



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, SACRAMENTO DISTRICT
1325 J STREET
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814-2922

CESPK-PD

SEP 26 2019

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES:

Following the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), a draft Environmental Assessment (EA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the Success Dam, Tule River Basin, California; Tule River Spillway Enlargement Project, Road Relocation and Right Abutment Spillway Cut in Tulare County has been prepared and is now available for public review and comment.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) is proposing a Right Abutment Spillway Cut to widen the Success Dam Emergency Spillway and relocate the existing road from the spillway to a bench on the right abutment of the spillway. The proposed action in this EA would support downstream flood risk reduction and storage for irrigation water supply. This construction is part of the Success Dam, Tule River Basin, California; Tule River Spillway Enlargement Project that was authorized for construction in the Water Resources Development Act (WRDA) of 1999, Public Law No. 106-53, Section 101, 113 Stat. 279. This project would be implemented in two phases.

This draft EA only covers Phase 1. Phase 1 would include the spillway widening and associated road relocation. This phase will incorporate blasting and mechanical means to remove and relocate the debris to stockpiles for later use or disposal. The new road bed will be incorporated into the new right bank abutment, removing it from the spillway. The need to re-initiate consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) is based on the change in design, as the abutment cut and road relocation were not evaluated in the previous 1999 Final Environmental Impact Statement/Final Environmental Impact Report, or the 1999 USFWS Biological Opinion. Due to the timing of the construction schedule, the Corps and the USFWS agreed to have separate EAs and Biological Assessments prepared for each phase so that Phase 1 could be started at an earlier date, January 2020. Phase 2 will cover the construction of the Spillway Raise of the Tule River Spillway Enlargement Project.

This draft EA provides full public disclosure of the environmental effects of the project alternatives and offers an opportunity for public and agency involvement, as well as comment. No significant effects on environmental or cultural resources were identified as a result of the proposed action. Accordingly, a FONSI is appropriate and a draft FONSI is included with the draft EA.

The draft EA will be available for download on September 27, 2019, at the websites below. In addition, hard copies of the draft EA are available for review at the Corps office at Lake Success, 29330 State Highway 190, Porterville, CA 93257.
<https://www.spk.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Tule-River-Spillway-Enlargement-Project-Success-Dam/>

<https://www.spk.usace.army.mil/Media/USACE-Project-Public-Notices/>

A public meeting will be held to present an overview of the Success Dam, Tule River Basin, California; Tule River Spillway Enlargement Project, Road Relocation and Right Abutment Spillway Cut and the NEPA process, and to afford all interested parties an opportunity to provide comments on the proposed action. The public meeting will be held at the Porterville Veterans Memorial Building, 1900 W Olive Ave, Porterville, CA, on October 8, 2019, from 4 to 7 pm.

The public review period for the draft EA will end on October 27, 2019. All comments received on the draft document will be considered and incorporated into the final EA, as appropriate. Please send any comments to: U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District, Attn: Dr. Yari Johnson (CESPK-PDR-P), 1325 J Street, Sacramento, CA 95814. If you have any questions, Dr. Johnson can be reached at (916) 557-6937 or email: Yari.B.Johnson@usace.army.mil.

Sincerely,



Mark T. Ziminske
Chief, Environmental Resources Branch