

**DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES**

P.O. BOX 942836  
SACRAMENTO, CA 94236-0001  
(916) 653-5791



July 20, 2022

Mr. Frank Blackett, P.E.  
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  
Division of Dam Safety and Inspections  
San Francisco Regional Office  
100 First Street, Suite 2300  
San Francisco, California 94105

Mesa Powerhouse Project – FERC Application for Surrender of License/Conduit  
Exemption  
Orange County

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Dear Mr. Blackett:

This is in reply to your February 1, 2022, letter notifying the Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD) of the possible change in Federal regulation of the Mesa Powerhouse Project (Project) with respect to dam safety. Your letter states that the Project's owner, Mesa Water District (District), has filed an application with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) to surrender its conduit exemption which may result in FERC no longer having regulatory oversight over the Project. In your letter, you requested confirmation whether any part of the Project, which is two turbine-generator units located in the District's pump house, would fall under DSOD's jurisdiction if the application filed by the District is approved by FERC.

Based on the information provided, no part of the Project would fall under DSOD's jurisdiction. However, the 10-million-gallon storage tank adjacent to, but not part of, the Project may be jurisdictional based on the storage information provided in your letter and pursuant to section 6002, Chapter 1, Part 1, Division 3 of the California Water Code. We will contact and work with the District to determine if the storage tank is under State jurisdiction based on height and storage capacity.

If you have any questions or need additional information, you may contact me at (916) 565-7800 or Assistant Division Manager Shawn Jones (916) 565-7802.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Sharon K. Tapia".

Sharon K. Tapia, P.E.  
Division Manager  
Division of Safety of Dams

cc: (See Attached List.)

Mr. Blackett  
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cc: Ms. Tracy Manning, Water Operations Manager  
Mesa Water District  
1965 Placentia Avenue  
Costa Mesa, California 92627

Mr. James Treadway, Director  
Orange County  
Department of Public Works  
601 North Ross Street  
Santa Ana, California 92701