

DATE: June 23, 2023

SUBJECT: Notice of Availability of Draft Environmental Impact Report

PROJECT: New Bullards Bar Dam Atmospheric River Control (ARC) Spillway Project

REVIEW PERIOD: June 23, 2023 to August 22, 2023

This Notice of Availability has been prepared to notify responsible and trustee agencies, interested organizations, and interested parties that the Yuba County Water Agency (YCWA), as the Lead Agency pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), has prepared a Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the proposed New Bullards Bar Dam Atmospheric River Control (ARC) Spillway Project (project or proposed project) that is available for review and comment. The Draft EIR was prepared to comply with CEQA and the State CEQA Guidelines to provide agencies and the public with information on the potential significant environmental impacts of the proposed project, recommended mitigation measures to reduce or avoid those environmental effects, and the analysis of alternatives to the proposed project.

PROJECT LOCATION AND OVERVIEW: The New Bullards Bar Dam (Dam) impounds waters of the North Yuba River to form the New Bullards Bar Reservoir (Reservoir). The Dam and Reservoir are in unincorporated Yuba County, California, along Marysville Road and approximately 35 miles northeast of the City of Marysville, as shown in **Figure 1**.

YCWA is proposing the project to allow for releases from the Dam via the ARC Spillway at a lower Reservoir water elevation than is currently provided from the existing Primary Spillway. The project would provide operational flexibility for managing outflow at the Dam to reduce flood flows and flood stages downstream at Marysville and the Feather-Yuba River confluence, and to provide public safety benefits. The ARC Spillway would be operated conjunctively with the existing Primary Spillway to efficiently release flows downstream, including earlier passage of flows during large storm events. Additionally, the ARC Spillway would provide redundancy to an unexpected malfunction of the Primary Spillway. The ARC Spillway facility consists of an approach channel in the Reservoir, control structure, spillway chute, and discharge channel leading to the North Yuba River. The proposed project also includes permanently relocating a segment of Marysville Road over the ARC Spillway, relocating the existing Dam overlook site, and establishment of a permanent rock and soil disposal area on YCWA property. The project would be constructed over approximately 4 years.

ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACTS: The Draft EIR evaluates the potential impacts of the proposed project and, for identified significant impacts to hydrology and water quality, fisheries resources, terrestrial biological resources, cultural and tribal cultural resources, air quality, greenhouse gas emissions, aesthetics, agricultural and forestry resources, energy, geology and soils, hazards and hazardous materials, land use and planning, noise, public services, recreation, transportation, utilities and service systems, and wildfire, recommends mitigation measures that would reduce the potential significant impacts of the proposed project to a less than significant level, where possible. The proposed project would not be located on a site, which is included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code Section 65962.5.

📞 530.741.5000
✉ info@yubawater.org
🌐 yubawater.org



DOCUMENT AVAILABILITY: The Notice of Availability and Draft EIR may be downloaded from the YWCA website: <https://www.yubawater.org/252/ARC-Spillway-at-New-Bullards-Bar-Dam>

Printed copies of the Draft EIR are available for public review at: the San Juan Ridge Community Library located at 18841 Oak Tree Road, Nevada City, CA 95959; and the YCWA office located at 1220 F Street, Marysville, CA 95901. Members of the public who desire to review a printed copy should call in advance to determine if the above locations are open.

PUBLIC REVIEW AND COMMENTS: The YCWA is soliciting comments from the public regarding the content of the environmental information provided in the Draft EIR. The Draft EIR is now available for a 60-day public review and comment period from **June 23, 2023** to **August 22, 2023**. Written comments on the Draft EIR must be received by the YCWA at the address provided below, **NO LATER THAN 4:00 P.M.** on **August 22, 2023**, when the public counter closes.

