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Lower Silver Project Receives Additional Federal Funding (EL-9.6: Other)

Staff has been notified by our Natural Resource Conservation Service (NRCS) partners that an additional \$2.2 million in American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) funding is available for the Lower Silver Project, bringing the total federal contribution to \$20.7 million.

At the August 24, 2010 meeting, the Board awarded the Lower Silver Project construction contract. At that time, staff reported that after an anticipated \$18.5 million reimbursement from National Resources Conservation Service, District costs would be approximately \$7.8 million. With the additional ARRA funding, District costs are reduced to \$5.6 million.

There is no in-channel work planned this year because of permit conditions that require in-channel work to be completed mid-October. Mobilization is ongoing. This year, the contractor will be working on off-channel site preparation, utility relocation, and floodwall construction between Jackson Ave and Capitol Expressway.

For further information, please contact Al Gurevich at (408) 265-2600, extension 2018.

Youth Stewardship Commission Update (EL-9.6: Other)

Staff is on track to establish a Youth Stewardship Commission, as directed by the Board. A part-time teacher has been hired to support the implementation. Outreach to high school teachers has begun, and staff has begun the development and production of a student application form which will describe the Youth Stewardship Commission and define the criteria for student membership. By the end of October, the finalized application form will be provided to Board members, who can assist with outreach. The roster of 15 to 20 high school students to serve as youth commissioners is planned to be finalized in December. The first meeting is slated to convene in January 2011.

Staff is also working with the Association of Retired District Employees to help on a volunteer basis with the new program. Retirees would be part of a roster of mentors who will advise students on potential career paths and may give presentations at commission meetings on careers in the water industry. Additional information will be provided to the Board at the Communications update scheduled for October 26, 2010.

For further information, please contact Mary Ann Ruiz at (408) 265-2600, extension 2633.

Anderson Dam Seismic Stability Evaluation Preliminary Findings (EL-9.6: Other)

On January 13, 2009 the Board approved an amended consultant contract with AMEC Geomatrix, Inc. to undertake the Anderson Dam Seismic Stability Evaluation. This work has consisted of extensive field explorations, laboratory testing, and engineering analyses. Through the CEO Bulletin, staff has regularly informed the Board on the progress of this effort as well as other ongoing work on the District dams. A Board workshop on the Dam Seismic Safety Program is planned for January 2011.

Staff was recently informed, by the consultant, of the preliminary findings of the seismic stability evaluation. The preliminary findings indicate that part of the dam would be seismically unstable during a very large 7.25 magnitude earthquake occurring within 2 kilometers of the dam on the Calaveras Fault. Other large earthquakes that occur close to the dam could also cause considerable damage to the dam. The dam would also experience significant deformation.

A major contributor to the change in seismic performance of the dam (when compared to previous studies) is the discovery of a poorly compacted (loose) layer of liquefiable material in the lower fill levels. This 5-10 feet thick layer of material (located beneath 15-70 feet of rock fill shell) is susceptible to a reduction in strength when subjected to severe shaking. These initial findings will be discussed with our regulatory agencies, the California Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD) and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) on October 12, 2010.

Final analyses are required to estimate the amount of downstream slope movement that could occur. This additional work will be completed in December 2010. A review of the adequacy of the current reservoir restrictions will be discussed at that time. Staff has also authorized the consultant to develop conceptual remedial alternatives for correcting the deficiencies. This work is also scheduled for completion in December.

Staff has been taking all safety precautions, and since December 2008, Anderson Dam and Reservoir has been operating under a DSOD water level restriction of 20 feet below the spillway (40 feet below the dam crest). This restriction was set after the consultant reviewed existing data including one boring in the downstream shell, which at the time, seemed to indicate significant alluvium in the foundation.

The recent water level behind Anderson Dam is approximately 37 feet below the spillway (57 feet below the dam crest and 17 feet lower than the DSOD operating restriction). Staff will not increase water storage above this level until the additional analysis is complete and we have discussed these findings with the State and Federal regulatory agencies. At this level, Anderson reservoir is at 56% of its full storage capacity (full capacity is 90,373 acre-feet). Given the information available at this time, staff with concurrence from our consultant, believes that this is prudent management to prevent the uncontrolled release of water after a major earthquake.

The CEO will provide the Board with an update of the meeting with the regulators at the October 12, 2010, Board meeting. At the request of the Board, staff can also provide a technical presentation at a future Board meeting.

For further information, please contact Frank Maitski at (408) 265-2600, extension 2284.

Maintenance and Rehabilitation of East Pipeline (EL-9.6: Other)

On October 4, 2010, as part of the District's Water Utility Enterprise Asset Management Program, staff shut down a 3-mile section of the East Pipeline from the Aborn Line Valve to the Ocala Line Valve, along White Road in San Jose. The pipeline delivers treated water from Penitencia and Santa Teresa Water Treatment Plants to San Jose Water Company and the City of San Jose Municipal System. The pipeline was shut down to perform major rehabilitation, inspection, maintenance and repair of the pipeline and pipeline appurtenances.