

DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

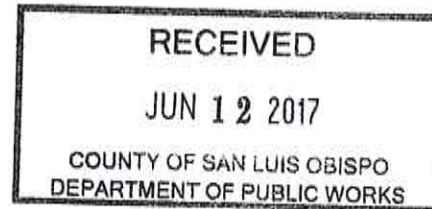
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JUN - 6 2017

Mr. Dean Benedix, Manager
Utilities Division
San Luis Obispo County Flood Control and Water Conservation District
County Government Center Room 207
San Luis Obispo, California 93408



Lopez Dam, No. 1055
San Luis Obispo County

Dear Mr. Benedix:

As a result of the recent major incidents at Oroville Dam, which led to significant damage and erosion of the Service and Emergency Spillways, Governor Brown issued a plan to bolster the State's dam safety program. To strengthen the State's inspection program, the Governor has ordered detailed evaluations of dam appurtenant structures, such as spillways. This new review is being expedited for dams that have large spillways and structures similar to Oroville Dam. Based on this directive, the Division of Safety of Dams is immediately conducting detailed re-evaluations of large spillways at high-hazard dams.

We completed a reconnaissance-level assessment of the spillway at Lopez Dam and have noted that the structure may have potential geologic, structural, or performance issues that could jeopardize its ability to safely pass a flood event. Therefore, we are requesting that you perform a comprehensive condition assessment of the spillway as soon as possible. This spillway may also require a site investigation to provide supporting information for completing this assessment.

Please submit a work plan by September 1, 2017, for our review and approval. The scope of the detailed condition assessment of the spillway should include an evaluation of the concrete lining, the existing drainage system, and the potential for slab undermining and hydraulic jacking. The scope of the site investigation should focus on identifying potential geologic hazards associated with the spillway, including characterization of the foundation materials underlying and adjacent to the spillway structure and their susceptibility to erosion and instability.

My staff is available to discuss with you ways to expedite development of the required assessment. The site investigation and condition assessment report must be completed expeditiously. Additionally, any known damage to the spillways must be repaired before the next flood season.

Mr. Dean Benedix

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If you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Design Engineer Dino Bernardi at (916) 227-4339 or Project Engineer Daniel Meyersohn at (916) 227-4624.

Sincerely,

Michael Waggoner FN

Sharon K. Tapia, Chief
Division of Safety of Dams