



#### **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

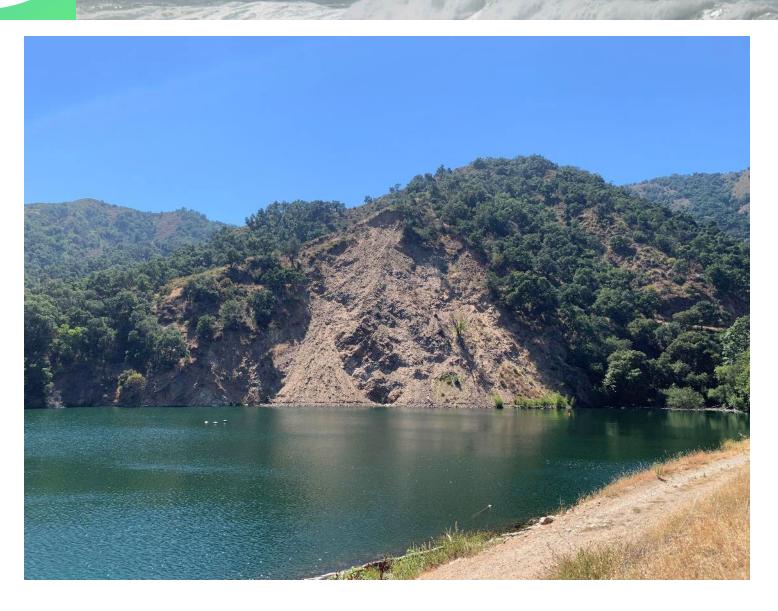


- In 2018, 2019, and 2020 rockslides on the side of the reservoir have covered the lower level (980') outlet with mud, rock and debris.
- The capacity to release water from the 980' outlet to the river has been reduced to 1 to 3 cubic feet per second (cfs) versus an operating flow of 10 to 15 cfs and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



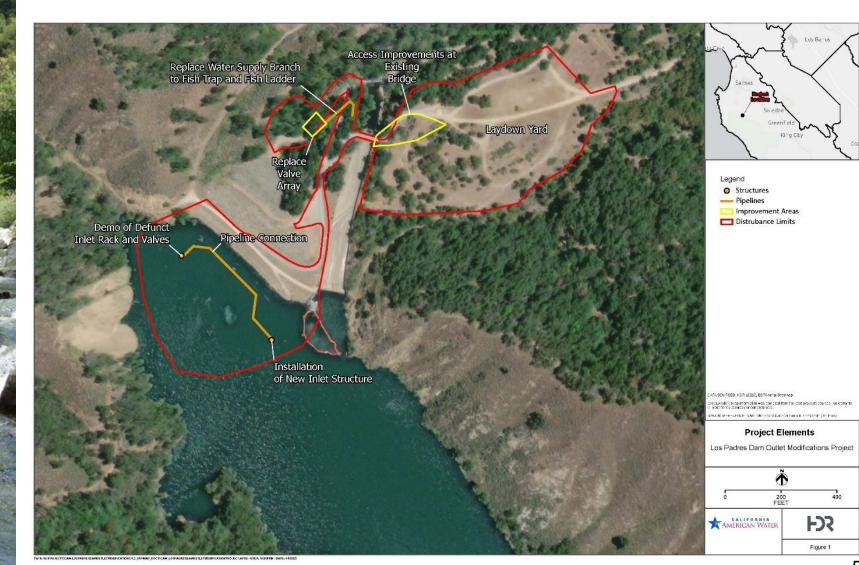
## Project Need







## Project Description





### Background



#### 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



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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