribe of proposed projects in the Tribe's area of traditional and cultural affiliation; any "tribal cultural resources" identified during this consultation are also considered in environmental reviews. However, AB 52 requires that Tribes notify lead agencies, in writing, of their wish to be notified and consulted about projects in any given geographical area. No Tribe has requested notification of proposed projects in the Long Valley area to date.

Therefore, this report is intended to satisfy the requirements of CEQA for the consideration of cultural resources by determining if any of the existing or proposed uses and developments at the Crowley Lake Fish Camp could have an adverse effect on cultural resources eligible for inclusion on the California Register of Historical Resources (CRHR), or on unique archaeological resources. As described below, methods included a records search, archaeological survey, archival research, and a historic buildings assessment. Cultural resources documented were then evaluated to determine if they met the definition of a unique archaeological resource, or if they should be considered eligible for the CRHR. Project plans were examined to assess potential effects.



Figure 1. Overview of project area. View from ridge above Whisky Bay.

Project Description and Location

Crowley Lake Fish Camp (CLFC) is in southern Mono County about 10 miles southeast of the Town of Mammoth Lakes, and less than a mile northeast of the community of Crowley Lake. The Fish Camp entrance gate is on South Landing Road less than a quarter-mile north of U.S. Highway 395, the main north-south transportation route in the eastern Sierra. Address is 1149 South Landing Road, Crowley Lake, California 93546, and includes portions of Mono County Assessor Parcel Numbers 060-100-010 and 060-110-004. Cadastral location is Township 4 South, Range 29 East, portions of sections 23, 24, 25, and 26, Mount Diablo Baseline and Meridian (See Figures 1, 2, and 3).

Situated on the south shore of Crowley Lake, the lease for CLFC includes approximately 188 acres, although most of the existing and proposed development is in the eastern third of the parcel. Current developments include a tackle shop and office, a maintenance shed, fishing docks, a large storage/warehouse building, public bathrooms, a boat marina with fueling station, dry camping spaces, and living quarters for the managers, who live on-site year-round. One area is used to store materials and equipment necessary for the Fish Camp operations, and other graded areas provide storage spaces for visitors' boats and boat trailers. There are currently 24 RV camp sites that consist of well-graded level pads with hook-ups; 18 are for guests and 6 are for staff. Improvements under consideration include installation of up to three new portable bathrooms and showers, a new water storage tank and propane tank, the addition of seven more RV camp sites with hook-ups, and installation of a water line and new water spigot to serve the dry camp sites.

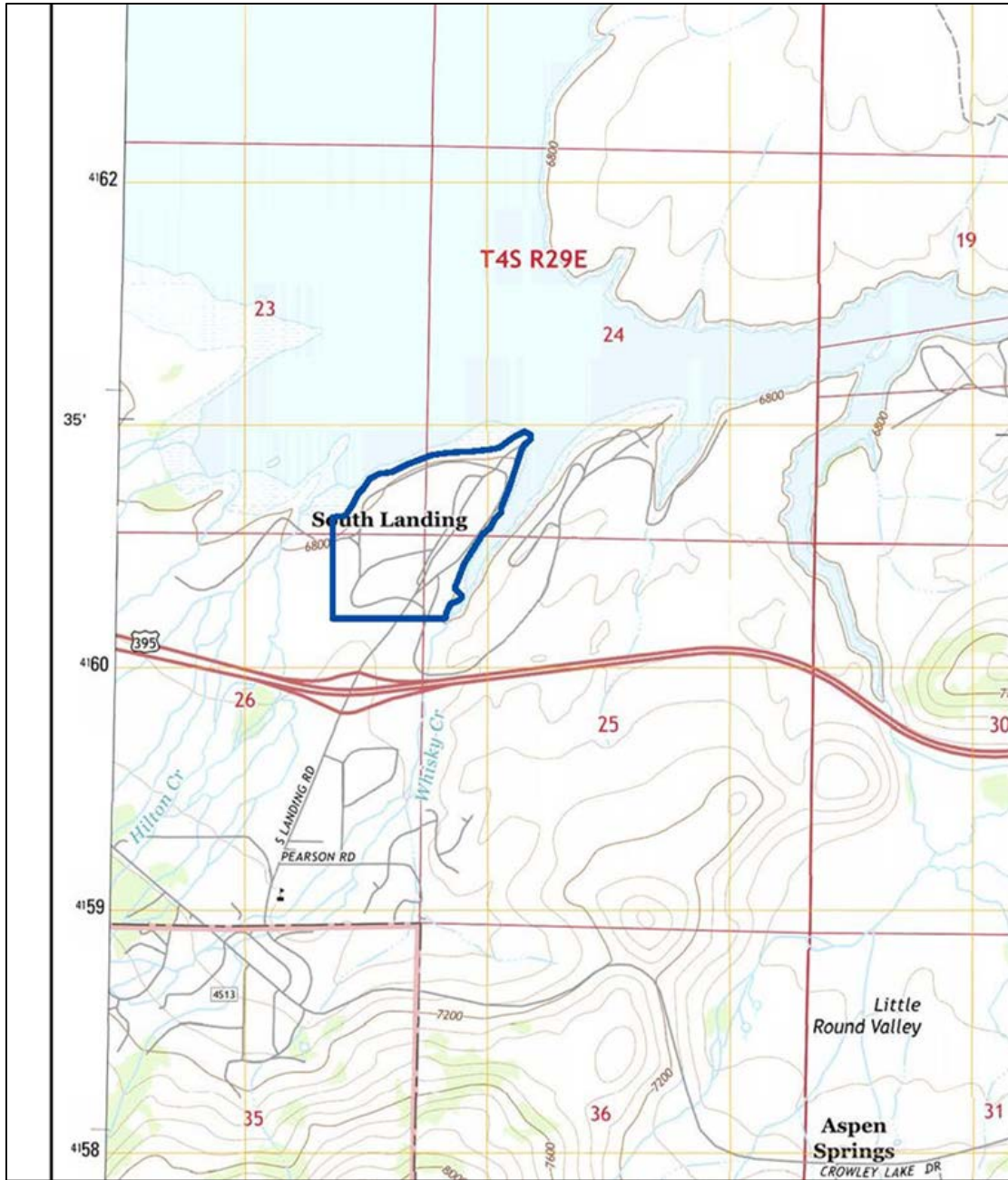


Figure 2, Crowley Lake Fish Camp lease area, outlined in blue. Map adapted from USGS Mt Tom 7.5' quadrangle, 2015.



Figure 3, LADWP map of the lease area, outlined in black.

Environmental Setting

Crowley Lake is on the southeastern edge of Long Valley, an ancient caldera measuring about 20 miles east-west by 10 miles north-south. The Sierra Nevada rises dramatically to the west, with the crest less than 10 miles from the project area. The project area is located on a gently sloping ridge bounded by Whisky Creek on the east and the low-lying alluvial flood plain of Hilton Creek on the west. Elevation ranges from approximately 6780 feet above mean sea level near the lake to 6880 feet at the south end of the lease area, close to U.S. Highway 395. The spillway of the lake, at the dam, is 6781 feet elevation.

The town of Crowley Lake, a mile south, receives an average of 15 inches of precipitation annually, with most of it falling as snow. Mean maximum and minimum temperatures range from 40 to 26 degrees in January to 82 to 54 degrees in July. One hundred years ago, the southern part of Long Valley was a meadow with many marshy areas watered by several creeks, springs, and the Owens River. The City of Los Angeles completed the reservoir in 1941 to provide flood control as well as water and power to Los Angeles. The approximately 650-acre Crowley Lake is now a world-class trout fishery, attracting thousands of visitors each year. Vegetation within the Fish Camp boundary includes sagebrush (*Artemisia tridentata*), bitterbrush (*Purshia tridentata*), rabbitbrush (*Chrysothamnus nauseosus*), Indian paintbrush, phlox, wallflower, lupine, and various grasses, with willows and irises near the creeks. Cottonwoods have been planted to provide shade, and there are grass lawns near the caretakers' residence and the tackle shop.

Natural soils are composed of sands, silts, and gravels, derived from granitic and volcanic rocks. There are abundant granitic boulders and water-worn cobbles to the west of the project area near Hilton Creek, and volcanic tuff cliffs to the east, above Whisky Creek. Fauna of the area include mule deer (*Odocoileus hemionus*), numerous small rodents and migratory waterfowl, and other birds. More details of the environmental setting will be available in other specialist reports prepared for the Mitigated Negative Declaration.

Historical Background

Ethnographic accounts and early histories indicate that when Euroamericans entered the region, Long Valley was being used by several ethnic groups. Under today's tribal designations, these groups include the Mono Lake *Kuzedika'a* Paiute based to the north, the Owens Valley and Round Valley Paiute to the south (Bishop Paiute Tribe, Big Pine Paiute Tribe, Fort Independence Indian Community, and Lone Pine Paiute-Shoshone Reservation), Benton *Ututu Gwaitu* Paiute to the east, Monache to the west, and Southern Sierra Miwok to the northwest. Long Valley offered a variety of food resources. In the spring, Tui chub, speckled dace, and Owens sucker may have been fished from the creeks, while roots and greens along creeks and meadows could replenish dwindling winter stores. Small game, deer, and antelope could have been hunted in the area. In the summer, grass seeds may have been collected from meadows and drier upland areas. Fall subsistence activities included the collection of pinyon pine nuts. In addition, volcanism in the Long Valley area has produced outcrops of obsidian, a fine-quality tool stone that was mined and traded for millennia.

