

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

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October 18, 2023

Mr. Donald Vargas, Environmental Compliance Administrator
Imperial Irrigation District
Post Office Box 937
Imperial, California 92251

El Centro Generating Station (ECGS) Wastewater Mitigation Project
SCH# 2023100122
Imperial County

Dear Mr. Vargas:

The Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD) has reviewed the Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the El Centro Generating Station Wastewater Mitigation Project, submitted by Imperial Irrigation District, dated August 2023. The proposed project includes new equipment to minimize the cooling tower blowdown, a water softening reactor, a repurposed evaporation pond, an ultrafiltration and reverse osmosis system, and three new evaporation ponds. The new evaporation ponds will cover 9 acres with an interior slope of 6:1 (horizontal:vertical), an exterior slope of 4:1, and 18-inch overflow pipes connecting the ponds.

The MND submittal describes the project and provides plan and profile drawings of the proposed evaporation ponds. Per the plans, the three ponds will have an embankment height approximately 3 feet above native ground, with an interior cut depth of 7 feet below native for a total pond depth of approximately 10 feet. Each pond has an anticipated volume of 30 acre-feet. The ponds are connected via 18-inch overflow pipes which are located approximately halfway up each center embankment.

As defined in sections 6002 and 6003, Division 3, of the California Water Code, dams 25 feet or higher with a storage capacity of more than 15 acre-feet, and dams higher than 6 feet with a storage capacity of 50 acre-feet or more are subject to State jurisdiction. Dam height is defined as the vertical distance measured from the maximum possible water storage level to the downstream toe of the barrier.

Based on the plans provided in the submitted MND, the proposed project does not meet the criteria described above and therefore will not be subject to State jurisdiction. If changes to the design of the dam are made which alter the height of the dam or the reservoir's storage capacity, the dam may be subject to State jurisdiction for dam safety. In the event the Project will result in a State jurisdictional structure, a construction application, together with plans, specifications, and the appropriate filing fees must be filed with this Division prior to proceeding with the Project.

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If an application is required, all dam safety related issues must be satisfactorily addressed prior to our approval of the application and all work must be performed under the direction of a Civil Engineer registered in California. Our Design Engineering Branch Manager Erik Malvick is responsible for the application process and can be reached at (916) 820-7820.

If you have any questions or need additional information, you may contact Area Engineer Travis Chatters at (916) 565-7829 or me at (916) 565-7827.

Sincerely,



Brandon Cruz, Regional Engineer
Southern Region
Field Engineering Branch
Division of Safety of Dams

cc: Governor's Office of Planning and Research
State Clearinghouse
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