

2019068130

Notice of Exemption

Appendix E

To: Office of Planning and Research
P.O. Box 3044, Room 113
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044
County Clerk
County of: Riverside
2724 Gateway Drive
Riverside, CA 92507

From: (Public Agency): California Department of Water Resources
1416 9th Street, Sacramento, CA 95814
(Address)

Project Title: Perris Dam Right Reach Toe Drain

Project Applicant: California Department of Water Resources

Project Location - Specific: The project is located in the Lake Perris State Recreation Area in Perris, CA. The work will occur at the toe of Perris Dam, in the riprap along dam's right reach, adjacent roads, and instrumentation installations in SRA.

Project Location - City: Perris, CA Project Location - County: Riverside

Description of Nature, Purpose and Beneficiaries of Project: DWR will remove, clean and replace drain rock in the Perris Dam Right Reach Toe Drain. The project will also include removal and replacement of ~1 mile of asphalt road, installation of geotechnical and groundwater monitoring equipment and removing and replacing corrugated metal drain pipes.

Name of Public Agency Approving Project: California Department of Water Resources

Name of Person or Agency Carrying Out Project: California Department of Water Resources

- Exempt Status: (check one):
[] Ministerial (Sec. 21080(b)(1); 15268);
[] Declared Emergency (Sec. 21080(b)(3); 15269(a));
[] Emergency Project (Sec. 21080(b)(4); 15269(b)(c));
[X] Categorical Exemption. State type and section number: 15301(m) Existing Facilities
[] Statutory Exemptions. State code number:

Reasons why project is exempt: The maintenance/repair activity is categorically exempt under the "minor repair and alterations to existing dams and appurtenance structures under the supervision of the Department of Water Resources." The project does not include the construction of new facilities or expansion of existing use. This action involves the minor repair/alteration of an existing structure needed to properly and safely manage the Perris Dam.

Lead Agency Contact Person: Jeanne Kuttel Area Code/Telephone/Extension: 916-712-6873

- If filed by applicant:
1. Attach certified document of exemption finding.
2. Has a Notice of Exemption been filed by the public agency approving the project? [X] Yes [] No

Signature: Jeanne M. Kuttel Date: 6/26/19 Title: Chief, DOE

[X] Signed by Lead Agency [] Signed by Applicant

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

Authority cited: Sections 21083 and 21110, Public Resources Code.
Reference: Sections 21108, 21152, and 21152.1, Public Resources Code.

Date Received for filing at OPR: JUN 26 2019

Governor's Office of Planning & Research STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

JUN 26 2019

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

PERRIS DAM REPAIR – TOE DRAIN

Categorical Exemption

Project Background

The Department of Water Resources' (DWR) provides oversight to the design, construction, and maintenance of over 1,200 jurisdictional sized dams in California, including the Perris Dam. DWR has determined that the existing drainage system at the toe of Perris Dam (toe drain) has become clogged with sediment and needs maintenance and repairs to function properly. The toe drain is a 12-inch pipe buried approximately 10 feet deep that serves to move groundwater away from the toe of Perris Dam. The pipe is buried with varying sizes of drain rock that serve to collect and direct seepage to the toe drain. Several riser pipes allow visual access from the ground surface for continued maintenance.

Project Description

DWR is proposing to repair the clogged drain system along the Perris Dam's right reach in order to ensure the drain's function and protect the integrity of the dam. Proposed maintenance and repairs to the toe drain will consist of removing and replacing approximately 1 mile of asphalt bench road, removing existing rip rap and underlying drain rock, removing and replacing existing pipe with schedule 80 perforated PVC pipe, and removing and replacing corrugated metal pipe (CMP) down drains which carry surface runoff from the dam face and bench road over the toe drain system to runoff channels. In addition, new instrumentation required for the proper implementation of the proposed project will be installed, as needed, and could be located outside of the work area. All new instrumentation located outside of the main work area, will be installed by use of hand tools and will be placed in locations where no impacts to wildlife or sensitive habitat would occur.

The existing asphalt bench road will be removed by excavators or hoe rams and the materials will be hauled off for disposal. The existing rip rap and drain rock will be excavated, removed and hauled to a stockpile location within the State Recreation Area (SRA), likely the Bernasconi Quarry, just southeast of Lake Perris. If the rock is in suitable condition for reuse, it will be sorted and cleaned to remove accumulated fine sediment and organic matter. If rock cannot be reused, new rock will be imported to the site. The existing toe drain pipe will be excavated by trenching and the old pipe will be removed. New pipe will be laid and the trench backfilled with the excavated material or imported material. Rip rap and drain rock (new or reused) will be replaced over the toe drain. The existing CMP down drains will be excavated, removed, disposed of, and replaced with similar materials.

Equipment used may include, but is not limited to, excavators, loaders, dump trucks, generators, hoe rams, pick-up trucks, and paving equipment. All construction and personal vehicles will use

the existing maintenance dirt roads below the dam and within the SRA. Clear truck routes will be included in plan drawings for construction contractors to ensure no impacts to vegetation within the SRA would occur.

All the work associated with this dam maintenance activity will be conducted within the dam "apron," a graded and cleared area approximately 100 feet wide at the foot of the dam, with the exception of small instrumentation needed below the dam as described above. No work will be conducted within the adjoining grassland areas. All truck traffic will be confined to existing roads and the dam apron. No nighttime construction activities will be required.

Standard best management practices will be employed to ensure that no significant environmental impacts would occur during the maintenance activities, including the following:

- A Storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) will be prepared and implemented.
- No rock piles or soils will be stockpiled within 25 feet of grassland areas without appropriate small mammal fencing.
- Open trenches will be covered overnight or otherwise protected from occupation by small mammals.
- Monitoring for nesting birds within 500 feet will be required for any maintenance activities occurring between February 15th and September 1st. Nesting birds within 500 feet of the maintenance activities will be monitored for disturbance by a qualified biologist. The qualified biologist will have the authority to stop construction that may be disturbing nesting birds.
- Wildlife clearing will be conducted within the riprap by a qualified biologist prior to excavation activities.
- Hazardous materials associated with construction activities must be stored and used in accordance with practices that prevent them from polluting receiving waters.
- A spill kit will be onsite at all times.
- Equipment must be kept in good working order and any petroleum or lubricant spills must be cleaned up immediately and reported to the onsite engineer or environmental contact.
- Installation of new instrumentation outside of the main work area will be conducted with hand tools and installation locations will be approved and cleared by a qualified biologist prior to the start of work.