

1 Introduction

This supplemental environmental impact report (SEIR) has been prepared by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) Statute and State of California CEQA Guidelines (CEQA Guidelines) (California Public Resources Code, Section 21000 et seq.; 14 CCR 15000 et seq.) to analyze and disclose environmental impacts associated with implementation of the B.F. Sisk Dam Safety of Dams Modification Project.

DWR prepared and certified an environmental impact report (EIR) for the B.F. Sisk Dam Safety of Dams Modification Project in 2019, logged as State Clearinghouse No. 2009091004. That document was a joint federal and state environmental review and included an environmental impact statement (EIS) prepared in conformance with the federal National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) and an EIR prepared pursuant to state CEQA requirements. The Bureau of Reclamation (Reclamation) served as the lead NEPA agency and DWR served as the state lead agency with responsibility for carrying out review in accordance with CEQA. The document, B.F. Sisk Dam Safety of Dams Modification Project Final Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (Reclamation and DWR 2019), is referred to herein as the 2019 EIS/EIR. The 2019 EIS/EIR analyzed and disclosed the environmental impacts of a multiyear construction project aimed at alleviating existing seismic stability concerns at B.F. Sisk Dam, which impounds DWR's San Luis Reservoir, located on land controlled by Reclamation in western unincorporated Merced County, California.

This SEIR is a supplement to the CEQA component of the 2019 EIS/EIR, addressing changes to the project description identified by the joint DWR and Reclamation design team subsequent to DWR's certification of the EIR. In summary, the changes consist of minor additions to the impact area and potential addition of materials excavation sites within the previous study area. The changes associated with proposed modifications are summarized in greater detail in Section 1.3, Proposed Modifications to the Project, and detailed in Chapter 2, Project Description, of this SEIR.

The project addressed in the 2019 EIS/EIR is referred to in this SEIR as the Approved Project; the Approved Project plus proposed modifications identified since certification of the 2019 EIS/EIR is referred to as the Modified Project.

1.1 Project Background

The following section presents background on the Approved Project based on material presented in Section 1.2, Project Background, of the 2019 EIS/EIR.

1.1.1 B.F. Sisk Dam and San Luis Reservoir

B.F. Sisk Dam is located in western Merced County, on the west side of California's Central Valley, approximately 9 miles west of the City of Los Banos on State Route 152 (Figure 1-1, Project Location). The dam was constructed between 1963 and 1967 to impound San Luis Reservoir, which provides supplemental storage capacity for the Central Valley Project (CVP) and California State Water Project (SWP). It is part of the San Luis Joint-Use Complex, or San Luis Unit of the CVP and SWP, which was authorized by the United States Congress in 1960 under the San Luis Act (Public Law 86-488) and is a joint effort of the federal and State of California governments. The San Luis Unit, including San Luis Reservoir, is owned by Reclamation and operated by DWR. Recreation uses at San Luis Reservoir, including boating, overnight camping, and hiking, are managed by the California Department of Parks and Recreation as part of the larger San Luis Reservoir State Recreation Area (SRA). Figure 1-2 Project Vicinity, shows the location of the Modified Project and identifies San Luis Reservoir, B.F. Sisk Dam, and the boundaries of the San Luis Reservoir SRA.

B.F. Sisk Dam is a zoned earth-fill structure. It is 382 feet high with a crest length of 18,600 feet (approximately 3.5 miles) and a crest width of 30 feet; it contains approximately 77,656,000 cubic yards of material. At a crest elevation of 554 feet above mean sea level, the maximum base width is 2,420 feet (Reclamation 2009). There are 10 zones in a typical cross section of the dam, with zoned materials comprised of clay, shell, filter sands, gravel bedding, and riprap. San Luis Reservoir provides 2,027,840 acre-feet of water storage managed for state (55%) and federal (45%) uses as part of the CVP and SWP, respectively. Typically, during the winter and early spring, water is lifted from O’Neill Forebay into San Luis Reservoir for storage using the pump-turbines in the Gianelli Pumping-Generating Plant (Gianelli Plant). CVP water is pumped into O’Neill Forebay from the Delta–Mendota Canal, and the SWP’s California Aqueduct flows into O’Neill Forebay from the north. Later in the year when demand in the CVP and SWP increases, water is released from San Luis Reservoir through O’Neill Forebay and conveyed via the San Luis Canal (an SWP facility) or the Delta–Mendota Canal (a CVP facility) for use by municipal and agricultural water users (Reclamation 2009). As water is released back through the Gianelli Plant, the plant generates hydropower, which is used to offset the energy demand of the project operations. Water is also diverted from the west side of San Luis Reservoir at the Pacheco Pumping Plant to supply the Santa Clara Valley Water District and San Benito County Water District—both CVP contractors (Reclamation 2013).

1.1.2 B.F. Sisk Dam Safety of Dams Modification Project and the 2019 EIS/EIR

Reclamation and DWR have conducted several geological investigations at B.F. Sisk Dam because of its location near active faults.¹ A 2006 risk analysis by Reclamation evaluated dam stability in the event of seismic activity and concluded that significant- to high-seismic activity could result in dam failure and that B.F. Sisk Dam did not meet the standards of Reclamation’s Public Protection Guidelines (Reclamation 2011). The investigation determined that several sections of B.F. Sisk Dam sit above liquefiable and soft soils, which during a seismic event could cause sections of the dam to slump below the water line or allow cracking to develop through the embankment, which could lead to dam failure.

