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DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
DIVISION OF SAFETY OF DAMS
2720 GATEWAY OAKS DRIVE, SUITE 300
SACRAMENTO, CA 95833-3500

November 21, 2025

Mr. Steve Stadler, P.E., District Engineer
San Luis Water District
1015 6th Street
Los Banos, California 93635

Los Banos Creek Recharge and Recovery Project
SCH# 2025110036
Merced County

Dear Mr. Stadler:

The Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD) has reviewed the Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Los Banos Creek Recharge and Recovery Project, submitted by San Luis Water District (District), which entails using existing gravel pits (basins), designated as the Central Basin and Southern Basin, to capture, store, recharge, and bank Central Valley Project and Warren Act water and/or Los Banos Creek flood waters.

As defined in sections 6002 and 6003 of the California Water Code, dams 25 feet or higher with a storage capacity of more than 15 acre-feet, and dams higher than 6 feet with a storage capacity of 50 acre-feet or more are subject to State jurisdiction. The dam height is the vertical distance measured from the maximum possible water storage level to the downstream toe of the barrier.

Insufficient information is provided in the project description to make an accurate jurisdictional determination with regard to the proposed construction work. The District needs to submit design drawings for the proposed storage reservoir so that DSOD can make a jurisdictional determination.

If the proposed work is subject to State jurisdiction, a construction application, together with plans, specifications, and the appropriate filing fee must be filed with DSOD for this project. All dam safety related issues must be resolved prior to approval of the application, and the work must be performed under the direction of a Civil Engineer registered in California. Ian Maki, our Design Engineering Branch Manager, is responsible for the application process and can be reached at (916) 820-7795.

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If you have any questions or need additional information, you may contact Area Engineer Jasper Mizani at (916) 565-7822 or me at (916) 565-7820.

Sincerely,

Jasper Mizani for TWJimenez

Timothy W. Jimenez, P.E.
Central Regional Engineer
Field Engineering Branch
Division of Safety of Dams

cc: Governor's Office of Planning and Research
State Clearinghouse
state.clearinghouse@lci.ca.gov

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