

Central Valley Flood Protection Board Meeting
January 26, 2018

INFORMATIONAL BRIEFING

Chester Diversion Dam Inundation Mapping and Emergency Action Plan

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BRIEFING SUMMARY

Background

The Oroville Dam spillway incident called attention to the need for inundation maps and Emergency Actions Plans (EAP) for dams and critical appurtenant structures in early 2017. Following this incident, the State legislature passed Senate Bill 92 (SB 92) that went into effect on July 1, 2017 and added new sections to the California Water Code requiring owners of all State jurisdictional dams, except low hazard dams, to prepare inundation maps. Before SB 92, there were no requirements to develop inundation maps for many State jurisdictional dams, including all critical appurtenant structures, or to update inundation maps. Chester Diversion Dam is owned by the Central Valley Flood Protection Board (CVFPB) as part of the North Fork Feather River Project included in the State Plan of Flood Control (SFPC), authorized by the federal government in the Flood Control Act of 1968 and by the State in Section 12648.7 of the California Water Code. It is classified as a high hazard dam, and therefore the CVFPB is required to develop inundation maps and an EAP by January 1, 2019.

Location and Description

The Chester Diversion Dam is located in Plumas County along the North Fork Feather River upstream of Chester, CA at the north end of Lake Almanor. The diversion dam protects the town of Chester by diverting flows during high water events into the north end of Lake Almanor through a diversion channel. The diversion is designed and operated to alleviate high flows which could cause unnecessary stress on non-federal levees through the town of Chester.

Current Status

A Program Partnering Agreement between the Department of Water Resources (DWR), and the CVFPB was established for DWR to develop dam inundation maps, a technical memo, and an EAP which will fulfill the new SB 92 and California Water Code requirements on behalf of the CVFPB.

Inundation maps are being developed to identify potential impacts associated with partial or complete failure of the Chester Diversion Dam. These maps and the EAP will benefit public safety, evacuations, and emergency notifications. This effort will also meet the requirements of SB 92 and California Water Code sections 6161 and 6162.

Next Steps

The work agreed upon between DWR and the CVFPB will begin in January 2018 with the following projected major milestones.

- June 2018 - Finalize internal quality control (QC) of technical memo and inundation maps and submit draft version to the Division of Safety of Dams for review and comment.
- June 2018 – Finalize internal QC of EAP and submit draft version to the California Governor’s Office of Emergency Services for review and comment.

The next scheduled update to the CVFPB on the status of the project will be at the June 2018 Board meeting. More frequent updates on the project will be documented in the monthly Executive Officer reports.