



EDMUND G. BROWN JR.
GOVERNOR



MATTHEW RODRIGUEZ
SECRETARY FOR
ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board

Greg Krzys
Department of the Army
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District
1325 J Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-2922

24 October 2016

PUBLIC NOTICE

Enclosed is a copy of a Public Notice (Notice) concerning the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board's intent, as the Lead California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Agency, to rely on National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) documents to satisfy CEQA compliance for the Isabella Lake Dam Safety Modification Project. By law, the enclosed Public Notice must be circulated in the same manner as a notice of public availability of a draft Environmental Impact Report under Section 15087 of the CEQA Guidelines. In this case, that means the Notice must be sent to all interested parties who previously requested notice on the original environmental document and, for at least 30 days, be posted in the office of the county clerk of each county in which the project will be located.

Additionally, the Notice must be given by one of the following:

- By publication of the Notice at least one time by the public agency in a newspaper of general circulation in the area;
- Posting of the Notice by the public agency on and off the site in the area where the project is located; or
- Direct mailing to the owners or occupants of property contiguous to the parcel or parcels on which the project is located.

The Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board cannot act on your Clean Water Act Section 401 application until CEQA has been satisfied. In order to expedite the process, we are requesting the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to complete the entire Public Noticing process described above and to provide this office Proof of Posting, using the enclosed form.

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Debra Mahnke at debra.mahnke@waterboards.ca.gov or at (559) 445-6281.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matthew S. Scroggins".

MATTHEW S. SCROGGINS
Senior Engineer

Enclosure

cc: see following page

KARL E. LONGLEY ScD, P.E., CHAIR | PAMELA C. CREEDON P.E., BCEE, EXECUTIVE OFFICER

1685 E Street, Fresno, CA 93706 | www.waterboards.ca.gov/centralvalley

cc: Joe Morgan, Wetlands Regulatory Office, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Region 9, San Francisco (email)
Kate Dadey, Chief, Sacramento South Branch, Regulatory Unit, Department of the Army, Corps of Engineers, Sacramento
Bill Orme, Water Quality Certification Unit Chief, Division of Water Quality, State Water Resources Control Board, Sacramento (email)
Julie Vance, Regional Manager, San Joaquin Valley-Southern Sierra Region, California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Fresno
Kern County Department of Public Works
Kern County Native American Contact List

CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
CENTRAL VALLEY REGION
1685 E Street, Fresno, CA 93706

INTENT TO RELY ON NEPA DOCUMENTS

Project Title: Isabella Lake Dam Safety Modification Project

Project Location: Lake Isabella, Kern County

Project Description: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), Sacramento District has determined that the Isabella Dam facilities require structural improvements in order to safely meet authorized project purposes and to reduce risk to the public and property from dam safety issues posed by floods, earthquakes, and seepage. The proposed project includes raising the crest of the Main Dam, improving the existing spillway, constructing a new 900-foot emergency spillway, modifications to the auxiliary dam, and removal of the Borel Canal conduit.

The Corps will ensure that the project complies with the Federal Clean Water Act, including Section 404(b)(1) and Section 401. Some placement of fill within jurisdictional wetlands and waters of the United States is required for the project. This is detailed in the Section 404(b)(1) Water Quality Evaluation that has been conducted. A Section 401 State Water Quality Certification for activities associated with implementation of the proposed project is required and the Corps will submit a 401 certification application (including the 404 (b)(1)) to the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (Central Valley Water Board), the issuance of which is subject to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).

The Corps, as Lead Agency under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), prepared an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) and five Supplemental Environmental Assessments (SEAs) for the Isabella Dam Safety Modification Project and circulated them for public comment. Based on the EIS, the SEAs, and the comments received, James C. Daulton, P.E., Dam Safety Officer, approved a Record of Decision (ROD) for the proposed project on 15 December 2012, and issued a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for each of the five SEAs. The FONSI were issued on 14 August 2014, 4 June 2015, 8 February 2016, 22 April 2016, and 6 October 2016.

Pursuant to CEQA Guidelines section 15220 and following, the Central Valley Water Board, as Lead Agency under CEQA, has determined that the EIS prepared by the Corps meets the requirements of CEQA. Accordingly, the Central Valley Water Board proposes to use the EIS and SEAs instead of preparing a separate CEQA document. This public notice is being circulated pursuant to section 15225 of the CEQA Guidelines.

The EIS and ROD, and the SEAs and FONSI are available online at:
<http://www.spk.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Isabella-Dam/>

Anyone having questions on this proposed action should contact Debra Mahnke at (559) 445-6281 or at debra.mahnke@waterboards.ca.gov. Please bring the above information to the attention of anyone who would be interested in this matter.



CLAY L. RODGERS, Assistant Executive Officer

Dated: 24 October 2016