

State of California  
Seismic Safety Commission

Memo

To: Seismic Safety Commission

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Subject: **Calaveras Dam Replacement Site Visit**

**Summary**

A site visit to the Calaveras Dam replacement project is planned for this winter.

**Background**

The Commission is responsible for reporting to the Joint Legislative Audit Committee about the public safety implications of delays to the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission's Water System Improvement Program (WSIP).

Unexpected geologic conditions near the replacement site of the Calaveras Dam south of Sunol are estimated to cause a 25 month, \$133 million delay in addition to 86 months of prior delays caused by other reasons. A hillside slope on the left side of the valley looking downstream from the dam has deep ancient landslides that were not detected during pre-construction geotechnical investigations. Additional excavations are now proposed to reduce the slope's potential for landslides.

Since the Calaveras Dam replacement project is one of the largest components of the \$4.6 Billion WSIP, the large cost increase associated with the latest delay will likely use all of the funds remaining in WSIP's contingency reserve.

Work started recently at the dam site, so Commissioners and staff have not yet visited it. The Commission's role is not one of providing technical oversight nor assuming responsibility for any aspects of the project, but to merely provide the legislature with policy-level perspectives. Nevertheless, overall situational awareness of the circumstances is critical to ensure the Commission's effective involvement.

**Staff Recommendations**

Staff is currently coordinating with Commissioners Emir Macari and Peggy Hellweg and SFPUC staff to arrange for a site visit possibly in February or March. We will discuss and update this activity at the Commission's January hearing. If other Commissioners have an interest in participating in the site visit or have questions about this activity, please ask staff or Commissioner Macari.