



Whittier Narrows-Santa Fe Dams Water Conservation Study (LACDA), CA

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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LOCATION AND DESCRIPTION:

The study area is located in Los Angeles County, CA about 10-15 miles east of the city of Los Angeles. Whittier Narrows Dam is located on the San Gabriel River. The dam is the central element of the Los Angeles County Drainage Area flood control system. It collects runoff from the uncontrolled drainage areas upstream along with releases into the San Gabriel River from Santa Fe Dam. If inflow to the reservoir exceeds the groundwater recharge capacity of the spreading grounds along the Rio Hondo, or the bed of the San Gabriel River downstream, this water is stored temporarily in an incidental water conservation pool, an increment of the flood control pool. Water conservation is incidental to the dam's primary purpose of flood control. This study will evaluate the feasibility of increasing water conservation by raising the currently approved operational water conservation pool elevation from 201.6'. Alternative elevations including 205', 209' and 215' will be evaluated, which would allow the capture of an additional 1,400 to 10,000 acre feet of water. This project would reduce reliance on imported water by increasing local supply and is an important component of the District's efforts to assist local partners in increasing supply, in light of the severe ongoing drought.

AUTHORIZATION:

Energy & Water Appropriation Act 1993, P.L. 102-377, Oct 1992.

ACTIVITIES FOR FY 2020:

Study is on hold, pending a re-evaluation by the sponsor on whether to continue the study.

FY 2021 PLANNED ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

None.

ISSUES AND OTHER INFORMATION:

Federal Cost Shared Agreement amendment that includes a provision for accelerated funds was executed in December 2015. Because the original study was completed back in 1999, environmental and economic analyses must be updated due to changes in policies and guidance. Since the dam is classified as DSAC I, urgent and compelling, where the combination of life or economic consequences with probability is extremely high, changes in operations can't be made until the identified potential failure modes (seepage, piping and potential for overtopping) have been addressed. A dam safety modification study, currently underway, will develop a risk management plan to address these failure modes.

CONGRESSIONAL INTEREST:

Congresswoman Napolitano (CA-32); and Congresswoman Sanchez (CA-38).



As of: 1 Feb 20

FINANCIAL SUMMARY:

Investigations

Estimated Federal Cost	2,725,000
Estimated Non-Federal Cost	2,575,000
Total Estimated Project Cost	5,300,000
Allocation thru FY19	1,344,000
Allocation for FY20	0
President's Budget for FY21	TBD
House Report for FY21	TBD
Senate Report for FY21	TBD
Balance to Complete After FY21	1,381,000

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS – LOS ANGELES DISTRICT

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