Hall (1983:49) cited evidence that Paiute generally regarded their borders as fluid, which may have precluded exclusive use of Long Valley by a single group. However, Hall cited Steward as mentioning two or three Paiute whose home village was on Hot Creek (Hall 1983:49), and a Native American named Joaquin Jim lived in Long Valley near Deadman Creek and North Obsidian Mountain during the "Indian wars" of the 1860s (Wright 1879).

Although Spain and then Mexico had claimed the territory they called Alta California until 1848, the first non-Natives in the area were likely trappers and immigrants passing through. With California part of the territories ceded to the United States as a result of the controversial Mexican-American war, immigration exploded following the discovery of gold on the other side of the Sierra Nevada in 1849. In 1855, Von Schmidt was commissioned by the U.S. Government to map lands east of the Sierra Nevada, which included Long Valley. The 1857 plat of Township 4 South Range 29 East shows "Von Schmidt's Trail" going east-west through the south half of section 23 and northwest-southeast in the south half of section 24 (Figures 4 and 5).

The first permanent herds of cattle were brought into Owens Valley in the 1860s to supply the growing mining camps of the Inyo-Mono region. The grazing, along with the cutting of pinyon for lumber and firewood by the miners and ranchers, reduced the Paiute's food supply greatly by the winter of 1862. Descriptions of the ensuing battles between the Paiute and the new settlers are given in numerous accounts (e.g., Chalfant 1933, Wright 1879). The main fighting was over

by 1863 and most of the Paiute in the region were removed to a reservation at Fort Tejon, south of Owens Valley. Over the next few years most of the displaced Paiute returned; however, they were then largely dependent on the Anglo economy. Paiute like Joaquin Jim who remained after the forced removal continued fighting for their homeland, but after Joaquin Jim was killed at Casa Diablo Hot Springs in the winter of 1865-1866, hostilities were largely over.

From that point, Euroamerican settlement of the region continued unabated. Mining activity in the Mammoth Lakes area itself dates from 1877 when gold and silver were discovered near Lake Mary by four prospectors trying to relocate the Lost Cement Mine, purportedly discovered twenty years earlier. The Mammoth Mining Company was organized and four townsites were subsequently built. But, a decline in productivity, severe winter weather, discontent of the stockholders, and a fire that destroyed half of Mammoth City led to the closing of the mill and the eventual abandonment of the towns. By 1881 only a few prospectors worked in the area (Doyle 1934:108-194).

The agricultural potential of Long Valley did not go unnoticed. Land west of the project area was patented by Charles Hicks Parsons in 1889, and Richard Hilton patented 440 acres in the vicinity in 1891, including 40 acres that extend into the Crowley Lake Fish Camp project area (the E½ of the SE¼ of Section 23). However, Long Valley's potential as a water reservoir eventually superseded ranching and farming. The City of Los Angeles had begun acquiring water rights in Inyo County, to the south, early in the twentieth century. The city began plans to build a reservoir in Long Valley as early as 1905 (Nadeau 1950), and the majority of the land in the vicinity of the Crowley Lake Fish Camp, totaling over 5,200 acres and including the rest of the current Fish Camp, was patented by the City of Los Angeles in 1912.¹ In addition, Fred Eaton, one-time agent for Los Angeles, had acquired ranch land that he intended to sell to Los Angeles for the reservoir. However, the project was delayed in the multi-faceted struggle to control the region's water until the 1930s, when Los Angeles began buying water rights on streams in Mono County. Work began on the Long Valley Dam in 1935, and the dam was completed in 1941 (Nadeau 1950).

California road maps appear to reflect the on-again, off-again reservoir plans. From 1918 to 1926, state road maps depict "Long Valley Reservoir" within a large bounded area (possibly City of Los Angeles land). From 1932 to 1957, no reservoir is depicted, even though road work is shown as progressing. "Lake Crowley" shows up on the 1958 road map, and is not labeled "Crowley Lake" on the California road maps until 2005. Although the main construction activity to create the reservoir would have occurred near the dam site, there may be potential for evidence of work camps or related features in the project area. A work camp archaeological site could be particularly significant: a Los Angeles aqueduct work camp near the Alabama Gates north of Lone Pine occupied in 1912 and 1913 yielded important information about the

¹ <https://glorerecords.blm.gov/details/patent/>

development of capitalism and class relations (Van Bueren 2002). Work camps would predate 1941, when the dam was completed, and presumably could be distinguished from later fishing camps by artifacts or features reflecting more “industrial” activities or more substantial occupation.

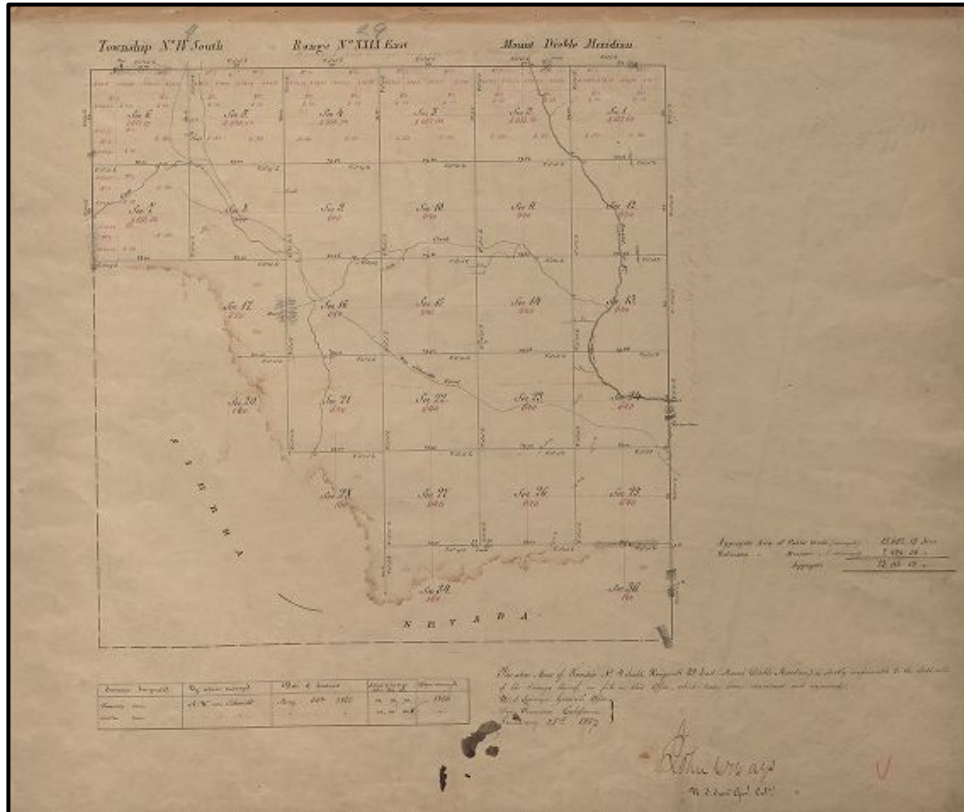


Figure 4. Von Schmidt's plat of Township 4 South, Range 29 East, approved in 1857.

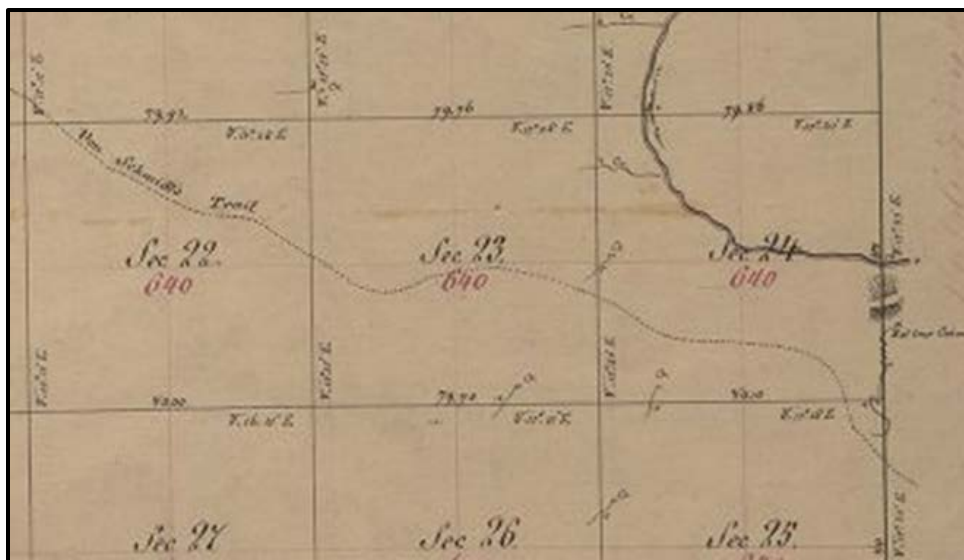


Figure 5. Detail of plat showing “Von Schmidt's Trail” through sections 23 and 24, skirting the north edge of the project area.

