

To: Board of Directors
From: Norma J. Camacho, Interim CEO

Chief Executive Officer Bulletin Week of January 13 – 19, 2017

Board Executive Limitation Policy EL-7:

The Board Appointed Officers shall inform and support the Board in its work. Further, a BAO shall 1) inform the Board of relevant trends, anticipated adverse media coverage, or material external and internal changes, particularly changes in the assumptions upon which any Board policy has previously been established and 2) report in a timely manner an actual or anticipated noncompliance with any policy of the Board.

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The current water level restriction at Anderson Reservoir of approximately 45 feet below the dam crest (EL 599.7 NGVD29 feet) was established in 2011. This restriction was based on the seismic stability analyses of the dam performed by the consultant firm of AMEC in 2009, which indicated that the dam embankment could experience large deformations and cracking due to seismically-induced liquefaction of its foundation and lower finer fill.

The reservoir restriction is an interim safety measure that provides additional embankment freeboard to prevent overtopping of the dam in case slumping and/or cracking occurs after a severe earthquake.

Recent geotechnical investigations and laboratory testing completed by the Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit Project's design consultant (URS Corporation) have concluded that, in addition to the foundation/lower finer fill, the upstream granular shell of the dam is also susceptible to liquefaction during a large earthquake.

This new finding was presented to the water district's dam safety regulators, the Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD) and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), and to the project's independent Board of Consultants (BOC) in October 2016. At the Board of Consultants meeting on October 25, 2016, the regulators and the independent BOC requested the water district evaluate the impacts of the new finding on the current interim reservoir restriction.

In mid-December 2016, URS Corporation completed a draft Technical Memorandum (TM) summarizing their evaluation of the current interim reservoir restriction based on the new finding. Their analysis indicates that there is potential for the dam to experience an additional 10 feet of deformation due to liquefaction of the upstream shell of the dam during a strong seismic event. The draft TM recommends restricting the reservoir elevation by an additional 10 feet (EL 589.7 NGVD29 feet) for the interim period until the seismic retrofit work is completed.

The draft TM was reviewed and accepted by the water district in early January 2107. With the forecast of strong storm activity the first weekend of January, the water district informed DSOD on January 6, 2017, that it would implement an additional 10 feet (55 feet below the dam crest) of voluntary operational restriction for Anderson Reservoir.

The final TM prepared by URS Corporation will be sent to the regulators and the BOC for their review and comment. The water district anticipates receiving final acceptance and approval of the reservoir restriction by the regulators within a few months.

For further information, please contact Katherine Oven at (408) 630-3126.
