

Notice of Determination

To:
Office of Planning and Research
[CEQA Submit](#)

From:
Department of Fish and Wildlife
Central Region
1234 East Shaw Avenue
Fresno, California 93710
Contact: Benessa Galvan
Phone: (559) 578-0836



Lead Agency:
California Department of Water Resources
1416 Ninth Street
Sacramento, California 95814
Contact: Gerald Snow
Phone: (916) 653-7213

SUBJECT: Filing of Notice of Determination pursuant to Public Resources Code section 21108

State Clearinghouse Number: 2009091004

Project Title: B.F. Sisk Dam Safety of Dams Modification Project (Amendment No. 3 to Master Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement No. 1600-2021-0005-R4).

Project Location: The Project will occur within lake (San Luis Reservoir and O'Neill Forebay), stream, and associated wetland area within an approximately 1,800-acre larger activity area. Project areas are located on the north and south sides of State Route 152, approximately nine miles west of the city of Los Banos, in unincorporated Merced County, California. Representative coordinates of the Project area center are Latitude 37.05982 and Longitude -121.074380. All Project areas are located within USGS 7.5-minute quadrangle San Luis Dam.

Project Description: The California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) has executed Amendment No. 3 to Master Lake and Streambed Alteration Agreement number 1600-2021-0005-R4, issued to the California Department of Water Resources.

The Agreement authorizes activities related to stabilizing the downstream side of the existing B.F. Sisk Dam embankment and increasing the dam crest height to reduce the potential for water to overtop the dam in the event of seismic-induced slumping/failure. The activities include construction, maintenance, restoration, and water drafting actions in lake, stream, and associated wetland areas. Amendment No. 3 increases the permanent impacts to stream and associated wetland areas by 0.53 acre and temporary impacts to the lake by 1.21 acres.

This is to advise that CDFW, acting as a Responsible Agency, approved the above-described project on 7/3/2025 and has made the following determinations regarding the project pursuant to California Code of Regulations section 15096, subdivision (i):

1. The project will not have a significant effect on the environment. This determination is limited to effects within CDFW's permitting jurisdiction as a Responsible Agency.
2. CDFW considered the environmental impact report prepared by the Lead Agency for this project pursuant to California Code of Regulations section 15096, subdivision (f).
3. Mitigation measures were made a condition of CDFW's approval of the project.
4. A mitigation reporting or monitoring plan was adopted by CDFW for this project.
5. A statement of overriding considerations was not adopted by CDFW for this project.
6. Findings were made by CDFW pursuant to California Code of Regulations section 15091.

The final environmental impact report prepared for the project is available to the general public at the office location listed above for the Lead Agency.

Signature: _____ **Date:** 7/3/2025

Julie A. Vance, Regional Manager

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Julie Vance
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Date Received for filing at OPR: _____