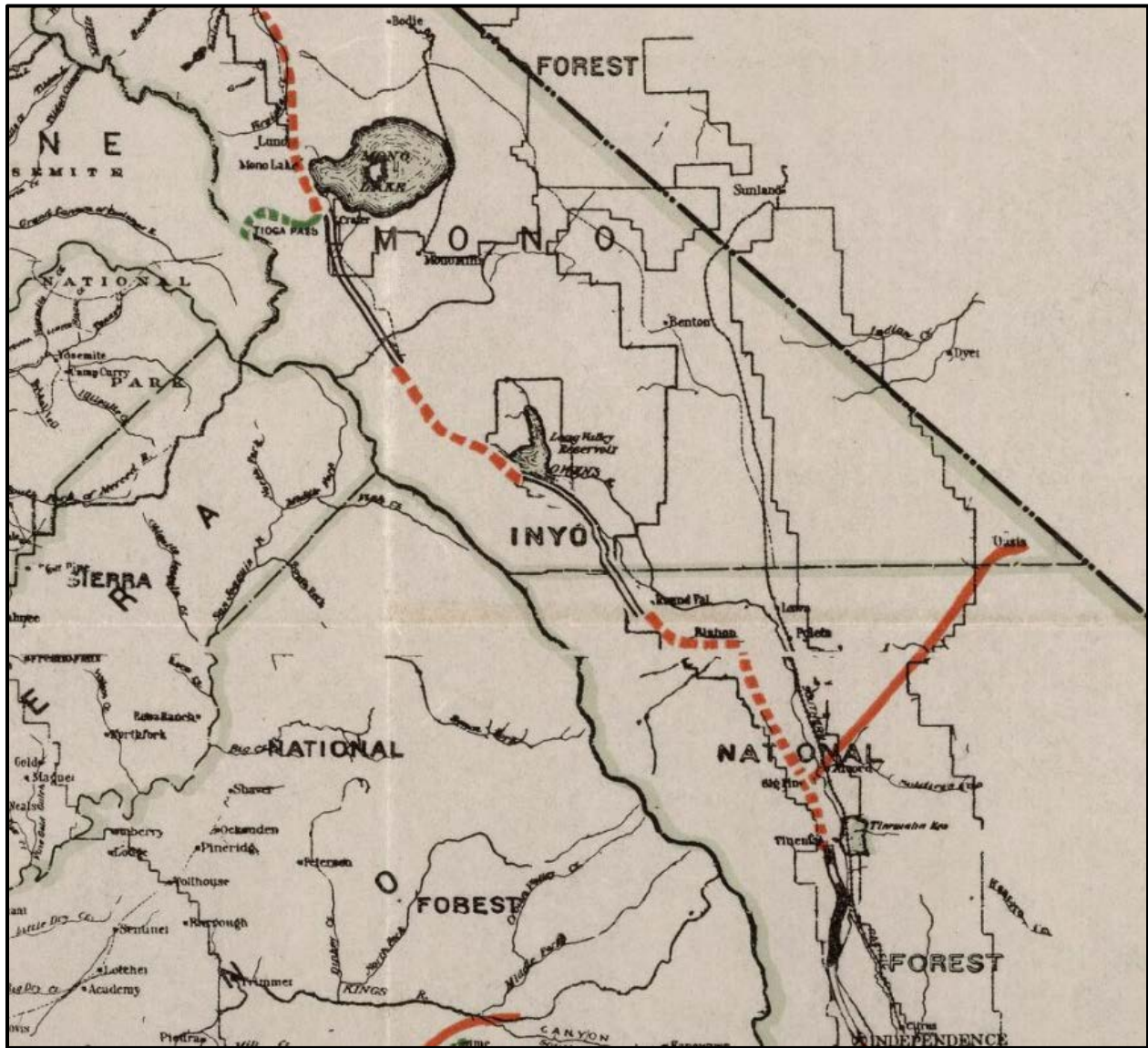


Figure 6. Portion of the Road Map of the State of California, 1920, showing the planned Long Valley Reservoir. The dotted red line indicates roads that have been authorized but not constructed; two parallel black lines indicate a road segment that has been graded or is under contract. Both segments in Long Valley are within the road system authorized by State Highway Acts of 1909 and 1915. From the David Rumsey Historical Map Collection, at <http://davidrumsey.georeferencer.com/maps/117336987709/>.

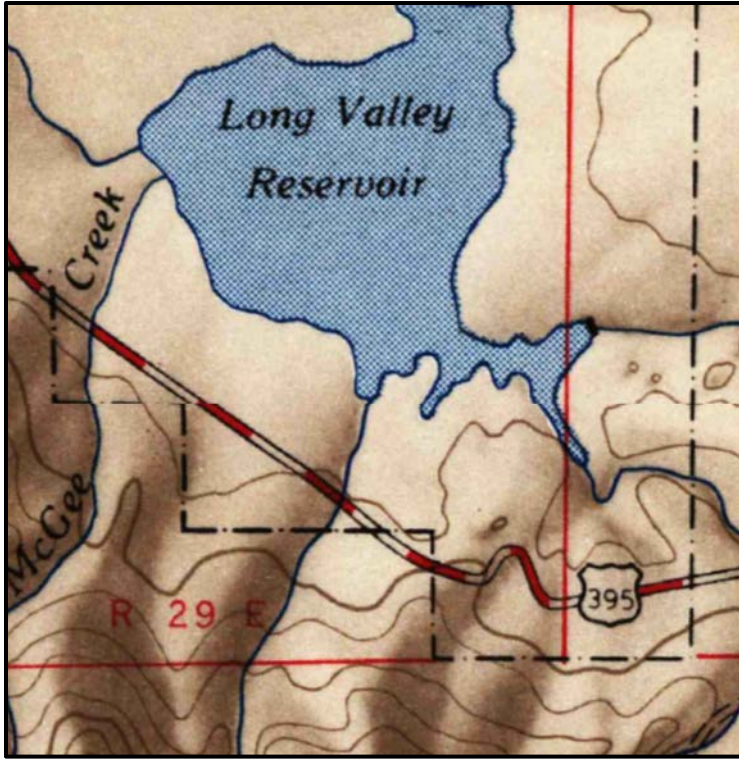


Figure 7. Detail of USGS Mariposa map, 1:250,000, 1947. At this scale, no buildings are shown, but the dam is indicated.

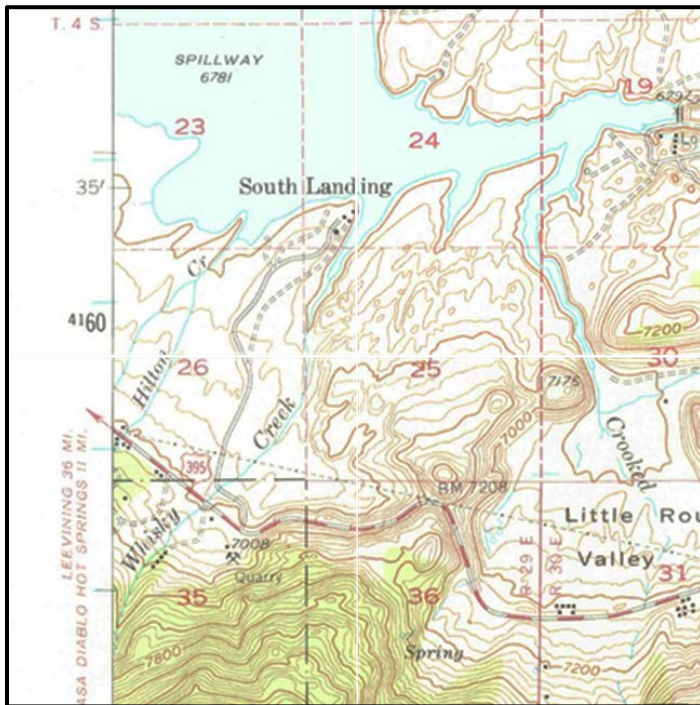


Figure 8. Detail of 1953 USGS Casa Diablo topographic map, showing the old alignment of U.S. Highway 395 (current Crowley Lake Drive) and four buildings at South Landing. Original map scale is 1:62,500.

On the 1953 USGS Casa Diablo topographic map, U.S. Highway 395 follows the alignment of the current Crowley Lake Drive. Four structures are depicted at South Landing, one large building adjacent to the main entry road, and three small buildings closer to the water. The primary entry road followed the current South Landing Road from the old highway to about where the current U.S. Highway 395 alignment is, but then veered north-northwest before curving back to the east and the current Fish Camp.

Previous Investigations

In December 2016, a records search was conducted through the regional office of the California Historical Resources Inventory System (CHRIS) at the Eastern Information Center, University of California, Riverside. As the designated information center for Inyo, Mono, and Riverside counties, the Eastern Information Center has copies of all archaeological reports and site records for the area. CHRIS records indicate that two cultural resources studies have been conducted and three cultural resources properties have been recorded within a half-mile radius of the project area. None of the surveys or sites involved the Crowley Lake Fish Camp area, but the sites indicate what types of sites have been found in the vicinity. One large campsite was recorded along Hilton Creek, with projectile point fragments, debitage, and grinding stone, and a smaller campsite was recorded in and around a rockshelter above Whisky Creek. Both sites are located to the southwest, close to the community of Crowley Lake.

Data recovery conducted at another Whisky Creek rockshelter before the construction of a subdivision indicated that it was used as a temporary camp as early as 500 BC for obsidian tool production, but with the most intensive use after AD 1300 (Burton and Farrell 1991). A wide variety of activities were indicated by projectile points, stone tools, debitage, an edge abrader/smoother, a cupped stone, ceramics, hammer stone, glass beads, and fire-cracked and altered rock. Flaked stone included Casa Diablo, Mono Glass Mountain, and Queen obsidian, as well as chert and basalt.

