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

---

Project Title: Guadalupe Dam Seismic Retrofit

Project Location: Santa Clara County, California

Scoping Meeting: March 8, 2017 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 the views of your agency as to the scope and content of the environmental information which is germane to your agency's statutory responsibilities in connection 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 http://www.valleywater.org/PublicReviewDocuments.aspx 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

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

Page intentionally left blank

Notice of Preparation
Draft Environmental Impact Report
Guadalupe Dam Seismic Retrofit Project
Santa Clara County, California
February 2018

Introduction

The draft EIR will identify and evaluate possible environmental impacts of the 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 Guadalupe Dam Seismic Retrofit 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.

Project Overview

Background

The Santa Clara Valley Water District (District) owns and operates the Guadalupe Dam (Dam). The 695-foot-long and 142-foot-high embankment dam, made of compacted earthen materials, was completed in 1935. Guadalupe Dam impounds Guadalupe Reservoir (Reservoir), which stores 3,415 acre-feet of water with a surface area of approximately 74 acres at full capacity (elevation 618.9 feet North American Vertical Datum of 1988). The Reservoir receives inflow from winter through spring each year from rainfall and runoff in the Guadalupe Watershed. The drainage area to the Reservoir is approximately 5.9 square miles, with ungauged flows entering through Guadalupe, Rincon, and Los Capitancillos creeks.

The Reservoir's primary use is to augment natural percolation and maintain groundwater levels. The Reservoir is one of ten District reservoirs, which make up nearly 30 percent of the total water supply for Santa Clara County (District 2012a). The Reservoir stores natural runoff during the winter rainy season for gradual summer dry season release to Guadalupe Creek, where it is used to recharge groundwater levels via in-stream percolation and rediversion into downstream infiltration basins. 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 postulated design earthquake events. Accordingly, DSOD mandated operational restrictions, limiting reservoir storage to 66 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 Reservoir operating restriction, and restore normal water supply capacity. The proposed Project would correct the identified deficiencies to the Dam and Reservoir facilities.

Setting

The Project area is located on Guadalupe Creek in unincorporated Santa Clara County, approximately 9 miles south of downtown San Jose. The Dam and Reservoir are bounded by Almaden Quicksilver County Park to the north and Hicks Road to the south. The area is rural, with limited recreation at the Reservoir and a few scattered residences nearby. See attached vicinity map.

The affected area consists of the Dam, Reservoir, outlet works (including the intake structure, conveyance pipelines, and outlet structure), spillway, associated access roads, portions of Guadalupe Creek immediately downstream from the existing outlet works, Guadalupe Creek upstream from the Reservoir, Hicks Road adjacent to the Dam, and the area surrounding the Dam, Reservoir, and spillway.

Project Description

Elements of the Guadalupe 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 Reservoir operating restriction, and restore normal water supply by:

- Reconstructing and thickening the Dam;
- Constructing a new outlet works system;
- Increasing the capacity of the spillway;
- Improving emergency Dam access by realigning Hicks Road and constructing a new bridge from Hicks Road across the spillway to the Dam crest, and a new bridge over Guadalupe Creek below the Dam; and
- Creating borrow, disposal, and staging areas for Project construction.

Project construction would require dewatering the reservoir. Once dewatered, the inflows would be passed though the Dam year-round to the creek until construction is complete; dryback may occur in sections of Guadalupe Creek below the Dam. Construction is expected to last up to three years with the major construction work occurring in the first two years.

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 Hicks Road between 7 a.m. and 7 p.m. Construction staff would also use Hicks Road to drive to and from the site.

Approximately 241,000 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 on or near part of the Guadalupe Trail in the Almaden Quicksilver County Park. This would necessitate closure or

redirection of the trail, depending on feasibility. The Project would also include construction of an access road to work areas and placement of excess soil in a disposal area in Almaden Quicksilver County Park.

Realignment of Hicks Road would include earthwork and grading in the Sierra Azul Open Space Preserve to allow road realignment and slope stabilization. This work would impact approximately 0.08 acres in a section of the preserve that is not currently open to the public.

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.

Topics to be Analyzed in the Draft EIR

The draft EIR 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 draft EIR. Responses received to this NOP may modify or add to the preliminary assessment of potential issues addressed in the draft EIR.

Topics to be analyzed in the EIR:

- Aesthetics
- Air Quality
- Biological Resources
- Cultural Resources
- Geology and Soils
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Hydrology and Geomorphology
- Land Use and Planning
- Noise and Vibrations
- Recreation
- Transportation/Traffic
- Utilities and Service Systems
- Water Quality
- Cumulative Impacts
- Irreversible Impacts

Other Required Sections:

The draft EIR 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 draft EIR. 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 March 31, 2018 to Ryan Heacock, Environmental Planner for the Project (see *Contact Information* below).

