

NOTICE OF INTENT TO ADOPT AN INITIAL STUDY/ NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE PROPOSED

PIG POND & BEAR HIDE LAKE DAM FAILURE

Date: August 23, 2021

The California Department of Parks and Recreation (DPR) has prepared and intends to adopt a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the proposed project, in compliance with the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and State CEQA Guidelines. DPR is the lead agency for the proposed project under CEQA.

PROJECT LOCATION: Pig Pond is located at 37°2'58" N, 121°12'43.9" W, and is approximately 15 feet H X 100 feet L and impounds a pond approximately one-half acre in surface area. Bear Hide Lake is located at 37°1'42.25" N, 121°12'9" W. The existing Bear Hide Lake Dam is approximately 16 feet at its maximum height by 120 feet in length and impounds a pond approximately one-half acre in surface area. The project is in Township 10S Range 07E and approximately 1.2 miles from the main park entrance at the intersection of Hwy 152 and Dinosaur Point Rd.

DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPOSED PROJECT: DPR proposes to make repairs to two stock pond dams at Pacheco State Park in Merced County, California. Pacheco State Park, formerly a cattle ranch dating back to the 1840s, consists of many stock ponds used for past cattle grazing practices as well as the current grazing lease. During the winter 2017-rain events, Pig Pond and Bear Hide Lake suffered a dam failure. The back face of Pig Pond dam failed, causing massive undermining of the dam face, while Bear Hide Lake dam breached causing the top 5 feet of the dam to wash away along with dam undermining. Repairs to the dam include re-grading the dam to restore it to pre-storm-damaged configuration and to mitigate/remove the animal burrows in Pig Pond Dam, and Bear Hide Lake. California ground squirrels created burrows throughout Pig Pond Dam contributing to damage; therefore, work will include filling of existing burrows and creation of slope conditions that discourage burrowing animals.

PUBLIC REVIEW PERIOD: The Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration is being circulated for public review and comment for a period of 30 days, August 23, 2021 and ending September 22, 2021. Questions regarding the project should be directed to Andrew Collum, at California State Parks, Central Valley District Headquarters 22708 Broadway St, Columbia CA, 95310 or by email at Andrew.Collum@parks.ca.gov

Your views and comments on the Initial Study- Mitigated Negative Declaration are welcomed. Written comments should be submitted no later than September 22, 2021, to the following address:

California State Parks
Central Valley District Headquarters
22708 Broadway St,
Columbia CA, 95310

Copies of the Initial Study/Mitigated Negative Declaration may be reviewed during normal business hours at the above address.

NOTICE OF PUBLICATION: This notice was published on August 23, 2021