

## NOTICE OF PREPARATION

From: Santa Clara Valley Water District  
5750 Almaden Expressway  
San Jose, CA 95118

**Subject: Notice of Preparation of a Draft Environmental Impact Report**

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**Project Title: Calero Dam Seismic Retrofit Project Location: Santa Clara County, California  
Scoping Meeting: July 18, 2018 at the Santa Clara Valley Water District, 5750 Almaden Expressway, San Jose, CA 95118**

The Santa Clara Valley Water District (District) is the Lead Agency and will prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the above-listed Project. The District is seeking input from your agency about the scope and content of the environmental information needed for your agency to fulfil its statutory responsibilities regarding with the proposed Project. Your agency will need to use the draft EIR prepared by the District when considering your permit or other approval for the Project.

*The Project description, location, and the potential environmental effects are contained in the attached materials.*

Due to the time limits mandated by State law, your response must be sent at the earliest possible date but **not later than 30 days after receipt of this notice**. This Notice of Preparation is also available online at <https://www.valleywater.org/project-updates/public-review-documents>

The District will also hold a scoping meeting to provide an additional opportunity for public input on the scope and content of the information to be addressed in the draft EIR.

Please send your response to: Ryan Heacock  
Santa Clara Valley Water District  
5750 Almaden Expressway  
San Jose, CA 95118  
(408) 630-3202  
[rheacock@valleywater.org](mailto:rheacock@valleywater.org)

Please provide the name of a contact person in your agency.

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**Notice of Preparation**  
**Draft Environmental Impact Report**  
**Calero Dam Seismic Retrofit Project**  
Santa Clara County, California  
July 2018

**Introduction**

The draft EIR will identify and evaluate possible environmental impacts of the proposed project and develop strategies to avoid, reduce, or compensate for any significant impacts. As the lead agency under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the Santa Clara Valley Water District (District) has determined that the Calero Dam Seismic Retrofit Project (Project) may result in significant impacts to the environment and has decided to prepare a draft EIR to provide opportunity for public input to the planning and decision-making process.

This Notice of Preparation (NOP), required by CEQA (CCR §15082), describes the proposed Project goals and objectives, and potential environmental impacts. The NOP/Scoping process will be used to determine the scope of draft EIR analysis. The Scoping process also provides opportunities for public participation, and regulatory agency input into the development of the project.

**Project Overview Background**

The Santa Clara Valley Water District (District) owns and operates the Calero Dam (Dam). The 840-foot-long and 90-foot-high embankment dam, made of compacted earthen materials, was completed in 1935. Calero Dam creates a reservoir that stores 9,934 acre-feet of water with a surface area of approximately 347 acres at full capacity (elevation 486.8 feet North American Vertical Datum of 1988). The reservoir receives inflow during winter and spring from rainfall and runoff from the Arroyo Calero Watershed. The drainage area to the Reservoir is approximately 7.1 square miles, with ungauged flows entering through unnamed drainages.

The reservoir water is used to augment natural percolation to maintain groundwater levels and supply water to District water treatment plants. The reservoir is one of ten District reservoirs, which provides nearly 30 percent of the total water supply for Santa Clara County (District 2012a). The reservoir stores water from multiple sources including natural runoff, water transferred via pipeline from Anderson Reservoir, and water transferred via canal from Almaden Reservoir. Stored water is released gradually during the summer dry season, where it is used to recharge groundwater levels via in-stream percolation and redirection into downstream percolation basins. Stored water may also be distributed to the District's water treatment plants. The District also manages reservoir storage levels to provide capacity for incidental flood protection.

The Dam is regulated by the California Department of Water Resources, Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD), which requires regular monitoring and inspection to evaluate safety. An evaluation of the Dam, completed in 2012, determined the need to modify the facility to provide seismic stability from earthquake events. Accordingly, DSOD mandated operational restrictions, limiting reservoir storage to 46 percent of its normal capacity. Retrofit of the 80-year-old Dam and associated facilities is necessary to address seismic safety concerns, satisfy District operational requirements, remove the interim storage restriction, and restore normal water supply capacity. The proposed Project would correct the identified deficiencies to the Dam and Reservoir facilities. The Calero Auxiliary Dam, a 40-foot-high, 510-

foot-long earth embankment, built at the same time as the main Dam, while not seismically deficient, will be upgraded as part of the Project.

