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Section 106 Review and Comment

Hearing Date:	February 2, 2011
Filing Date:	January 24, 2011
Case No.:	**2006.0536F**
Project Name:	**Lower Crystal Springs Dam Improvement Project**
Project Location:	Unincorporated area of San Mateo County on lands owned by City and County of San Francisco (CCSF)
Project Sponsor:	San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) Bureau of Environmental Management 1145 Market Street, Suite 500 San Francisco, CA 94103
Staff Contact:	Tina Tam – (415) 558-6325 tina.tam@sfgov.org

PROPERTY DESCRIPTION

The Lower Crystal Springs Dam (LCSD) is located on San Mateo Creek in unincorporated San Mateo County, about 12 miles south of San Francisco and three miles west of the City of San Mateo. The LCSD forms Lower Crystal Springs Reservoir, which is contiguous and hydraulically connected to Upper Crystal Springs Reservoir. Upper and Lower Crystal Springs Reservoirs occupy a valley in the San Andreas Rift Zone of the Coast Ranges between Sawyer and Cahill Ridges on the west and Buri Buri and Pulgas Ridges on the east, and west of Interstate 280. Crystal Springs Reservoir (Upper and Lower Reservoirs combined) has a surface area of about 1,300 acres when the water level is at an elevation of 283.8 feet.

REQUESTED ACTION

The United States Army Corps of Engineer (COE) has asked the Planning Department to participate in reviewing the proposed Lower Crystal Springs Dam Improvement project under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. Specifically, COE has requested review and comment on the documents that has been prepared for the Section 106 review, including:

- Letter from COE to Planning Department initiating Section 106 review dated January 21, 2011;
- Draft Memorandum of Agreement, dated January 5, 2011;
- Draft Historic Properties Treatment Plan from ESA, Inc., dated December 2010, which includes:
  - Project Description/Undertaking
  - Area of Potential Effect
  - Determination of Eligibility
  - Determination of Adverse Effects
  - Treatment Plan;
- Letter from Jenan Saunders for Milford Wayne Donaldson, State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) to Jane Hicks, COE, dated October 7, 2010; and

- Final Historic Context, Architectural and Archaeological Survey Report from Entrix, Inc. / MSE Joint Venture, dated October 2009.

The Historic Preservation Commission (HPC) will hold a public hearing on February 2, 2011 to review and comment on the above-mentioned documents. A letter containing the comments of the HPC may be prepared. If so, the letter should conclude with the HPC's views on the effect this undertaking could have upon historic properties, if any, within the project Area of Potential Effect (APE). The Director of the Planning Department will then forward the letter containing comments of the HPC as well as the comments of the Department to the Lead Agency (COE) and project sponsor (SFPUC), and send copies to the California Office of Historic Preservation and any other interested parties.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION / UNDERTAKING

The Project is to construct measures that will allow the use of the full capacity of the reservoir by addressing the deficiencies that led to restrictions on capacity being enacted by the Department of Water Resources, Division of Dam Safety, in 1983. The proposed project will include (1) raising the parapet wall along the top of the dam by nine feet, (2) widening the spillway from 88 to 208 feet, (3) reshaping the crest of the dam, (4) replacing the stilling basin at the base of the dam with a larger basin, (5) placing riprap along the San Mateo Creek banks downstream of the stilling basin, and (6) raising the existing water quality sampling station to the proposed higher reservoir pool level. Construction of the proposed improvements would allow the San Francisco Public Utility Commission (SFPUC) to raise the maximum operating levels of Crystal Springs Reservoir four feet higher than the current level and restore the historical capacity of the reservoir from 18.5 to 22.2 billion gallons.

ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW STATUS

The environmental effects of the Project were determined by the San Francisco Planning Department to have been fully reviewed under the Lower Crystal Springs Dam Improvement Project Environmental Impact Report (hereinafter "LCSD EIR"). The LCSD EIR was prepared, circulated for public review and comment, and, by Motion No. 18189 certified by the Commission as complying with the California Environmental Quality Act (Cal. Pub. Res. Code Section 21000 et seq., hereinafter "CEQA").

STAFF ANAYLSIS

Area of Potential Effect

The APE is located within the CCSF-owned 23,000-acre Peninsula watershed lands, which are managed by the SFPUC; these lands form the largest open space area for the communities along the San Francisco Peninsula. The APE is also at the nexus of two major transportation corridors, Highway 92 and Interstate 280. Highway 92 has become a major route for commuters from the coastal communities, while Interstate 280 forms on the most important north-south transportation routes between San Francisco and the South Bay.

Determination of Eligibility

The Lower Crystal Springs Dam has been previously determined eligible for the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) under Criteria A and C by State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) in 1989. The COE has determined that South Crystal Springs Cottage is also eligible for the NRHP under

Criterion A, and SHPO has concurred with this determination. The COE also determined that five additional architectural properties – the Upper Crystal Springs Dam, Pulgas Discharge Channel, segment within APE of San Mateo to Crystal Springs Road, two segments within the APE of the San Mateo to Half Moon Bay Toll Road, and the single-gate concrete culvert beneath San Mateo to Half Moon Bay Toll Road – are ineligible for the NRHP under any criteria, and the SHPO has also concurred with this determination. As for prehistoric archaeological site CA-SMO-126, there is no determination of eligibility since the site is not located within the project APE.

Determination of Adverse Effects

As designed, the proposed project will have an adverse effect to the NRHP eligible Lower Crystal Springs Dam. The proposed project will alter a number of character-defining features that contribute to the historical significance and significantly affect the integrity of the dam's design, as well as its setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

Memorandum of Agreement and Treatment Plan

To address the adverse effect to the LCSD, COE proposes the execution of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) and the preparation of a Historic Properties Treatment Plan (HPTP). The HPTP details the three measures available to reduce the severity of the adverse effect: (1) Historic American Engineering Record (HAER) recordation, (2) public interpretation, and (3) a historic resources protection plan. SHPO has determined these actions to be an appropriate resolution.

At this time, Staff concurs with the following elements of the Section 106 review:

- Project Description/Undertaking: Staff concurs with definition of the Project Description / Undertaking provided by the Project Sponsor.
- Area of Potential Effects: Staff concurs with the findings of the Historic Context, Architectural and Archaeological Survey Report and the APE as defined in the report.
- Eligibility: Staff concurs with the determination that Lower Crystal Springs Dam is eligible for the NRHP under Criteria A and C and that South Crystal Springs Cottage is also eligible for the NRHP under Criterion A.
- Effects: Staff concurs with the finding that the project will have an adverse effect on historic properties and that the execution of a MOA and Historic Properties Treatment Plan is appropriate to reduce the severity of the adverse effect on Lower Crystal Springs Dam.

ATTACHMENTS

Letter from COE initiating Section 106 review, dated January 21, 2011
Draft Memorandum of Agreement, dated January 5, 2011
LCSD Project Historic Properties Treatment Plan, dated December 2010
Letter from SHPO to COE dated October 7, 2010
Final Historic Context, Architectural and Archaeological Survey Report, dated October 2009

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