

California Department of Transportation

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March 27, 2023

Governor's Office of Planning & Research

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Sara Gevorgyan
Environmental Scientist
Central Valley Regional Water
Quality Control Board
Rancho Cordova, CA 95670

STATE CLEARING HOUSE

ALP-4-PM 13.945
Lower Blue Lake Dam
**Seepage Mitigation/
Weir Replacement**
IS/MND
SCH# 2023030107

Dear Ms. Gevorgyan,

Caltrans appreciates the opportunity to review and respond to the Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E) Lower Blue Lake Dam Seepage Mitigation and Weir Replacement Project Initial Study that proposes work at Lower Blue Lake Reservoir. In summer 2018, PG&E observed evidence of adverse seepage conditions developing on the downstream embankment face of the Lower Blue Lake Dam. PG&E would also raise the dam crest by approximately 2 feet to increase the available freeboard above the maximum water surface elevation, replace the existing reservoir staff gauge, and install a public safety railing along the steeper rock wall portion of the dam. The proposed project is located at Lower Blue Lake, which is approximately 9.7 miles southwest of Markleeville and 6.7 miles southeast of Carson Pass in Alpine County.

Caltrans has the following comments:

Traffic Operations

- The proposed project will generate truck traffic (haul trucks and vendor deliveries) during construction. Therefore, the type of trucks needs to be specified. If any of these truck trips originates in Lone, California, to the project site, the following intersections need to accommodate these trucks' turning radius:
 - State Route (SR) 104/Driveway (if applicable) where trucks transport equipment and materials from SR 104/SR 88
 - SR 88/SR 49
 - SR 88/Blue Lakes Road
- If any of these truck trips originates in Carson City, Nevada to the project site, the following intersection needs to accommodate these trucks' turning radius:
 - SR 88/Blue Lakes Road

Environmental

- It looks like this project will not encroach onto Caltrans Right of Way (ROW); thus, there will not be any environmental concerns. If the scope of work changes and construction related activities encroach into Caltrans ROW, the project proponent must apply for an Encroachment Permit to the Caltrans Encroachment Permit Office. All California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) documentation, with supporting technical studies, must be submitted with the Encroachment Permit Application. These studies will include an analysis of potential impacts to any cultural sites, historic properties, biological resources, hazardous waste locations, scenic highways, and/or other environmental resources within Caltrans ROW, at the project site(s). For more information, please visit the Caltrans Website at: <https://dot.ca.gov/programs/traffic-operations/ep/applications>

Hydrology

- The total discharge not to exceed the 100-year storm runoff volume and flow velocity.

All future development for the project location will require further review by Caltrans. If you have any questions or would like to discuss these comments, please contact Lloyd Clark at (209) 941-1982 (Email: Lloyd.Clark@dot.ca.gov) or me at (209) 483-7234 (email: Gregoria.Ponce@dot.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

Gregoria Ponce'

Gregoria Ponce', Chief
Office of Rural Planning

c: State Clearinghouse