

**DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES**

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January 24, 2022

Mr. Todd Sexauer  
Santa Clara Valley Water District  
5750 Almaden Expressway  
San Jose, California 95118

Environmental Document Transmittal for the Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project  
SCH 2017082020  
Santa Clara County

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Dear Mr. Sexauer:

The Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD) has reviewed the Notice of Completion and Transmittal for the Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR), which describes a proposed enlargement of the existing Pacheco Reservoir by replacing the existing dam with a new approximately 326-foot-tall hardfill dam. The project will increase the water storage capacity from 6,150 acre-feet to 140,000 acre-feet.

In DSOD's letter dated November 1, 2021, DSOD rejected the preferred alternative's hardfill dam type because of the significant uncertainties with this dam type and the risks to public safety. However, DSOD acknowledged other alternative dam types may be feasible, such as earthfill dams, which are included as alternatives in the DEIR. Any dam constructed at the proposed site will need to be designed to account for and mitigate all uncertainties and risks related to dam safety, considering the extremely high downstream consequence associated with a dam of the proposed size.

DSOD has had discussions with Santa Clara Valley Water District, who is aware that the proposed dam is subject to State jurisdiction for dam safety. A construction application, together with plans, specifications, and the appropriate filing fee must be filed with DSOD for this project. All dam safety related issues must be resolved prior to approval of the application, and the work must be performed under the direction of a civil engineer registered in California. Erik Malvick, our Design Engineering Branch Manager, is responsible for the application process and can be reached at (916) 565-7840.

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If you have any questions or need additional information, you may contact Design Engineer Ashley Gobel at (916) 565-7850, or me at (916) 565-7846.

Sincerely,

*Christopher Dorsey*

Christopher Dorsey, Supervising Engineer  
Design Engineering Branch  
Division of Safety of Dams

cc: Governor's Office of Planning and Research  
State Clearinghouse  
[state.clearinghouse@water.ca.gov](mailto:state.clearinghouse@water.ca.gov)

Mr. Christopher Hakes, Deputy Operating Officer  
Dam Safety and Capital Delivery  
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