

**Report to Congress for Future Water Resources Development (WRRDA 7001) Submission
Package**

Proposal Name: Mojave River Forks Dam Feasibility Study

Submission Date: 08/27/2019

Proposal ID Number: 5fa87508-957a-4317-aaa6-fc17f3b1b5c9

Purpose of Proposal: The proposed project supports the USACE's mission as defined in the Civil Works Program and Water Resources Development Act and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Project purposes are to evaluate opportunities for flood risk management, stormwater management, and ecosystem restoration within the dam basin and downstream. Historically, long-lived droughts occur broken by flash flooding. Downstream areas flood and valuable water is lost as it flows to dry lakebeds where it evaporates. Water could be captured within the dam when it rains or as State Water Project is available and released to other facilities for groundwater recharge. Flood improvements and ecosystem restoration downstream would greatly benefit the watershed. Habitat for Federally listed species could be established for native aquatic Tui Chub and Arroyo Toad.

1. Administrative Details

Proposal Name: Mojave River Forks Dam Feasibility Study

by Agency: San Bernardino County Flood Control District, CA and Mojave Water Agency, CA

Locations: CA

POC Name:

POC Phone:

POC Email:

Date Submitted: 08/27/2019

Confirmation Number: 5fa87508-957a-4317-aaa6-fc17f3b1b5c9

Supporting Documents

File Name	Date Uploaded
7001-Forks Dam FeasStdy Figure.pdf	08/27/2019
SBCFCD-USACE Ltr-Mojave Rvr 3.29.19 Signed.pdf	08/27/2019

2. Provide the name of the primary sponsor and all non-Federal interests that have contributed or are expected to contribute toward the non-Federal share of the proposed feasibility study or modification.

Sponsor	Letter of Support
San Bernardino County Flood Control District (SBCFCD), CA; Mojave Water Agency (MWA), CA(Primary)	<p>The SBCFCD in collaboration with MWA are interested and able to participate as the Local Sponsor to study the Mojave River Forks Dam in partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), to cooperatively investigate alternatives to address attenuation of flood flows, increases to stormwater capture, hydro-electric power generation, and releases for groundwater recharge, and environmental restoration within the dam basin and downstream areas.</p> <p>The Mojave River is the lifeblood of the desert. Flows in the river cause most of the natural groundwater recharge that occurs within the greater Mojave Basin area. Mojave River Dam is a flood risk management project located on the Mojave River in San Bernardino County, Calif., approximately 14 miles south of Victorville and just downstream (north) of the confluence of the West Fork Mojave River and Deep Creek. Mojave River Dam is an ungated flood control structure located on the northern side of the San Bernardino Mountains. The SBCFCD and MWA request USACE initiate a review of the Mojave River to investigate current flood risk management, water conservation, and ecosystem restoration needs in the basin and downstream areas and investigate potential modifications to the Mojave River Dam.</p>
City of Barstow, CA	Attached
Town of Apple Valley, CA	Attached
San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors, CA	Attached
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation	Attached
Mojave Desert Resources Conservation District, CA	Attached
State Water Resources Conservation Board-Colorado, CA	Attached
California Department of Fish and Wildlife	Attached

3. State if this proposal is for new feasibility study authority, a modification to an existing feasibility study authority, a modification to an existing USACE project authority, or a modification to an existing USACE Environmental Infrastructure Program authority. If it is a proposal for a modification to an existing study, project or program authority, provide the authorized water resources development feasibility study or project name.

[x] Modification to a USACE Project Authority : Mojave River Forks Dam Project

4. Clearly articulate the specific project purpose(s) of the proposed study or modification. Demonstrate that the proposal is related to USACE mission and authorities and specifically address why additional or new authorization is needed.

The proposed project supports the USACE's mission as defined in the Civil Works Program and Water Resources Development Act and Section 404 of the Clean Water Act. Project purposes are to evaluate opportunities for flood risk management, stormwater management, and ecosystem restoration within the dam basin and downstream. Historically, long-lived droughts occur broken by flash flooding. Downstream areas flood and valuable water is lost as it flows to dry lakebeds where it evaporates. Water could be captured within the dam when it rains or as State Water Project is available and released to other facilities for ground water recharge. Flood improvements and ecosystem restoration downstream would greatly benefit the watershed. Habitat for Federally listed species could be established for native aquatic Tui Chub and Arroyo Toad.

5. To the extent practicable, provide an estimate of the total cost, and the Federal and non-Federal share of those costs, of the proposed study and, separately, an estimate of the cost of construction or modification.