Reclamation initiated a Corrective Action Study in 2006 that resulted in the evaluation of multiple potential structural modifications and operational changes at B.F. Sisk Dam, which were compiled and further reviewed in a Value Planning Study (Reclamation 2016). A thorough alternatives development and screening process conducted by Reclamation and DWR identified a preferred alternative for rehabilitating the dam that was addressed as the Crest Raise Alternative in the 2019 EIS/EIR, and the project was dubbed the B.F. Sisk Dam Safety of Dams Modification Project.² The 2019 EIS/EIR also looked at two other alternatives to ensure compliance with NEPA and CEQA. The No Action/No Project Alternative assumes no action would be taken to address the seismic stability and safety concerns at the dam, allowing decision makers to compare the impacts of approving the project to the impacts of not approving the project. The Reservoir Restriction Alternative would involve no physical improvement to the dam structure, but would restrict the reservoir water level to a lower maximum surface elevation to reduce the risk of dam failure. Reclamation and DWR are proceeding with the Crest Raise Alternative (i.e., Approved Project) because it most effectively addresses the critical problem of dam instability and associated safety risks at B.F. Sisk Dam.

In summary, the Approved Project assessed in the 2019 EIS/EIR involves making improvements to the downstream side of the existing dam to enhance its stability and increasing the dam crest height to reduce the potential that water would overtop the dam if seismic-induced slumping were to occur. This would be accomplished by constructing stability berms and downstream crack filters in select areas, adding additional material over the entire

¹ For information on Reclamation’s Dam Safety Program and risk analysis performed at B.F. Sisk Dam that led to initiation of this project, please see Section 1.2.1 of the 2019 EIS/EIR.

² For more information on Reclamation and DWR’s alternatives development and screening process, see Section 2.1 of the 2019 EIS/EIR.

area of the existing embankment, installing a new filter around the existing spillway conduit, and extending the spillway conduit to meet the resultant downstream edge of the extended embankment. Construction of three foundation shear keys to anchor the proposed stability berms to underlying bedrock is included as part of the Approved Project. While the 2019 EIS/EIR described one of the three foundation shear keys as optional, all three were evaluated. The Approved Project would implement structural stability improvements and would not increase the water storage capacity of San Luis Reservoir. As design has progressed since DWR's certification of the 2019 EIS/EIR, additions and revisions to the Approved Project have been identified by project engineers and planners, and these modifications to the Approved Project are the subject of this SEIR. Figure 1-3, Approved Project and Modified Project Boundaries, provides an overview of the boundaries for the Approved Project in the 2019 EIS/EIR, and a comparison to the boundaries for Modified Project in this SEIR.

1.1.3 2019 EIS/EIR Public Review and DWR Certification

In September 2009, DWR issued a Notice of Preparation (NOP) of an EIR for the Approved Project pursuant to CEQA, and Reclamation published a Notice of Intent to prepare an EIS in the Federal Register. The NOP was circulated to responsible agencies under CEQA and comments on the NOP were received for a 30-day period. Reclamation and DWR held one scoping meeting at the San Luis Recreation Area on September 23, 2009.

After completion of the Draft 2019 EIS/EIR, Reclamation and DWR met their respective public review obligations for the 2019 EIS/EIR relative to NEPA and CEQA. A Notice of Availability was published in the Federal Register (Vol. 84, No. 71) on Friday, April 12, 2019, commencing the mandatory public review period that then concluded on May 28, 2019. The Notice of Availability was also published in the Merced Sun-Star newspaper on April 12, 2019, and transmitted to a mailing list of responsible agencies and other interested parties developed during the document scoping period. DWR also published the 2019 EIS/EIR on its website, water.ca.gov/news/public-notice. During the public review period, hard copies of the 2019 EIS/EIR were made available at the Reclamation Mid-Pacific Region Office at 2800 Cottage Way, Sacramento, California 95825; the Los Banos Public Library at 1312 Seventh St Los Banos, California 93635; as well as at the DWR office in Sacramento at 1416 Ninth Street, Room 604-8, Sacramento, California 95814. Public meetings were held on May 7, 2019, in Sacramento, and on May 8, 2019, in Los Banos.

Five written comments on the 2019 EIS/EIR were received during the public review period, from one federal agency, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency; two state agencies/public organizations, the State Water Contractors and the California Farm Bureau; and two local agencies, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and the Kern County Water Agency. Reclamation and DWR provided responses to the comments and prepared a Final EIS/EIR, which included errata pages to identify minor revisions to the text of the public review draft. The Final EIS/EIR was prepared in August 2019 and, in compliance with CEQA, was made available to commenting parties on August 22, 2019. Following distribution of the Final EIS/EIR, DWR's Director, in their capacity as DWR's decision-making body pursuant to CEQA, certified the document on December 5, 2019, and a Notice of Determination was transmitted to the State Clearinghouse on December 6, 2019.

1.2 Project Objectives

The project objectives have not changed since certification of the 2019 EIS/EIR. As noted in Section 1.3, Purpose and Need/Project Objectives, of the 2019 EIS/EIR, San Luis Reservoir is an important CVP and SWP facility and a key component of California’s water supply system. Therefore, proper functioning of the reservoir is critical to maintaining water distribution for federal, state, and local uses. Reclamation and DWR have determined that actions to reduce risks from earthquakes to the public downstream of the dam are needed. The Approved Project objectives are as follows:

1. Implement cost-effective measures to prevent destabilization of the dam embankment and to ensure dam stability, in the event of an earthquake
2. Reduce safety concerns of the public downstream of the dam
3. Maintain water supply deliveries to federal and state contractors through the CVP and SWP

1.3 Proposed Modifications to the Project

Chapter 2 of this SEIR presents a detailed description of the changes made to the Approved Project since DWR’s certification of the 2019 EIS/EIR, which are summarized in this section for introductory purposes.

