

Abstract

The San Diego County Water Authority (Water Authority) will be raising the San Vicente Dam in San Diego County, California to increase emergency water storage for the region as part of its Emergency Storage Project (ESP). The Water Authority is considering an additional dam raise to provide approximately 100,000 acre feet (AF) of carryover storage for the region as part of its Carryover Storage and San Vicente Dam Raise Project (CSP). The existing 220-foot high concrete gravity dam will be raised by as much as 117 feet using roller compacted concrete (RCC) under both the ESP and CSP dam raises (Figure ES-1), expanding the usable reservoir volume by up to 152,100 acre-feet (AF) to provide both ESP and CSP storage. The purpose of the CSP is to substantially increase the reliability and flexibility of the regional water supply by providing facilities to accumulate and store water by the year 2011. The ESP has received all necessary approvals, including a permit from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act (Section 404 CWA). Because it would not be feasible or practicable to construct two separate raises of the dam due to issues such as cost, safety of the raised dam structure, and construction logistics, the two increases would be combined and constructed at the same time. This document is designed to provide the necessary environmental analysis to allow the Water Authority (as Lead Agency under the California Environmental Quality Act or “CEQA”) and the Corps (as Lead Agency under the National Environmental Policy Act or “NEPA”) to make an informed decision regarding the project. Because the two agencies both a discretionary actions for the project, this analysis is being prepared as a joint Environmental Impact Report (EIR)/Environmental Impact Statement (EIS), as provided for under CEQA and NEPA regulations.

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