With the Casa Diablo and Mono Glass Mountain obsidian sources nearby, it is not surprising that many of the archaeological sites in Long Valley have abundant debitage created by working obsidian for trade or use. Evidence suggests that creating obsidian bifaces for trade was an important economic activity, especially between 1200 BC and AD 1000. However, some temporary camps have evidence that food collection and processing were more important than stone tool production (see, for example, Bettinger 1979), and some sites were occupied long before the peak in obsidian production and trade (e.g., CA-Mno-2179). Although most sites excavated in Long Valley postdate 3500 BC, some work has been conducted at a site dating to the early Holocene, considered among the first evidence of humans in the region (Basgall 1988). It is important to note that even small sites can have deep cultural deposits: small lithic scatters in Long Valley often have deposits over a half-meter deep, and a site excavated along Rock Creek near Sherwin Grade had a cultural deposit almost two meters deep (Garfinkel and Cook 1979, 1980).

Survey Methods

Survey was conducted by the author on June 8, 9, and 21, 2017. The project area was inspected with parallel pedestrian traverses approximately 30 meters apart. Special attention was paid to areas of proposed ground disturbance, such as the new RV pads, water tank, shower trailer, and water lines. Visibility of the ground surface was generally good, but dense grasses and willows obscured the ground surface adjacent to Whisky Creek. In the eastern third of the lease area, there has been extensive cut and fill associated with the construction of roads, RV pads, camping areas, parking areas, and buildings, and the lake shoreline has been plated with cobbles. Although little original ground surface is visible in this area, it was also considered to have fair potential for cultural resources. Because Crowley Lake Fish Camp has been used for over 70 years, some of the land modifications themselves could be historic features. In addition, ground disturbance can uncover buried cultural materials, and as discussed above, several sites in the vicinity have been proven to have buried cultural deposits.

When historic or prehistoric artifact were encountered, the surrounding area was closely examined to determine if the find was isolated or part of a site. Concentrations of artifacts, that is, more than 5 prehistoric or 10 historic items in a 10-by-10-meter area, were recorded as sites, and were plotted with a Trimble Juno GPS receiver and photographed. Isolated prehistoric artifacts were also plotted with the GPS receiver. Isolated twentieth-century artifacts were not plotted unless they were likely over 50 years old. There is scattered trash throughout the undeveloped parts of the lease area, attesting to the area's popularity for recreation.



Figure 9. Dense vegetation and marsh along Whisky Creek.



Figure 10. Sparse sagebrush scrub on ridges.

Survey Results

Two historic sites (given field numbers CLFC-1 and CLFC-5) and two prehistoric sites (CLFC-2 and -3) were recorded in the lease area, and a third prehistoric site (CLFC-4) was noted just west of the lease area boundary (see location map, Figure 11, and aerial photo, Figure 12).

CLFC-1

This trash scatter covers an area of about 160 by 175 feet. The artifacts include clay stove pipe, bed springs and frames, sheet metal, roofing, fragments of mason jars, ceramics, and bottles, bricks, window screen, water pipe, a wood-stove door, a door hinge, a strap hinge, a metal desk lamp shade, miscellaneous small hardware, and nails. With structural artifacts and furnishings as well as food storage and serving artifacts, the trash is more substantial than what would be expected for camping debris: it would seem more likely to be related to workers' housing, perhaps for dam construction. On the 1944 aerial photograph (see discussion below under CLFC-5), there appears to be a feature at about this location. The feature isn't clear enough to identify, but it is too substantial to be the trash dump, and may be a structure.



Figure 11, above. Overview of Historic Trash Scatter, Site CLFC-1. View to east.



Figure 12, left. Metal shade for a desk lamp.



Figure 13. Upper left, bed frame and springs, stove door, and other trash. Upper right, a closeup of part of the trash scatter. Ceramic fragments include blue willow patterns, both hand-painted and transfer-print. Above, beer bottle base. The diamond O-I mark indicates manufacture by the Owens-Illinois Glass Company. The "20" to the left of the mark indicates it was made at the Oakland, CA, plant, and the "44" to the right indicates the year of manufacture, 1944. Left, fragment of "hotel ware" cup. The maker's mark on the base indicates it was made by the Buffalo China Company. This style of lettering was common between 1915 and the 1940s (Conroy 1999:57). The "Ko..." may indicate a particular pattern, but sometimes letters under the manufacturer's name identify the hotel or restaurant for whom the pottery was made (Lehner 1988).

CLFC-2

This prehistoric site is a sparse artifact scatter with two loci, one with about a dozen flakes of obsidian, some with cortex. Weathered obsidian pebbles occur naturally in the area, and may have provided the source for at least some of the flakes. The other locus includes an obsidian biface fragment and a triangular point, as well as a few flakes of obsidian. Overall, the site measures about 100 by 40 meters. Although no artifacts were observed between the two loci, they were combined into one site to facilitate appropriate management: loose sandy soils such as occur in the area are susceptible to pedoturbation, and additional cultural material may be buried.

CLFC-3

This prehistoric site is a small, sparse flake scatter with at least six obsidian flakes. It includes a biface retouch flake as well as obsidian with different visual characteristics (translucent, opaque, black, and mottled red and brown) which may indicate different obsidian source material. The flakes were observed in an area approximately 55 by 35 meters in size.

CLFC-4

In addition, a sparse artifact scatter was noted outside the lease boundary. Although outside the project area, a preliminary site form was completed for the CHRIS records. The site includes a few obsidian flakes, a mano, and some potentially fire-cracked rock in an area about 60m by 25m in size. One broken cobble appears to be similar to a “cupped stone” found in the Whisky Creek Rockshelter (Burton and Farrell 1991) and one dark flat stone has a straight, short incision, possibly human-made.

CLFC-5

This site, visible on Google Earth, consists of the remains of an abandoned road segment depicted on the 1953 USGS Casa Diablo topographic map. The south end of the road extends out of the project area and was cut by the construction of the current U.S. Highway 395 alignment; the north end blends into the current Crowley Lake Fish Camp road system. The intact abandoned section of the road is about 1,200 feet long north of the highway; south of the highway it is discernible for about 600 feet, until it merges with the current South Landing Road.

A portion of the northern part of the 1953 main road has been incorporated into the Crowley Lake Fish Camp road system, and the southern part is now South Landing Road in the community of Crowley Lake. One secondary road entered South Landing through what is now the Boat and Trailer Storage Area, #22; another secondary road’s alignment partially overlaps the road to the boat launch. The center part of the 1953 road has been abandoned.

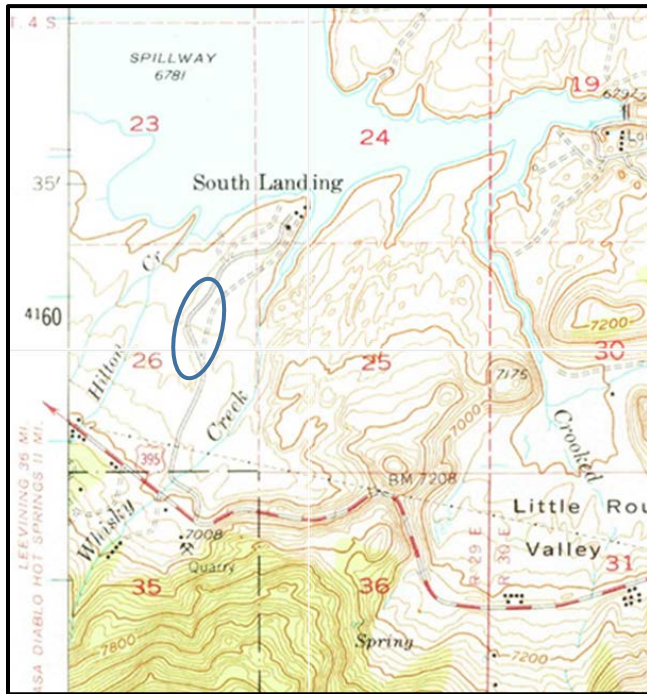


Figure 14, left. Portion of the 1953 USGS topo map for Casa Diablo; old road (site CLFC-5) is depicted as the main road to South Landing. Blue oval approximately outlines the portion of the road that can be seen on Google Earth (minus the part obliterated by the current U.S. Highway 395).



Figure 15, right. The alignment of the old road can still be discerned on the 2016 Google Earth image: it heads southwest from a current dirt road (in the photo, to the right of the north arrow), is crossed by the current U.S. Highway 395, and then heads south-southeast to join South Landing Road in the Crowley Lake residential area.

In the abandoned section, the roadbed is a flat area about 20 feet wide between two small berms, about 1 to 2 feet higher than the road surface. However, the road is unusual in that instead of following the natural ground surface, it appears to be atop a large berm, 10 to 20 feet above ground level on its southeast side, although the northwest edge of the road is not more than a foot or two above the adjacent ground surface. The construction, more substantial than what would be needed for fishing camp access, suggests the road was built as part of the reservoir construction.



Figure 16. The original entry road, with the 1953 USGS topo map for Casa Diablo as an overlay on Google Earth.

To test the validity of this idea, a digital image of a 1944 aerial photograph was obtained from the Map and Image Library of the University of California, Santa Barbara. This image shows a large cleared area, approximately 2,500 feet long by up to 1,000 feet wide, that stretches from the old road to the east-southeast. The area appears devoid of vegetation, and shadows on the clearing's southern edge suggest there was a deep cut there, now obliterated by the highway. Instead of being built atop a berm, the old main road was on the edge of a large excavated area. Some small features in the northern part of the clearing could be buildings or other structures, but the photo resolution isn't fine enough to tell for certain. Still, the 1944 aerial photograph does illustrate large-scale ground disturbance, most likely associated with the creation of the reservoir. The southern part of the Crowley Lake Fish Camp lease area may have been a borrow site for fill for dam construction.

