



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY ENGINEER DISTRICT, SACRAMENTO
CORPS OF ENGINEERS
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SACRAMENTO, CALIFORNIA 95814-2922

Environmental Resources Branch

DRAFT FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT
Water Control Manual Deviation at Lake Success

I have reviewed and evaluated the information presented in this Environmental Assessment (EA) prepared for the Water Control Manual Deviation at Lake Success in Tulare County, as authorized by the Flood Control Act of 1944 (Public Law 78-534). If granted by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, this deviation would allow the Tule River Association to construct a barrier across the Success Lake spillway to increase the reservoir pool storage, which would prevent the downstream flooding of up to 25,000 acres of farmland in the Tulare Lakebed region. The proposed plan would provide an additional 10,000 acre-feet of flood control space at Success Dam for the current snowmelt season. This would be accomplished through the construction of a temporary six foot barricade of the spillway. The barricade would be constructed of sandbags and would allow water to be stored up to four feet above the spillway crest. Reservoir releases would be managed to allow for the reduction of damaging flows to the Tulare Lakebed. The deviation would last approximately 90 days beginning in May 2017.

The possible consequences of the work described in the EA have been studied with consideration to environmental, socioeconomic, cultural, and engineering feasibility. I have considered the views of other interested agencies, organizations, and individuals. The environmental effects have been coordinated with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and the California State Historic Preservation Officer. Best management practices, avoidance protocols, and minimization measures would be used during the water control manual deviation to reduce effects related to sensitive biological resources, cultural resources, recreation, and traffic.

Based on my review of the EA and my knowledge of the project area, I have determined that the proposed water control manual deviation would have no significant, long-term effects on environmental or cultural resources. Based on these considerations, I am convinced that there is no need to prepare an environmental impact statement. Therefore, an EA and Finding of No Significant Impact provide adequate environmental documentation for the proposed action. This concludes the National Environmental Policy Act process for this project.

Date

David G. Ray, P.E.
Colonel, U.S. Army
District Commander