



NOTICE OF EXEMPTION

TO: Contra Costa County
 Clerk-Recorder's Office
 555 Escobar Street
 Martinez, CA 94553

FROM: (LEAD AGENCY)
 East Bay Municipal Utility District
 Office of the Secretary – (510) 287-0404
 375 Eleventh Street, MS 806
 Oakland, CA 94607-4240

- Lead Agency is the Project Applicant
- Lead Agency is Public Agency Approving Project
- Lead Agency is Carrying Out Project

PROJECT INFORMATION

1. TITLE: **Briones Reservoir Inlet/Outlet Tower Retrofit and Isolation Valve Replacement Project**
2. LOCATION: *(City, County, and specific location)*
 The project is located on East Bay Municipal Utility District (EBMUD)-owned watershed land in unincorporated Contra Costa County (see attached Figure 1 in Attachment A) at and near the Briones Reservoir.
3. DESCRIPTION:
 The project will seismically retrofit the Briones inlet/outlet tower and is needed to comply with the Division of Safety of Dams requirements and to safeguard the Briones Dam in the event of an earthquake and will replace the Tower's isolation valve at a more safely accessible location. The seismic retrofit activities would strengthen the inlet/outlet tower by installing vertical steel strips inside the upper section of the existing tower (see Attachment A). This Notice of Exemption (NOE) supersedes the previous NOE filed in December 2018.

EXEMPTION FINDING (Check one)

This project is exempt from CEQA because:

1. Activity is not a project
2. Activity is Ministerial (Sec.21080(b)(1); Guideline 15268)
3. Activity is a Declared Emergency (Sec.21080(b)(3); Guideline 15269(a))
4. Activity is an Emergency Project (Sec.21080(b)(4); Guideline 15269(b)(c))
5. Activity is Categorically Exempt Under Guideline 15301, 15303
6. Activity is Statutorily Exempt Under Guideline _____
7. Reasons why project is exempt:
 Under Section 15301, the repair, maintenance, or minor alteration of existing public structures involving negligible or no expansion of use are categorically exempt. Under Section 15303, construction of new, small facilities or structures are exempt.

INITIATING UNIT:

APPROVAL

6/17/2021	Chien Wang	Jennifer L. McGregor
1. DATE PREPARED	2. PREPARED BY (initial)	3. REVIEWED BY (Unit Supv. initial)
David J. Rehnstrom	<i>David J. Rehnstrom</i>	
4. RECOMMENDED BY (Division/Section Manager)		
Chien Wang	701	Associate Engineer
5. CONTACT PERSON	MAIL SLOT #	PHONE
		510-287-1086

NOTICE OF EXEMPTION APPROVED FOR FILING WITH THE COUNTY CLERK

6/17/2021	<i>[Signature]</i>
DATE	DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR FOR
6/21/21	<i>Rosalee S. Cole</i>
DATE FORWARDED TO COUNTY CLERK	SECRETARY OF THE DISTRICT

**EAST BAY MUNICIPAL UTILITY DISTRICT
BRIONES RESERVOIR INLET/OUTLET TOWER RETROFIT AND ISOLATION
VALVE REPLACEMENT PROJECT**

Project Summary

The Briones Reservoir Inlet/Outlet Tower Retrofit and Isolation Valve Replacement Project (Project) will seismically retrofit the Briones Reservoir Inlet/Outlet Tower (Tower) which is needed to comply with the Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD) requirements and to safeguard the Briones Dam in the event of an earthquake and will replace the Tower's isolation valve at a more safely accessible location. The Tower is located in the Briones Reservoir on EBMUD-owned watershed land located in unincorporated Contra Costa County (see Figure 1). The Project seismic retrofit activities will strengthen the Tower by installing steel strips inside the upper section of the existing Tower.

Purpose

EBMUD completed seismic evaluations of the Tower in 2008 and determined that the Tower could experience damage during a magnitude 7.25 earthquake, which is the "Maximum Considered Earthquake" (MCE) after which the outlet system must remain functional to carry out the basic safety needs of the reservoir. Damage to the Tower could affect the drawdown (emptying) capabilities and function of the Briones Reservoir, inhibiting EBMUD's ability to import or export water and regulate water levels within the reservoir. The primary purpose of the retrofit is to ensure that the controlled release of water from the reservoir is not impaired under the maximum design earthquake and to ensure the continued safe operation of the reservoir following smaller earthquakes. As part of the safe operation and maintenance of the Briones Reservoir, the Tower isolation valve replacement is needed to increase the safety of EBMUD maintenance staff when accessing the isolation valve for routine maintenance or emergency repairs. The replacement isolation valve will be approximately 20-30 feet below ground, a much shallower and safer depth to access than the existing isolation valve which is approximately 250 feet below ground.

