

SALINAS DAM DISPOSITION STUDY NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY ACT PUBLIC SCOPING MEETING

20 OCTOBER 2021

10:00 AM PST & 6:00 PM PST

MS. MEGAN WHALEN, LEAD PLANNER

MR. KEN WONG, ENVIRONMENTAL COORDINATOR

LOS ANGELES DISTRICT

"The views, opinions and findings contained in this report are those of the authors(s) and should not be construed as an official Department of the Army position, policy or decision, unless so designated by other official documentation."



**US Army Corps
of Engineers®**



Context for Meeting

- The US Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) is funded to conduct a disposition study under Section 216, part of the Flood Control Act of 1970.
- The Salinas Dam and the surrounding property (the “asset”) no longer serves its originally authorized purpose to supply water to Camp San Luis Obispo for World War II related training activities.
- Since 1955, the Corps has been the property owner and responsible federal agency for property and the County of San Luis Obispo has been its leaseholder and caretaker.
- The City of San Luis Obispo receives approximately 20% of their potable water from the reservoir behind the dam.

Location

- San Luis Obispo County, CA
- East of City of San Luis Obispo
- Headwaters of Salinas River
- Los Padres National Forest



Asset Overview

- Dam
- Related structures (pump house, booster station, and water transmission system)
- Reservoir (423.79 acres, 23,843 acre-feet of water storage)
- Adjacent open space (4,705 acres)
- Supplies water to the City of San Luis Obispo



History

- Constructed in 1941
- Constructed under wartime authority for water supply to Camp San Luis Obispo
- Since this project was excessed as a former Military Asset, this project is not authorized under: Civil Works, Military Construction, Environmental Restoration, or Navigation
- Water supply for Camp SLO
- Deemed war surplus in 1947
- USACE administrative control
- Leased to County SLO for water supply and recreation



Context for the Disposition Study

- Since 1947 County SLO operates and maintains the dam as part of their lease
- Dam is in need of repairs based on the State of California's seismic requirements
- Dam meets federal dam safety standards and is not likely to get funding for improvements

Disposition Study Problem Statement

- The dam and surrounding land (asset) is an excessed military asset
- The dam does not meet the current State of California seismic standards for dam safety
- The asset has undergone numerous attempts to transfer and has not been successful because additional studies were needed

Disposition Study Opportunities

- Divest of a no longer utilized asset that no longer serves a federal purpose
- Dispose to an entity that can utilize it for water resources and other multi-benefit purposes
- Reduce risk of loss or damage to asset due to deferred maintenance
- Partner with a willing and capable future owner for a win-win transfer scenario

Disposition Study Considerations

- Disposition Studies do not authorize construction or design; all work must be associated with disposition and with cost efficiency to the federal government.
- The method of transfer and future owner will guide the processes and steps needed for environmental and cultural compliance (i.e., NEPA and Section 106).

NEPA / Study + Public Process

National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA)