The new impact areas are associated with development of a new permanent public campground on the northwestern shore of O’Neill Forebay, which is located downstream and east of San Luis Reservoir, and for implementing minor upgrades to the existing San Luis Creek Day Use Area on the western shore of O’Neill Forebay.³ These new project components are intended to compensate for the construction-related temporary closure of Basalt Campground and Medeiros Campground, both public campgrounds within the San Luis Reservoir SRA. The campground work was identified as Mitigation Measure REC-1 in the 2019 EIS/EIR, but implementation of that mitigation entails environmental impacts that were not incorporated into the analysis presented in the 2019 EIS/EIR, so they are included in the scope of this SEIR.⁴

Another modification addressed in this SEIR is the consideration by the design team of two alternative on-site borrow areas as sources of earth fill material for the dam rehabilitation, beyond the borrow areas identified in the 2019 EIS/EIR (referred to as Borrow Area 6 and the Basalt Hill Borrow Area). The new alternative sites, referred to as Borrow Area 12 and Borrow Area 14, are entirely located within areas anticipated for contractor staging activity in the 2019 EIS/EIR, specifically in the work area east of B.F. Sisk Dam. The borrow areas do not represent further additions to the Modified Project’s study area; however, the potential scale of construction activity anticipated in these borrow areas represents a change from the Approved Project as disclosed in the 2019 EIS/EIR, and DWR deemed additional environmental impact analysis to be appropriate for compliance with CEQA. Geotechnical investigations and materials testing are planned or are underway at all four prospective borrow areas, and depending on the testing results and the presence of suitable materials, it is possible that some combination of all four borrow areas would be used as materials sources during Modified Project construction.

³ The 2019 EIS/EIR considered and addressed the work that would be required in the East Dike area of the dam; however, this area was omitted from exhibits and figures in the 2019 EIS/EIR. To correct for this inadvertent mapping omission, the East Dike area is identified and mapped as part of the Approved Project footprint and is not evaluated as a project modification in this SEIR.

⁴ Mitigation Measure REC-1 in the 2019 EIS/EIR included the expansion of the boat launch at Dinosaur Point Use Area. Since that time, the California Department of Parks and Recreation has indicated the previously proposed expansion of this boat launch is no longer required, as the existing facility has excess capacity and would accommodate any increase in use due to the closure of the Basalt Campground boat launch for the duration of Modified Project construction. As such, modifications to the Dinosaur Point Use Area are not addressed in this SEIR.

The Modified Project also entails a modification to public campground and day use area closure in the vicinity of San Luis Reservoir and O’Neill Forebay compared to the Approved Project. The 2019 EIS/EIR project description acknowledged closure of Basalt Campground for the duration of Approved Project construction. Analysis presented in the 2019 EIS/EIR also anticipated closure of the Medeiros Use Area for the duration of construction.⁵ San Luis Creek Use Area was anticipated to remain open, but under the Modified Project portions of the use area would be temporarily closed while improvements described above are made.

These new Modified Project components are intended to compensate for the construction-related temporary closure of Basalt Campground and Medeiros Campground, both public campgrounds within the San Luis Reservoir SRA. The new campground would be developed in consultation with the California Department of Parks and Recreation.

The Modified Project also includes some minor expansion of the contractor work areas that were not part of the original study area. In general, the overall construction schedule and assumptions regarding personnel and equipment remain unchanged from the Approved Project; however, additional construction assumptions are included in the Modified Project and analyzed in this SEIR.

1.4 Purpose and Legal Authority

CEQA requires examination and public disclosure of potential impacts on the environment that may be caused by activities and approvals involving discretionary actions by a public agency. The law applies to actions made by a public agency’s decision-making body, so that members of that body may consider the impacts of their decision prior to approving or denying the project. DWR will serve as the CEQA lead agency for the Modified Project.⁶ “Lead agency,” as defined in Section 15367 of the CEQA Guidelines, means the public agency that has the principal responsibility for carrying out or approving a proposed project. The lead agency is also responsible for preparing the environmental documents on a proposed project pursuant to the full disclosure requirements of CEQA.

“Responsible agency,” as defined in Section 15381 of the CEQA Guidelines, means a public agency other than the lead agency that has discretionary approval power over aspects of a proposed project, such as permit issuance. Responsible agencies associated with the Modified Project addressed in this SEIR include, but are not limited to, the California Department of Fish and Wildlife, California Department of Transportation, the California Department of Parks and Recreation, the Central Valley Regional Water Quality Control Board, and the San Joaquin Air Pollution Control District. “Trustee agency,” as defined in Section 15386 of the CEQA Guidelines, means a state agency having jurisdiction by law over natural resources affected by a proposed project that are held in trust for the people of the State of California.

⁵ The 2019 EIS/EIR assumed that the Medeiros Use Area (and campground) south of O’Neill Forebay would be closed during the entire construction phase of the Approved Project; the 2019 EIS/EIR addressed the potential impacts of this closure. However, the Medeiros Use Area was inadvertently not included in the Approved Project footprint as shown in the exhibits and figures of the 2019 EIS/EIR. As such, the Medeiros Use Area is included in the Modified Project footprint in this SEIR; however, note that impacts resulting from its closure have already been addressed in the 2019 EIS/EIR.

⁶ The SEIR is a CEQA-only document prepared by DWR as CEQA lead agency to ensure their compliance with state statutory obligations. Reclamation, as lead agency pursuant to NEPA, will determine the appropriate NEPA action relative to the changes addressed in this SEIR, and is not a participant in the SEIR as they were in the joint 2019 EIS/EIR.

As described in Section 1.5, Scope and Content of the SEIR, DWR, as CEQA lead agency, has identified changes to the Approved Project that affect the content of their previously certified 2019 EIS/EIR and has determined that a supplement to the CEQA component of that document is appropriate to ensure that the EIR adequately addresses the Modified Project in the changed situation. This SEIR has been prepared by DWR in accordance with the CEQA Statute (California Public Resources Code, Section 21000 et seq.) and the CEQA Guidelines (14 CCR 15000 et seq.), as amended, and identifies and discusses potential specific and cumulative environmental impacts that may occur should the proposed modifications be implemented.