Site Characteristics

The Tower is located in Briones Reservoir which is accessed by an existing EBMUD access road at the Briones Reservoir/Dam entrance off of Bear Creek Road. The crane/laydown area north of the boat ramps will be used for crane loading and material laydown and storage. A new EBMUD boat dock south of the two boat ramps used by rowing crews will be used for worker boat access to the Tower as shown on Figure 1. The new isolation valve will be located on EBMUD-owned watershed land south of Bear Creek Road approximately half a mile southwest of the Briones Reservoir/Dam entrance.

Briones Reservoir Water Supply

Briones Reservoir is one of the critical storage elements of EBMUD's water supply system and has a capacity of approximately 59,000 acre feet. Flow of water in and out of the reservoir is regulated by the 230-foot-high, vertical reinforced concrete inlet/outlet Tower connected at its base to an inlet/outlet tunnel. The Tower was constructed in 1965 and is equipped with seven 60-inch-diameter butterfly valves distributed at different levels that allow water to be pumped into or drawn out of the reservoir.

Existing Inlet/Outlet System

The existing inlet/outlet system at the Briones Reservoir includes the Tower that is connected to a below-ground 90-inch-diameter inlet-outlet conduit installed in a tunnel that passes through the east abutment of the dam. The existing Tower isolation valve is located approximately 1,700 feet downstream of the Tower along the 90-inch conduit in an underground vault structure. The Tower isolation valve is typically open to allow flow between the Briones Reservoir and the EBMUD untreated water supply system. The Tower isolation valve is the Tower's emergency shut-off valve, and the valve is closed when the Tower needs to be isolated during emergencies or when the Tower needs to be taken offline. The existing Tower isolation valve is a critical part of the Briones Reservoir water management system and is located at the bottom of a 250 feet deep, 10-foot diameter access shaft. Maintenance access by ladder to the isolation valve is difficult and poses a safety issue.

During normal operations, water is pumped into or drawn out of the reservoir through several of the seven Tower valves. The reservoir outlet works' maximum outflow rates allow the facility to meet the DSOD reservoir drawdown requirements.

Project Details

The Tower will be strengthened by installing vertical stainless-steel strips on the inside of the Tower between elevations 503 feet and 575 feet. The proposed project design concept is shown on Figure 2. As part of this Project, the hydraulic actuator at each of the existing seven Tower valves will be replaced. Actuators are responsible for moving and controlling the opening and closing of the valves. All seven new hydraulic actuators will be connected by thick electrical cables (i.e., umbilical lines) approximately 900 feet long to an electrical control cabinet on the east shore of the Briones Reservoir (Figure 3). The umbilical lines will extend from each valve on to the Tower exterior to the Tower base, will be anchored to the reservoir bottom, and then buried in shallow trenches on the shore to the control cabinet. The valve control cabinet will be approximately 2 feet wide by 5 feet long by 6 feet high, painted gray, and installed on a concrete pad approximately 3 feet wide by 6 feet long by 6 inches high above ground.

Construction of the Tower retrofits will occur in six phases: 1) site preparation, 2) material delivery and laydown, 3) barge and floating platform assembly, 4) equipment and material staging on barges, 5) Tower maintenance and reinforcement, and 6) site cleanup. Equipment to be used will consist of: 100-ton crane, 50-ton crane, Flexifloat (trademark) platform at Tower,

Flexifloat barge, tugboat crew boat, flatbed trucks, concrete mixer, sedimentation tanks, and water pumps. Flexifloats consist of large floating interlocking modular barges.

A new boat dock will be installed to replace a wooden floating boat dock that was deemed unsafe and was removed from the reservoir in 2015. The replacement dock will be installed at the same location as the original wooden dock (Figure 4). The replacement dock will consist of one approximately 14 feet wide by 30 feet long aluminum dock and one approximately 4 feet wide by 25 feet long aluminum access walkway with handrails. An approximately 10 feet wide by 30 feet long by 4 inches thick concrete ramp will be constructed to support the aluminum gangway as reservoir water elevations fluctuate. The replacement dock and walkway will be transported by flatbed truck to the reservoir assembled and ready for installation. For worker transport to and from shore to the Tower during Project construction, transport boats will be launched from the existing concrete boat launch, and Project workers will access boats from the new boat dock.

The replacement Tower isolation valve will be located approximately 1,900 feet downstream of the existing isolation valve (approximately 3,600 feet downstream of the Tower) along the Tower's inlet-outlet conduit line at approximately 20-30 feet below ground. The replacement isolation valve will be a large diameter butterfly valve requiring installation of an operating cylinder also below ground to turn the valve disc. A new underground concrete vault will house the replacement Tower isolation valve. Equipment to be used include: drilling rig, crane, backhoe/loader, roller compactor, air compressor, flatbed trucks, concrete mixer, and concrete pump trucks.

