



STAFF REPORT

Meeting Type: Planning Committee/Board of Directors
Title: Nicasio Spillway Modification Project Update
From: Alex Anaya, Director of Engineering
Through: Ben Horenstein, General Manager
Meeting Date: February 13, 2025

TYPE OF ACTION: Action X Information Review and Refer

RECOMMENDATION: Receive a staff presentation on the District’s efforts to advance the Nicasio Spillway Modification Project

SUMMARY: The District has been actively working on the Nicasio Spillway Modification Project to increase water system resiliency. Staff will present an update on the District’s efforts and next steps.

DISCUSSION: The District is in the early stages of the Nicasio Spillway Modification Project, which is one of the key near-term projects identified to improve the resilience of the District’s system. Two contracts have been executed so far to help further the project, one with Black and Veatch (B&V) to perform the engineering analysis and design and the other with Environmental Science Associates (ESA) to assist with environmental review and permitting and stakeholder engagement.

For the engineering aspect of this project, staff has been working through the preliminary engineering analysis including hydrologic and hydraulic assessments and yield studies needed to determine the potential storage increase as well as potential upstream and downstream impacts. Staff has identified three different spillway modification alternatives that are being analyzed based on different metrics such as potential storage increase, cost efficiency, permitting requirements, design and construction risks, environmental conditions, and operational and maintenance impacts. The design ultimately must be approved by the Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD) and staff is meeting regularly with DSOD to provide information and project updates.

Another critical component to this project is the environmental review and permitting process. While an initial study has not been completed for the project, which will indicate the level of review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), staff is anticipating the need for an environmental impact report or EIR, which is the highest level of CEQA review. Based on this, staff is working to develop the project description, a foundational component of the EIR. To inform the project permitting and environmental review, the District is conducting a downstream fisheries and hydrological study. Additionally, the District is conducting biological assessments and mapping wetlands to better

understand existing environmental conditions. Staff is also actively reaching out to various stakeholder groups and is regularly meeting with resource agencies and technical stakeholders through the Lagunitas Technical Advisory Committee.

This project is tentatively scheduled to have completed the necessary environmental review and have permits approved for this project in mid-2026, which would enable the project to move to construction.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW: Not Applicable.

FISCAL IMPACT: None.

ATTACHMENT(S): None.