

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

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October 12, 2023

Ms. Tiffany Chao, Senior Environmental Planner
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5750 Almaden Expressway
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Governor's Office of Planning & Research

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Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit Project
SCH# 2013082052
Leroy Anderson Dam, No. 72-9
Santa Clara County

STATE CLEARINGHOUSE

Dear Ms. Chao:

The California Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD) has reviewed *the Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit Project (ADSRP) – Draft Environmental Impact Report (DEIR)* submitted by the Santa Clara Valley Water District (District). The ADSRP consists of retrofitting and upgrading Leroy Anderson Dam (Anderson Dam) and its associated facilities to meet public safety requirements.

Anderson Dam, California Dam No. 72-9, is currently under State jurisdiction with respect to dam safety and is regulated by DSOD under the Department of Water Resources. The District filed a repair application for the dam on June 2, 2016, which serves as DSOD's permit for the project, together with plans and specifications for DSOD's review and approval. All dam safety related issues must be resolved prior to approval of this application, and all work must be designed and constructed under the direction of a Civil Engineer registered in California.

With respect to the DEIR, DSOD has the following comments:

- The ADSRP is planned to have a 7-year schedule, which includes full reservoir dewatering for Years 2 through 6. It is unclear if the DEIR considers impacts of potential construction delays, which could extend dewatering beyond Year 6. Given uncertainties with construction projects, it would be prudent to address potential time extensions of the project in the DEIR.
- The Normal Operation of the reservoir of Coyote Dam, which is located directly upstream of Anderson Dam, is mentioned many times in the DEIR. However, information relating to the operation of Coyote Dam is not consistent in the DEIR. Storage requirements for Coyote Dam were established by DSOD in 1992 and are based on fault rupture concerns at Coyote Dam. Because of these concerns, the operation of Coyote Dam for dam safety is conditioned on available storage space in Anderson Dam.

Ms. Chao
October 12, 2023
Page 2

During the construction of the ADSRP, Anderson Dam will be in a compromised state, and for public and construction safety, the storage elevation of the reservoir of Coyote Dam must not exceed Elevation 758.00, U.S.G.S. datum in accordance with the dam's Certificate of Approval for storage.

- Contingency measures may be needed during construction Years 2 through 6 of the ADSRP if DSOD requires the reservoir of Coyote Dam to be operated lower than Elevation 758.00 as a risk-reduction measure during the winter diversions.

If you have any questions or need additional information, you may contact Project Engineer Christopher Dorsey at (916) 820-7786 or Design Engineering Branch Manager Erik Malvick at (916) 820-7820.

Sincerely,



Sharon K. Tapia, P.E.
Division Manager
Division of Safety of Dams

cc: Governor's Office of Planning and Research
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