

February 2, 2023

**FILE**

Mr. Juan Guerreiro, Director  
Public Utilities Department  
City of San Diego  
9192 Topaz Way  
San Diego, California 92123









Lake Hodges Dam, No. 8-3  
San Diego County

Dear Mr. Guerreiro:

This is in response to your letter dated December 22, 2022, to the Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD) that enclosed a Lake Hodges Dam consequence analysis report prepared by GEI Consultants, Inc. (GEI), dated December 7, 2022. GEI has recommended that the reservoir level at Lake Hodges Dam be restricted to no higher than Elevation 280.00, U.S.G.S. Datum, 35 feet below the spillway crest, as an interim risk reduction measure until the City of San Diego (City) can rehabilitate the dam or replace it with a new dam.

DSOD has completed its independent review of the report, which included a technical memorandum prepared by HDR Engineering, Inc., and we agree with GEI's recommendation to further restrict Lake Hodges Dam by an additional [REDACTED] to Elevation [REDACTED]. Therefore, DSOD is restricting the reservoir to Elevation [REDACTED]. If the reservoir exceeds the restricted level, all means available to lower the reservoir, including transferring water to other reservoirs and fully opening all low-level outlet controls at Lake Hodges Dam, must be implemented immediately. This reservoir restriction will remain in effect until the City receives DSOD's written approval to store water at a higher elevation. The City must also monitor weather forecasts and adjust reservoir operations accordingly to minimize exceedances and durations above Elevation [REDACTED] due to a storm event.

The City has proposed additional interim risk reduction measures that will be evaluated or implemented until a new replacement dam is constructed. Please continue to work closely with DSOD as the City evaluates and implements these important measures. Also, DSOD agrees with the City's recommendation that no further repairs to the arch barrels should be proposed below Elevation 275.00 due to the uncertainty about the extent of the localized deterioration of the dam concrete and that a new approach should be developed for concrete repairs above Elevation 300.00. DSOD will work with City staff to determine an appropriate new approach for repairs above Elevation 300.00.

SURNAME DWR 155 (Rev 7/11)	 B. D. Doherty 2/1/2023	 A. Balaban 2/1/2023	 Brandon Cruz 2/2/2023	 A. Mumy 2/2/2023
	 V. Vrijanovic 2/1/2023	 E. J. Mallick 2/2/2023	 Rick Draeger 2/2/2023	 Shawn Jones 2/2/2023

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Your letter discusses the City's plan to perform a limited structural analysis of the large patches recently completed to the upstream face and to conduct a limited risk study that accounts for the severely deteriorated concrete found during the upstream face repair work. DSOD agrees that these efforts are prudent to document existing conditions and to evaluate the risk associated with the newly restricted reservoir level, especially for hydrologic loading conditions. Please submit the limited structural analysis and findings to DSOD upon their completion.

In addition to the seismic and hydrologic deficiencies previously identified at Lake Hodges Dam, the recent maintenance-level repair work to the upstream dam face uncovered severely deteriorated concrete throughout the arch barrels. As a result, DSOD's condition assessment for the dam has been changed from "Poor" to "Unsatisfactory." This change was discussed during a coordination meeting between the City and DSOD on December 9, 2022. Definitions of condition assessments are available on our website at [www.water.ca.gov/damsafety](http://www.water.ca.gov/damsafety).

We appreciate your continued diligence and look forward to working with the City to resolve the issues associated with the safety of Lake Hodges Dam. If you have any questions or need additional information, you may contact Design Engineer Blake Dolve at (916) 565-7876 or Project Engineer Vojislav Cvijanovic at (916) 565-7875.

Sincerely,

**Original Signed By**

Sharon K. Tapia, P.E.  
Division Manager  
Division of Safety of Dams

cc: (See Attached List.)

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cc: Mr. Kyle Muteff, Staff Counsel  
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REB-BJD// 2023-01-09\_8-3\_Lake Hodges- Restriction and Condition Assess