

**DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES**

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



**NOTICE OF THE AVAILABILITY  
OF THE  
B.F. SISK DAM SAFETY OF DAMS MODIFICATION PROJECT  
DRAFT SUPPLEMENTAL ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT  
(State Clearinghouse No. 2009091004)**

Notice is hereby given that a Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) prepared by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) Division of Operations and Maintenance, Environmental Assessment Branch has been released for a 45-day public review.

**Project Title:** B.F. Sisk Dam Safety of Dams Modification Project

**Project Summary, Background, and Impacts:** The project includes making improvements to the downstream side of the existing B.F. Sisk Dam at San Luis Reservoir to enhance its stability and reduce the potential for seismic-induced slumping of the dam to occur. The project would also increase the crest height of the dam to reduce the potential for water in the reservoir to overtop the dam if slumping of the dam were to occur as a result of a seismic event. The project would not increase the storage of San Luis Reservoir. DWR certified an Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) (State Clearinghouse No. 2009091004) for the project and approved the project in 2019. Subsequent to certification of the EIS/EIR, several modifications to the project have been made and a Draft SEIR has been prepared to analyze the environmental effects of these project modifications. In summary, modifications to the project evaluated by the SEIR include:

- New impact areas associated with development of a new permanent public campground on the northwestern shore of O'Neill Forebay;
- Modifications to the public San Luis Creek Day Use Area on the shore of O'Neill Forebay;
- The addition of two on-site borrow areas as sources of earth fill material for the proposed dam improvements;
- Minor expansion of contractor work areas that were not identified in the 2019 EIS/EIR; and
- Modifications to construction assumptions.

The 2019 EIS/EIR identified significant and unavoidable impacts related to contribution to cumulative air quality impacts, temporary interruptions of water supply, and noise during construction. Analysis of project modifications included in the Draft SEIR identified no new significant and unavoidable impacts that were not identified by the certified 2019 EIS/EIR.

**Location:** The project is located in western Merced County, on the west side of California's Central Valley, approximately 9 miles west of the City of Los Banos on State Route 152 (refer to the attached location figure).

**Review:** The 45-day public review period for this Draft SEIR begins June 15, 2021, and ends July 29, 2021. The Draft SEIR can be reviewed at the following website: <https://water.ca.gov/News/Public-Notices>

Paper copies of the Draft SEIR are available for review during normal business hours at:

California Department of Water Resources  
San Luis Field Division  
31770 Gonzaga Road  
Gustine, California 95322

California Department of Water Resources  
Operations and Maintenance Headquarters  
1416 9th Street, Room 604  
Sacramento, California 95814

**Submittal of Comments:**

Comments regarding the Draft SEIR should be submitted in writing to:

Sara Paiva-Lowry  
California Department of Water Resources  
P.O. Box 942836  
Sacramento, California 94236-0001

or via email at [swpdamsafety@water.ca.gov](mailto:swpdamsafety@water.ca.gov)

**Comments are due no later than 5 p.m. local time on July 29, 2021.**

**If comments are provided via email, please include the project title in the subject line, attach comments in Microsoft Word format, and include the commenter's U.S. Postal Service mailing address.**

**PRIVACY NOTE:** All comments received will be made available for public review in their entirety, including the names and addresses of the respondents. Individual respondents may request that their name and/or address be withheld from public disclosure. DWR will honor such requests to the extent allowable by law. If you wish us to withhold your name and/or address, you must state this prominently at the beginning of your comment.