1.5 Scope and Content of the SEIR

After a CEQA lead agency certifies a Final EIR for a project, CEQA provides for the update of the information in the certified EIR to address changes to the project or to the circumstances under which the project will be implemented. Section 15162 of the CEQA Guidelines (14 CCR 15162) provides that the lead agency may prepare a Subsequent or Supplemental EIR if:

1. Substantial changes are proposed in the project which will require major revisions of the previous EIR due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified significant impacts;
2. Substantial changes in circumstances under which the project is undertaken will occur which will require major revisions of the previous EIR due to the involvement of new significant environmental effects or a substantial increase in the severity of previously identified effects; and
3. New information of substantial importance, which was not known with the exercise of reasonable diligence at the time the previous EIR was certified as complete, shows any of the following:
 - a. A project will have one or more significant effects not discussed in the previous EIR;
 - b. Significant effects previously examined will be substantially more severe than shown in the previous EIR;
 - c. Mitigation measures or alternatives previously found not to be feasible would in fact be feasible, and would substantially reduce one or more significant effects of the project, but the project proponents decline to adopt the mitigation measure or alternative; or
 - d. Mitigation measures or alternatives which are considerably different from those analyzed in the previous EIR would substantially reduce one or more significant effects on the environment, but the project proponents decline to adopt the mitigation measure or alternative.

Section 15163 of the CEQA Guidelines provides that the lead or responsible agency may choose to prepare a supplement to an EIR, referred to as a Supplemental EIR, rather than a Subsequent EIR if any of the conditions described in Section 15162 would require the preparation of a Subsequent EIR and “only minor additions or changes would be necessary to make the previous EIR adequately apply to the project in the changed situation.” The CEQA Guidelines allow that a Supplemental EIR “need contain only the information necessary to make the previous EIR adequate for the project as revised,” whereas a Subsequent EIR is intended to be a more substantial document that repackages the relevant content of the certified EIR, as revised to reflect the changed project or circumstances.

As applicable to Section 15163 of the CEQA Guidelines, this SEIR describes minor changes that have been proposed to the Approved Project, as presented in the 2019 EIS/EIR, and examines the way in which these changes affect environmental impact analysis and conclusions presented in the 2019 EIS/EIR. The subject of this SEIR is limited to the changes summarized above, as there are no other “substantial changes in circumstances” or other “new information of substantial importance” beyond those changes that must be disclosed or analyzed pursuant to CEQA.

In accordance with Section 15162 and 15163 of the CEQA Guidelines, this SEIR addresses environmental impact categories for which the analysis and conclusions are affected by the Modified Project such that “one or more significant impacts not discussed in the previous EIR,” and/or “significant effects previously examined will be substantially more severe than shown in the previous EIR.” The environmental issues evaluated in specific sections of this SEIR, which follow the section titles and sequence from the 2019 EIS/EIR, are as follows:

- Water Quality
- Air Quality
- Greenhouse Gas Emissions
- Flood Protection
- Visual Resources
- Noise and Vibration
- Traffic and Transportation
- Hazards and Hazardous Materials
- Terrestrial Resources (referred to as Biological Resources in this SEIR)
- Land Use
- Recreation
- Cultural Resources
- Geology, Seismicity, and Soils

DWR has determined that the remaining environmental impact topics addressed in the 2019 EIS/EIR do not warrant a detailed presentation in the SEIR for purposes of CEQA compliance because the proposed modifications to the Approved Project would not result in new or substantially more severe significant impacts. The following topics will be briefly discussed in Chapter 4, Other CEQA Considerations, of the SEIR:

- Surface Water Supply
- Fisheries Resources
- Agricultural Resources
- Public Utilities, Services, and Power
- Population and Housing

In addition, the topics Regional Economics and Environmental Justice and Indian Trust Assets from the 2019 EIS/EIR will not be directly addressed in this SEIR. These topics were addressed for Reclamation’s compliance with NEPA and are not considered environmental impact subjects pursuant to CEQA.

1.6 Approved Project Relationship to B.F. Sisk Dam Raise and Reservoir Expansion Project

In May 2020, Reclamation, as NEPA lead agency, and the San Luis & Delta–Mendota Water Authority (SLDMWA), as CEQA lead agency, released an NOP and Notice of Intent to prepare a joint EIR and supplemental EIS (SEIS) to examine the environmental impacts of constructing and operating a dam raise project at B.F. Sisk Dam that would increase the water storage capacity of San Luis Reservoir—referred to as the B.F. Sisk Dam Raise and Reservoir Expansion Project (reservoir expansion project). Since that time, Reclamation and SLDMWA released a Draft EIR/SEIS for the reservoir expansion project in August 2020 for public review and published the Final EIR/SEIS for the reservoir expansion project in December 2020.

The Final EIR/SEIS for the reservoir expansion project is prepared as a subsequent environmental document to the 2019 EIS/EIR that is the subject of this SEIR prepared by DWR for the Modified Project. The Final EIR/SEIS also refers to the reservoir expansion project as a “connected action” to the B.F. Sisk Dam Safety of Dams Modification Project as defined by NEPA Section 1508.25(a). The reservoir expansion project would increase storage to enhance water-supply reliability for south-of-Delta contractors of Reclamation’s federal system that are dependent on water storage at San Luis Reservoir. The increased storage capacity would be achieved by an

additional 10-foot raise of the B.F. Sisk Dam embankment across the entire dam crest above the level proposed for dam safety purposes, as identified in the 2019 EIS/EIR. The increased water storage would expand the footprint of San Luis Reservoir such that new upstream areas would be inundated, including areas requiring modifications to segments of State Route 152.

While the reservoir expansion project addressed in the Final EIR/SEIS would be reliant on the Approved Project because it proposes an additional raise of the B.F. Sisk Dam embankment above what is proposed to be constructed for the safety enhancement, the Approved Project is not at all reliant on the reservoir expansion project. The Approved Project has independent utility from the reservoir expansion project because it can be constructed and operated on its own, regardless of whether Reclamation and SLDMWA move forward with their additional dam raise. Furthermore, as referenced in Section 1.1.2, the Approved Project is intended solely as a safety enhancement project, alleviating seismic stability concerns observed in the existing dam structure, and would not involve increasing water storage capacity at San Luis Reservoir or elsewhere in the SWP or CVP. Therefore, it remains appropriate to consider project-level environmental impacts of the Modified Project separate from those of the reservoir expansion project, as addressed in this SEIR.