## **Setting**

The Project area is located on Calero Creek in unincorporated Santa Clara County, approximately 12 miles southwest of downtown San Jose. The Dam and Reservoir are bounded by McKean Road to the north and Calero County Park to the south. The reservoir is used for recreation, which is managed by Santa Clara County Parks. The Reservoir is in a rural area; a few scattered residences are located in the vicinity (Figure 1).

The affected area consists of the Dam, Auxiliary Dam, Reservoir, outlet works (including the intake structure, conveyance pipelines, and outlet structure), spillway, associated access roads, portions of Calero Creek immediately downstream from the existing outlet works, Calero Creek upstream from the Reservoir, Fellows Dike and the Bailey Fellows House, and the area surrounding the Dam, Reservoir, and spillway.

## **Project Description**

### **Elements of the Calero Dam Seismic Retrofit**

The proposed project is intended to retrofit the Dam and associated facilities to address seismic safety concerns, satisfy District operational requirements, remove the interim storage restriction, and restore normal water supply by:

- Reconstructing and thickening the Dam;
- Constructing a new outlet works system;
- Increasing the capacity of the spillway;
- Creating borrow, disposal, and staging areas for Project construction; and ■ Breaching Fellows Dike and relocating the historic Bailey Fellows House.

Project construction would require dewatering the reservoir. Once dewatered, natural inflows would be passed through the Dam year-round to the creek until construction is complete. Flows in Arroyo Calero may be maintained via the Almaden Valley Pipeline turnout at the Dam.

Reconstruction of the Dam, replacement of the spillway, and construction of the new outlet would require the import of construction materials. The materials would be delivered to the project site via either McKean Road or Bailey Road between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. Construction staff would also use either McKean Road or Bailey Road to drive to and from the site.

Approximately 310,000 cubic yards of dirt fill necessary to reconstruct the Dam is expected to be removed from the proposed borrow area. The borrow area would be located approximately 1800 feet east of the Dam and located on the same parcel.

Project construction is expected to occur over a three-year period. Major construction on the Dam requiring earthwork and import of materials is expected to occur during the first two years of the construction period. The locations of project features are shown in Figure 2.

## Topics to be Analyzed in the Draft EIR

The draft EIR (DEIR) will serve to further assess the proposed Project's effects on the environment, to identify significant impacts, and to identify feasible mitigation measures to reduce or eliminate potentially significant environmental impacts. Analysis of alternatives to the proposed Project will be included in the DEIR. Responses received to this NOP may modify or add to the preliminary assessment of potential issues addressed in the DEIR.

### Topics to be analyzed in the DEIR:

- Aesthetics ▪ Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Geology and Soils
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials ▪  
Hydrology and Geomorphology

### Other Required Sections:

- Land Use and Planning
- Noise and Vibrations
- Recreation
- Transportation/Traffic
- Utilities and Service Systems
- Water Quality
- Cumulative Impacts
- Irreversible Impacts

The DEIR will also include other information required by CEQA: 1) Growth Inducing Impacts; 2) Significant, Unavoidable Impacts; 3) Significant Irreversible Environmental Changes; 4) Alternatives Analysis; and 5) References.

### Other Project Approvals

The San Francisco Bay Regional Water Quality Control Board and the California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) may rely on the District DEIR to evaluate their decisions as responsible agencies under CEQA and to issue approvals, pursuant to their authorities, for implementation actions associated with the proposed Project.

### Environmental Review Process

This NOP initiates the CEQA process through which the District will refine the range of issues and Project alternatives to be addressed in the DEIR. Comments are invited on this notice to prepare the draft EIR and on the scope of issues to be included in the draft EIR.

Please submit any comments by August 20, 2018 to Ryan Heacock, Environmental Planner for the Project (see *Contact Information* below).

After the 30-day review period for the NOP is complete and all comments are received, a draft EIR will be prepared in accordance with CEQA, as amended (Public Resources Code §21000 et seq.), and the State Guidelines for Implementation of CEQA (CCR §15000 et seq.).

