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Notice of Availability for B.F. Sisk Dam Raise and Reservoir Expansion Project Draft Environmental Impact Report/Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement

The Bureau of Reclamation and San Luis & Delta Mendota Water Authority (SLDMWA) have released a Draft Environmental Impact Report/ Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/SEIS) for a 45-day public review. The Draft EIR/SEIS evaluates increasing storage capacity in San Luis Reservoir to provide greater water supply reliability for South-of-Delta Central Valley Project (CVP) and State Water Project (SWP) water contractors. Increased capacity and reserved supply within San Luis Reservoir would only be used to help meet existing demands and would not serve any new demands in the South-of-Delta CVP and SWP service areas. In addition to the No Project/No Action Alternative, the Draft EIR/SEIS evaluates a 1) a Non-Structural Alternative under which modifications in to operations in San Luis Reservoir would be used to provide improve water supply flexibility; and (2) a Dam Raise Alternative under which B.F Sisk Dam would be raised an additional 10 feet above the 12-foot embankment raise under development by the B.F. Sisk Dam Safety of Dams (SOD) Modification Project. The alternatives evaluated in the Draft EIR/SEIS are analyzed as a connected action to the B. F. Sisk Dam SOD Modification Project to create additional project benefits by increasing storage within San Luis Reservoir. This Draft EIR/SEIS was developed as a subsequent EIR to the B.F. Sisk SOD Modification Project EIS/EIR¹ (SCH number-2009091004) pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21166 and CEQA Guidelines section 15162.

The alternatives considered in the Draft EIR/SEIS propose construction at the San Luis Reservoir in Merced County. Operation of the alternatives could affect water system operations in Contra Costa, Fresno, Imperial, Kern, Kings, Los Angeles, Merced, Orange, Riverside, San Benito, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Joaquin, San Luis Obispo, Santa Clara, Stanislaus, and Ventura counties. The Draft EIR/SEIS concluded that the project could result in significant and unavoidable noise, traffic, recreation, and cultural resources impacts during project construction. Additionally, the operational modifications evaluated under the non-structural alternative would result in significant and unavoidable water supply impacts.

Given the coronavirus disease pandemic and the associated precautions and procedures being followed throughout California, the public meeting to solicit comments on the Draft EIR/SEIS is being conducted online utilizing Microsoft Teams. This meeting's format will allow presentation of the project and public participation through the online chat function. A public meeting to solicit comments on topics addressed in the Draft EIR/SEIS have been scheduled for:

- **August 25, 2020**, 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. via Microsoft Teams, accessible at the following link:
<https://bit.ly/BFSiskEIRSEISPublicMeeting>

The Draft EIR/SEIS may be viewed at <http://sldmwa.org/sisk-project/>. If you encounter problems accessing documents online, please email pablo.arroyave@sldmwa.org. Written comments on the environmental document should be received by close of business September 28, 2020, and should be sent to Pablo Arroyave, SLDMWA, P.O. Box 2157, Los Banos, CA 93635, or via e-mail to pablo.arroyave@sldmwa.org or to Cassandra Arthur, Bureau of Reclamation, Willows Construction Office, 1140 W. Wood Street Willows, CA, 95988, or via email to carthur@usbr.gov. For additional information, please contact Pablo Arroyave at (209) 832-6200 or Cassandra Arthur at 530-892-6202 (TTY 1-800-877-8339).

¹ The B.F. Sisk SOD Modification Project Draft EIS/EIR is available for review at -
https://www.usbr.gov/mp/nepa/nepa_project_details.php?Project_ID=34281

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