FOREBAY PROJECT, continued from page 3

Why is the Project starting now?

Since 2003, EID has been working with DSOD and FERC to assess the dam’s condition compared to modern standards, evaluate alternatives for accomplishing the necessary improvements, and develop the detailed plans and specifications that support their design and construction. The project has also involved an extensive environmental review and permitting process in which the final permit was received in July 2017. With all that in mind, initiating timber harvesting in September 2017 is EID’s first opportunity to start construction.

What parts of the reservoir will be closed-off during the construction?

The entire site will be closed for the duration of the construction period due to the level of construction activities that could make for unsafe conditions to the public. EID offers a variety of other recreational opportunities for the public which will not be affected by this project. The nearest, and largest, is Sly Park Recreation Area (Jenkinson Lake), located approximately five miles south of the project.

Where is the repair material coming from?

The majority of the earth fill will be obtained from an area designated as the “Soil Borrow Area” on EID’s property near the dam. All other construction materials will be imported.

What local roads will be utilized during construction?

Personnel, equipment, and imported materials will reach the site via Highway 50, Sly Park Road, Pony Express Road, and Forebay or Blair Road, which are paved, all-weather roads, suitable for the anticipated loads. To access the southwestern portion of the reservoir and the dam’s left abutment, vehicles will utilize Pony Express Road, Pony Express Road, and Drop-off Road. The transportation of the earth fill material will primarily occur over an access road on EID’s property also using a short section of Forebay Road near the dam.

In order to safely and efficiently transport material and equipment to and from the construction site, a traffic control plan will be employed which meets El Dorado County Department of Transportation (DOT) requirements. EID will work with the construction contractor to minimize temporary traffic control impacts.

What is included in e-mail notifications?

Project updates will be posted on the El Dorado Forebay Dam Remediation Project webpage located on EID’s website such as estimated/anticipated construction schedules, public meetings, links to board agenda items, and other pertinent information throughout the duration of the project.

You may sign up for e-mail updates by going to “eNews Sign Up” on EID’s website at www.eid.org. Or, you may access this information at any time by going directly to the front page of EID’s website at www.eid.org and selecting Project Updates and then the El Dorado Forebay Dam Remediation Project link.

How do I contact someone directly if I have questions?

You may call our main line at (530) 622-4513 and ask for a Forebay Dam project representative. Or, e-mail us at Forebay-Project@eid.org.

Fats, oils, and grease (FOG) come from meats, butters and margarine, lard, food scraps, sauces, salad dressings, dairy products, and cooking oil. When FOG goes down the drain, it hardens and causes sewer pipes to clog. This can lead to a sanitary sewer overflow (SSO) where raw sewage actually backs up into your home, lawn, neighborhood, and streets. If your pipes become clogged from putting FOG down the drain, it can be an expensive problem to fix. To avoid household and environmental damage as well as a costly bill, NEVER put FOG down the drain!

To learn more, go to www.eid.org/FOG.

Board meetings generally occur on the second and fourth Monday of each month. The date marked (T) takes place on a Tuesday.

2017 REGULAR BOARD MEETINGS

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prioritizing leak repairs an ongoing challenge

Sometimes leaks persist. Why is that? Maintaining EID’s 1,400 miles of underground water pipes is an intense challenge. In the infrastructure that we’ve built over the 93 years EID has been in business is a significant part of the problem.

Sometimes a member of our community will notice a small leak that may go unfixed for a longer period. Due to finite resources and staff, sometimes it’s necessary to put off a fix in order to focus on more pressing projects elsewhere.

When an EID customer or community member reports a leak, EID dispatchers first determine if the leak is in our service area. If it is, then dispatch notifies a water distribution operator who schedules a site visit. Very large breaks that create—or have the potential to create—large outages or cause damage to property are treated as emergencies and crews are sent to the site immediately.

Once the operator evaluates the leak and determines that the repair is EID’s responsibility, the excavation area is marked with white paint. EID staff then calls USA North to initiate an underground service alert (USA). Calling USA North before excavation begins is required by law—for EID and for anyone digging where underground utilities exist. Calling USA North initiates a process where utilities like cable, gas, or power lines can be marked to identify their placement in the ground and safe excavation can begin. The USA process allows utilities two working days to respond and mark their utilities in the marked area of proposed excavation.

The distribution operator also reports their findings to dispatch where work orders are generated then forwarded to the EID construction supervisor who prioritizes the work. Prioritization is very important, because EID has such a vast and complex service area and limited construction staff. Routine leak repairs are normally completed within two weeks.

But sometimes small leaks persist. This can happen when another more urgent project takes precedence. EID understands that every leak needs to be addressed. The only way we can do it is by prioritizing some leaks over others. Small leaks may take longer to get to, but please rest assured we will get them fixed when we can allocate our limited resources to the task.

To report leaks you can call (530) 642-4000 or visit our website at www.eid.org/ReportWaterLeak.

EID on Facebook—Like and Share!

EID has used a variety of methods to get the message out about its work in our community. One of those tools is our El Dorado Irrigation District Facebook page at www.facebook.com/ElDoradoIrrigationDistrict. There you’ll find notices of water outage, water efficiency information, project updates, and other items of interest to district customers and the community at large. If you’re on Facebook, consider liking us and sharing!

Often we will post information about line breaks that are in progress. This information does not replace our standard methods of contacting customers affected by outages or potential outages. Customers who may be affected by line breaks are notified by phone. If you see a notice on Facebook about a line break and you haven’t been contacted, it’s likely you are not affected. If you need to update a phone number for your account, notify our customer service group at billing@eid.org.

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The Waterfront

EL DORADO IRRIGATION DISTRICT

EID IS AWARE OF A LEAK AND IS SCHEDULING FOR REPAIR. THANK YOU!

