



U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
LOS ANGELES DISTRICT

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PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE OF PROPOSED ACTIVITY AND PREPARATION OF ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT

Comment Period: January 27, 2022 to February 26, 2022

Direct comments to: Mr. Priyodarshi Majumdar (see below)

Notice of Preparation

ENVIRONMENTAL ASSESSMENT FOR ALTERATION/MODIFICATION TO SANTA ANITA DEBRIS DAM, LOS ANGELES COUNTY, CALIFORNIA, FOR THE SEISMIC STRENGTHENING PROJECT

In compliance with U.S.C. Title 33, Chapter 9, Subchapter 1, Section 408, the Los Angeles County Flood Control District (LACFCD), has requested permission from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to alter and/or modify the Santa Anita Debris Dam by remediating seismic deficiencies at the debris dam (proposed project) within the boundaries of the city of Arcadia, Los Angeles County, California. The LACFCD has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) on behalf of USACE for the proposed project. Specifically, the proposed project entails the following: remediating seismic deficiencies, using upstream and downstream earth-fill buttresses; reconfiguring existing structures, including the intake tower, spillway, and embankment; buttressing approximately 700 linear feet of existing spillway walls and inverting them with reinforced concrete; excavating approximately 7,600 cubic yards of material from both the upstream and downstream slopes. Replace the excavated material with compacted, sturdy soils; raising the spillway wall by an additional 12 inches at the crest of the dam by casting reinforced concrete on top of existing walls and the dam embankment by an additional 12 inches at the upstream side of the dam crest by adding a reinforced concrete parapet wall; constructing a new subdrain system, automated outlet gate, control system, and control house; replacing the asphalt concrete access roads, on the crest and downstream side of the dam, with a new 645-foot-long concrete access road and the riprap, on the upstream and downstream sides of the embankment; installing monitoring equipment, within a new 200-square-foot control building, adjacent to the spillway and a new radio tower antenna, next to the new control building; reconstructing the catwalk, pier, and stairway to connect the intake tower with control building.

The Corps is requesting comments pertaining to the proposed project from federal, state, local agencies, and interested public that would lead to the determination by decision makers on the preparation of a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) or whether an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) would be required.

The Corps is the lead Federal agency for the proposed action. The Environmental Assessment has been prepared in compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act

(NEPA), Federal laws and regulations, Executive Orders, and Corps' policies. Comments received will be considered in determining whether an EIS will be required or whether a FONSI can be issued.

The purpose of the project is to remediate seismic deficiencies at the Santa Anita Debris Dam, which will improve public safety and reduce flood risk to downstream communities. The improvements to intake tower, embankments and spillway are needed to remove the operation restrictions placed on the facility by the State of California Department of Water Resources – Division of Safety of Dams. Construction of the Proposed Action would not result in the permanent loss of waters of the United States.

The Proposed Action may affect a federally listed endangered species, least Bell's vireo (*vireo belii pusillus*) and Southwestern willow flycatcher (*Empidonax trailii extimus*), known to potentially utilize habitat within the permit area of the proposed project. Therefore, pursuant to section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, as amended, the USACE Los Angeles District has initiated informal consultation with USFWS on November 9, 2021 for the proposed project. Structural modifications would not result in the removal or destruction of historic properties protected under the National Historic Preservation Act. The project would be in compliance with the Migratory Bird Treaty Act. A separate Section 404 and Section 401 permit pursuant to the Clean Water Act would be required for the Proposed Action.

All comments must be received by 5 p.m. on February 26, 2022.

If you have questions or would like additional information, please contact Priyodarshi Majumdar at (213) 452-3661. Comments should be sent to:

Ms. Priyodarshi Majumdar, Senior Program Manager
USACE-SPL-EDD-V
915 Wilshire Boulevard, Suite 930
Los Angeles, California 90017-3401
or by email at Priyodarshi.Majumdar@usace.army.mil

Santa Anita Debris Dam Site



Lat: 34.169787
Lon: -118.018459



North