Notice of Preparation
Of a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report

Date: April 15, 2009
Subject: Notice of Intent to Prepare a Supplemental EIS/EIR
Project Title: Mormon Island Auxiliary Dam Modification Project
CEQA Lead Agency: Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency

Introduction: Pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA), the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency (SAFCA), acting as the CEQA lead agency, will work with the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) (the federal lead agency pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act [NEPA]), to prepare a joint Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR) for the proposed Folsom Dam Safety of Dams Mormon Island Auxiliary Dam (MIAD) Modification Project.

The purpose of the MIAD Modification Project is to reduce the seismic and static risk of failure of MIAD. In this way, Reclamation will achieve the existing standards for dam safety and reduce the risk of injury to those people living and working downstream of the Folsom Dam complex. Mitigation for project impacts to terrestrial vegetation will occur on land owned by the California Department of Parks and Recreation at Mississippi Bar, adjacent to Lake Natoma. The proposed project is a feature of the Folsom Dam Safety of Dams Project, and the analysis will tier from the March 2007 Folsom Dam Safety and Flood Damage Reduction (DS/FDR) Project Final EIS/EIR.

Background and Need for Supplemental Document: The March 2007 Folsom DS/FDR Final EIS/EIR analyzed the potential impacts of modifying MIAD. The analysis in the Folsom DS/FDR EIS/EIR considered several methods to modify MIAD to achieve Reclamation’s risk standards for dam safety. The May 2007 Record of Decision Folsom Dam Safety of Dams and Security Upgrades Project documented that the preferred alternative for MIAD modification was to place an overlay and seepage control filters on the downstream (terrestrial) side of MIAD and reinforce the MIAD foundation using a construction technique known as jet grouting. At that time, some of the required permits and consultations (Endangered Species Act, Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act, and Sec 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act) were also obtained. Subsequent investigations into the feasibility of the MIAD Modification Project as conceived in the Folsom DS/FDR EIS/EIR have indicated that the design of the MIAD Modification Project will need to be changed to achieve Reclamation’s existing risk standards for dam safety. Specifically, the utilization of jet grouting to stabilize the foundation of MIAD is unlikely to meet those risk standards.

Purpose of Notification: This Notice of Preparation is being circulated pursuant to California Public Resources Code Section 21153(a) and CEQA Guidelines Section 15082. Public agencies and members of the public are invited to comment on the proposed scope and content of the supplemental EIS/EIR. All comments must be submitted during the 30 day scoping period beginning April 15, 2009 and ending May 14, 2009. Comments must be submitted in writing.
In December 2008, Reclamation issued a Notice of Intent to Prepare a supplemental EIS/EIR and held three public scoping meetings in Folsom and Granite Bay for the MIAD Modification Project in January 2009, as required by NEPA. These meetings are considered sufficient to meet the requirements of CEQA Guidelines Section 1502(c). No additional scoping meetings will occur for the project.

**Project Description:** The modification of MIAD is necessary to reduce the seismic and static risk of failure. This modification is a feature of the overall Folsom Dam Safety of Dams Project, and improvements to MIAD were previously identified in the March 2007 Folsom DS/FDR EIS/EIR. However, subsequent investigations into the feasibility of the MIAD Modification Project as conceived in the Folsom DS/FDR EIS/EIR have indicated that the design of the MIAD Modification Project will need to be changed to achieve the existing Safety of Dam’s risk standards. The conceptual MIAD project has changed as follows from the work described in the Folsom DS/FDR EIS/EIR:

- Jet grouting is ineffective and will not be used;
- Substantial excavation at the downstream toe may be necessary;
- Substantial dewatering of the excavation and discharge of those flows into the adjacent Mormon Island Wetland Natural Preserve may be necessary;
- Additional borrow areas may be necessary;
- Additional staging and stockpiling areas may be necessary;
- Relocation of Green Valley Road further to the south (into the adjacent Mormon Island Wetland Natural Preserve) may be necessary;
- Excavation of the toe of MIAD may increase risk of failure if open when reservoir is high; and
- Sequencing of other significant construction projects the Joint Federal Project, other Safety of Dams work, Green Valley Road widening, and the Folsom Bridge Project has changed.

It is expected that the favored construction alternative for modification of the foundation at MIAD will be excavation of the downstream foundation material and its replacement with compacted backfill and filter material. Structural and/or cutoff walls could be employed to reduce the risk of failure during construction.

**Project Location:** The MIAD Modification Project would occur at Folsom Reservoir in Sacramento and El Dorado Counties, in California. A regional map is shown in Figure 1. As depicted in Figure 2, MIAD is located on the southeastern shoreline of Folsom Reservoir, just north of Green Valley Road. It is east of the primary Folsom Dam and Spillway structure. The mitigation site for project impacts to terrestrial vegetation is located at Mississippi Bar, north of Lake Natoma as depicted in Figure 3.
Figure 1: Regional Map – Folsom Reservoir
Figure 2: Mormon Island Auxiliary Dam (MIAD)
Figure 3: Mississippi Bar Mitigation Site
Potential Environmental Impacts of Proposed Project: The MIAD Modification Project has the potential to result in the environmental impacts identified below. The Draft Supplemental EIS/EIR will include a complete analysis of these potential impacts.

- Water quality impacts
- Groundwater impacts (dewatering)
- Impacts to wetlands
- Air Quality impacts
  - Monitoring for naturally occurring asbestos
  - Dust
  - Construction equipment emissions
- Noise impacts
- Endangered species concerns
- Public safety during construction
  - Minimizing construction risks
  - Protecting public safety
- Recreation impacts:
  - Closure of trails, parking lots, recreation areas
  - Impacts to recreationists
- Potential impacts to Green Valley Road

NEPA and CEQA Environmental Process: This Notice of Preparation will be submitted to the State Clearinghouse, Responsible Agencies, and Trustee Agencies that may have jurisdiction over the project, as well as other interested parties and members of the public that have specifically requested a copy of this Notice of Preparation. After the 30 day review period for this Notice of Preparation, all comments will be collected and reviewed. The Draft Supplemental EIS/EIR will then be prepared in accordance with CEQA and NEPA. The EIS/EIR will analyze the potential environmental effects of the MIAD Modification Project. For any effects found to be significant, mitigation measures will be proposed to reduce or avoid those effects. The Draft Supplemental EIS/EIR will be made available for public review and comment. Copies of the document will be sent to several local libraries and will be posted to Reclamation’s website. Anyone submitting scoping comments on this Notice of Preparation will be added to the project mailing list and will receive notification when the Draft Supplemental EIS/EIR is made available to the public.