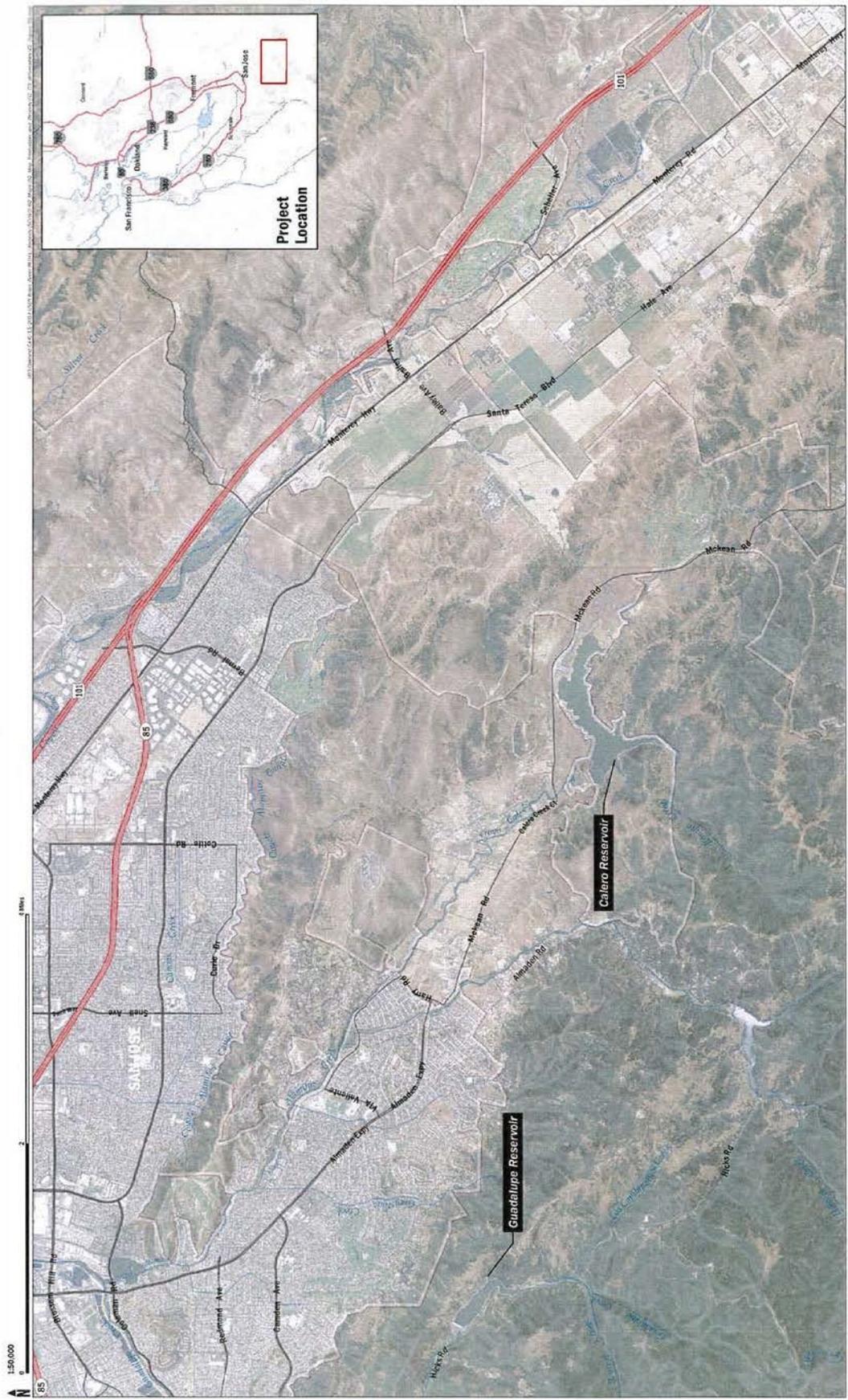
Once the draft EIR is completed, it will be made available for a 45-day public review and comment period. Copies of the draft EIR will be sent directly to those agencies commenting on the NOP, and will also be made available to the public at a number of locations, including the District headquarters

and public libraries in the area. Information about the availability of the draft EIR will also be posted on the District's website ([www.valleywater.org](http://www.valleywater.org)).

