

Notice of Section 401 Application Reception

File Number: 302025-16

Project Name: Santiago Creek Dam Improvement Project

Received: 12/16/2025

Date Posted: 12/24/2025

End of 21 Day Public Comment Period: 01/13/2026

Project Location: 33.786053° N, -117.725269° W

Project City: Silverado

Project County: Orange

Applicant Organization: Irvine Ranch Water District (IRWD)

Duly Authorized Representative Name: Kevin Burton

Waterboard Staff: TBA

Brief Description of Project:

Project Description: The primary objective of the proposed Project is the rehabilitation and replacement of the Santiago Creek Dam outlet tower and spillway facilities as well as the modification of the dam embankment to permit operation of the facilities to continue to provide a long-term water resource benefit.

Project Activities: In implementing the proposed Project, IRWD would also obtain the following benefits: 1. Construct new facilities and dam embankment modifications that will meet or exceed the current seismic, safety, and design requirements established by the Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD), which is the governing State agency associated with this Project; 2. Satisfy IRWD's operational requirements in the present and the future; 3. Extend the useful life of the facilities; 4. Improve regional water supply reliability; and 5. Minimize impacts to local environmental resources and surrounding property owners.

The primary construction access would lead into the lake from Santiago Canyon Road and Blue Diamond Haul Road. The primary contractor staging and equipment storage area, as well as the required concrete batch plant and construction trailers, would be located in the large, flat plateau area (known as "the Flats") at the upstream end of the reservoir. The primary construction access/haul road would connect the staging area to the existing dam within the lakebed after the lake is dewatered. An earthen ramp would be constructed up the right abutment of the existing dam to allow construction vehicles to access the downstream side of the dam.