The reservoir expansion project was not on the planning horizon when the 2009 NOP was released for the Approved Project, nor during preparation and release of the 2019 EIS/EIR, so it was not considered as part of the cumulative analysis incorporated into the 2019 EIS/EIR. Because the reservoir expansion project has now been identified as a prospective future project within the cumulative impact study area for the Modified Project, the reservoir expansion project has been incorporated into the consideration of cumulative impacts in this SEIR.

1.7 Draft SEIR Organization

This Draft SEIR is organized into the following chapters so the reader can easily obtain information about the Modified Project:

- **Chapter 1, Introduction**, describes the purpose and use of the SEIR and outlines the document's organization.
- **Chapter 2, Project Description**, describes the Modified Project location and environmental setting, provides a summary of the Approved Project addressed in the 2019 EIS/EIR, and details the proposed modifications that are the subject of the SEIR.
- **Chapter 3, Environmental Analysis**, presents existing environmental conditions and environmental impact analysis relative to the proposed modifications, and describes proposed mitigation measures that would eliminate or reduce the severity of significant impacts pursuant to CEQA.
- **Chapter 4, Other CEQA Considerations**, includes a discussion of issues required by CEQA that are not covered in other chapters of the SEIR, with a focus on the proposed modifications. This discussion includes effects found not to be significant, growth-inducing impacts, and an energy conservation analysis.
- **Chapter 5, List of Preparers**, lists the individuals involved in preparing this SEIR and the organizations and persons consulted.
- **Chapter 6, References**, provides full citations for the references cited throughout the SEIR.
- **Appendices** present data supporting the analysis or contents of the SEIR.

1.8 Availability of the Draft SEIR

In conformance with Section 15087 of the CEQA Guidelines, this Draft SEIR is being made available to interested agencies, organizations, and individuals for a 45-day review period, commencing June 15, 2021, and ending July 29, 2021. DWR provided notice of availability of the Draft SEIR with a Notice of Completion sent to the California Governor’s Office of Planning and Research State Clearinghouse, by publication of a notice in the Merced Sun-Star newspaper on June 15, 2021, and by direct notice to the parties identified from the 2019 EIS/EIR distribution list. During the public review period, the Draft SEIR will be available for review electronically on DWR’s website, along with hard copies available at DWR’s offices, the addresses of which are listed below:

California Department of Water Resources
San Luis Field Division
31770 Gonzaga Road
Gustine, California 95322

California Department of Water Resources
Operations and Maintenance Headquarters
1416 9th Street, Room 604
Sacramento, California 95814

DWR is accepting written comments on the Draft SEIR, which must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. on July 29, 2021, in order to be considered in preparation and publications of a Final SEIR. Comments may be transmitted via email to swpdamsafety@water.ca.gov, indicating “Sisk Dam SEIR” in the subject line, or by standard mail to the following address:

Sara Paiva-Lowry
California Department of Water Resources
P.O. Box 942836
Sacramento, California 94236-0001

DWR will consider and respond to all written comments received by the close of the public review period that address environmental impacts related to the Modified Project, and they will be incorporated into the forthcoming Final SEIR. Pursuant to Section 15092 of the CEQA Guidelines, DWR will consider the following actions: certification of the Final SEIR; adoption of Findings of Fact, Statement of Overriding Considerations, and the Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP); and either denial or approval of the proposed modifications.

1.9 Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program

Pursuant to Section 21081.6(a)(1) of CEQA and Section 15097 of the CEQA Guidelines, an MMRP will be prepared to ensure that the mitigation measures identified in the Final SEIR for the Modified Project will be implemented. The MMRP will include all relevant mitigation measures from the 2019 EIS/EIR and any additional or revised measures identified in this SEIR. DWR will consider the MMRP in conjunction with the actions previously mentioned, and the MMRP will be used by DWR staff during the Modified Project’s planning, construction, and post-construction phases, as appropriate, to track completion of mitigation measures required by CEQA.

Table 1-1 lists all of the mitigation measures from the 2019 EIS/EIR and their corresponding mitigation measures and identification in this SEIR.

Table 1-1. Mitigation Measures Comparison

2019 EIS/EIR Mitigation Measure	SEIR Mitigation Measure ¹	Change from 2019 EIS/EIR to SEIR
Air Quality		
AQ-1, Reduce emissions from off-road construction equipment by using Tier 4 construction equipment	Implement AQ-1 from 2019 EIS/EIR	No change to mitigation measure.
AQ-2, Reduce exhaust emission from on-road trucks	Implement AQ-2 from 2019 EIS/EIR	No change to mitigation measure.
AQ-3, Implement Best Available Mitigation Measures for Construction Phase	Implement AQ-3 from 2019 EIS/EIR	No change to mitigation measure.
Greenhouse Gas Emissions		
—	SEIR-GHG-1. Construction GHG Emissions Reductions	New mitigation measure.
GHG-1, Purchase of carbon offsets	SEIR-GHG-2, Carbon Offsets – Construction Emissions	SEIR-GHG-2 in the SEIR revises and replaces GHG-1 from the 2019 EIS/EIR.
Visual Resources		
VIS-1, Light and glare reduction measures	Implement VIS-1 from 2019 EIS/EIR	No change to mitigation measure.
Noise and Vibration		
NOISE-1, Noise Control Plan (construction)	Implement NOISE-1 from 2019 EIS/EIR	No change to mitigation measure.
NOISE-2, Blasting Plan	Implement NOISE-2 from 2019 EIS/EIR	No change to mitigation measure.
NOISE-3, Pre-construction noise survey	Implement NOISE-3 from 2019 EIS/EIR	No change to mitigation measure.
Traffic and Transportation		
TR-1, Construction traffic control plan	Implement TR-1 from 2019 EIS/EIR	No change to mitigation measure.
Hazards and Hazardous Materials		
HAZ-1, Construction hazardous soil monitoring and remediation during construction, spill prevention plan, and fire protection plan	Implement HAZ-1 from 2019 EIS/EIR	No change to mitigation measure.
HAZ-2, Construction safety plan	Implement HAZ-2 from 2019 EIS/EIR	No change to mitigation measure.
HAZ-3, Coordination with San Luis Seaplane Base	—	Mitigation measure is no longer required. Refer to Section 3.8 of this SEIR.
HAZ-4, Wildfire reduction measures	Implement HAZ-4 from 2019 EIS/EIR	No change to mitigation measure.
—	SEIR-HAZ-1, Defensible space and maintenance	New mitigation measure.
—	SEIR-HAZ-2, Campground wildfire risk reduction measures	New mitigation measure.

