

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

STAFF SUMMARY REPORT (Xavier Fernandez)
MEETING DATE: March 9, 2011

ITEM: 7

SUBJECT: **San Francisco Public Utilities Commission, Calaveras Dam Replacement Project, Alameda and Santa Clara Counties** – 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 Calaveras Dam Replacement 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 replace Calaveras Dam so that it is no longer subject to restrictions on the height of water stored in Calaveras Reservoir behind the Dam due to concerns that the Dam could fail during strong earthquakes. 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 60 percent.

In replacing the Dam and restoring the storage capacity of the Reservoir, the Project will permanently fill 10 acres and 4,603 linear feet of jurisdictional waters and will temporarily fill 19 acres and 1,612 linear feet of jurisdictional waters. 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 filled by limiting the disposal areas to the maximum extent practicable.

To compensate for the permanent fill impacts and the temporal losses in function associated with the temporary fill, the SFPUC will (1) restore and establish 43 acres and 21,793 linear feet, (2) enhance 68 acres and 37,430 linear feet, and preserve 1.8 acres and 937 linear feet of ponds, wetlands, creeks, and riparian habitat at the San Antonio Creek, South Calaveras, and Sheep Camp Creek Mitigation Areas. To further mitigate for the Project's temporary impacts, the SFPUC will restore temporarily impacted wetlands, creeks, and riparian habitat to their original conditions.

A draft tentative order for the Project was circulated on January 10, 2011. The comment period ended February 9, 2011. Staff received comments from the Alameda Creek Alliance, Alameda County Water District, and SFPUC (Appendix B). To resolve these comments, we made minor revisions to the Revised Tentative Order (Appendix A) and prepared a response to comments

(Appendix C). Staff also incorporated self-initiated editorial revisions during this process. None of these revisions altered the Project.

**RECOMMEN-
DATION:**

Adoption of Revised Tentative Order

**CIWQS Place
Number:**

743933

APPENDICES:

- A. [Revised Tentative Order](#)
 - Attachment B: [Technical Memorandum, Evaluation of Wetlands Associated with Reservoir Operations, Calaveras Dam Replacement Project](#)
 - Attachment C: [Final Conceptual Restoration Plan, Calaveras Dam Replacement Project](#)
 - Attachment D: [Sunol Region Mitigation and Monitoring Plan](#)
 - Attachment E: [Sunol Region Habitat Reservation Program Long-Term Management Plan](#)
 - Attachment F: [Section 404 \(B\)\(1\) Alternatives Analysis in Compliance with the Clean Water Act, Calaveras Dam Replacement Project](#)
- B. [Comments on Tentative Order](#)
- C. [Response to Comments](#)