

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

1416 NINTH STREET, P.O. BOX 942836
SACRAMENTO, CA 94236-0001
(916) 653-5791



May 21, 2020

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Ms. Justina Gamboa-Arce
Imperial Irrigation District
333 East Barioni Boulevard
Imperial, California 92251

MAY 26 2020

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Draft Environmental Impact Report
East Highline Reservoir and Intake Channel Project
SCH# 2019011070
Imperial County

Dear Ms. Gamboa-Arce:

The Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD) has reviewed the Draft Environment Impact Report (DEIR) for the East Highline Reservoir and Intake Channel Project prepared by the Imperial Irrigation District (IID). This project includes the construction of the East Highline Reservoir with a capacity of 3,400 acre-feet.

As defined in sections 6002 and 6003, Division 3, of the California Water Code, dams higher than six feet with a storage capacity of 50 acre-feet or more are subject to State jurisdiction. The dam height is the vertical distance measured from the maximum possible water storage level to the downstream toe of the barrier. The exemption for agricultural dams in Water Code section 6004(a) is very limited, as discussed in previous correspondence.

The project description in the DEIR indicates that the reservoir impoundment will be created by a combination of an excavation below grade and construction of an earthen embankment. Generally, excavations below grade are not considered in determining the dam height for jurisdictional determinations, if the water stored below grade cannot be released during a failure scenario involving the full breach of the embankment. Since the DEIR does not contain enough information to determine the dam height, IID must submit preliminary plan sheets with a plan view and cross sections of the proposed reservoir project to DSOD so that we can make a jurisdictional determination.

If the dam is subject to state jurisdiction for dam safety, a construction application, together with plans, specifications, and the appropriate filing fee, must be filed with DSOD for this project. All dam safety-related issues must be resolved prior to the approval of the application, and the work must be performed under the direction of a Civil Engineer registered in California. Erik Malvick, our Design Engineering Branch Chief, is responsible for the application process.

Ms. Gamboa-Arce

May 21, 2020

Page 2

If you have any questions or need additional information, you may contact Mr. Malvick at (916) 565-7840 or me at (916) 565-7800.

Sincerely,



Sharon K. Tapia, Chief
Division of Safety of Dams

cc: Governor's Office of Planning and Research
State Clearinghouse
state.clearinghouse.opr.ca.gov

Mr. Henry Martinez, General Manager
Imperial Irrigation District
333 East Barioni Boulevard
Imperial, California 92251

Ms. Tina Shields, Water Department Manager
Imperial Irrigation District
333 East Barioni Boulevard
Imperial, California 92251

Mr. Vincent L. Brooke, General Superintendent
System Conservation Programs
Water Engineering Services
Imperial Irrigation District
333 East Barioni Boulevard
Imperial, California 92251

Ms. Lori Brock, Senior Staff Counsel
Office of the Chief Counsel
Department of Water Resources
Post Office Box 942836
Sacramento, California 95814