



City of Calistoga
Planning Commission
Agenda Item Summary

HEARING DATE	November 18, 2015
APPLICANT	City of Calistoga
ITEM	Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Kimball Reservoir Inlet/Outlet Project
RECOMMENDATION	Adopt a resolution adopting a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Kimball Reservoir Inlet/Outlet Project
SUGGESTED MOTION	"I move that the Planning Commission adopt a resolution adopting a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Kimball Reservoir Inlet/Outlet Project"
POTENTIAL CONFLICTS	None

CITY OF CALISTOGA

STAFF REPORT

TO: CHAIR MANFREDI AND PLANNING COMMISSIONERS
FROM: ERIK LUNDQUIST, SENIOR PLANNER
MEETING DATE: NOVEMBER 18, 2015
SUBJECT: MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION FOR THE KIMBALL RESERVOIR INLET/OUTLET PROJECT

1 **ITEM**

2 Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Kimball Reservoir Inlet/Outlet Project

3 **BACKGROUND**

4 Kimball Reservoir is a City-owned facility created in 1940 through the construction of a
5 dam across Kimball Creek, a tributary of the Napa River. Kimball Dam is an earthen-
6 filled structure, approximately 300 feet long, 200 feet wide at the base and about 75 feet
7 tall. The City also owns and operates the adjoining water treatment plant (WTP).

8 The City is under direction from the California Department of Water Resources Division
9 of Safety of Dams to repair the 24-inch drain on the downstream face of the dam. State
10 is concerned that during an emergency event, the City would not be able to drain the
11 reservoir quickly enough to prevent catastrophic dam failure. The City is also required to
12 operate a water release bypass to provide minimum in-stream flows in accordance with
13 its water rights and the Interim Bypass Plan on file with the State Water Resources
14 Control Board.

15 **PROJECT DESCRIPTION**

16 The City of Calistoga proposes to replace and rehabilitate aging infrastructure at Kimball
17 Reservoir, comprising of an intake tower, a 24-inch reservoir drain valve, and
18 conveyance piping. The existing drain valve is almost inoperable; the intake structure is
19 corroding, structurally unsound and not safe for staff to operate. The condition of some
20 of the conveyance piping underneath the earthen dam structure is unknown, and due to
21 its age possibly nearing the end of its useful life. This conveyance piping includes an
22 outlet pipe and a pipe leading from Kimball Dam to the WTP.

23 The Proposed Project would involve five components: roadway improvements, intake
24 tower removal and replacement with a sloped intake, outlet pipe repair/replacement,
25 drain valve vault replacement, and WTP pipe repair/replacement. Starting in May, the
26 reservoir would be drawn-down. Next, roadway improvements, including widening and
27 repaving, would take place over the course of one week. Once the reservoir is drawn
28 down, construction on the other project components would occur concurrently over five
29 months. This construction work would not increase the capacity of the reservoir.

30 Additional details of the anticipated work can be found in the “Project Components”
31 section of the Initial Study, beginning on page 8.

32 After construction, dam operation would resume in the same fashion as pre-construction
33 operation. There will be no increase in dam energy, as the new sloped intake will utilize
34 manually-actuated gate valves. The valves would be exercised intermittently when
35 water needs to be released from the reservoir for City use or as per the reservoir
36 bypass plan.

37 **ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW**

38 An Initial Study (IS) prepared for the project identified potentially-significant
39 environmental impacts in the areas of biological resources, cultural resources, hazards
40 and hazardous materials, and hydrology/water quality.

41 However, it was determined that there will not be a significant effect in this case
42 because the City has agreed to amend the proposed project to incorporate mitigation
43 measures that would reduce the potential impacts to a less than significant level.
44 Therefore, a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) has been prepared.

45 Please refer to the MND for more details on potential impacts and the project’s
46 mitigation monitoring program. (The Initial Study and MND were distributed to the
47 Commission under separate cover.)

48 **PUBLIC COMMENTS**

49 The IS/MND were sent to the State for distribution to appropriate agencies, and owners
50 and occupants of property contiguous to the project within 300 feet were notified of its
51 availability for review. The document was also posted on the City’s web site.

52 The only comments received during the review period regarding the adequacy of the
53 document were from the California Department of Fish and Wildlife. Following a meeting
54 with the City to discuss the Department’s concerns, a subsequent letter was submitted
55 indicating that they had been adequately addressed. Therefore, no revisions are
56 required to the original IS/MND.

57 **RECOMMENDATION**

58 On the basis that there is no substantial evidence that the project may have a significant
59 impact on the environment, staff recommends that the Planning Commission:

- 60 • Adopt a resolution adopting a Mitigated Negative Declaration and Mitigation
61 Monitoring Program for the Kimball Reservoir Inlet/Outlet Project

ATTACHMENTS

1. Draft resolution
2. Initial Study and Mitigated Negative Declaration (distributed under separate cover)
3. Dept. of Fish & Wildlife Letter dated July 20, 2015
4. Dept. of Fish & Wildlife Letter dated October 13, 2015