Permits

All work will be on EBMUD property. Encroachment permits are not required since there is no work within the public right-of-way. All necessary permits from the regulatory agencies will be obtained, as necessary, to complete the Project.

Schedule and Work Hours

Tower retrofit construction is anticipated to start in Fiscal Years 2022 and 2023 and will take approximately 12 months to complete. Construction activities will be limited to the daytime weekday hours (7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.) to the extent feasible. Construction will occur during the dry season to avoid weather-related delays.

Public Considerations

Though some inlet/outlet valves on the Tower will be sealed for the Project duration, water operations will not be affected, because other inlet and outlet options will be deployed. The Briones Reservoir will continue to be operated normally; though, when feasible, water levels will be maintained as high as possible to aid worker access to the section of the Tower where the retrofit work will be performed. There will be no impact on water service to customers.

Standard construction environmental and safety practices applicable to all EBMUD construction projects have been incorporated into the Project. These standard practices minimize impacts to the public resulting from EBMUD construction projects.

DJR:JLM:djr

sb21_109b Briones Tower Retrofit_NOE_Project_Description_AttA_REVISED 2021

Figure 1: Project Location Map

Figure 2: Project Tower Elevation

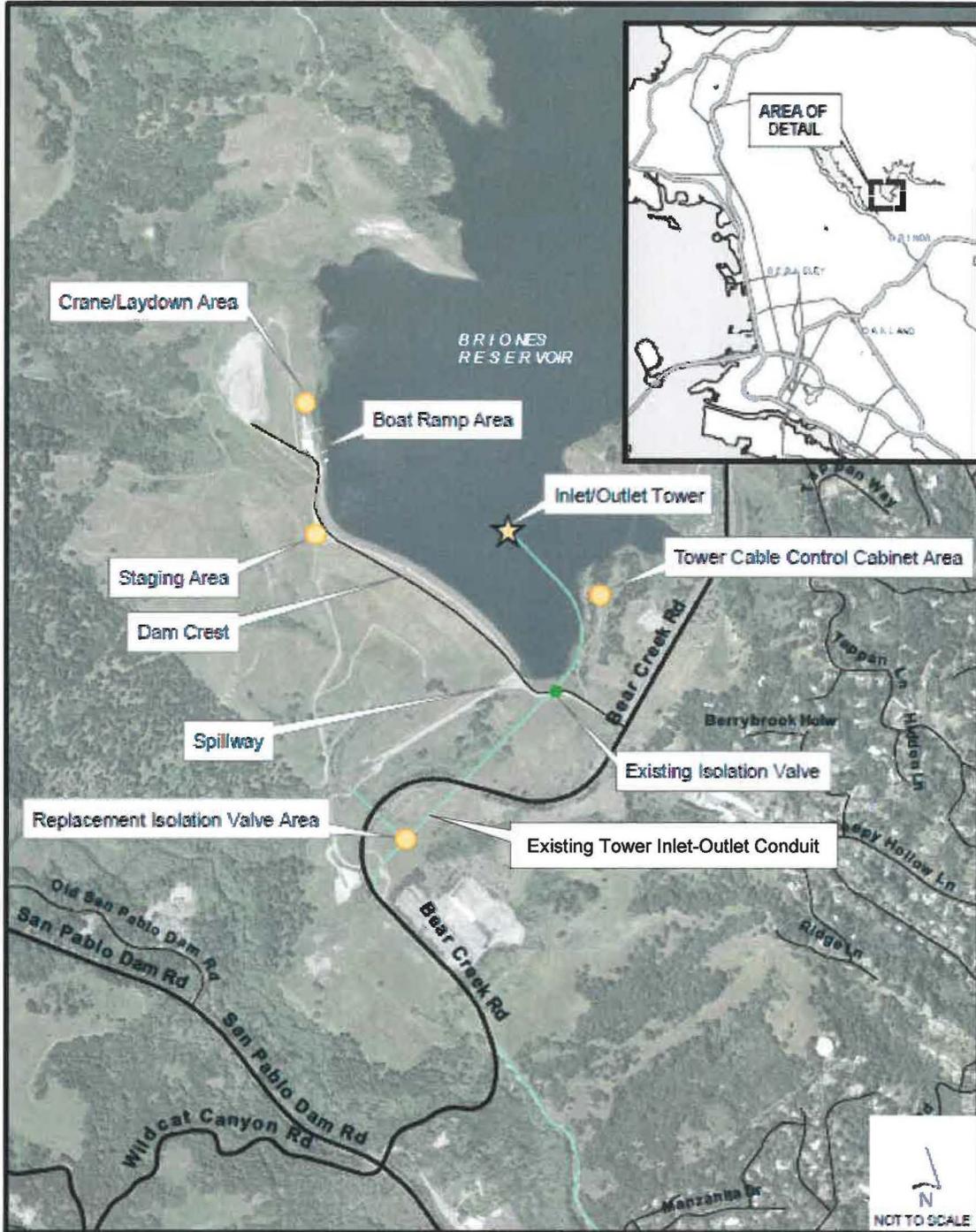
Figure 3: Project Tower Umbilical Lines and Control Cabinet Figure

