

STATE OF CALIFORNIA
CALIFORNIA REGIONAL WATER QUALITY CONTROL BOARD
SAN FRANCISCO BAY REGION

STAFF SUMMARY REPORT (Xavier Fernandez)
MEETING DATE: January 12, 2011

ITEM: 8

SUBJECT: **San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, Lower Crystal Springs Dam Improvements Project, Unincorporated San Mateo County** – Adoption of Waste Discharge Requirements and Water Quality Certification

CHRONOLOGY: The Board has not considered this item before

DISCUSSION: This item would issue water quality certification and waste discharge requirements to the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) to implement the Lower Crystal Springs Dam Improvements Project (Project). The Project is being implemented under the SFPUC's Water System Improvement Program, which is upgrading the SFPUC's aging drinking water facilities. The purpose of the Project is to retrofit the Lower Crystal Springs Dam so that it is no longer subject to State Division of Safety of Dams' restrictions on the height of water stored in the Crystal Springs Reservoir behind the Dam due to concerns that the Dam could fail in the extreme flood events. Removing the restrictions and restoring the Reservoir's historical storage capacity would allow the SFPUC to increase the amount of water stored in the Reservoir by 16%.

In retrofitting the Dam and increasing storage capacity in the Reservoir, the Project will permanently fill 0.51 acres and 113 linear feet of jurisdictional waters and will temporarily fill 1.1 acres and 249 linear feet of jurisdictional waters in San Mateo Creek and adjacent willow riparian wetlands. In addition to fill, the Project will also impact jurisdictional waters by inundating wetlands and riparian habitat in the Reservoir. The overall net effect of this inundation will be to convert 5.8 acres of wetlands and 7.7 acres of upland riparian habitat to open water in the Reservoir.

The Project is water dependent; therefore, its impacts to jurisdictional waters cannot be entirely avoided. To minimize impacts resulting from the Project, the SFPUC will minimize the acres of wetlands and riparian habitat being inundated by limiting the Reservoir's maximum normal water surface elevation to 287.8 feet instead of 291.8 feet as initially proposed. In addition, filling of the Reservoir will take place over a number of years to reduce impacts on biological resources, including special status species that are present around the perimeter of the Reservoir.

To compensate for the permanent fill of 0.51 acres and 113 linear feet of jurisdictional waters and temporal losses in function associated with the temporary fill of 1.1 acres and 249 linear feet of jurisdictional waters, the

SFPUC will establish 0.12 acres of seasonal wetland and pond habitat, and will establish 0.80 acres and 504 linear feet of creek and associated riparian habitat at the Adobe Gulch Grassland and San Andreas Wetland Creation sites. To compensate for impacts to functions resulting from inundation of wetlands and riparian habitat, the SFPUC will establish 9.9 acres of wetlands, enhance 3.9 acres of wetlands, and establish 1.3 acres and 831 linear feet of creek and riparian habitat at the Adobe Gulch Grassland, Adobe Gulch Creek Wetland Creation, Boat Ramp Wetland Creation, San Andreas Wetland Creation, Skyline Boulevard Habitat Improvement, Skyline Quarry Wetland Restoration, and Upper San Mateo Creek sites. To further mitigate for the Project's temporary impacts, the SFPUC will restore impacted wetlands, creeks, and riparian habitat to their original conditions.

A draft tentative order for the Project was circulated on November 12, 2010. The comment period ended December 13, 2010. Staff received limited comments from the SFPUC (Appendix B) and has resolved them by making minor revisions to the Revised Tentative Order (Appendix A), as described in the Response to Comments (Appendix C). Staff also incorporated self-initiated editorial revisions during this process. None of these revisions altered the Project. The SFPUC's mitigation for project impacts, however, increased by 26 linear feet although the acres remained the same.

**RECOMMEN-
DATION:**

Adoption of Revised Tentative Order

**CIWQS Place
Number:**

743590

APPENDICES:

A. Revised Tentative Order

Link to Attachment A of Revised Tentative Order

- http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/board_info/agendas/2011/January/SFPUC/Attachments_12-30-10/Att_A_Figures.pdf

Link to Attachment B of Revised Tentative Order

- http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/board_info/agendas/2011/January/SFPUC/Attachments_12-30-10/Att_B_Inundation_Impacts.pdf

Links to Attachment C of Revised Tentative Order

- Adobe Gulch Grassland Mitigation and Monitoring Plan (MMP) – http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/board_info/agendas/2011/January/SFPUC/Attachments_12-30-10/Att_C_AGG_MMP.pdf
- Boat Ramp MMP – http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/board_info/agendas/2011/January/SFPUC/Attachments_12-30-10/Att_C_Boat_Ramp_MMP.pdf
- Boat Ramp 95% Design Plans – http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/board_info/agendas/2011/January/SFPUC/Attachments_12-30-10/Att_C_Boat%20Ramp%2095%25%20Design%20Plans.pdf

- Sherwood Point Oak Restoration, Adobe Gulch Creek Wetland Creation, Skyline Quarry Wetland Restoration, and Skyline Boulevard Habitat Improvement MMP –
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/board_info/agendas/2011/January/SFPUC/Attachments_12-30-10/Att_C_SASS_MMP.pdf
- San Andreas Wetland MMP –
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/board_info/agendas/2011/January/SFPUC/Attachments_12-30-10/Att_C_SAW_MMP.pdf
- Upper San Mateo Creek MMP –
http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/board_info/agendas/2011/January/SFPUC/Attachments_12-30-10/Att_C_Upper_SM_Creek_MMP.pdf

Link to Attachment D of Revised Tentative Order

- http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/board_info/agendas/2011/January/SFPUC/Attachments_12-30-10/Att_D_Revegetation_Plan.pdf

Link to Attachment E of Revised Tentative Order

- http://www.waterboards.ca.gov/sanfranciscobay/board_info/agendas/2011/January/SFPUC/Attachments_12-30-10/Att_E_LTMP_Outline.pdf

- B. Comments on Tentative Order
- C. Response to Comments