John James, Director of Resource Planning
Yuba County Water Agency
1220 F Street
Marysville, CA 95901
Email: jjames@yubawater.org

Figure 1. Project Location

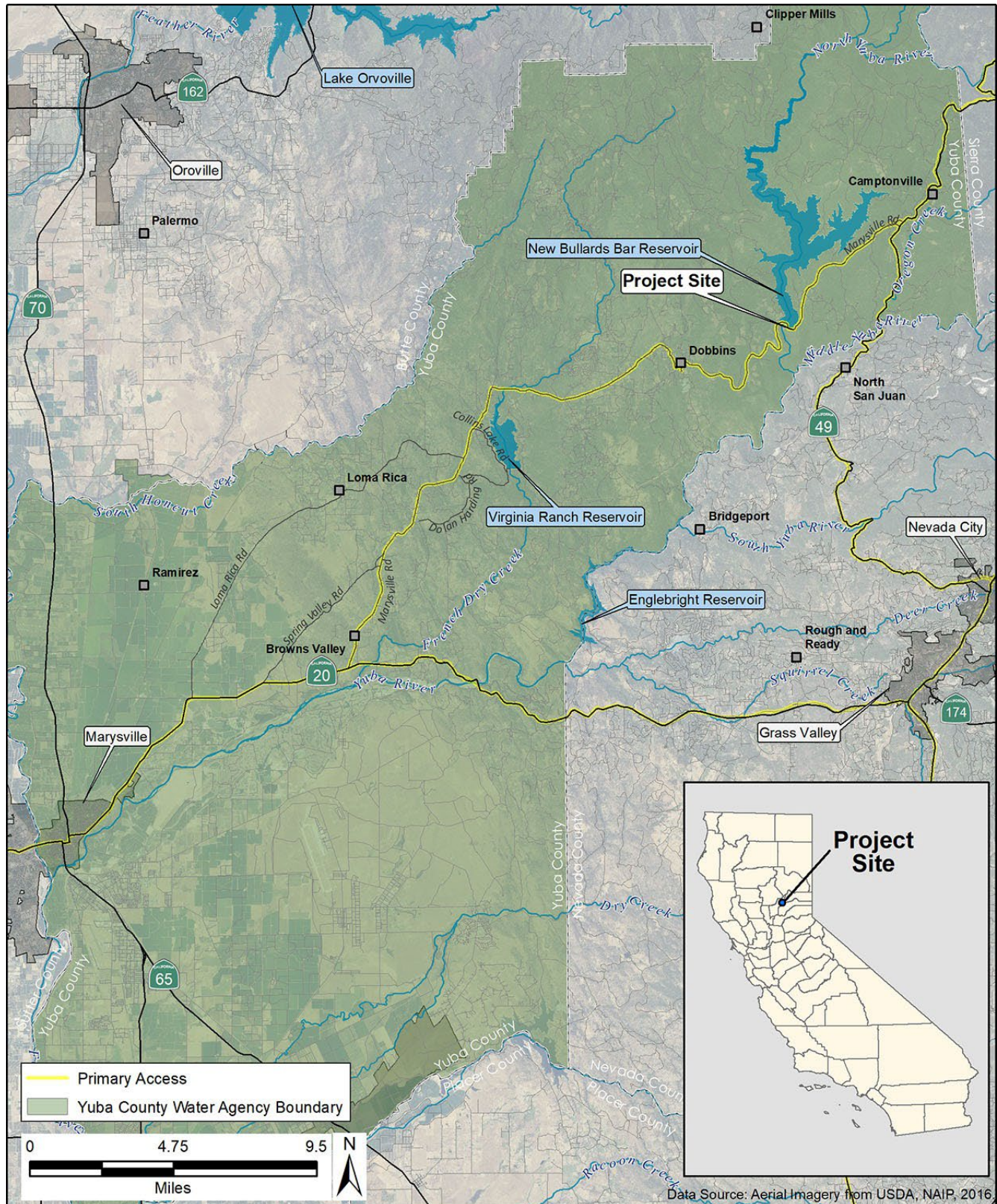


Figure Source: GEI Consultants, Inc. 2020.