

US EPA ARCHIVE DOCUMENT



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
REGION IX
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

September 10, 2012

Alicia E. Kirchner
Chief, Planning Division
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
1325 J Street
Sacramento, CA 95814

Subject: Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement for the Folsom Dam Modification Project Approach Channel (CEQ# 20120239)

Dear Ms. Kirchner:

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has reviewed the Supplemental Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA), Council on Environmental Quality (CEQ) regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), and our NEPA review authority under Section 309 of the Clean Air Act.

The Supplemental Draft EIS was prepared by the Corps to augment the 2007 Record of Decision (ROD) for the Folsom Dam Safety and Flood Damage Reduction Project. EPA has reviewed this document and rated it Environmental Concerns- Insufficient Information (EC-2) (see enclosed "*Summary of Rating Definitions*"). EPA appreciates the additional information regarding the construction of the auxiliary spillway approach channel that was evaluated programmatically in the previous EIS. We continue to urge implementation of aggressive mitigation measures to reduce project-related emissions to the maximum extent feasible.

We commend the Army Corps of Engineers' commitment to use the cleanest on-road vehicles available and the most recent pollution control equipment for all off-road and marine equipment, use of electrical power for all stationary equipment, reduction of haulage miles, and scheduling changes to minimize the overlap of emission producing activities. These emission control measures will be essential to meet Federal General Conformity *de minimis* thresholds and reduce air quality impacts to the greatest extent possible. We recommend that the Supplemental Final EIS and Record of Decision (ROD) include a clear commitment to these project refinements and the list of control measures with their emission reduction data.

Additionally, Table 30 - "Comparison of Mitigated Alternative 2 and Alternative 3 Total Emissions" is unclear. This table is labeled as being in tons/year, but it is also labeled as being "total emissions." The project is anticipated to be constructed over five years. EPA urges the Corps to explain this discrepancy.

Please note that, starting October 1, 2012, EPA Headquarters will not accept paper copies or CDs of EISs for official filing purposes. Submissions on or after October 1, 2012 must be made through EPA's new electronic EIS submittal tool: *e-NEPA*. To begin using *e-NEPA*, you must first register with EPA's electronic reporting site - https://cdx.epa.gov/epa_home.asp. Electronic filing with EPA Headquarters does not change the requirement to submit a hard copy to the EPA Region 9 Office for review.

We appreciate the opportunity to review this Supplemental Draft EIS. Please send a copy of the Supplemental Final EIS to the above address (mail code: CED-2) when it becomes available. If you have any questions, please contact me at 415-972-3521, or contact Stephanie Skophammer, the lead reviewer for this project, at 415-972-3098 or Skophammer.stephanie@epa.gov.

Sincerely,

/s/ Connell Dunning for

Kathleen Martyn Goforth, Manager
Environmental Review Office
Communities and Ecosystems Division

Enclosure: Summary of Rating Definitions