



MEMORANDUM

TO: SLDMWA Board of Directors, Alternates

FROM: Frances Mizuno, Assistant Executive Director

DATE: February 7, 2019

RE: Expenditure of \$25,000 Through Contributed Funds Agreement with U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to Perform Initial Exploratory Work for B.F. Sisk Dam Raise Project

BACKGROUND

B.F. Sisk Dam is a 380-foot-high zoned compacted earthfill embankment located on the west side of California's Central Valley 12 miles west of Los Banos, California. The dam is more than 3.5 miles long and impounds San Luis Reservoir (SLR) which has a total capacity of more than 2 million acre-feet.

The dam was built between 1963 and 1967 to provide supplemental irrigation water storage for the federal Central Valley Project (CVP) and municipal and industrial water for the California State Water Project (SWP). Water is lifted into the reservoir for storage by the Gianelli Pumping – Generating Plant from the California Aqueduct and from the Delta-Mendota Canal via O'Neill Forebay.

B.F. Sisk Dam, also known as San Luis Dam, is owned by the Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) and operated by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR). Reservoir storage space is allotted 55 percent State and 45 percent Federal.

A series of studies and analyses culminating in the seismic risk analysis that was completed in 2006 determined that action needs to be taken to reduce risk to the downstream public. Consequently, Reclamation, with collaboration from DWR is proceeding with a Safety of Dams (SOD) B.F. Sisk Dam Corrective Action Project. The current project schedule is for award of initial construction contract by September, 2020.

The preferred alternative for the Corrective Action Project is to raise the dam by 12 feet for seismic reinforcement and additional freeboard. This raise however does not provide for any additional water supply storage.

The Safety of Dams Act authorizes the Secretary of Interior to develop additional project benefits in the construction of new or supplemental work in conjunction with SOD work. The costs of

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such benefits would be paid by the project beneficiaries. The Authority has the opportunity to participate jointly with Reclamation on a project to further raise the dam to provide additional water supply storage benefits for Authority members.

ISSUE FOR DECISION

Whether the Water Authority should enter into a Contributed Funds Agreement with Reclamation to provide \$25,000 from the FY 2019 Leg Ops Technical Contingency Activity Budget to allow Reclamation to perform initial exploratory work on a B.F. Sisk Dam Raise Project.

RECOMMENDATION

We recommend the Board of Directors authorize the expenditure of \$25,000 from the FY2019 Leg Ops Technical Contingency Budget and the execution of a Contributed Funds Agreement with Reclamation to perform initial exploratory work on a B.F. Sisk Dam Raise Project.

ANALYSIS

Additional storage in SLR will provide tremendous benefits and at a minimum allow Authority members to store Project and other acquired supplemental water supplies that would otherwise be lost due to the current limited storage in SLR. An additional 10-foot raise above the 12-foot raise for the SOD Corrective Action Project could potentially provide an additional 120,000 acre-feet of water supply storage in San Luis Reservoir. The current estimate for this 10-foot raise is \$400 -500M. If this raise is performed in conjunction with the Corrective Action Project, the entire project could potentially be completed by 2028-2020.

Providing \$25,000 to Reclamation under a Contributed Funds Agreement will allow Reclamation to perform further evaluation to develop a project plan that identifies actions needed, schedule, and cost to add this project to the SOD Corrective Action Project. This information will assist the Authority in determining potential participation in the project.