### **Contact Information**

For further information, please contact:

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**Figure 1**  
 Calero Dam Seismic Retrofit  
 Project - Vicinity

**LEGEND**

- Seams
- Waterbody, Reservoir
- City Limits
- Major Highways
- Major Roads
- Sheets
- Ramps

Data Sources  
 1. USGS 2014  
 2. USGS 1992  
 3. USGS 1980

**San Joaquin Valley  
 Water District**  
 SCVWD  
 Map created  
 03/2014  
 By Brian Green

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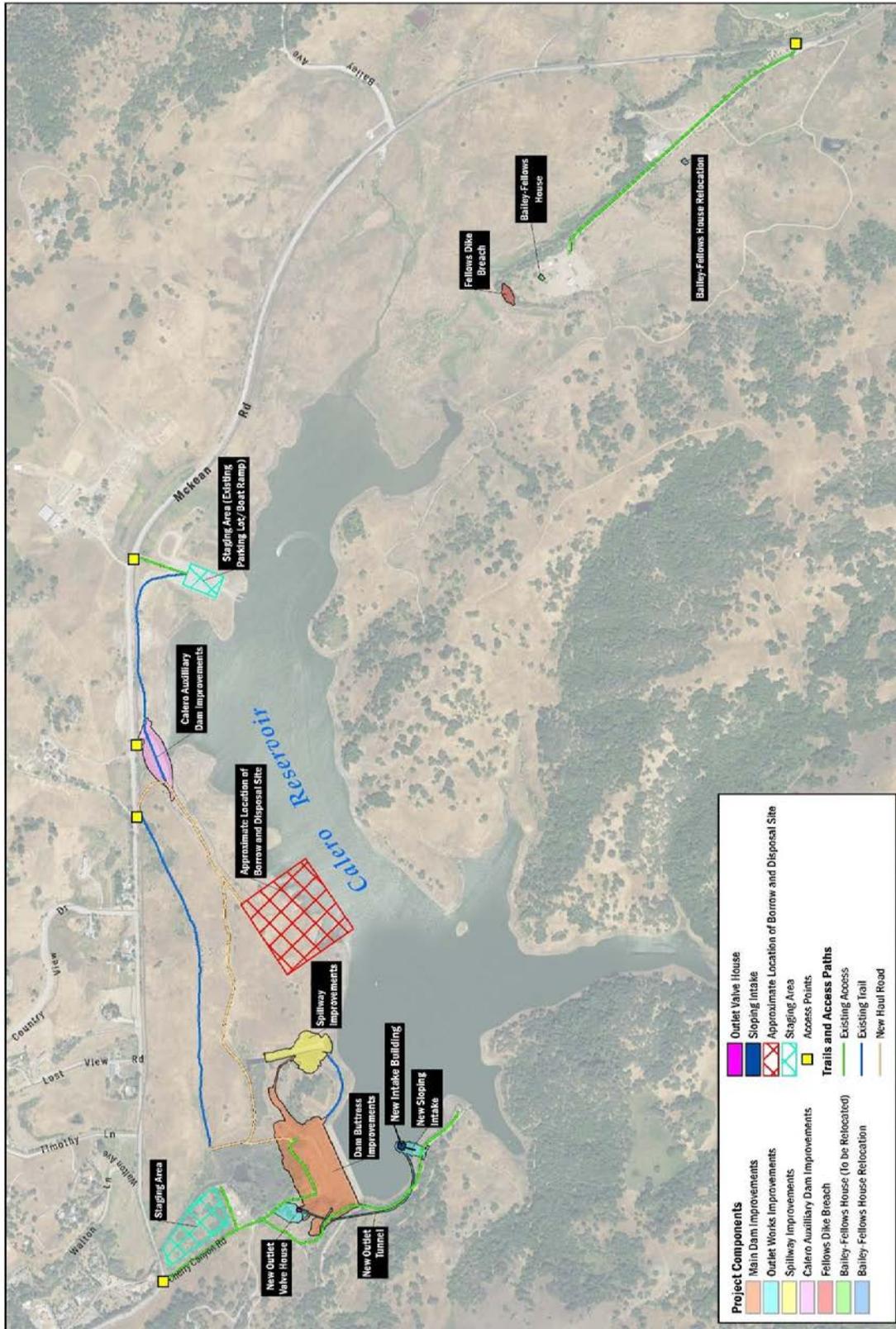


Figure 2 - CALERO DAM SEISMIC RETROFIT PROJECT

Imagery Source: ESRI, 2017.  
Original Plans Drawn By HDR Consultants, 2017.  
Datum: Horizontal: NAD83 CA State Plane Zone III

Santa Clara Valley  
Water District

Map created 6/5/2018