

December 31, 2025

Public Notification for the Cherry Dam Spillway Short-Term Improvement Project

Intent to Adopt the Final Mitigated Negative Declaration (FMND), California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) findings and Mitigation Monitoring and Reporting Program (MMRP) for the first approval action under CEQA on the Cherry Dam Spillway Short Term Improvement Project (Project).

Project Description

The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission is proposing the Cherry Valley Dam Spillway Short-Term Improvement Project. The Project would rehabilitate a segment of the existing unlined spillway discharge channel that receives Cherry Valley Dam spillway flows and directs the water toward Cherry Creek, in a generally north-south orientation. Debris from landslides on steep side slopes along the discharge channel has obstructed the channel and caused the spillway flows to be diverted east toward the Cherry Power Tunnel Adit entrance and public dispersed camping areas. The Project would restore the alignment of the discharge channel to its original north-south orientation. Cherry Valley Dam and Lake are west of Lake Eleanor and Hetch Hetchy Reservoir in Tuolumne County, California, approximately 12 miles directly north of California State Route 120 or 23 miles north via Cherry Lake Road. The Project site is not included on a list of hazardous materials sites compiled pursuant to Government Code section 65962.5.

Purpose of Notice

The SFPUC intends to approve the Project administratively, as early as January 6, 2026, and adopt the FMND, CEQA findings, and the MMRP, to allow SFPUC crews to remove trees before the bird nesting season as identified in the Project FMND. This action would constitute the Approval Action for the Project for the purposes of CEQA, pursuant to San Francisco Administrative Code section 31.04(h). The Project will be presented to the SFPUC Commission in mid-2026 for award of the Project construction contract.

Background

On September 24, 2025, the Planning Department published a Preliminary Mitigated Negative Declaration (PMND) for the Cherry Dam Spillway Short Term Improvement Project (Case Number 2024-000353ENV), which was available for public comment until October 24, 2025. The SFPUC received four public comment letters and no appeals of the PMND.

OUR MISSION: To provide our customers with high-quality, efficient and reliable water, power and sewer services in a manner that values environmental and community interests and sustains the resources entrusted to our care.

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Commissioner

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General Manager



On December 31, 2025, the Planning Department reviewed and considered the FMND and found that the Project could not have a significant effect to the environment. This finding is based upon the criteria of the Guidelines of the State Secretary for Resources, Sections 15064 (Determining Significant Effect), 15065 (Mandatory Findings of Significance), and 15070 (Decision to prepare a Negative Declaration), and the following reasons as documented in the Initial Evaluation (Initial Study) for the Project, which is attached. Mitigation measures are included in this Project to avoid potentially significant effects. In the independent judgment of the planning department, there is no substantial evidence that the Project could have a significant effect on the environment.

The Planning Department is the custodian of records, located in Case Number 2024-000353ENV, at 49 South Van Ness Avenue, Suite 1400, San Francisco, California and is available to the public via the Planning Department website posting accessed at: <https://sfplanning.org/environmental-review-documents>

No CEQA Appeal Rights under Chapter 31 of the San Francisco Administrative Code

This action on the Project constitutes the first Approval Action for that Project (as defined in S.F. Administrative Code Chapter 31, as amended, Board of Supervisors Ordinance Number 161-13). The CEQA determination prepared in support of that Approval Action is not subject to appeal within the time frame specified in S.F. Administrative Code Section 31.16 because there were no appeals of the PMND. For information on filing an appeal under Chapter 31, contact the Clerk of the Board of Supervisors at City Hall, 1 Dr. Carlton B. Goodlett Place, Room 244, San Francisco, CA 94102, or call (415) 554-5184. Under CEQA, in a later court challenge, a litigant may be limited to raising only those issues previously raised at a hearing on the Project or in written correspondence delivered to the Board of Supervisors, Planning Commission, Planning Department or San Francisco Public Utilities Commission at, or prior to, such hearing, or as part of the appeal hearing process on the CEQA decision.