The current irregularly rolling terrain indicates the cleared area was not completely flat. For some time after the lake was created in 1941, the southern part of the Crowley Lake Fish Camp lease area probably looked like a construction zone or quarry site, rather than the recreation area it is today.



Figure 17. Historic site CLFC-5, abandoned road segment, view to southwest.



Figure 18. Historic Site CLFC-5, abandoned road segment, view to northeast.



Figure 19. Portion of the 1944 aerial photograph. Note the clearing on the east edge of the road, indicated by large light-colored area. The shadow at the clearing's southern end indicates a cut deep enough to be discernible even at this resolution.

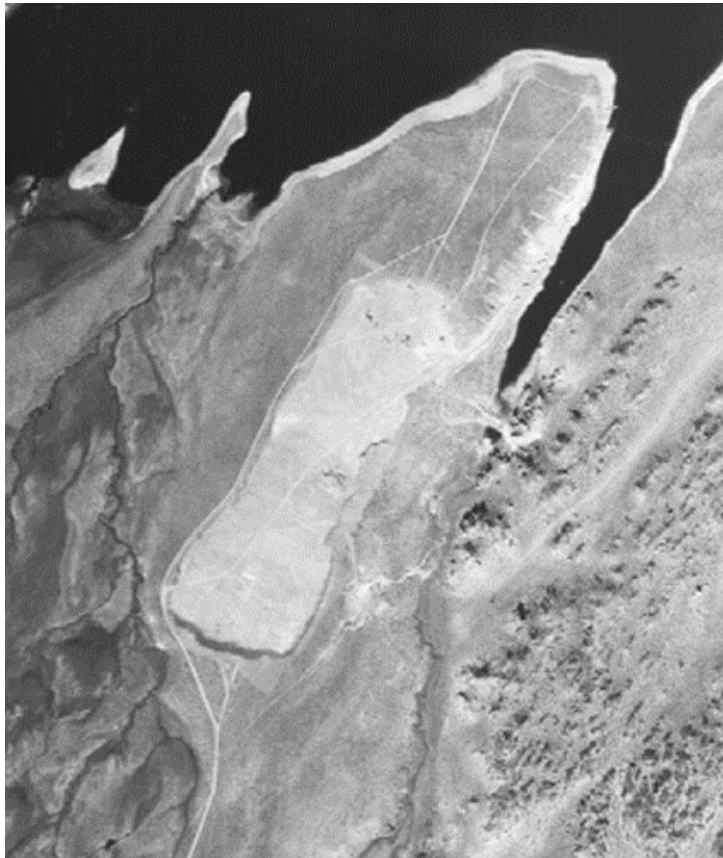


Figure 20. The 1944 aerial photograph superimposed on the 2016 Google Earth image. The northern end of the cleared area corresponds to a landform visible today as a swale, or low area with grass, shown in Figure 28, below.



Figure 21. View south from what would have been the northern end of the cleared area shown in the 1944 aerial photo. The irregular terrain here and continuing south indicates that the cleared area was not completely leveled during dam construction activities.

Isolates

Three prehistoric isolates and 17 historic isolates were noted and plotted. As mentioned under Survey Methods, above, there is scattered trash throughout the undeveloped parts of the lease area, attesting to the area's popularity for recreation. Isolated twentieth-century artifacts were not plotted, unless they were likely over 50 years old, but twentieth-century features such as mounds or in-place pipe were recorded as isolates. The mounds are likely remnants of the earth-moving that occurred when the dam was being constructed. Isolates of heavy-gauge cable or structural materials are also likely related to reservoir construction. Some of the mounds have a few nearby artifacts. Isolate "S," a wooden fishing bobber, is clearly related to Fish Camp activities.

Table 1. Isolates.*Gray shading indicates Native American artifact.*

Map #	Description
A	Obsidian flake (opaque dark gray, with inclusions) on rim of pit that contains the dump.
B	2 burnt fence posts with numerous nails
C	Biface, of weathered fine-grained rock, measuring 4 cm long by 2 cm wide by ½ cm thick, found about 10 m NW of road to dump/boneyard
D	Bulldozed mound, about 20' x 10' by 2' high, no artifacts
E	Obsidian flake (opaque grey biface retouch flake) at fire ring
F	Mound, ca. 20'x10' by 3' high, with trash, and adjacent hole-in-cap tin can with lap seams. Can is about 6" in diameter and 8" high, knife-opened. Mound is about 30m south of the south end of the beach parking area.
G	Mound (about 5'x6') and pit (about 4'x5'), no trash (prospect?)
H	Cross on hill, marked "Jesse Lorenz"
I	Sheet metal, 1 piece flat (ca. 30"x40"), 1 formed (see photo)
J	Small dump (~30' diameter) of concrete scraps (clinkers?), some brown ceramic insulator fragments, 1 "Coke" bottle fragment (warped), and a few clear glass fragments. About 20' from road., and 150' southeast of CLFC-1
K	Water pipe pounded into the ground, ~30 inches visible. Small segment of cable.
L	Mound, about 15'x20'x2' high, with cable, pipe, other metal, white electrical porcelain, and applied-color label bottle
M	Mound, about 25' diameter and up to 5' high, with trash including big cable, pipe, heavy metal strapping, a meat can, a "Mission" brand soda bottle base, a metal lid, and glass
N	Homemade pail made from a can (sanitary seal, roller-opened) 6" tall by 5.5" diameter, with wire looped through holes punched in either side near the top
O	Weathered lumber (some with curved cuts) in the northeast and east edges of the green swale at the northern end of the cut visible on the 1944 aerial photo
P	Semi-buried rusted water pipe, about 3" OD, about 2' exposed
Q	Mound (5' tall, 40'x20') with trash: cable, corrugated roofing, other big pieces of sheet metal
R	Trash scatter, with pipe fragments, tin can, asbestos (?) pipe fragments, corrugated metal, heavy-duty machine part, sheet metal with nails
S	Wooden fishing bobber
T	Loose concrete corner fragment inscribed "5" (or "S")



Figure 22, left. Hole-in-cap can at mound, Isolate F.



Figure 23, right. Isolate N, homemade pail.



Figure 24, left. Isolate M artifacts: meat can and "Mission" brand soda bottle base



Figure 25, right. Isolate S, wooden bobber. Trimble, for scale, is 5 x 3 inches.



Figure 26, Isolate O, lumber at the edge of the green swale.



Figure 28. Isolate K, water pipe pounded into the ground and small piece of cable.

Figure 27. Isolate H, "Jesse Lorenz" cross.



Figure 29. Isolate G, mound.



Building Descriptions

Because it has been in use for over 70 years, the Crowley Lake Fish Camp itself merits evaluation as a potential historic property, either as a whole (as a district or site), or in part, as individual buildings. The Mitigated Negative Declaration's Table 1 lists 35 facilities at Crowley Lake Fish Camp, including 29 existing and 6 proposed uses. The list is comprehensive, and includes gates, fencing, and water tanks as well as buildings. Some of the 29 existing facilities have multiple units: for example, #18, Existing Propane Gas Service Tanks, includes six tanks; #33, Floating Restrooms, includes up to five units. Of the existing facilities, most were added after the current owner acquired the lease in 1992, and thus are less than 25 years old.

Figure 30. Examples of some of the facilities added since 1992, clockwise from upper left: Tackle Shop; Boat and Marine Building; Pelican Point Grill; Park Model Cabin #2; Manager Home; Park Model Cabin #1.



Six cabins and one small “first aid” shack owned by LADWP were burned down from 1992 to 1995 because of Hantavirus contamination (Abbie Grooms Thomason, Fish Camp manager, personal communication 2017). The buildings added since 1992 are not old enough to be considered eligible for the California Register of Historical Resources, and they are not included in this evaluation.

In addition, two other wooden structures with wooden siding are located near the Boat and Marine Building. Each serves as a shade or cover for a metal shipping container used as a storage unit, and measures approximately 20 feet long by 8¼ feet wide, and about 8 feet high to the eaves. The vertical wood siding is composed of 1-by-12-inch boards which have the appearance of old wood. However, the tight build around the storage units and the shallow-pitched roofs with new metal sheathing indicate that the structures were custom-fit to the storage units, using wood recycled from other structures. Crowley Lake Fish Camp personnel consider the storage units to be temporary, movable storage. Although the recycled boards are likely more than 50 years old, the structures themselves are not, and they are not eligible for the California Register.



Figure 31. Metal shipping containers within old-wood shelters. Left: front, view toward southeast. Right, back, view toward northeast. Note how tightly the covering sheds fit the containers.

On the other hand, some of the structures were present when the current owner acquired the lease in 1992, and these were assessed to determine if they were close to 50 years old or older, and if so, whether they meet the criteria for listing on the California Register of Historical Resources. As identified in the draft Mitigated Negative Declaration and keyed to the site plan, these include:

- #8, Ramadas (2)
- #12, Domestic Well House
- #17, Fuel Facility and Fuel Tanks
- #21, Boathouse (storage)
- #30, Main Public Restroom Facility

Each is described below; age, integrity, and significance are considered in the following section. In addition, there are two small wooden cabins on the lease property that are not included in Table 1 of the Mitigated Negative Declaration because they are owned by LADWP, and are not part of the Crowley Lake Fish Camp lease. These are also described in this report, even though they are not included in, and would not be affected by, the proposed project.

