
Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board

January 8, 2018

To Interested Parties

Notice of Completion of a Draft Mitigated Negative Declaration and Opportunity to Provide Comments, Boca Dam Safety of Dams Modification Project, Nevada County

The Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board (Water Board) is the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA, Public Resources Code 21000, et seq.) lead agency for the Boca Dam Safety of Dams Modification Project (Project). A mitigated negative declaration (MND) describing potential adverse environmental impacts and associated mitigation measures has been prepared by the Water Board in connection with this project. This request for comments is intended to provide interested individuals, organizations, and agencies the opportunity to comment on the environmental effects of the Project as described in the MND. A copy of the MND can be downloaded at: www.waterboards.ca.gov/lahontan. To request a compact disc of the MND, please call the Water Board's South Lake Tahoe office at 530-542-5400.

Project Location: The Project area is in the eastern portion of Nevada County, five miles west of the Nevada border. Boca Dam is located in the Little Truckee River watershed, just north of the confluence with the Truckee River.

Project Description: The Bureau of Reclamation proposes to correct features of Boca Dam to reduce the risk of structural failure in the event of an earthquake. There is liquefiable alluvium within the dam's foundation, which could cause embankment deformation, cracking, or immediate dam overtopping during a significant earthquake. Action is needed to prevent probable loss of life, property, water storage, and other benefits during a seismic event due to the presence of liquefiable materials in Boca Dam's foundation. A shear key would be excavated through the liquefiable alluvium on the downstream side of Boca Dam. A stability berm would then be constructed right above on the main embankment and dike, expanding the dam crest width by approximately 18 feet. The majority of material for the stability berm and shear key would be sourced from an exposed 50-acre In-Reservoir Borrow Area (IRBA) in Boca Reservoir, which would create a pervious zone of coarser material. The toe drain would be replaced to collect internal seepage. The IRBA is located adjacent to the east shore, approximately one mile north of the dam. Approximately 125,000 cubic-yards of borrow material would be excavated and hauled to a stockpile area away from the reservoir's shoreline east of Stampede Meadows Road, or to the dam worksite. The spillway crest structure would be seismically retrofitted, which consists of replacing the existing gates,

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portions of the concrete structure, and installing new metal struts. A new gravel parking lot, which would also temporarily house portable administrative buildings during construction, would be constructed west of Stampede Meadows Road near the dike.

During the first year of construction, Reclamation would temporarily draw down Boca Reservoir to expose the IRBA, with a drawdown period starting as early as April 10. A winter shutdown period will be observed from November 15 to March 31. The Project is anticipated to resume as soon as conditions permit that spring until approximately September, for a total project duration of two years. Reclamation proposes to start the Project in 2019.

Regulatory Process: Project implementation will require the issuance of a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System general storm water construction permit (State Water Resources Control Board Order 2009-0009-DWQ); Water Quality Certification pursuant to Clean Water Act section 401; and an exemption to prohibitions against the discharge of waste in the *Water Quality Control Plan for the Lahontan Region*. This letter serves as a notice of intent to adopt a mitigated negative declaration for this project pursuant to the CEQA Guidelines section 15072.

Comment Deadline and How to Submit Comments: Please submit your comments on the MND via email to: Lahontan@waterboards.ca.gov with the subject line "Boca Dam Safety of Dams Modification Project, Attention Elizabeth van Diepen" no later than close of business on **February 8, 2018**.

For questions or additional information, please contact Elizabeth van Diepen, Engineering Geologist, at (530) 542-5492 (elizabeth.vandiepen@waterboards.ca.gov).

cc: Interested parties mailing list

Lyris lists:

- Basin Plan Prohibition Exemptions – Truckee only
- TMDLs – Truckee River Sediment

LvD/ma/T: NOI (Boca Dam SOD Project)

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