



El Dorado County Resource Conservation District & Georgetown Divide Resource Conservation District
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September 29, 2011

California Department of Water Resources
Division of Integrated Regional Water Management
Financial Assistance Branch
Post Office Box 942836
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001
Attn: Craig Cross

RE: Proposition 1E Stormwater Grant recommendations: ***Finnon Lake Restoration***

Dear Mr. Cross,

On behalf of the Georgetown Divide Resource Conservation District (RCD) Board of Directors, I appreciate the opportunity to comment on the grant draft funding recommendations and support the Department's recommendation to provide funding for the ***Finnon Lake Restoration and Habitat Improvement Project***.

The Disaster Preparedness and Flood Prevention Bond Act of 2006 (Proposition 1E) was meant for projects that address immediate public health and safety needs and that strengthen existing flood control facilities to address seismic safety issues. Finnion Lake is one of those long standing safety issues that the Department of Water Resources and the local El Dorado County community of Mosquito have been struggling with for decades.

Finnion Lake Dam was constructed using hydraulic fill techniques in 1906. In 1990, the Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD) evaluated the seismic stability of the dam and found the structure to be deficient. DSOD concluded that the hydraulic fill material in the embankment could liquefy if the dam was subjected to a strong ground shaking during a Maximum Credible Earthquake. The dam was then owned by the Department of Fish and Game, which failed to address the deficiency for years. They did, however, turn the dam over to local residents, who had even fewer resources to fix the structure. The dam presently operates under a reservoir storage restriction of 50 acre feet or less due to this seismic stability deficiency. On December 22, 2005, the DSOD approved the reconstruction plans and specifications for the rebuilding of Finnion Lake Dam.

The RCD has finally brought together the resources of various agencies and community organizations in a collaborative and, in many cases, purely voluntary effort to ensure pre-planning, design, and an implementation plan, which is comprehensive and cost effective. This collaborative approach to resource management is unique for this region and ensures funding contributions are leveraged only to the extent to ensure successful project implementation.

We'd like to thank David Gutierrez and his staff for his help and patience as well as the many other present past DWR managers and staff who have helped with Finnion. This is a great project! Thank you.

Regards,

William J. Bennett, President
Georgetown Divide Resource Conservation District