
NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

DATE: July 1, 2021
TO: Responsible Agencies, Interested Parties, and Organizations
SUBJECT: **Rector Reservoir Bypass Valve Project – NAPA COUNTY**

The California Department of Veterans Affairs (CalVet), acting as Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR) for the Rector Reservoir Bypass Valve Project (Project). The California Department of General Services (DGS) is supporting CalVet in the CEQA process for this Project. An Initial Study was conducted to determine the Project's potential for any significant environmental impacts. Based in part on the results of that study, CalVet determined preparation of an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) was appropriate to meet its obligation for environmental review under CEQA. A Notice of Preparation for the EIR was circulated for public review along with the Initial Study in July 2020. CEQA requires that the Lead Agency consider the information contained in the EIR prior to taking any discretionary action on the Project.

Project Location: Rector Dam and Reservoir are located at approximately 38°26'28.91"N, 122°20'50.85"W at the base of the Howell Mountain in Napa County. The dam and reservoir are approximately 2.5 miles northeast of the Town of Yountville and east of Silverado Trail. Rector Creek crosses Silverado Trail approximately 700 feet downstream of the dam's spillway. Vehicle access to the reservoir and the CalVet water treatment plant is through the gate at 7300 Silverado Trail.

Project Description: CalVet operates Rector Dam and Reservoir to supply drinking water to the Veterans Home of California in Yountville, the Napa State Hospital, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife's (CDFW) Bay-Delta Region office, the Town of Yountville, and several local wineries. CalVet also supplies untreated water to the CDFW Silverado Fisheries Base located along Rector Creek downstream of the dam, and to the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE) training facility, located at the base of Rector Dam.

The State Water Resources Control Board license to operate Rector Dam does not include specific instream flow release requirements to Rector Creek; however, California Fish and Game Code 5937 requires the owner or operator of any dam to allow sufficient flow to pass through or over the dam to keep fish downstream of the dam in good condition. The proposed Project addressed in the DEIR would implement an interim schedule for minimum environmental releases to Rector Creek below Rector Dam to meet Code 5937 requirements. To facilitate these releases, CalVet proposes to construct new facilities below Rector Dam to convey, monitor and release stored water from the reservoir to Rector Creek.

Project facilities to be constructed include a bypass valve, 12-inch-diameter water pipeline, Rector Creek outfall structure, underground electrical/communications conduit, and Rector Creek erosion control measures. Specifically, the key components of the proposed Project include the following:

- Diversion pipeline to convey water from the existing 30-inch water line at the base of Rector Dam to the proposed bypass valve and from the bypass valve to Rector Creek;

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- Bypass valve and flow meter;
- Underground electrical and communications line and conduit between the bypass valve and CalVet Water Treatment Plant;
- Twelve-inch-diameter underground water pipeline between the bypass valve and proposed Rector Creek outfall; and
- Rector Creek outfall structure at the terminal end of that pipeline in Rector Creek and streambank erosion controls.

Draft EIR Document Review and Availability: The public review and comment period for the Draft EIR will extend for 46 days **starting Thursday, July 1, 2021 and ending Monday, August 16, 2021.**

The Draft EIR is available for review online at (case sensitive):

<http://www.ecorpconsulting.com/docs/rector-reservoir-bypass-valve>

Hardcopies of the Draft EIR will also be available for review during the comment period by the public at the location shown below:

- Yountville Library (6516 Washington St, Yountville, CA 94599, Phone: 707-944-1888)

Online Public Meeting: An online public meeting on the Draft EIR will be held on **Tuesday, August 3rd from 5 to 7 pm** and may be joined by the public via the Zoom online application at the following link:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88426298341?pwd=cXRRWC8yd2p0VHJMcDNIMUZiWmg0dz09>

Meeting ID: 884 2629 8341

Passcode: 263355

Comments/Questions: Consistent with 36 CFR 218.25, comments on the Draft EIR will be accepted until the close of public comment period on August 16, 2021.

Comments and/or questions regarding the Draft EIR may be addressed to Terry Ash, Senior Environmental Planner, and mailed to:

ECORP Consulting, Inc.

c/o Terry Ash

2525 Warren Drive

Rocklin, CA 95677

Attention: Matteo Rodriquez

Direct email submissions to: mrodriquez@ecorpconsulting.com

Subject Line: "Rector Reservoir Bypass Valve Comment"