



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
SOUTH PACIFIC DIVISION
450 GOLDEN GATE AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO CALIFORNIA 94102-3661

CESPD-Z

14 February 2022

MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Stand-Alone Traditional Navigable Water Determination, Walker Lake in Nevada.

1. On 19 December 2021 the Sacramento District submitted a report of findings and District Counsel opinion pursuant to applicable guidance. Sacramento District found that Walker Lake was used in the past in interstate or foreign commerce within the meaning of 33 CFR §328.3(a)(1). Based on these findings, the Sacramento District recommended that the South Pacific Division determine Walker Lake to be a Traditional Navigable Water (TNW) pursuant to 33 CFR §328.3(a)(1).
2. The term Traditional Navigable Waters, as used here, are those waters described at 33 CFR §328.3(a)(1): all waters which are currently used, or were used in the past, or may be susceptible to use in interstate or foreign commerce, including all waters which are subject to the ebb and flow of the tide.
3. For more than a century Walker Lake was used in interstate or foreign commerce in several capacities including passenger, freight and construction material transport, commercial trout fishing, commercial carp fishing, and organized boat racing. From the 1860s to the 1890s small steamers transported people and freight as part of a toll road connecting the mines south of the lake with the railroads to the north. From the 1870s to the 1920s, trout were commercially harvested. After the completion of the Carson and Colorado Railroad in 1881, much of this trout was transported by rail by Paiute tribe members to markets in towns along the railroads. Boats were used to transport people, supplies, mail, equipment, and ore across Walker Lake from the mining camps on the west shore to the railroad on the east shore during a 1906-1907 mining rush caused by the removal of Walker Lake from the Walker River Indian Reservation. During highway construction along the west shore of the lake in 1919-1921, boats were again used to transport materials, equipment, and supplies from the railroad along the east shore to the construction camps on the west shore. From the late 1920s to the late 1940s Walker Lake was used for commercial carp fishing with the carp shipped by rail to out-of-state markets. In the late 1940s and again from the 1960s to 1991, Walker Lake was used for organized boat racing events. Participants came from across the country to compete for substantial prize money.
4. Based on the historical documentation of past commercial use, the South Pacific Division determines that Walker Lake is a Traditional Navigable Water pursuant to the Clean Water Act and 33 CFR §328.3(a)(1).

Antoinette R. Gant Digitally signed by Antoinette R. Gant
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