Figure 4: Project Replacement Boat Dock Site Map

BRIONES RESERVOIR INLET/OUTLET TOWER RETROFIT AND ISOLATION VALVE REPLACEMENT PROJECT

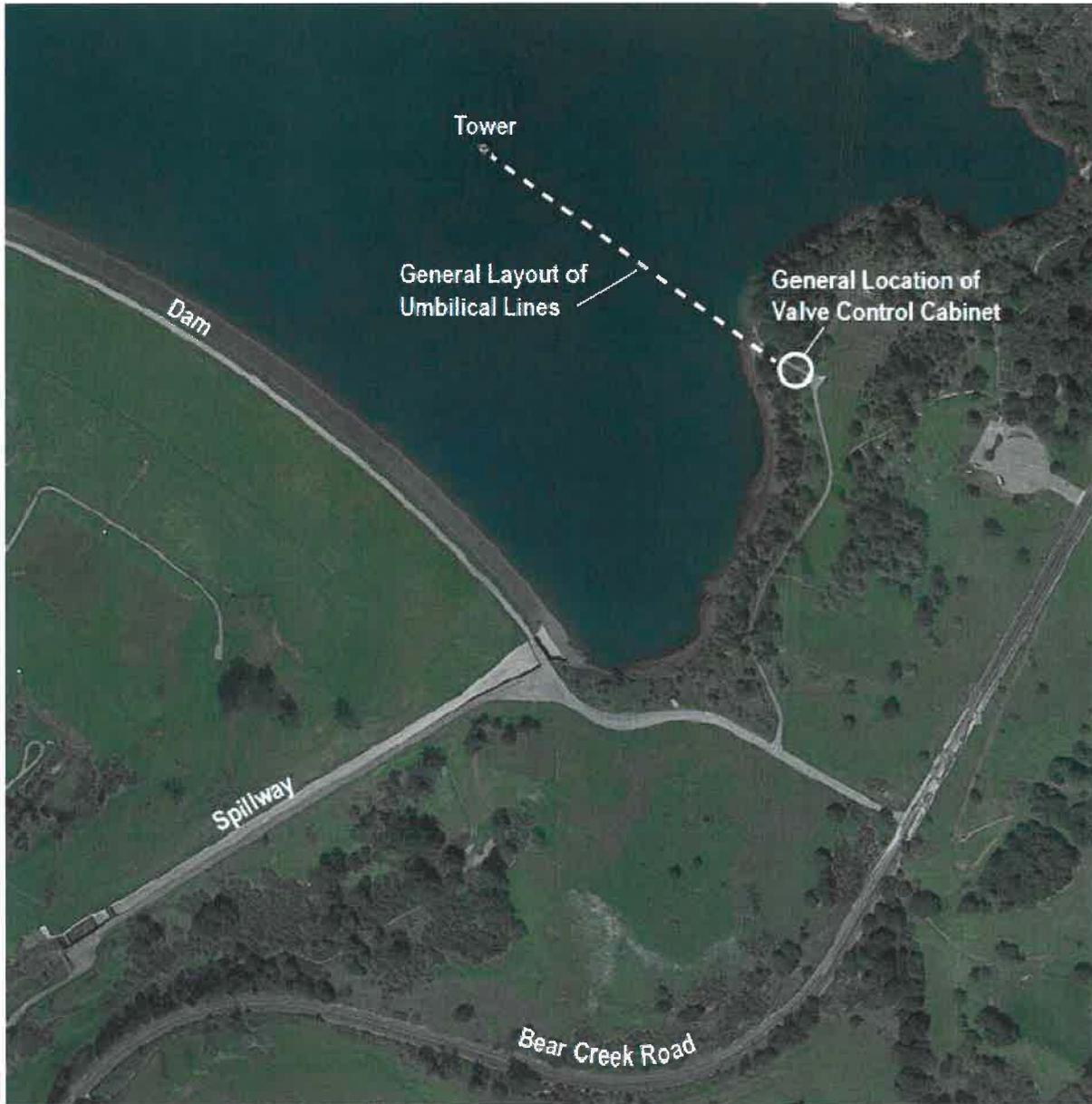
Location Map

Figure 1



**BRIONES RESERVOIR INLET/OUTLET TOWER RETROFIT AND
ISOLATION VALVE REPLACEMENT PROJECT
Tower Umbilical Lines and Control Cabinet**

Figure 3



**BRIONES RESERVOIR INLET/OUTLET TOWER RETROFIT AND
ISOLATION VALVE REPLACEMENT PROJECT**
Replacement Boat Dock Site Map

Figure 4