Table 1-1. Mitigation Measures Comparison

2019 EIS/EIR Mitigation Measure	SEIR Mitigation Measure ¹	Change from 2019 EIS/EIR to SEIR
Biological Resources²		
TERR-1, Special-status plant species and special-status natural communities	Implement TERR-1 from 2019 EIS/EIR	No change to mitigation measure.
TERR-2, Valley Elderberry Longhorn Beetle	Implement TERR-2 from 2019 EIS/EIR	No change to mitigation measure. Remains applicable to the Modified Project as determined by the 2019 EIS/EIR.
TERR-3, Special-status amphibians	SEIR-BIO-1, Special-Status Amphibians	SEIR-BIO-1 in the SEIR revises and replaces TERR-3 from the 2019 EIS/EIR.
TERR-4, Western Pond Turtle	Implement TERR-4 from 2019 EIS/EIR	No change to mitigation measure.
TERR-5, San Joaquin Whipsnake	SEIR-BIO-2, Special-Status Reptiles	SEIR-BIO-2 in the SEIR revises and replaces TERR-5 from the 2019 EIS/EIR.
TERR-6, Nesting bird surveys	Implement TERR-6 from 2019 EIS/EIR	No change to mitigation measure.
TERR-7, Swainson's Hawk	Implement TERR-7 from 2019 EIS/EIR	No change to mitigation measure.
TERR-8, Bald and Golden Eagles, and California Condor	Implement TERR-8 from 2019 EIS/EIR	No change to mitigation measure.
TERR-9, Burrowing Owl	SEIR-BIO-3, Burrowing Owl	SEIR-BIO-3 in the SEIR revises and replaces TERR-9 from the 2019 EIS/EIR.
TERR-10, Tricolored Blackbird	Implement TERR-10 from 2019 EIS/EIR	No change to mitigation measure.
TERR-11, Special-status bats	Implement TERR-11 from 2019 EIS/EIR	No change to mitigation measure.
TERR-12, San Joaquin Kit Fox	SEIR-BIO-4, San Joaquin Kit Fox	SEIR-BIO-4 in the SEIR revises and replaces TERR-12 from the 2019 EIS/EIR.
TERR-13, American Badger	Implement TERR-13 from 2019 EIS/EIR	No change to mitigation measure.
TERR-14, Vernal Pool Fairy Shrimp and Vernal Pool Tadpole Shrimp	Implement TERR-14 from 2019 EIS/EIR	No change to mitigation measure.
TERR-15, Contractor environmental awareness training and site protection measures	Implement TERR-15 from 2019 EIS/EIR	No change to mitigation measure.
TERR-16, Mitigation measures for special-status communities, including jurisdictional wetlands or waters, and streambeds and banks regulated by the CDFW, RWQCB, and United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), and native grassland.	SEIR-BIO-5, Mitigation Measures for Special-Status Communities, including Native Grassland, and Jurisdictional Wetlands or Waters and Streambeds and Banks Regulated by CDFW, RWQCB, and USACE	SEIR-BIO-5 in the SEIR revises and replaces TERR-16 from the 2019 EIS/EIR.

