



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, SACRAMENTO DISTRICT
1325 J STREET
SACRAMENTO CA 95814-2922

REPLY TO
ATTENTION OF

Environmental Resources Branch

JUL 01 2015

TO ALL INTERESTED PARTIES

The Final Phase II Real Estate Acquisition and Relocation Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the Isabella Lake Dam Safety Modification (DSM) Project, Kern County, California, are now available for your information. The project would involve acquisition of certain properties, relocation of a U.S. Army Corps of Engineers – Sacramento District (Corps) Operations and Maintenance Facility, and demolition/disposal of existing buildings and structures located on lands affected by construction of the Isabella Lake DSM Project. Construction of Isabella Dam and Lake was authorized by the Flood Control Act of 1944, Public Law 78-534, Chapter 665, Section 10, page 901. The Isabella Lake DSM Project remains within the Chief of Engineers' discretionary authority to safely operate and maintain the Isabella Dams.

The Isabella Lake DSM Project has been previously evaluated under the National Environmental Policy Act and documented in the Final (October 2012) Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). The EIS was prepared by the Corps and in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture – Forest Service, Sequoia National Forest. The Record of Decision (ROD) was signed on December 18, 2012. A Phase I Real Estate Acquisition and Relocation SEA was previously released to the public and a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) was signed August 5, 2014. The Phase I SEA evaluated the effects of acquiring two private parcels and relocation of the residents occupying these parcels located at the Lakeside Village Mobile Home Park and a single-family farmhouse residence, both located immediately downstream of the Auxiliary Dam and within the construction footprint of the Isabella Lake DSM Project.

Both the Phase I and Phase II Real Estate SEAs have been tiered from the EIS, and update the analysis provided in the EIS with a focus on the effects of acquiring affected occupied lands, relocating affected residents, and describing what would be done with the acquired real estate. Throughout these documents, information and analyses that have not changed since the EIS has been referenced back to that document.


The public review period for the Draft Phase II Real Estate SEA ended on May 13, 2015, after a 15-day public review period. All comments received were considered and incorporated into the Final SEA, as appropriate. None of the public comments received necessitated a change in the proposed action or the alternatives or a significant change in the impact analyses or findings described in the Draft SEA.

Environmental Resources Branch

SUBJECT: Final Phase II Real Estate Acquisition and Finding of No Significant Impact

Copies of the Final Phase II Real Estate SEA and FONSI, as well as response to comments received, are available on the project web page at <http://bit.ly/IsabellaDam>. Copies of the Final Phase I Real Estate SEA and FONSI, as well as the Isabella Lake DSM Project EIS and ROD may also be obtained on the project web page or by contacting the Sacramento District Public Affairs Office, 1325 J Street, Sacramento, CA 95814; Phone (916) 557-5100; email: isabella@usace.army.mil. Thank you for your interest in this important project.

Sincerely,


Michael J. Farrell
Colonel, U.S. Army
District Commander