#8, Ramadas

Two ramadas are located about 200 feet south of the lake shoreline, and about 300 feet and 400 feet west of the Boat and Marine Building. Each is constructed of six pillars of concrete formed in tubes, and a roof of peeled but unshaped logs. In plan, they measure 22 feet by almost 13 feet. Each pillar is 24 inches in diameter and extends approximately 7½ feet high, giving the ramadas a massive and somewhat industrial appearance. Logs of various sizes, up to 16 inches in diameter, form the roof. No evidence of recent use was noted.



Figure 32. Ramadas, view toward northeast.

#12, Domestic Well House

The well house, of concrete block, measures 7 feet 4 inches in plan, with an overhanging shallow gable roof framed in wood and covered in corrugated metal. The door, on the downhill side, is plywood.



Figure 33. Well House, view toward northeast.



Figure 34. Well House, view toward south.

#17, Fuel Facility and Fuel Tanks

The fuel facility, measuring 16 feet by 15¼ feet in plan, is a partially buried concrete block building with an overhanging gable roof. The roof peak is 5½ feet above ground level in the front, and more in the back, on the downslope side. The shallow-pitch gable roof is covered in asphalt shingles. The entryway is a wood frame door, measuring 4 feet high and 2½ feet wide, with hardware screen, and there are vents in both gable ends.



Figure 35. Fuel Facility, toward northwest.



Figure 36. Fuel Facility, view toward southeast.

#21, Boathouse/Storage Building

In the Mitigated Negative Declaration, the Boathouse/Storage building is described as a wood-framed one-story building on wood piers, with 588 square feet of interior space and a 140-square-foot deck. It is L-shaped in plan. Overall size is approximately 32 feet by 24 feet, with the north-south section 32 feet by 12 feet, and the east-west “wing” approximately 12 feet by 16 feet. The cross-gable shallow-pitched roof is covered in standing-seam metal roofing. Siding is horizontal tongue-in-groove boards, each 7 inches wide total, with 6½ inches exposed. Windows are aluminum sliders; doors include a multi-pane glass door and flush doors with a plywood veneer face. The wooden deck is about 12 feet by 12 feet, exterior dimensions, with a railing on three sides. Concrete steps lead to the back door. Although the windows, deck, roofing, and doors are new, the tongue-in-groove wood siding and the post-and-pier foundation could be characteristic of a 1950s or older building.



Figure 37. Boathouse/Storage Building, view toward south.



Figure 38. Boathouse/Storage Building, view toward northwest.



Figure 39. Boathouse/Storage Building, view toward northeast.

#30, Public Restroom

The public restroom is composed of concrete blocks, and has a shallow-pitched gable roof and both fixed windows and louvered vents. It is 36 feet long and 32 feet wide overall, and 8 feet high at its gable peak; “wings” on each side form entryways. The roof is wood-framed and covered with metal standing-seam roofing.



Figure 40. Public restroom, view toward northwest.



Figure 41. Public restroom, view toward southwest.



Figure 42. Public restroom, view toward south.

LADWP Buildings

Two structures owned by LADWP are within the lease area, but not part of the current project. They are described because their construction indicates they are clearly the oldest buildings in the lease area, although they both sit on what appear to be relatively new concrete foundations.

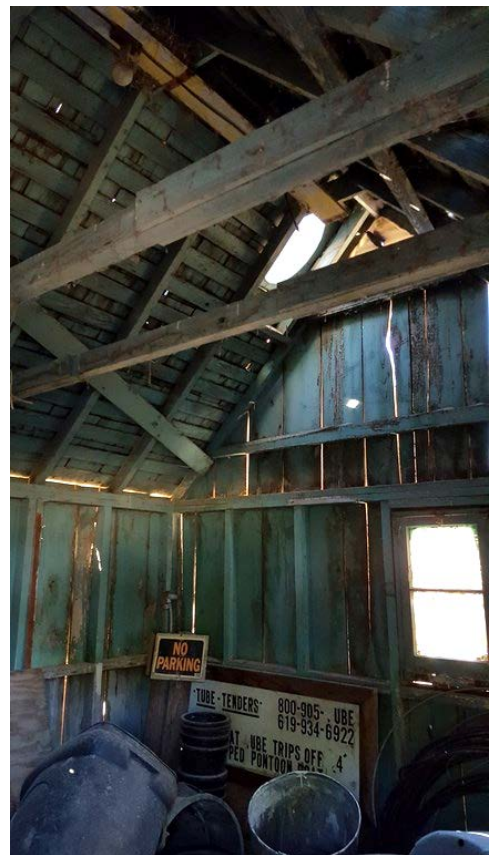
One is a small cabin, measuring about 13¼ feet by 11¼ feet, with a steep-pitched gable roof covered with wooden shingles. The cabin has vertical board-and-batten siding, with the boards 1 by 12 inches and the battens only 1½ inches by ¼ inch, more like lath or moulding than lumber. The boards are cut into V-shaped ends along the bottom above the foundation, and at the bottom of the gable ends, an unusual decorative touch on such a small building. There are triangular-shaped louvered vents at each gable peak.

There are a door and window on the front façade and windows on each end. Windows are 2-light, hopper windows (hinged at the bottom, opening inward). They have a chain to keep them from falling completely open, and a latch at the top to close. The windows have exterior operative shutters, and the door is paneled, with screen divided by a vertical mullion in the upper 3/5, and a solid (but deteriorated) wooden panel below.



Figure 43, above. LADWP cabin/shed, view to southeast. Figure 44, below right. Interior of cabin, showing scabbed ceiling joist and one of two chimney-type openings in the roof.

The building is framed with vertical studs augmented by horizontal cross pieces; some of the ceiling joists are scabbed together. The building is wired for electricity, with a light bulb at the center of its interior peak. The building now has a concrete floor and sits on a poured concrete foundation, up to three feet high on the back, downhill side. While the electricity, floor, and foundation are undoubtedly newer than the rest of the cabin, one unusual feature of the building appears to be original: there are two holes in the roof, one at either end, with short sections of pipe still extending above the roofline.



Directly to the south is the smaller LADWP building, which measures 9 feet by 7 feet in plan. It, too, is perched on the slope and supported by a concrete foundation, but its foundation is shorter and set back on the slope. Its roof is medium-pitched, and covered only with boards. It has a double door made of plywood on the south façade, and wooden window openings cut into the siding of the east and west gable ends. Like the larger structure, siding is board and batten, but without the V-shaped ends. It, too, is wired for electricity, with the power pole at its southwest corner.

Figure 45, right. Smaller LADWP building, view toward east. The end of the larger LADWP building is visible at the left edge of the photograph.



Figure 46, below. Smaller LADWP building center left, view toward northwest. Larger LADWP to right.



History of the Buildings

Although official records regarding the construction, modification, relocation, and removal of the various buildings and other facilities at Crowley Lake Fish Camp were not available for this report, a fair estimate of the history can be made using historic maps, aerial photographs, and photographs.

First, the 1944 aerial photograph shows an area cleared of vegetation in the southern part of the current lease area. As discussed above in the CLFC-5 site description, the depth of the cut visible along the edge of the cleared area indicates it was a borrow site for a substantial amount of fill, likely used in dam construction. There are also a few dark areas within the cleared area: these may be small buildings, other structures, or equipment. One or two of these possible structures are located near the scatter of structural debris and domestic trash recorded as CLFC-1. If indeed the cut is related to dam construction, it seems likely there would have been some structures or facilities present. However, none of dark areas match the locations of current buildings.

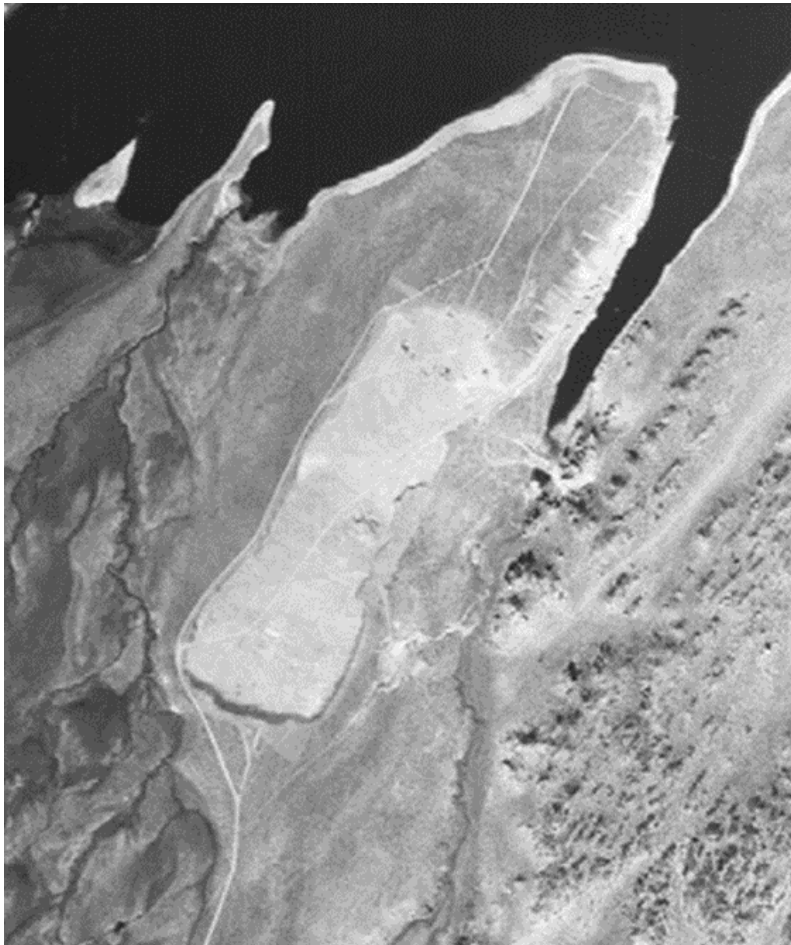


Figure 47. Detail of 1944 aerial photograph. The light area near the center of the frame is a large clearing and excavated area presumed to be related to dam construction. Dark areas within the clearing could be structures, but no structures are visible near current Crowley Lake Fish Camp buildings.

