



News for Immediate Release

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DWR Certifies Perris Dam Remediation Program Final EIR

SACRAMENTO -- The Department of Water Resources (DWR) has certified and adopted the Perris Dam Remediation Program final Environmental Impact Report (FEIR). DWR anticipates completing the dam remediation design by the end of 2013, and to construct repairs from 2014 to 2015.

In 2005, DWR identified potential seismic safety risks in the foundation of Perris Dam, located in northeastern Riverside County, 11 miles southeast of Riverside and 60 miles southeast of downtown Los Angeles. While there was no imminent threat to life or property, in the interest of ensuring public safety, the state lowered the water level of Lake Perris to conduct the EIR process and complete repairs. Once repairs are completed in 2015, DWR will be allowed to refill the lake to the previous level.

The Perris Dam Remediation Program, the project proposed to implement repairs, was analyzed in a draft EIR (DEIR). The DEIR included three separate project components: (1) Perris Dam remediation, (2) outlet tower replacement, and (3) emergency outlet extension. The proposed repair plan includes upgrading the dam by strengthening roughly 700,000 cubic yards of the foundation material with cement-deep-soil-mixing methods and reinforcing it with a stability berm placed on top of the improved foundation. This would allow the lake to return to its previous maximum operating pool elevation after construction.

From January 2010 through April 2010 DWR solicited public input through a series of meetings. Following review of the public comments on the DEIR and review of the FEIR, DWR staff recommended approval of the first two of the three project components.

The emergency outlet extension component is being deferred in order to evaluate additional alternatives that will address recommendations and comments received from local governments and agencies during the DEIR public comment period. A separate CEQA document for the emergency outlet extension will be prepared as necessary within the next year.

The California Environmental Quality Act requires that public agencies like DWR make a number of determinations when approving a proposed project which could have a significant impact on the environment. The FEIR, independently prepared by DWR, describes, analyzes, and discusses all the proposed project's potential environmental impacts raised in the scoping meetings and public meetings following the release of the draft EIR (DEIR), as well as other public comments.

An electronic copy of the document, as well as a listing of locations where a hard copy may be viewed and photocopied is available at:
<http://www.water.ca.gov/lakeperris/>.

Lake Perris is the southernmost State Water Project facility and the southern terminus of the East Branch of the California Aqueduct. The Lake Perris State Recreation Area is one of the state's most popular recreation destinations, with an average annual attendance of 1.1 million visitors.

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The Department of Water Resources operates and maintains the State Water Project, provides dam safety and flood control and inspection services, assists local water districts in water management and water conservation planning, and plans for future statewide water needs.

Contact the [DWR Public Affairs Office](#) for more information about DWR's water activities.