



Folsom City Council Staff Report

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| MEETING DATE: | 8/26/2025 |
| AGENDA SECTION: | New Business |
| SUBJECT: | Resolution No. 11438 - A Resolution Adopting an Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the Willow Hill Dam Valve Replacement Project and Approval of Project |
| FROM: | Environmental and Water Resources Department |

RECOMMENDATION / CITY COUNCIL ACTION

The Environmental and Water Resources Department recommends the City Council pass and adopt Resolution No. 11438 - A Resolution Adopting an Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the Willow Hill Dam Valve Replacement Project and Approval of Project.

BACKGROUND / ISSUE

The Environmental and Water Resources Department has developed a water and wastewater infrastructure rehabilitation and replacement (R & R) program through water and wastewater master plans and ongoing condition assessment programs. Through these efforts, portions of the water and wastewater system in the City have been identified as needing rehabilitation or replacement. A comprehensive plan has been developed for the R & R of these aging systems, and much of this work has been completed in recent years. The projects identified and included within the Water System Rehabilitation Project No. 1 (WA1603) include the replacement of the waterline serving Black Miner's Bar, replacing the valves on the Willow Hill Dam, and rehabilitating the waterline on Rainbow Bridge. All projects with the exception of the Willow Hill Dam Valve Replacement Project have been completed.

The Willow Hill Dam Valve Replacement Project (proposed project) involves the replacement of the upstream and downstream valves at the Willow Hill Reservoir dam, which is required by the Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD), as they have reached the end of their serviceable life. The project includes demolishing a portion of the existing dam infrastructure, replacing the upstream slide gate valve structure and the downstream isolation valve, installation of a fenced, raised

landing and gate operator infrastructure at the top of the dam, and placing rip rap and armoring on a portion of the upstream face of the dam. If it is determined that the underground segment of the outlet pipe warrants replacement, then a cured-in-place pipe (CIPP) will be installed within the existing pipe.

POLICY / RULE

In accordance with Section 15074 of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Guidelines, the City Council shall adopt the Mitigated Negative Declaration if it finds on the basis of the Initial Study and any comments received that there is no substantial evidence that the project will have a significant effect on the environment.

ANALYSIS

The proposed project will allow the City to replace the upstream and downstream valves at the Willow Hill Reservoir dam, which is required by the DSOD, as they have reached the end of their serviceable life. An IS/MND was completed for the City of Folsom Willow Hill Dam Valve Replacement Project in compliance with CEQA. The IS/MND evaluated the potential impacts associated with the construction and operation of the proposed project. The purpose of the IS/MND is to provide the public, state, and local agency decision-makers with information regarding the project's potential impact on the environment and provide an opportunity for comment.

The Initial Study prepared for the proposed project identified mitigation measures to reduce the impact from "Potential Impact" to "Less than Significant" for the following environmental issue areas: Biological Resources, Cultural Resources, Geology and Soils, and Tribal Cultural Resources. A Mitigated Negative Declaration has been prepared for the proposed project. With implementation of these mitigation measures, there would be no significant effect on the environment resulting from the proposed project.

The 30-day public review period for the Draft IS/MND ran from June 12th, 2025, through July 11th, 2025. The draft IS/MND was filed with the State Clearinghouse of the Governor's Office of Land Use and Climate Innovation to initiate the required 30-day public review period, along with the Notice of Intent to Adopt an MND (NOI), Notice of Completion, and summary form (SCH #2025060604). Additionally, the NOI was filed with the Sacramento County Clerk and was published with the Sacramento Bee.

One comment letter was received during the public review period from the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board (CVRWQCB) on July 8, 2025. The form letter outlines potential regulatory permit applications that may be required in advance of project implementation. The City is currently undertaking preparation of regulatory permit applications as warranted per the CVRWQCB letter. No additional comment letters were received during the public review period and no corrections, revisions or other clarifications are required to the Draft IS/MND. The Draft IS/MND has been retitled as the Final IS/MND.

The conclusion of the Final IS/MND is that the proposed Willow Hill Dam Valve Replacement Project will not result in significant impacts or involve any conditions that should require an

Environmental Impact Report (EIR). Once adopted by City Council, EWR staff will incorporate these documents into the project plans and specifications and publicly bid the project for construction. EWR staff will bring a future item to City Council for approval of the construction agreement.

FINANCIAL IMPACT

Funding for the Willow Hill Dam Valve Replacement Project is included in the Fiscal Year 2025-26 Capital Improvement Budget under the Water System Rehabilitation Project No. 1 (Project WA1603) adopted by the City Council. This project is fully funded through the Water Fund (Fund 520) and has sufficient funds budgeted and available to complete the project.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

Pursuant to Section 15097 of CEQA Guidelines, the City shall adopt the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program to implement the identified mitigation measures to avoid significant environmental effects.

ATTACHMENTS

1. Resolution No. 11438 - A Resolution Adopting an Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration (IS/MND) for the Willow Hill Dam Valve Replacement Project and Approval of Project
2. Final IS/MND, which includes a Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

Submitted,

Marcus Yasutake, Director
ENVIRONMENTAL AND WATER RESOURCES DEPARTMENT