530-642-4000

EID is aware of a leak and is scheduling for repair, thank you. Please call 530-642-4000 to report a water leak.
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The tax, being called a “Safe and Affordable Drinking Water Fee,” has been inserted into SB 623 by Sen. Bill Monning (D-Carmel), a bill aimed at funding safe drinking water solutions for disadvantaged communities.

Senator Bill Monning (D-Carmel) inserted language into his SB 623 that would impose a fee on urban retail water customers to pay for the operations, maintenance and administration costs related to providing safe drinking water in water systems and for private well owners that rely on contaminated groundwater for drinking water supplies.

We at EID agree with the intent of the bill—the lack of safe drinking water in certain disadvantaged communities in California is a public health issue and a social issue that needs to be addressed. However, taxing Californians for something that is essential to life does not make sense, especially at a time when some are raising concerns about the affordability of water.

To impose a statewide tax on Californians’ water bills would also turn local water agencies like EID into taxation entities that send money to Sacramento. Dollars from the state’s General Fund, packaged together with ongoing federal safe drinking water supplies and general obligation bond funds are a far more appropriate way to address a problem that is a key social issue for the state.

Conservative Planning to Protect EID’s Infrastructure

EID staff is gearing up to update the district’s annual capital improvement program. This five-year road map is updated every year to account for needed infrastructure rehabilitation or replacement.

The CIP forms the heart of our effort to maintain and keep resilient our vast infrastructure that ranges over 220 square miles. CIP projects range in size from very large ones like the recently board-approved Forebay Dam Modification Project, to smaller—but equally important—projects like water and sewer line replacements and flume repairs.

When developing this yearly update to the plan, district staff approaches projects with greater agility based on the constant monitoring of safety, supply, and economic realities.

Our capital planning effort is an exacting interdepartmental process that results in a robust five-year road map that conservatively addresses capital outlays and ensures infrastructure needs are addressed in a safe and timely manner.

To get there, our CIP review committee consists of district-wide senior-level management as well as project and division managers and supervisors. The committee develops the CIP by examining the entire program from multiple perspectives such as regulatory requirements, reliability, service-level improvements, meeting or matching our five-year financial plan, and much more. This leads to a more strategic, integrated, and comprehensive CIP in which our board and community can have confidence.

EID staff keeps a laser focus on planning to maintain our highly complex water, sewer, and recycled water systems that our community relies on 24-hours a day, every day of the year.

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Forebay Modification Project Approved, Some FAQs

On Monday, August 14, the EID Board of Directors approved the Forebay Dam Modification Project. A lot of planning has taken place already and the following frequently asked questions provide some answers to the scope and timeline of this significant project.

For more information on the Forebay Modification Project, go to www.eid.org.

What is El Dorado Forebay Dam and Reservoir?

The El Dorado Forebay Dam and Reservoir was constructed in 1923 as a key part of the El Dorado Hydroelectric Project which stores water diverted from the South Fork of the American River and four upper watershed reservoirs for drinking water and renewable hydroelectric power generation. These four upper reservoirs include: Caples and Silver Lakes accessible from Highway 88 and, Echo Lake and Lake Aloha accessible from Highway 50. From Forebay Reservoir, water is delivered into the Main Ditch to the Reservoir 1 Water Treatment Plant for subsequent treatment and distribution to our customers, and delivered into the penstock for conveyance to the El Dorado Powerhouse for power generation.

Why is the work required?

Forebay Dam has been well-maintained and has performed reliably over its 94-year operating history. While Forebay Dam’s condition still meets the standards applicable at the time of its construction in 1923, dam safety standards have changed, and thus it is necessary for the dam to undergo design and construction improvements. The project will improve the dam’s overall stability, strength to withstand an earthquake, ability to operate safely during flooding conditions, as well as add other safeguards.

What work will be done to Forebay Dam?

• Installation of an earth-fill buttress against the dry-side of the dam (which requires tree and vegetation removal below Forebay Dam and in the soil borrow area)

• Adding rock to the water-side of the dam to reduce wave erosion

• Repairing the unstable channel at the inlet to the reservoir

• Raising the dam crest 10 feet to provide more space between the reservoir level and top of the dam (freewater, emergency water supply (increases from less than a day to six days of emergency supply), and renewable hydroelectric power generation flexibility

• Repairing slope erosion below the emergency spillway

• Relocating and/or replacing various facilities associated

with the dam

• Enhancing recreation facilities including updates to the day-use areas, the shoreline trail adjacent to Forebay Road, restrooms, and parking area

When will construction begin and how long will it last?

Project construction activities are currently scheduled as follows:

• September – November 2017: Timber harvesting below the reservoir, and in the soil borrow area across Forebay Road.

• May – September 2018: Installing the lower portion of the buttress on Forebay Dam

• August – September 2018: Conducting the balance of timber harvesting including a strip around the Forebay shoreline (to clear trees within the higher reservoir operating range)

• October – December 2018: Conducting work that needs to be accomplished with Forebay Reservoir drained including installation of new slide gates on the power and drinking water intake structures, modifying the water supply intake, performing maintenance/improvements to the penstock (pipeline through the dam for conveying water to El Dorado Powerhouse), and repairing the unstable channel at the inlet to the reservoir

• 2019: Installing the upper portion of the buttress, raising the crest of the dam, replacing the drinking water supply control building, and repairing slope erosion below the emergency spillway

What government agencies regulate dam safety?

California Department of Water Resources - Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD) oversees the safety of all non-federal dams in California above a certain height and storage volume, which includes Forebay Dam. Forebay Dam is also part of EID’s El Dorado Hydroelectric Project licensed as Project No. 184, which is also overseen by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and their dam safety regulations.
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