However, the 1953 USGS topographic map (at 1:62,500 scale) does depict four structures within the current Crowley Lake Fish Camp, one large and three small. We can approximate how the structure locations would fit today's terrain by overlaying the topo map with the Google Earth satellite photograph and aligning features known to be present in both images. That is, once we have fit the 1953 topo over the 2016 satellite photo so that Crowley Lake dam, Whisky and Hilton Creeks, the lake shoreline, and Crowley Lake Drive (former U.S. Highway 395) match up, we can see how close the 1953 buildings are to the current structures. Results need to be interpreted somewhat liberally, to account for the different original scales of the two images, potentially different lake levels, and possible errors and distortions in the overlay. However, the 1:62,500 USGS topographic maps accurately depicted buildings where there was sufficient room on the map.

Of the four buildings on the 1953 topo map, one (the largest) is approximately at the current location of Park Model Cabin Trailers 1 and 2 (facilities #5 and #6 in Table 1 of the Mitigated Negative Declaration). One building is shown between the current locations of the managers' residence and RV-trailer spaces 3 and 4. Therefore, both of these 1953-era buildings have been removed, possibly during the Hantavirus cleanup in the early 1990s. The third building shown on the 1953 map, however, is very close to the LADWP buildings ("shed" depicted on the Mitigated Negative Declaration plan map, but not listed in Table 1). The fourth building is located close to #21, the boathouse/storage building.



Figure 48. 1953 USGS 15-minute topographic map over the 2016 Google Earth satellite image.

To determine if the two buildings depicted on the 1953 topo map are the same as one of the LADWP sheds or the boathouse/storage building, we can examine two historic photographs on display at the Crowley Lake Fish Camp tackle shop. Neither photograph is dated, but their dates can be roughly estimated. In one, there are numerous cars, most of which appear to be models from the 1940s and early 1950s, suggesting the photo was taken early in the 1950s. Five buildings are visible, including the larger of the two LADWP cabins, complete with double chimneys. In the distance on the hill behind the LADWP cabin is a tall structure with no windows visible. Although the resolution is unclear, it looks like a grain silo or a water tank, or even an industrial facility related to the dam creation.

The 1950s photograph gives us an idea of what the early Fish Camp was like, with plenty of parking and five cabins with medium- to steep-pitched gable roofs (one with a cross gable), the shed-roofed boat house, and the tall silo-type structure on the hill. No docks are visible, but some boats appear to be launching directly from the shore. The photograph also shows one structure very close to the location of the current boathouse/storage building. However, that building does not match the current structure: the main part of the building in the photo has a shed roof, rather than a gable or cross-gable roof. A small gable-roof extension extends from the southern part of the building, but that extension does not appear to be equivalent to either part of the current boathouse.



Figure 49. Historic-period photograph of Crowley Lake Fish Camp, likely dating to the 1950s.



Figure 50. Similar view, June 2017.



Figure 51. Detail of Figure 60, shed-roofed boathouse near center of frame, one LADWP cabin immediately to right.



Figure 52. Detail of Figure 61, cross-gable-roofed boathouse near center of frame.

In the second historic photo, there are not many vehicles to suggest a date, but the vegetation has matured and the photo is in color, suggesting it was taken later, likely sometime in the 1970s. There is a building at the boathouse/storage building location with window spacing similar to that in the current boathouse, but the 1970s building is the same shape as the shed-roofed structure in the earlier photo. In addition, the 1970s building can be distinguished from the current structure by the location of the windows, which are lower in the façade facing Whisky Bay.

However, the public restroom, the well house, the ramadas, and both little LADWP cabins are visible in the second historic photo. The fuel facility, although it is of similar masonry block construction as the public restroom, is not present. Instead, there are seven other structures in the 1970s photo which have since been removed. One appears to be the tall structure visible in the earlier photo, but in this view, a medium-pitched gable-roofed building can be seen next to it. The location appears to be close to the current location of Park Model Cabin Trailers 1 and 2 (facilities #5 and #6 in Table 1 of the Mitigated Negative Declaration), and it may have been the large building depicted on the 1953 topo map.

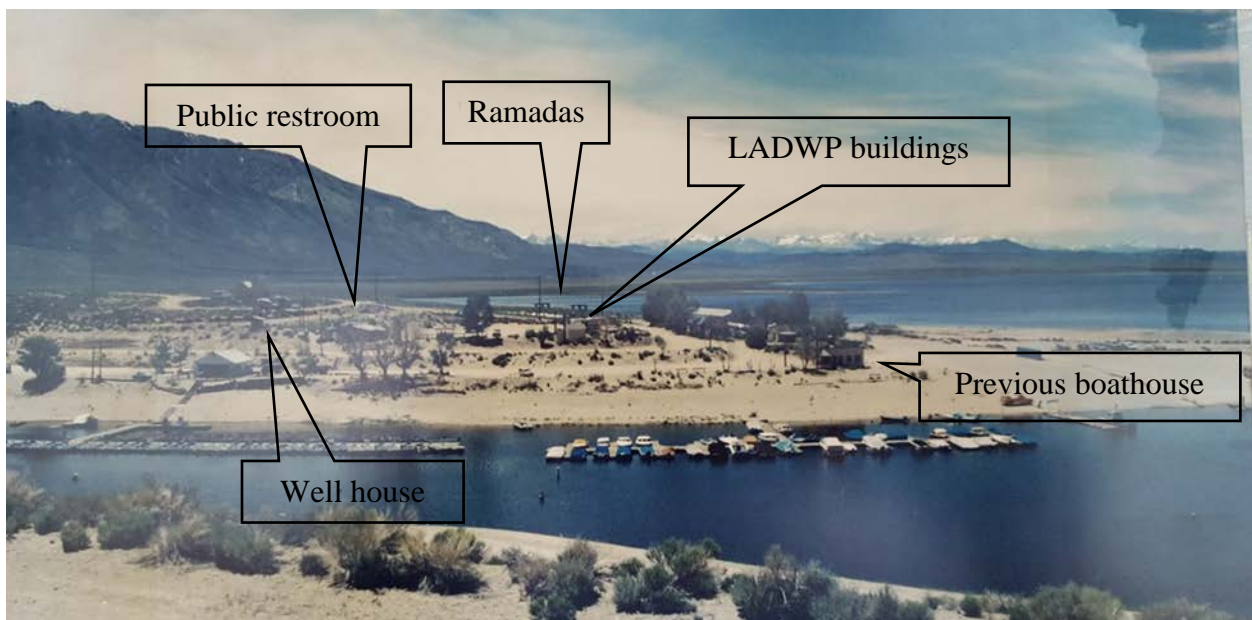


Figure 53. Photograph of Crowley Lake Fish Camp presumed to date to the 1970s. Tall structure with adjacent building with medium-pitched gable roof is located on the hill, behind the well house. Note that the well house has a shed roof. Large structure with light-colored roof to the right of the LADWP buildings is a warehouse that burned down in the 1990s. Several other structures, no longer present, are also depicted.

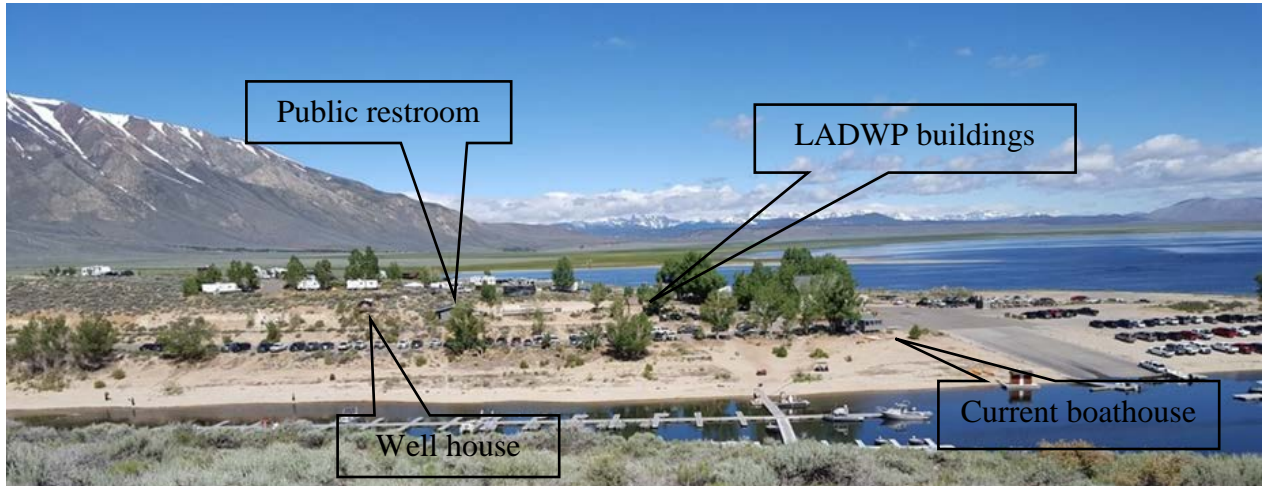


Figure 54. Similar view in June 2017. Several of the buildings visible in the earlier photograph are no longer present. The ramadas are present, but hidden by the trees.