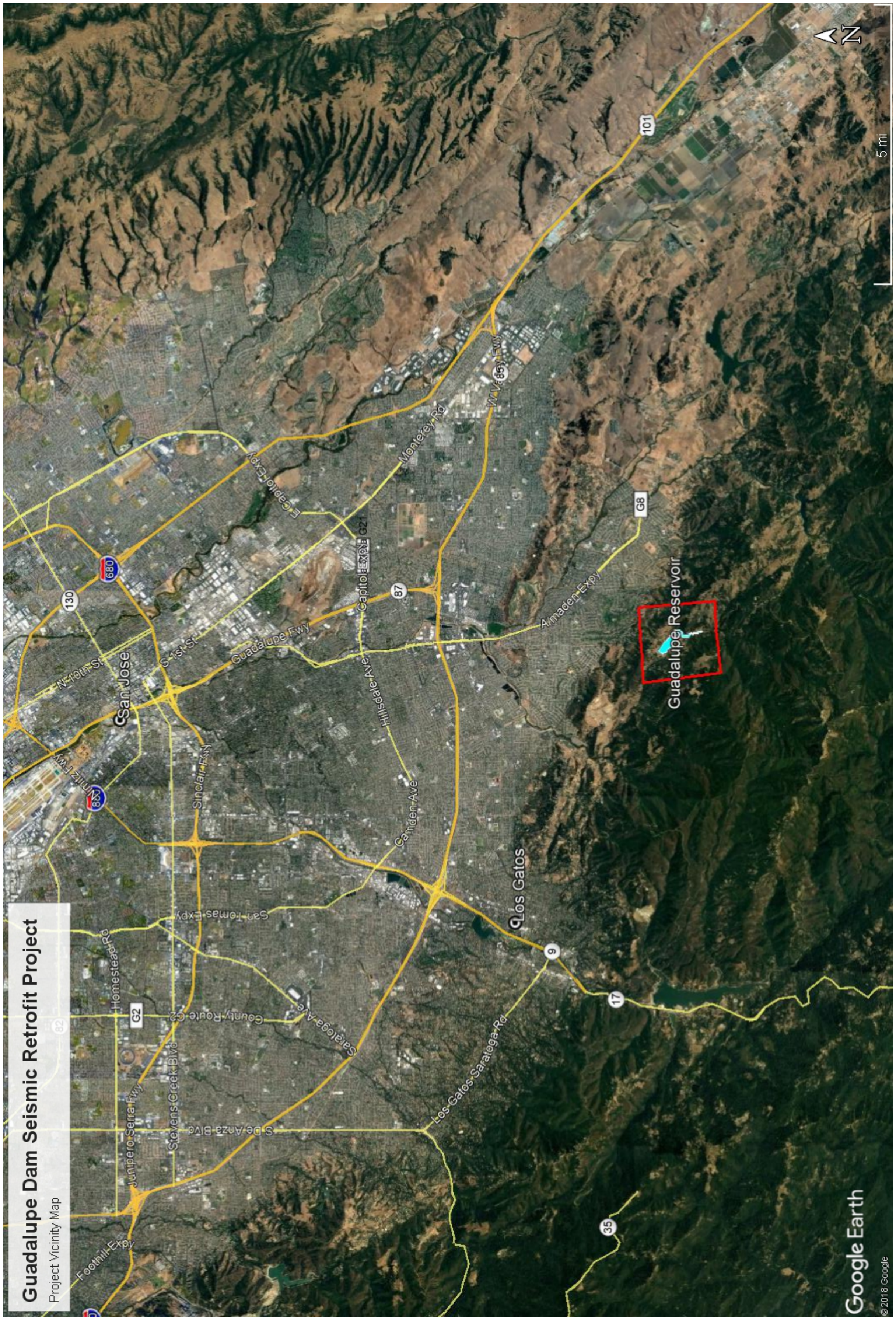
After the 30-day review period for the NOP is complete and all comments are received, a draft EIR will be prepared in accordance with CEQA, as amended (Public Resources Code §21000 et seq.), and the State Guidelines for Implementation of CEQA (CCR §15000 et seq.).

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).

Contact Information

For further information, please contact:

Ryan Heacock
Senior Environmental Planner
Water Resources Planning Unit
Santa Clara Valley Water District
5750 Almaden Expressway
San Jose, CA 95118-3614
(408) 630-3202
rheacock@valleywater.org


Guadalupe Dam Seismic Retrofit Project
Project Vicinity Map
Guadalupe Reservoir
San Jose
Los Gatos
Almaden Expy
Guadalupe Fwy
Capitol Expy
Hillsdale Ave
Camden Ave
Monterey Rd
San Tomas Expy
Saratoga Ave
Los Gatos-Saratoga Rd
S De Anza Blvd
Stevens Creek Blvd
Junipero Serra Fwy
Foothill Expy
Homestead Rd
Sinclair Fwy
N 10th St
S 1st St
5 mi
N
Google Earth
©2018 Google

Page intentionally left blank

Guadalupe Dam Seismic Retrofit Project
Project Overview with Proposed Modifications
Hicks Road 60 ft. Right of Way (ROW)
Seismic Restriction
Reservoir Surface Elev. 618.9
Existing Outlet Works
Existing Guadalupe Creek Bridge
Borrow Area
Existing Dam Footprint
New Features
New Bridges
Graded Access Road
Hicks Realignment Graded Area
Hicks Realignment Pullout Area
Hicks Road Alignment
Concrete Apron
Guadalupe Creek Realignment
Riprap
Spillway Footprint
Spillway Approach
Spillway Chute
Spillway Riprap
Spillway Weir
New Spillway
New Intake to Outlet Shaft
Outlet Works
Concrete Embankment Panels
Dam Buttress Footprint
SCVWD Property Boundary
Existing Guadalupe Creek Bridge
Guadalupe Creek Bridge
Outlet Structure
Access Road
Dam Buttress
Concrete Panels
Existing Outlet
Existing Dam Footprint
Borrow Area
Intake to Outlet Shaft
Sloping Intake
Control Building
Outlet Pipes
Existing Spillway to be replaced
Hicks Road Realignment
Crest Access Bridge
Spillway Weir
Imagery Source: USGS-ESRI, 2017.
2016 Topographic Survey Conducted by Wood Rodgers, May 2016.
Original Plans Drawn by GEI Consultants, 2017.
Datums: Horizontal: NAD83 CA SP Zone3, Vertical: NAVD88
N
0
160 Feet
1:1,925
1 inch = 160 feet
Santa Clara Valley Water District
AECOM
Map created 11/17/2017