	Federal	Non-Federal	Total
Study	\$1,500,000	\$1,500,000	\$3,000,000
Construction	\$350,000,000	\$350,000,000	\$700,000,000

Explanation (if necessary)

The purpose of the study will be to support, on a technical basis, the modifications to the existing dam outlet; opportunities for stormwater capture; and downstream flood risk management, stormwater recharge, and ecosystem restoration. These modifications are consistent with Corps guidelines, and are consistent with a continued federal interest in the project.

6. To the extent practicable, describe the anticipated monetary and nonmonetary benefits of the proposal including benefits to the protection of human life and property; improvement to transportation; the national economy; the environment; or the national security interests of the United States.

The proposed project is consistent with current Corps guidelines. The study will benefit the public by providing a comprehensive assessment and determination of the best approach to provide flood risk management, stormwater capture, groundwater recharge, ecosystem protection and restoration, aquatic and habitat protection, maintain water quality and provide for passive and active recreation opportunities for the public. Monetary benefits will include the implementation of flood risk management, stormwater capture, hydroelectric power, groundwater recharge and ecosystem restoration opportunities, and improvement of the current maintenance program. These include: Construction of a gated outlet in the flood control structure, channel improvements for flood risk management and ecosystem restoration, including threatened and endangered species. A restudy of the system, with current hydrology and a more robust hydraulic analysis may reveal multi-benefit options that could support flood risk management and habitat and water capture and recharge objectives in high growth desert cities.

7. Does local support exist? If 'Yes', describe the local support for the proposal.

Yes

Local Support Description

San Bernardino County Flood Control District, CA and Mojave Water Agency, CA greatly support the Mojave River Forks Dam Feasibility Study and are committed to meeting all Federal requirements.

