

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

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(916) 653-5791



December 21, 2020

Mr. Mike Turrentine
Grapevine Land Management
Post Office Box 12958
San Luis Obispo, California 93406

North Fork Ranch Frost Pond #1 Dam, Proposed
North Fork Ranch Frost Pond #2 Dam, Proposed
North Fork Ranch Frost Pond #3 Dam, Proposed
Santa Barbara County

Dear Mr. Turrentine:

This is in reply to a letter from Mr. Brian Tetley of Rural Planning Services dated March 5, 2020, transmitting conceptual drawings for the proposed construction of North Fork Ranch Frost Ponds 1, 2 and 3. A jurisdictional determination was requested from the Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD) for each proposed reservoir.

Pursuant to Division 3, Part 1, Chapter 1, Section 6002 of the California Water Code, a dam that is less than 25-feet high and has a storage capacity less than 50 acre-feet is not under State jurisdiction with respect to dam safety. DSOD has completed its review of the submitted information and has determined that the three reservoirs will not be under State jurisdiction based on their proposed heights and storage capacities.

It is good practice to meet or exceed minimum standards for dam safety regardless of jurisdictional status. DSOD notes that small diameter spillway pipes are prone to blockage, and it is standard practice for spillway pipes to be at least 24-inch diameter. Further, the plans propose to use anti-seepage collars surrounding the inflow and spillway conduits. Seepage collars have been out of the standard of practice for dams and embankments since the 1980's. They have contributed to numerous seepage and piping induced embankment failures resulting from the challenge of achieving adequate compaction and quality control around them. We would strongly encourage the that engineers consider larger diameter spillway pipes and an alternative means of seepage control, such as a filter diaphragm, to meet current dam safety standards.

Lastly, we note that the outlet pipe is not a gravity outlet, which would allow for discharges to be made in the event of a pump malfunction or power outage. DSOD recommends that the final design provide an outlet that can be operated by gravity in an emergency.

No alteration increasing the height or storage capacity of the facilities may be made in the future without prior written approval from DSOD. As long as the height of the barriers and storage capacity of the reservoirs are not increased, the proposed reservoirs are not subject to State jurisdiction and no further action will be required by you or taken by DSOD.

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If you have any questions or need additional information, you may contact Design Engineer Alex Pires-Sturm at (916) 565-7888 or Project Engineer Christopher Dorsey at (916) 565-7846.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sharon K. Tapia".

Sharon K. Tapia, Chief
Division of Safety of Dams

cc: Mr. Erik Ekdahl, Deputy Director
Division of Water Rights
State Water Resources Control Board
1001 I Street, 14th Floor
Sacramento, California 95814

Ms. Lisa Plowman, Director
Santa Barbara County
Planning and Development
123 East Anapamu Street
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Mr. Brian A. Tetley, Senior Planner
Rural Planning Services
2624 Airpark Drive
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