Table 1-1. Mitigation Measures Comparison

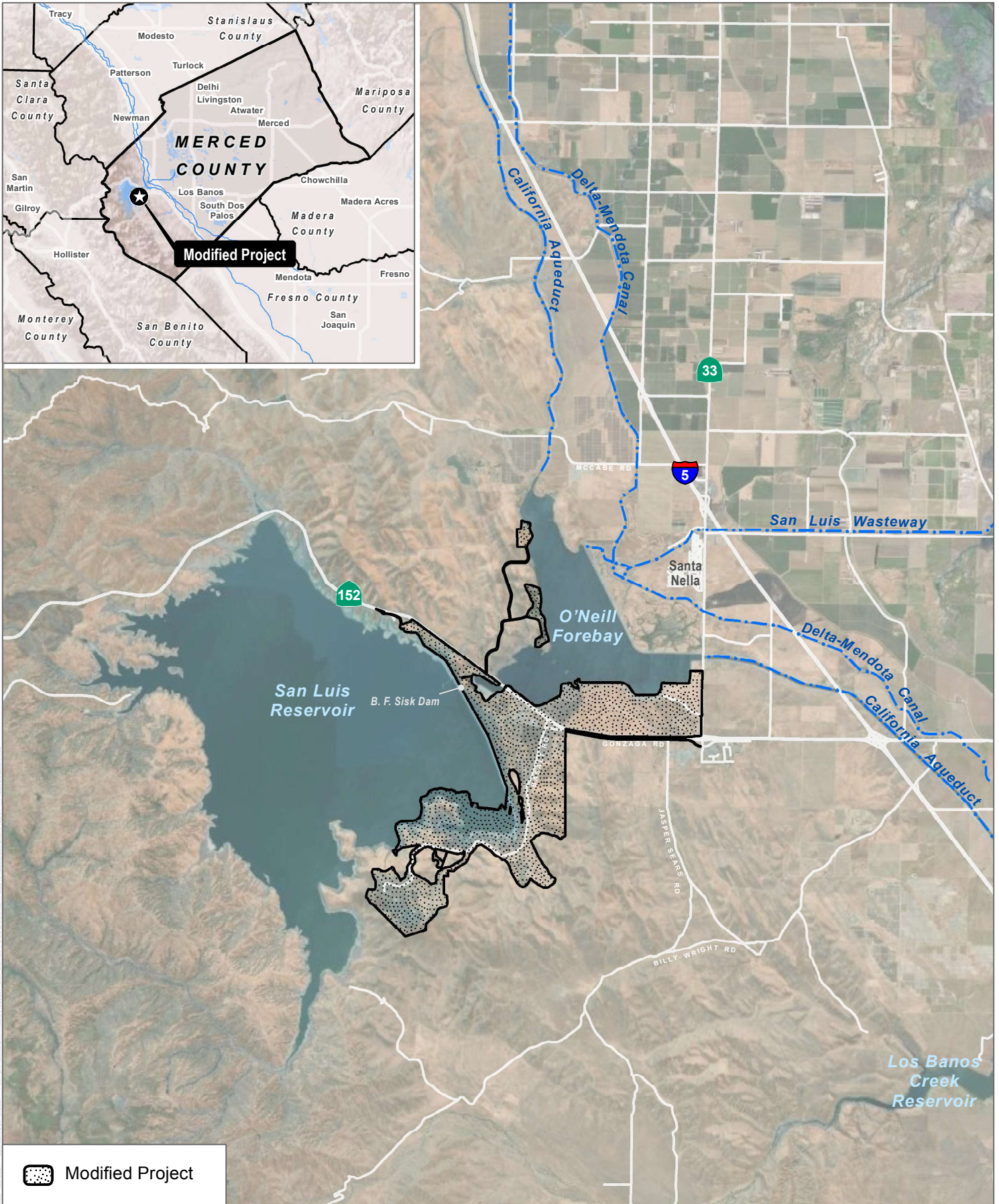
2019 EIS/EIR Mitigation Measure	SEIR Mitigation Measure ¹	Change from 2019 EIS/EIR to SEIR
—	SEIR-BIO-6, Avoidance of Bridge-Nesting Birds	New mitigation measure.
—	SEIR-BIO-7 Elk Avoidance and Minimization	New mitigation measure.
Recreation		
REC-1, Campsite and facilities replacement	SEIR-REC-1, Campsite and Facilities Replacement	SEIR-REC-1 in the SEIR revises and replaces REC-1 from the 2019 EIS/EIR.
Cultural Resources		
CR-1, Implement a formal agreement document to govern National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) Section 106 compliance and resolve any adverse effects/significant impacts to cultural resources	Implement CR-1 from 2019 EIS/EIR	No change to mitigation measure.
—	SEIR-CR-1, Unanticipated Discovery of Archaeological Resources	New mitigation measure.
—	SEIR-CR-2, Unanticipated Discovery of Human Remains	New mitigation measure.
—	SEIR-CR-3, Archaeological and Native American Monitors and Worker Environmental Awareness Program	New mitigation measure.

Notes: 2019 EIS/EIR = B.F. Sisk Dam Safety of Dams Modification Project Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report; SEIR = supplemental environmental impact report.

- ¹ Mitigation measures identified in this column apply to additional project components evaluated within the SEIR. Blank cells indicate that measures identified in the 2019 EIS/EIR are not necessary to reduce impacts from the project components added with the SEIR. These mitigation measures remain applicable to the Modified Project overall.
- ² The 2019 EIS/EIR evaluated biological resources in separate Terrestrial Resources and Fisheries Resources sections. This SEIR evaluates all biological resources in Section 3.9, Biological Resources.

1.10 Incorporation by Reference

This document incorporates by reference all text and analysis presented in the 2019 EIS/EIR, along with the original Findings of Fact, Statement of Overriding Considerations, and MMRP that were adopted by DWR for the Approved Project (Reclamation and DWR 2019). These documents are available for review at DWR's office, at the address identified in Section 1.8, Availability of the Draft SEIR.

