

Central Valley Flood Protection Board Meeting
June 22, 2018

INFORMATIONAL BRIEFING

Chester Diversion Dam Inundation Mapping and Emergency Action Plan

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BRIEFING SUMMARY

Background

In early 2017, the Oroville Dam spillway incident highlighted the need for improved emergency preparedness including development of inundation maps and Emergency Actions Plans (EAP) for dams and critical appurtenant structures. 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.

Current Status

- In January 2018, 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 together will fulfill the new SB 92 and California Water Code requirements on behalf of the CVFPB.
- In March 2018, DWR and CVFPB staff performed a site visit and met with representatives from Plumas County.

- In May 2018, DWR developed the draft hydraulic model, technical report, and dam break simulation. DWR also performed an internal quality control (QC) review and provided comments.
- In June 2018, DWR finished collecting information from Plumas County on responsibilities, notification procedures, and response processes. DWR also obtained the new EAP template from the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (Cal OES).

Next Steps

- August 2018 - Finalize the hydraulic model, technical report, and dam break simulation based on the internal QC review comments. Create the inundation maps and submit a draft version to the Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD) for review and comment.
- August 2018 – Finalize the EAP and submit a draft version to Cal OES for review and comment.

Updates on the project will be documented in the monthly Executive Officer reports.