8. Does the primary sponsor named in (2.) above have the financial ability to provide for the required cost share?

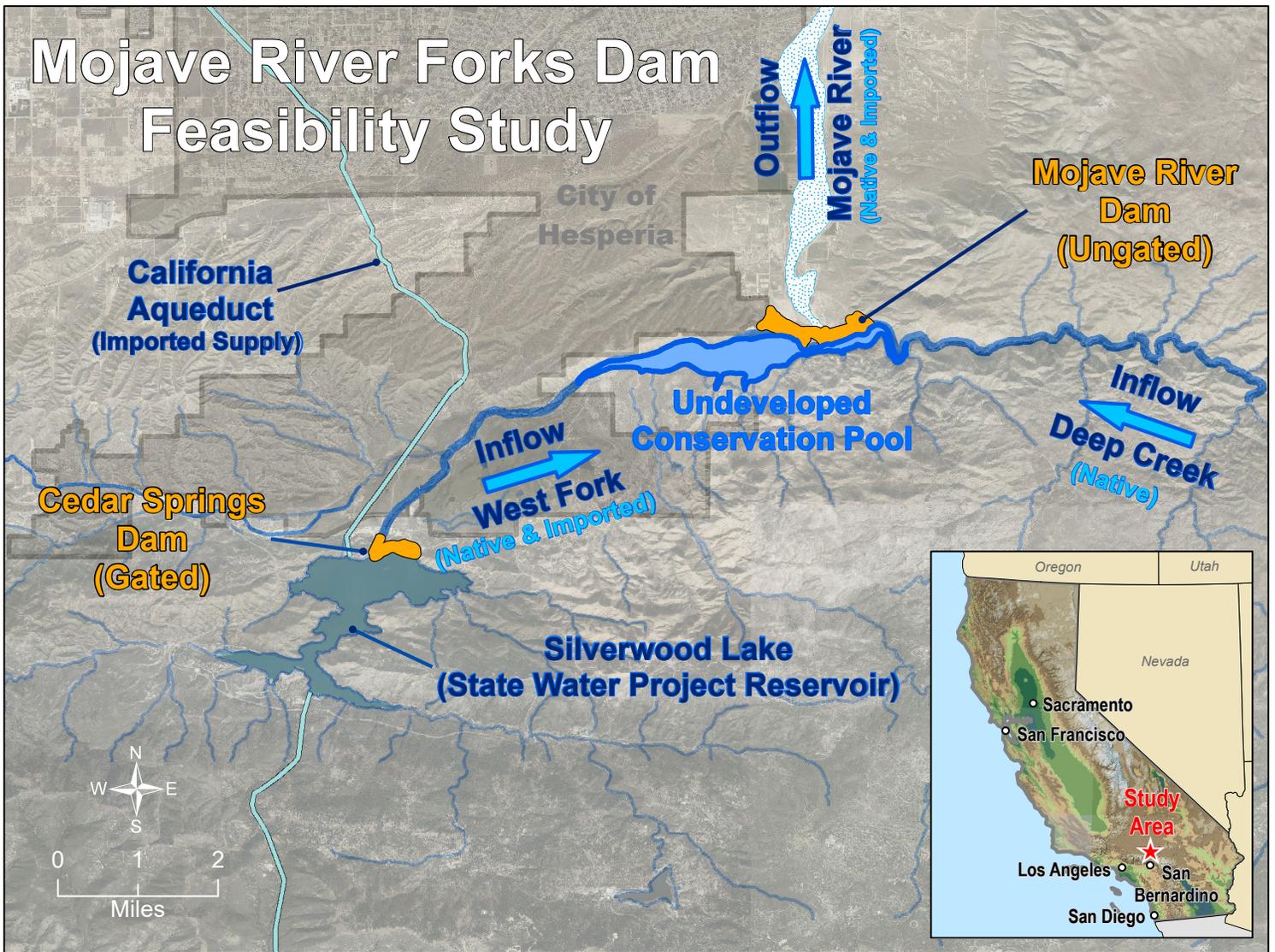
Yes

Map Document

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7001__Forks Dam FeasStdy Figure.pdf

Mojave River Forks Dam Feasibility Study



Primary Sponsor Letter of Support

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SBCFCD-USACE Ltr_Mojave Rvr 3.29.19 Signed.pdf



Department of Public Works

- Flood Control
- Operations
- Solid Waste Management
- Surveyor
- Transportation

Kevin Blakeslee, P.E.
Director

March 29, 2019

Colonel Aaron Barta, Commander
Los Angeles District
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
915 Wilshire Boulevard
Los Angeles, CA 90017

**RE: SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT
LETTER OF INTEREST IN STUDYING THE MOJAVE RIVER DAM**

Dear Colonel Barta:

San Bernardino County Flood Control District (SBCFCD) is interested and able to participate as the Local Sponsor to study the Mojave River Dam in partnership with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), to cooperatively investigate alternatives to address attenuation of flood flows, increases to stormwater capture, and releases for groundwater recharge, and environmental restoration within the dam basin and downstream areas. The Mojave River is the lifeblood of the desert and flows in the river cause much of the natural groundwater recharge that occurs within the greater Mojave Basin area. Mojave River Dam is a flood risk management project located on the Mojave River in San Bernardino County, CA, approximately 14 miles south of Victorville and just downstream (north) of the confluence of the West Fork Mojave River and Deep Creek. Mojave River Dam is an ungated flood control structure located on the northern side of the San Bernardino Mountains. With this letter, SBCFCD and the Mojave Water Agency request USACE to initiate a review of the Mojave River to investigate current flood risk management, water conservation, and ecosystem restoration needs in the area and investigate potential modifications to the Mojave River Dam.

SBCFCD and the Mojave Water Agency understand that a study cannot be initiated unless it is selected as a new start study with associated allocation of Federal funds provided through the annual Congressional appropriations process. If selected, the SBCFCD intends to sign a Feasibility Cost Sharing Agreement (FCSA) subject to approval by its Board of Supervisors to initiate a study with USACE. It is SBCFCD's understanding that an FCSA targets completion of a feasibility study within three years with an estimated total cost of no more than \$3 million. After signing an FCSA, a Project Management Plan will be developed and agreed upon by the SBCFCD and USACE and the study will be conducted and managed by USACE. Cost-sharing for the study is based on a 50% contribution by the Federal government, with the SBCFCD's 50% contribution provided in cash or a portion or all of the contribution provided through in-kind non-monetary services.

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

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The SBCFCD is aware that this letter constitutes an expression of intent to initiate a study partnership to address water resource and flood control issues and is not a contractual obligation. The SBCFCD understands that work on the study cannot commence until it is included in the Administration's budget request, funds are appropriated by Congress, and an FCSA is approved and signed by the SBCFCD's Board of Supervisors. It is understood the SBCFCD or USACE may opt to discontinue the study at any time after the FCSA is signed, however, will commit to work together as partners from the scoping phase and subsequent decision points throughout the feasibility study, on providing the necessary support to risk-informed decision making. If it is determined additional time or funding may be necessary to complete the study, the SBCFCD will work with USACE to determine an appropriate course of action.

SBCFCD appreciates the assistance USACE Los Angeles District has provided us thus far in working on this important project, as with the many projects that we have partnered in over our history. We have made strides in providing projects to protect the residents of San Bernardino County and we look forward to continuing to work with you on this partnership.

If you require additional information, please contact Kenneth C. Eke, P.E. at (909) 387-8120 or via keke@dpw.sbcounty.gov.

Sincerely,



KEVIN BLAKESLEE, P.E.
Chief Flood Control Engineer
Director of Public Works

KBB/dja

cc: David Doublet, P.E. Deputy Director Flood Control
Ken Eke, P.E., Chief Flood Control Planning/Water Resources