

OROVILLE COMPREHENSIVE NEEDS ASSESSMENT

Independent Review Board Report

DATE: August 30, 2020

TO: Mr. Sergio Escobar, Project Manager
Oroville Comprehensive Needs Assessment
California Department of Water Resources

FROM: Independent Review Board for
Oroville Comprehensive Needs Assessment

SUBJECT: Report No. 10

On Friday August 21, 2020, representatives from the DWR Division of Engineering (DOE), DWR Division of Operations and Maintenance (DOM), Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD), the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), industry consultants working on the CNA and members of the Independent Review Board (IRB) met remotely via a virtual Internet meeting for presentations and open discussions on the status of the reports for the CNA. The following presentations were made to the IRB:

- Status of Report Revisions
- Comment Log Review

The meeting agenda is attached at the end of this report.

Following the virtual meeting, the IRB deliberated and prepared this report. All IRB members were present including (Elizabeth) Betty Andrews, Lelio Mejia, Bruce Muller and Paul Schweiger.

DOCUMENTS PROVIDED FOR IRB REVIEW

The following documents were provided for review by the IRB prior to the meeting:

- Oroville Dam Comprehensive Needs Assessment Report (Public Release Version), Draft Final Report, Updated August 19, 2020
- Oroville Dam Comprehensive Needs Assessment (CEII Version) – Final Review, August 31, 2020
- Comments and Recommendations Resolution Log, Independent Review Board, Oroville Comprehensive Needs Assessment Project, Updated August 21, 2020

The following documents were not ready for review at the time of the meeting and were provided following the meeting to facilitate the preparation of this final report.

- Oroville Dam Comprehensive Needs Assessment - Task 4: Low-Level Outlets (CEII) – Draft Final Report, Updated August 26, 2020
- Oroville Dam Comprehensive Needs Assessment – Task 6: Instrumentation and Monitoring (CEII) – Draft Final Report, Updated August 26, 2020

QUESTIONS FOR THE IRB

1. Does the IRB have any recommendations or comments on the reports?

Response:

Final review versions of the reports previously commented on by the IRB and/or subject to IRB recommendations were given a final review. The project team and DWR are to be commended for their effort to carefully consider the input of the IRB and for consistently addressing our comments and recommendations during the process of finalizing the reports.

2. Does the Board find that their recommendations recorded in the Comment Log have been satisfactorily resolved?

Response:

The IRB reviewed the comment log and updated the status of recommendations based upon the information provided in final review versions of the reports and presentations. All of the comments have been closed or otherwise addressed as appropriate. The IRB appreciated how the Project Team addressed the IRB's comments and recommendations.

3. Does the IRB have any other recommendations or comments?

Response:

The IRB believes that DWR and its consultants completed a world-class study that will provide valuable information to assist DWR leadership with decisions about potential investments that will help assure the safety and reliability of Oroville Dam and its appurtenances. The study approach was innovative and the IRB encourages DWR to apply this approach, or a scaled version of this approach, to other projects in the State Water Project.

The IRB believes that any remaining work on the reports is purely cosmetic and will have no substantive impact on the information presented. The IRB believes that this is the final report needed to assure an independent review of the processes used and the content of the reports documenting the Comprehensive Needs Assessment to improve the safety and reliability of Oroville Dam.

The IRB thanks the Project Team for their perseverance and hard work to complete this important study, especially given the significant challenges the COVID-19 pandemic has imposed.

Respectfully submitted,



Betty Andrews



Lelio Mejia



Bruce Muller



Paul Schweiger