The photographs indicate that the Crowley Lake Fish Camp has undergone numerous changes over the years. Based on construction details, the two small LADWP buildings are the oldest structures at the Fish Camp, likely built in the 1930s or even earlier. If they were part of the dam construction, however, they are not in their original locations, as indicated by the 1944 aerial photograph. The larger structure had been moved to its present location by the time of the 1950s photograph.

By the time the second photograph was taken, assumed to be in the 1970s, the fish-cleaning station, the public restroom, a well house, and the ramadas had been built, and the second LADWP shed had been moved to its current location. Three docks provide boat access and the current parking area is delineated. However, several structures in the 1970s photo are no longer present: three medium- to steep-gabled structures, the shed-roofed boathouse/storage building, a large warehouse-type structure, a new boathouse to the southeast of the restroom, and the “silo” with a gable-roofed structure adjacent. In addition, the well house of the 1970s has a shed roof that slopes down to the north, rather than the current gable roof, suggesting that the 1970s structure was replaced or rebuilt in the last 50 years.

The fuel storage facility was added sometime after the second photograph was taken. As mentioned above, six cabins and a first-aid shed were burned in the early 1990s because of Hantavirus contamination. The Fish Camp has continued to evolve, especially since 1992, when current owner John Fredrickson acquired the property. Most of the current structures date to the last 25 years. Vegetation has matured, and shrubs have filled in on the slopes.

Evaluation of Significance

Under the California Environmental Quality Act, environmental reviews must consider potential effects on at least two categories of cultural resources: properties listed on, or eligible for listing on, the California Register of Historical Resources; and unique archaeological resources. Under Assembly Bill 52, Tribal cultural resources are also considered during the CEQA review, if identified by a Tribe that has requested consultation on projects in the project area. Because no Tribe has requested consultation on Mono County's projects in Long Valley, this third category of cultural resource does not apply to the Crowley Lake Fish Camp project. The other two categories are discussed below.

California Register of Historical Resources

The California Register of Historical Resources includes buildings, sites, structures, objects, and historic districts (California Code of Regulations Title 14, Section 4852). Cultural resources may be eligible for listing on the California Register if they meet one or more of the following criteria:

1. Are associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of local or regional history or the cultural heritage of California or the United States.
2. Are associated with the lives of persons important to local, California or national history.
3. Embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region or method of construction or represents the work of a master or possesses high artistic values.
4. Have yielded, or have the potential to yield, information important to the prehistory or history of the local area, California, or the nation.

Resources eligible for the California Register must also possess integrity:

Integrity is the authenticity of a historical resource's physical identity evidenced by the survival of characteristics that existed during the resource's period of significance. ... Integrity is evaluated with regard to the retention of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association. It must also be judged with reference to the particular criteria under which a resource is proposed for eligibility. (California Office of Historic Preservation 2011)

Because the California Register can include sites, buildings, and districts, eligibility needs to be considered at those three different scales. First, do the individual sites (CLFC-1 through CLFC-5) meet the criteria and integrity guidelines?

Archaeologists usually evaluate "prehistoric" or Native American archaeological sites against criterion 4. All three prehistoric sites (CLFC-2, -3, and -4) have the potential to yield information important in the prehistory of Long Valley and the eastern Sierra. All three sites contain flaked obsidian, which can provide chronometric data about when the site was created and occupied. Further, determining where the obsidian came from, through source analysis, can help define trade and travel routes, or tool manufacturing trends. One of the sites also includes

ground stone, and may therefore provide additional information about food gathering and subsistence. However, all three sites are small and sparse, and it is unknown whether they contain additional cultural material subsurface. Archaeological testing could more definitively determine whether they have sufficient data potential to meet criterion 4, or characteristics that would indicate eligibility under the other criteria. However, CEQA guidelines allow for potentially eligible sites to be treated as eligible during environmental reviews, so archaeological sites CLFC-2, -3, and -4 are considered eligible for the purposes of CEQA compliance for the Crowley Lake Fish Camp Project.

CLFC-1 is also potentially eligible for the California Register of Historical resources under criterion 4. If the trash scatter is associated with a dam-construction work camp and was once associated with a building, it could have potential to provide information about the organization of labor and workers' lives, especially as compared to other LADWP camps (Van Bueren 2002). Evidence of a structure foundation and additional artifacts may be buried.

CLFC-5, the abandoned road, does not appear to be eligible under any of the criteria. It was likely constructed as part of the Long Valley dam work, which was an important event in regional history (criterion 1). However, its association with the dam is peripheral, as an access route not to the dam, but to a separate construction zone. Other features, such as the dam and the lake itself, are more representative and more clearly associated with the reservoir. There is no known association of the abandoned road segment with the lives of persons important in California history (criterion 2), nor does it embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, region, or method of construction, represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic values (criterion 3). Without associated features or artifacts, the road does not appear to have potential to yield information important in history, beyond that already recorded (criterion 4).

Second, at a slightly larger geographic scale, does the Crowley Lake Fish Camp meet the California Register criteria, as a site or district? The Fish Camp as a whole has been in use for over 70 years, so it meets the 50-year minimum age criterion. It is associated with an event important in regional history: the creation of Crowley Lake, which facilitates the transfer of water from the eastern Sierra to Los Angeles, and the resulting shift in Long Valley's economy from ranching and farming to recreation. The period of significance, therefore, would be the Fish Camp at its initial stages, in the 1940s and 1950s, when it was converted from a construction site to an area repurposed for recreational fishing.

However, the Fish Camp as a whole does not retain sufficient integrity to convey that period of significance. It has undergone several transformations in the past 50 years, including the burning and removal of most of the original cabins. Most of the buildings now present are less than 25 years old; buildings and other features that could be 50 years old, such as the boathouse, ramadas, and the public restroom, are dispersed throughout the site and do not convey the sense of a historic fishing camp. There is no known association with an important person in California history (criterion 2), nor does the Fish Camp embody the distinctive characteristics of a type,

period, region or method of construction, or represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic values (criterion 3). It does not have the potential to yield information important in history (criterion 4).

Third, do any of the buildings at Crowley Lake Fish Camp meet the California Register criteria, as individual buildings? The buildings that may be 50 or more years old include the public restroom, the boathouse, the two LADWP buildings, and the two ramadas.. Although the individual buildings are, of course, associated with the Fishing Camp, none conveys the sense of a historical fishing camp individually, and are not considered eligible under criterion 1. There is no known association between a building and an important person in California history (criterion 2). Although the boathouse/storage building's siding is likely more than 50 years old, the building was moved to its current location sometime after the 1970s. Further, the aluminum slider windows and modern doors diminish its historical integrity. Likewise, the smaller DWP building was moved to its current location less than 50 years ago. The only building that may embody the distinctive characteristics of a type or method of construction (criterion 3) is the larger LADWP shed. Although it appears to have been moved to its current location to serve the Fish Camp, the move itself was over 50 years ago, as evidenced by its presence in the 1950s photograph. However, further research would be needed to determine the original function and "type" of that building. Further research would also be needed to determine whether it has potential to yield information important in history (criterion 4).

Unique Archaeological Resources

The California Public Resources Code 21083.2(g) provides the definition for a "unique archaeological resource" as an archaeological artifact, object, or site about which it can be clearly demonstrated that, without merely adding to the current body of knowledge, there is a high probability that it meets any of the following criteria:

- (1) Contains information needed to answer important scientific research questions and that there is a demonstrable public interest in that information.
- (2) Has a special and particular quality such as being the oldest of its type or the best available example of its type.
- (3) Is directly associated with a scientifically recognized important prehistoric or historic event or person.

None of the archaeological sites or other cultural resources at the Crowley Lake Fish Camp meets any of these criteria.

Conclusions and Recommendations

Four of the five archaeological sites (CLFC-1 through CLFC-4) should be treated as eligible for the California Register of Historical Resources. However, none would be affected by the proposed project: CLFC-1, -3, -4, and -5 are well away from the areas of proposed development, and away from existing uses that are being reviewed by Mono County. CLFC-2 is located close to the boat and trailer storage area, but no ground disturbance or modifications are proposed for that area. The four archaeological sites that are potentially eligible for the California Register of Historical Resources (CLFC-1, -2, -3, and -4) require no further consideration under CEQA for the Mitigated Negative Declaration, but should be considered in future planning. The on-site presence of Crowley Lake Fish Camp personnel is considered a beneficial condition, discouraging unauthorized artifact collection or looting. If future development plans include the site areas, a more formal evaluation of the sites, including subsurface testing, would be necessary.

Likewise, the proposed project would have no effect on historic buildings. The only building potentially eligible for the California Register is the larger of the two cabins owned by LADWP, which is not included in the project.

Because of previous disturbance, it is not likely that archaeological, paleontological, or historical features would be encountered during any of the ground disturbance associated with the proposed project. As always, if any human burials are encountered, work in that area must cease and the immediate area secured, so that the lead agency can contact the county coroner and, if appropriate, interested Tribes and the Native American Heritage Commission.

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