Print Form

Notice of Determination

Appendix D

To:

☒ Office of Planning and Research

U.S. Mail:
P.O. Box 3044
Sacramento, CA 95812-3044

Street Address:
1400 Tenth St., Rm 113
Sacramento, CA 95814

☒ County Clerk
County of: Riverside
Address: P.O. Box 751
Riverside, CA 92502-0751

From:
Public Agency: CA Department of Water Resou
Address: P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236
Contact: Gina Radieve
Phone: 916-882-2051

Lead Agency (if different from above):

Address:

Contact:
Phone:

SUBJECT: Filing of Notice of Determination in compliance with Section 21108 or 21152 of the Public Resources Code.

State Clearinghouse Number (if submitted to State Clearinghouse): 2013091027

Project Title: Addendum No. 2 to the Perris Dam Emergency Release Facility Project

Project Applicant: California Department of Water Resources

Project Location (include county): Perris, CA in Riverside County

Project Description:
See Attachment 1

This is to advise that the California Department of Water Resources has approved the above
(☒ Lead Agency or ☐ Responsible Agency)

described project on 12/23/2022 (date) and has made the following determinations regarding the above described project.

1. The project [☒ will ☐ will not] have a significant effect on the environment.
2. ☒ An Environmental Impact Report was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
   ☐ A Negative Declaration was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
3. Mitigation measures [☒ were ☐ were not] made a condition of the approval of the project.
4. A mitigation reporting or monitoring plan [☒ was ☐ was not] adopted for this project.
5. A statement of Overriding Considerations [☒ was ☐ was not] adopted for this project.
6. Findings [☒ were ☐ were not] made pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.

This is to certify that the final EIR with comments and responses and record of project approval, or the negative Declaration, is available to the General Public at:
https://water.ca.gov/News/Public-Notices

Signature (Public Agency): Ted Craddock Title: Deputy Director, State Water Project

Date: 12/23/2022 Date Received for filing at OPR:

Authority cited: Sections 21083, Public Resources Code.
Reference Section 21000-21174, Public Resources Code.

Revised 2011

Description of Proposed Modifications

The proposed modifications to the Project include minor modifications to existing Project components. The proposed modifications include the implementation of a groundwater collection system ("channel underdrain") along the proposed channel and the addition of a coated wire mesh to the levee slopes. In addition, mitigation measure TRANS-1 has been modified and DWR is transferring a parcel to the 46th District Agricultural Association (46th District).

Channel Underdrain

The design for the Perris ERF channel began in 2018, when Perris Reservoir water levels were lower than current conditions. Groundwater levels within the channel alignment have ranged from 8.5 to 15 feet below the existing ground surface, while the channel bottom is on average 10 feet below the existing ground surface. The groundwater levels cyclically rise and lower downstream of Perris Dam based on several factors, including: the water level within Perris Reservoir; seasonal influences; and groundwater pumping for domestic water use in nearby communities. The groundwater surface downstream of the dam has steadily risen over the past two years due to changes in Perris Reservoir's water level.

Due to seismic stability concerns, Perris Reservoir was held 25 feet below its design operating capacity from November 2005 to July 2019. After the completion of a seismic remediation Project in 2018, the reservoir was gradually returned to design capacity by mid-2019 resulting in a subsequent rising groundwater surface downstream of the dam. The initial design for the proposed Project was completed prior to the return of Perris Reservoir to design capacity and the current groundwater levels were not anticipated.

Since 2005, monitoring wells have been added along the channel alignment. Well data along the proposed channel alignment indicate there is potential for the depth to groundwater to periodically rise above the bottom of the proposed channel (channel invert) resulting in surface water within the channel. Therefore, the proposed modification includes installation of an underdrain to be constructed under the centerline of the channel, along the entire channel length. This would constitute a minor design change that would not increase the footprint or capacity of the channel. The purpose of the underdrain would be to prevent groundwater from pooling within the new channel.

The channel underdrain would function by intercepting groundwater as it rises from below the channel bottom. It is not anticipated that groundwater would be collected over the entire length of the channel nor on a continuous basis; rather, groundwater is anticipated to rise high enough to be intercepted only immediately downstream of the two proposed drop structures and only during seasonal periods of high groundwater. The groundwater levels downstream of Perris Dam are typically the highest between April and June. The water collected in the channel underdrain would flow downstream to the west, towards the existing Perris Valley Channel.

The proposed underdrain pipe would be a slotted, 12-inch diameter PVC pipe. The underdrain pipe would be surrounded by crushed rock wrapped in filter fabric. The slotting, crushed rock, and filter fabric would allow groundwater to enter the channel underdrain in locations of high groundwater while simultaneously allowing collected water to flow out of the pipe in locations where the groundwater table is lower. The

channel underdrain would be underground for the entire length of the channel except where it connects to the Perris Valley Channel. It is anticipated that the majority of collected groundwater would infiltrate back into the ground before it reaches the Perris Valley Channel. In the event that not all the water infiltrates back into the ground, the channel underdrain would terminate at a concrete wingwall in the Perris Valley Channel and would be protected by a flap gate. The flap gate would allow any excess water which has not infiltrated back into the ground to drain into the Perris Valley Channel and also prevent flows within the Perris Valley Channel from entering the channel underdrain. Cleanout locations would be added along the proposed channel to facilitate future maintenance of the channel underdrain.

Coated Wire Mesh along Levee

In order to minimize the need for future maintenance of the levee system, DWR would add a PVC-coated steel wire mesh between the habitat soil layer and the compacted fill portions of the levees that would act to protect the levee core's composition. The wire mesh would reduce the need for levee maintenance and repairs. Without the wire mesh, the compacted soil core could be subject to erosion from burrows and roots in the upper layer that could result in levee failure during a flood event. The wire mesh would be added along both sides of the levees and would cover the entire length of both levees. The wire mesh has 0.5-inch by 0.5-inch openings and comes in large rolls of 6 feet by 100 feet. The top 2 feet of habitat soil along the levees would remain the same, loosely compacted and revegetated soil to allow for small mammals to burrow and utilize the levees as habitat.

Traffic Detour Mitigation

Mitigation Measure TRANS-1 identifies modifications to seven intersections that would minimize modeled traffic impacts resulting from detoured traffic during the construction of bridges. The Mitigation Measure has been modified due to changes in existing conditions at two intersections (Perris Boulevard/Harley Knox Boulevard and Perris Boulevard/Ramona Expressway), and to clarify that proposed improvements to the intersection at Perris Boulevard and Iris Avenue would only apply under Option B. In addition, in response to feedback received since the certification of the Final EIR, the Mitigation Measure TRANS-1 has been modified to require DWR to coordinate with the affected cities and allow those cities to either approve or disapprove of the proposed measures. The modification to the Mitigation Measure does not alter the conclusions of the certified EIR: impacts to traffic during bridge construction would be significant and unavoidable even with implementation of the mitigation measure.

Parcel Transfer

DWR is acquiring and transferring a parcel along Evans Road, just west of the Lake Perris Fairgrounds, to the 46th District. The property includes approximately 4.54 acres of graded, unvegetated former agricultural land and is known as the DiMatteo Property. The proposed project modification includes only the transfer of jurisdiction of the parcel between state agencies. Per personal communication between DWR and the 46th District, this parcel has been used in the past for overflow parking during Lake Perris Fairgrounds events. The parcel may be used by the 46th District for overflow parking consistent with existing use.