

Notice of Availability of a Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Report
Notice of Public Meeting
Tule River Basin Investigation / Tule River Spillway Enlargement Project

To: State Clearinghouse
State Responsible Agencies
State Trustee Agencies
Other Public Agencies
Interested Persons

From: Eric Limas
Lower Tule River Irrigation District
357 E. Olive Avenue
Tipton, CA 93272

Subject: Notice of Availability of a Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Report – Tule River Basin Investigation / Tule River Spillway Enlargement Project (State Clearinghouse #1999044004) and Notice of a Public Meeting

Project Title: Tule River Basin Investigation / Tule River Spillway Enlargement Project

Notice is Hereby Given: The Lower Tule River Irrigation District (District) is the Lead Agency on the below-described project and has prepared a Supplemental Environmental Impact Report (SEIR) for the proposed Tule River Basin Investigation / Tule River Spillway Enlargement Project at Lake Success (Project) pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). The complete Project description, location and the potential environmental effects are contained in the Draft SEIR, which is available to the public for review as identified below. The Draft SEIR follows a Notice of Preparation and public scoping period that was duly noticed and conducted for the Project from May 21, 2020 to June 22, 2020. The District is requesting comments on the Draft SEIR from agencies and interested individuals.

Project Background and Environmental Evaluation: The Lower Tule River Irrigation District (Lead Agency) and the United States Army Corps of Engineers (Federal Sponsor) are proposing to expand the capacity of Lake Success, while providing additional flood protection as described in the “Project Description” in the Draft SEIR. The proposed Project environmental impacts were previously evaluated in the *Tule River Basin Investigation – Final Feasibility Report and Final Environmental Impact Statement / Environmental Impact Report* (State Clearinghouse #1999044004) prepared by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (September 1999). The Draft SEIR for the proposed Project is being prepared because of the lapse in time (approximately 20 years since the original document), updates/changes to the CEQA Guidelines, and updates to applicable regulatory requirements. However, the Project remains substantially the same as what was previously analyzed. The Draft SEIR evaluates the 20 environmental topics outlined in the CEQA Appendix G Checklist.

Project Location: Lake Success and Richard L. Schafer Dam is a multi-purpose facility that provides flood damage reduction benefits, irrigation water storage, recreation, and electrical power generation. It is located on the Tule River, which drains approximately 390 square miles of the western slope of the Sierra Nevada mountain range. The zoned earth-filled dam is approximately 5 miles east and upstream of the city of Porterville, Tulare County, California. It spans 3,404 feet across the Tule River, is approximately 145 feet high, has two low level outlet conduits, and an ungated spillway. When at gross pool (elevation 655.1 feet) the lake holds 82,300 acre-feet of water with a surface area of 2,450 acres. The maximum length of the lake at this elevation is 3.5 miles with approximately 30 miles of shoreline. The existing spillway is a 200 feet wide, broad crested weir with the crest at el. 655.1 feet. A rolled earth-fill dike, called Frazier Dike, 42 feet maximum height and 7,650 feet long, extends across Frazier Valley about 3½ miles northwest of the dam.

Project Description: The Project consists of constructing a 10 foot-high concrete ogee weir across the spillway, which would result in raising the maximum gross pool elevation from 655.1 feet to 665.1 feet. Raising the gross pool elevation would add approximately 28,000 acre-feet of joint-use flood control and irrigation water storage space in the reservoir, increasing storage capacity from 82,300 to 110,300 acre-

feet. The reservoir surface area would increase from 2,400 to 3,120 acres. Bridge abutments along California Highway 190 will be armored to accommodate the increase in gross pool at the point the highway spans the reservoir. Rock slope protection will be added to Frazier Dike. In addition, Southern California Edison (SCE) will be required to raise the height of an existing transmission line that crosses the lake. This will involve removal of existing towers and installation of new or replacement transmission towers. Some existing SCE distribution poles and facilities will also need to be replaced, removed or relocated as a result of the Project. The Draft SEIR includes the environmental analysis associated with SCE's activities related to the Project. To accommodate the Project, acquisition of right-of-way and/or private property will be required on surrounding properties.

Document Availability and Public Review Timeline: Due to the time limits mandated by State law, your response and/or comments on the Draft SEIR must be sent at the earliest possible date *but not later than 45 days* after receipt of this notice. The review period for the Draft SEIR will be from October 30, 2020 to December 16, 2020. Copies of the Draft SEIR can be reviewed at Lower Tule River Irrigation District Offices, 357 E. Olive Avenue, Tipton, CA 93272 or by requesting an electronic copy from the District at the email address below.

Please send your request for an electronic copy of the Draft SEIR and/or comments to Eric Limas, General Manager at the address shown above or to elimas@ltrid.org. Please provide the name and return mailing address for a contact person in your agency (if applicable).

Public Meeting: A public meeting will be conducted to provide information on the Project and to collect oral comments from agencies and the public pertaining to the Draft SEIR. In-person attendance at the Public Meeting may be limited in order to comply with applicable social distancing requirements that may be in place at the time of the meeting. In order to ensure ability to participate, interested parties may opt to participate in the Public Meeting through a "Zoom" meeting. The meeting is scheduled as follows:

Date: November 12, 2020
Time: 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM
In-Person Location: Lower Tule River Irrigation District Office Conference Room
357 E. Olive Avenue
Tipton, CA 93272

Zoom Meeting Access: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/5599310633>
Meeting ID: 559 931 0633
Phone Access: (669) 900-9128

SEIR Certification: Following the public review period, the Final SEIR; Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program; and Responses to Comments will then be submitted to the District Board of Directors at a public hearing for review and recommendation to certify the SEIR.