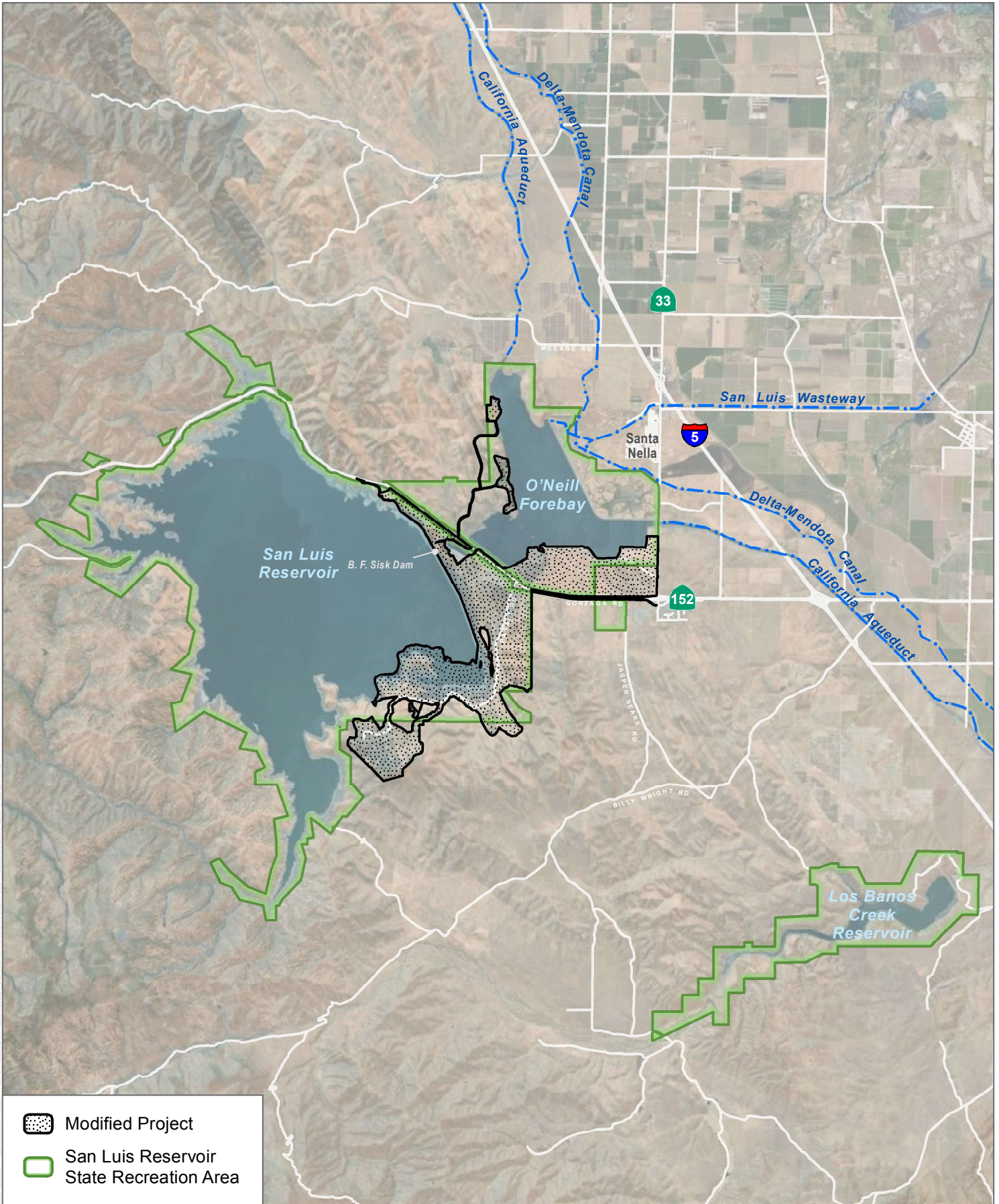


SOURCE: Basemap: ESRI World Imagery
 Project Boundary: Reclamation, 9/2/20

DUDEK  0 1 2 Miles

FIGURE 1-1
Project Location

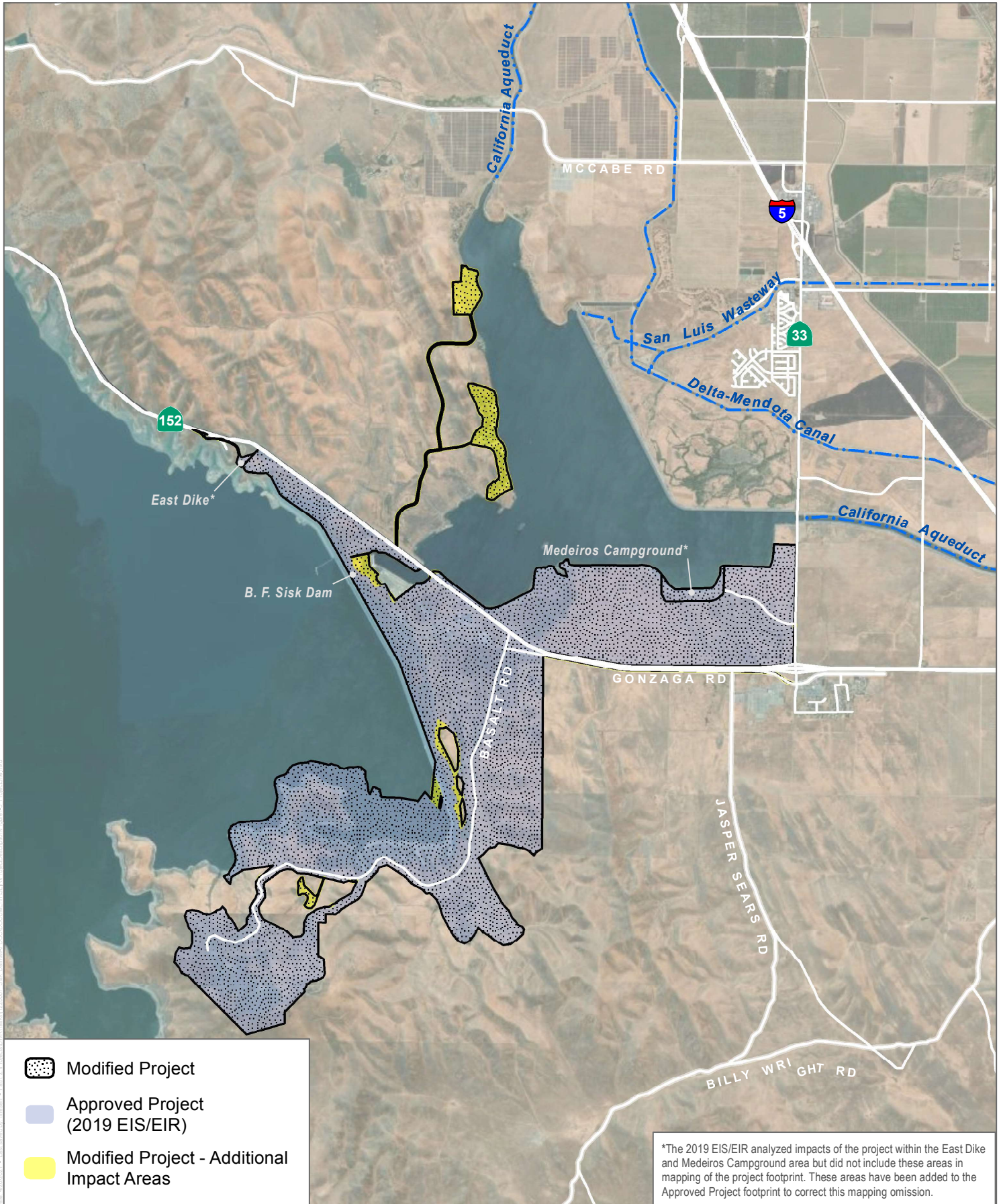
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SOURCE: Basemap: ESRI World Imagery
 Project Boundary: Reclamation, 9/2/20

FIGURE 1-2
Project Vicinity

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SOURCE: Basemap: ESRI World Imagery
 Project Boundary: Reclamation, 3/14/20
 Previous Boundary: DWR, 4/2019



FIGURE 1-3
Approved Project and Modified Project Boundaries
 B.F. Sisk Dam Safety of Dams Modification Project SEIR

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