Public Input & Disclosure

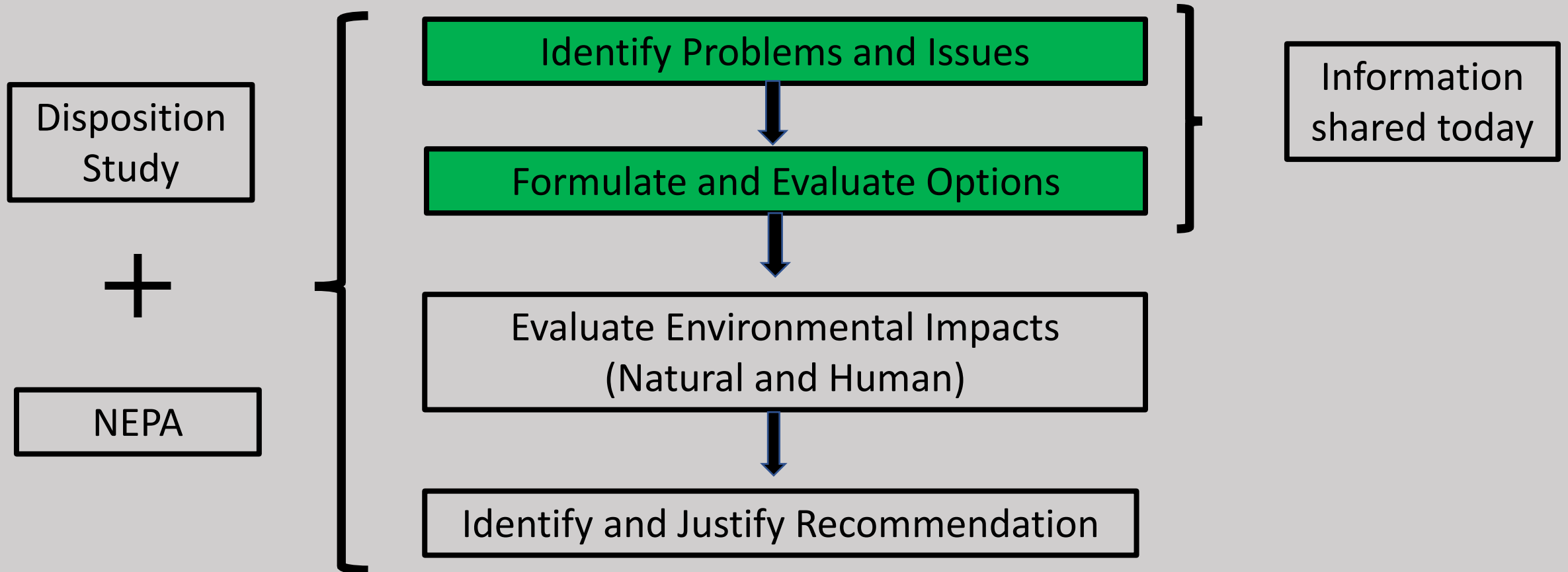
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Consideration of Environmental Impacts
(Natural and Human)



Informed Decision-Making Process

Integrated Studies Process



National Environmental Policy Act Process

Opportunities for Public Involvement

We are here

Start of Environmental Assessment Process (Public Scoping)

Consideration and Evaluation of Problems & Options

Evaluation of Environmental Effects

Identify Recommended Option

**Additional
opportunity for review
and comment here.**

Release Draft EA Document for Public Review and Comments

Respond to Public Comments and Finalize Document

Finding of No Significant Impacts
(Conclude NEPA)

Environmental Impact Statement
(NEPA Process Continues)

What considerations are important to you, pertaining to the future ownership and uses of the Dam and federal lands?

Outcomes may include:

- No Action
- Transfer or disposal to another entity

Resources to consider:

- Water
- Recreation
- Open space
- Biological
- Cultural

Next Steps – PROJECT SCHEDULE

Milestone	Date
1 st Decision Meeting Milestone (begin information gathering)	August 2018
SQRA -Dam Safety/Risk Analysis (Complete)	March 2020
Asset Appraisal (Complete)	August 2020
Initiate Disposal Study	September 2020
Public Scoping Meeting (NEPA Requirement)	October 20, 2021
Release of Draft Integrated Report (Study Report + EA)	October 2022 (tentative)

Public Comment Period

Public Comment Guide To Engagement

- **Public comments can be provided either in CHAT or VERBALLY (3 min.).**
 - CHAT in comments at any time, but note, written comments are preferred.
 - VERBAL comments are limited to 3 minutes; a timer will be shown.
- **To be placed in the queue for VERBAL comments, please CHAT in your request to speak.**
 - Examples: *“I wish to speak.” OR “Place me on the list.” OR “Name, Affiliation – request to speak.”*
 - Host will take requests in the order they were received in CHAT.
 - Optional to include name and affiliation; this will help you track USACE responses to your comments in the Final Report.
- **Host will announce each name in order; when your name is called, come off MUTE and speak up; video is optional.**
 - After 3 minutes is up, Host reserves the right to end your allotted comment first with a warning, then if necessary, by muting your line.
- **The entire meeting will be recorded, and all CHAT comments saved.**
 - All CHAT and verbal comments will be recorded for project consideration and for inclusion in the project record.

Submit Written Comments
By November 20, 2021

Email: SalinasDamDS@usace.army.mil

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Thank you for your participation!