



Action Item

13. Consider adoption of Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration for Los Padres Dam Outlet Modifications Including Adoption of CEQA Findings and Mitigation Measures

Meeting Date: August 21, 2023
Staff contact: Maureen Hamilton

Introduction

- California American Water (Cal-Am) is proposing to modify the existing low-level regulating outlet (980') at Los Padres Dam and Reservoir
- The three primary goals of the project are:
 - Meet California Department of Water Resources Division of Safety of Dams mandated requirement to drain the reservoir in case of an emergency
 - Supply water to the Carmel River during low-flow summer months to meet instream flow requirements
 - Restore water supply to the existing fish trap and ladder

Project Need

- In 2018, 2019, and 2020 rockslides on the side of the reservoir have covered the lower level (980') outlet with mud, rock and debris.
- The capacity to release water from the 980' outlet to the river has been reduced to 1 to 3 cubic feet per second (cfs) versus an operating flow of 10 to 15 cfs and a maximum of 30 to 50 cfs



Project Need



■ Purpose of Initial Study

- The California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requires a public agency to review the potential effects of a proposed project's actions on environmental resources.
- The Initial Study (IS) is the first step to determine if the proposed action may have a significant environmental effect
- Based on the IS a Mitigated Negative Declaration was prepared
- After a 30-day public review period the lead agency (MPWMD) considers the MND/comments before approving

Board CEQA Role

- The Board of Directors is acting as an independent body to consider all information in the record including:
 - Draft-Final Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration
 - CDFW written comments and MPWMD responses
 - Additional written or oral comments received at the Public Hearing
- Recommended action would make a determination that the Project will not have a significant effect on the environment with proposed mitigation measures

Significant Impact Categories

- Biological Resources
- Geology/Soils
- Hazards & Hazardous Materials
- Wildfire



Biological Resources Mitigations Include:

- Minimal footprint
- In-water work and vegetation disturbance windows
- Surveys, avoidance, monitor, relocation
- Isolate in-water work areas and relocate fish
- Disease prevention
- Construction hours
- Worker training
- Disturbed areas' restoration



Hazardous Materials and Wildfire Mitigations Include:

- Fire extinguishers
- Daily fire prevention and suppression drills
- Properly stored flammable materials
- Properly store temporary electrical equipment
- Power equipment dust collecting apparatus
- Dry grass control
- No smoking

Geology/Soils and Wildfire Mitigations Include:

- Slope stabilization
- Minimize vegetation removal
- Prohibit parking and staging on slopes
- Park on engineered roads during and after rain events
- Landslide hazard and emergency response education
- Landslide warning system



Recommendations


1. Address additional written or oral comments received at the Public Hearing
2. Adopt CEQA Findings
3. Adopt Resolution 2023-12 adopting the IS/MND and MMRP, and approving the Project
4. Direct staff to file a Notice of Determination of approval of the Project



FOR MORE INFORMATION

District website:

www.mpwmd.net



PowerPoint presentations will be
posted on the website the day
after the meeting

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