



NRCS-CPA-52
4/2013

ENVIRONMENTAL EVALUATION WORKSHEET

A. Client Name: Santa Fe and Pojoaque SWCD

B. Conservation Plan ID # (as applicable): Santa Cruz Site 1 Dam
Program Authority (optional): Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act

D. Client's Objective(s) (purpose):

The purpose of the project is to provide continued flood protection (flood damage reduction) in the currently protected area downstream of the dam, and to meet current New Mexico Dam Safety Bureau and NRCS engineering standards. Based on a review of the existing conditions, the debris basin is not meeting the NRCS and New Mexico Dam Safety Bureau regulations, and current engineering standards for a high hazard dam.

In addition to the NRCS federal action, the BLM also has federal approval authority on property under BLM control. Therefore, the BLM has agreed to be a "cooperating agency" in the preparation of the Plan-EA. The BLM federal action is to respond to the Santa Fe and Pojoaque Soil and Water Conservation District application to amend its right-of-way (ROW) grant to make repairs to the Santa Cruz Site 1 Dam as established by the BLM's statutory and regulatory responsibilities regarding ROWs under the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (43 CFR 2800).

C. Identification # (farm, tract, field #, etc. as required):

The project area is located along Arroyo de la Cañada Ancha, just upstream of Chimayó, in Rio Arriba County, New Mexico. Land ownership BLM, State of New Mexico, and private.

E. Need for Action:

There is a need to meet dam safety and performance standards, to provide continued flood protection to the downstream community, and to decrease the risk of dam failure for approximately 1,038 people, 304 structures, numerous agricultural properties, and multiple roads located within the breach inundation area.

H. Alternatives

No Action <input type="checkbox"/> if RMS	Alternative 1 <input type="checkbox"/> if RMS	Alternative 2 <input type="checkbox"/> if RMS
<p>No Federal Action. In discussions with the Sponsor, their most likely course of action would be to bring the dam up to current state design standards. Note that the construction measures to bring the dam into compliance with state standards do not include extending the sediment life of the structure. The Sponsor would have to perform sediment excavation O&M activities to extend the structure life and ensure proper operation of the dam. Currently, the structure is not meeting New Mexico Dam Safety Bureau standards for a high hazard class dam.</p> <p>Adequate measures (repair or reconstruction) to bring the dam up to current state design standards to the following categories: Embankment Surface Erosion , Embankment Crest Width, Embankment Crest Cross Slope, Principal Spillway Trash Rack, Principal Spillway Structural Requirements, Principal Spillway Drainage, Auxiliary Spillway Capacity.</p>	<p>The Dam Raise 71-Year Sediment Life Alternative (Rehabilitation Alternative) would consist of measures to provide continued flood protection in the currently protected area downstream of the dam, meet current New Mexico Dam Safety Bureau and NRCS engineering standards, and extend the structure life for 71 years. Rehabilitating the structure would not modify the high hazard classification of the dam because the risk to property, residents, and infrastructure would not change downstream. This alternative consists of raising the structure components to the maximum feasible extent allowed by topographic constraints to increase capacity in the basin. The Rehabilitation Alternative would include the measures described below.</p> <p>Adequate measures (repair or reconstruction) to bring the dam up to current state design standards to the following categories: Embankment Height, Embankment Surface Erosion , Embankment Crest Width, Embankment Crest Cross Slope, Principal Spillway Trash Rack, Principal Spillway Structural Requirements, Principal Spillway Drainage, Auxiliary Spillway Velocity, Auxiliary Spillway Stability, & Auxiliary Spillway Capacity.</p>	<p>Dam Decommissioning. This alternative would require removal of the storage function of the dam and would reconnect, restore, and stabilize the stream and floodplain functions. Only partial removal of the embankment would be required which would require excavating a breach in the dam of sufficient size to safely pass the 24 hour/100-year, frequency flood event. This alternative would also require the restoration of the natural stream channel grade, vegetation and geomorphology within the basin per New Mexico and NRCS specifications.</p> <p>The estimated cost for the Dam Decommissioning Alternative is approximately \$19,600,900. This alternative would displace families located within approximately 80 homes, and the logistics of purchasing these properties is uncertain. Based on the extreme disturbance to the human environment, logistics, and exorbitant costs this alternative was determined to be unreasonable and was eliminated from further study.</p>

Resource Concerns

"In Section "F" below, analyze, record, and address concerns identified through the Resources Inventory process. (See FOTG Section III - Resource Planning Criteria for guidance). "

F. Resource Concerns and Existing/Benchmark Conditions

(Analyze and record the existing/benchmark conditions for each identified concern)

I. Effects of Alternatives

No Action	Alternative 1	Alternative 2
Amount, Status, Description <i>(Document both short and long term impacts)</i>	Amount, Status, Description <i>(Document both short and long term impacts)</i>	Amount, Status, Description <i>(Document both short and long term impacts)</i>
<input type="checkbox"/> if does NOT meet PC	<input type="checkbox"/> if does NOT meet PC	<input type="checkbox"/> if does NOT meet PC

SOIL: EROSION

<p>Sheet, Rill & Wind Erosion - Range</p> <p>Rill erosion is evident along slopes of dam, levee, roads. Soils exhibit slight to moderate erosion hazard.</p> <p>Eroding sediment in watershed decreasing sediment capacity of the basin. Highly erosive soils. Annually monsoonal and infrequent winter precipitation events in the surrounding uplands induce dry arroyos to flow for brief time periods carry sediment into the basin of the dam.</p>	<p>Continued concerns with erosion without NRCS assistance.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>NOT meet PC</p>	<p>Partial Removal of excess sediment from basin. Spoils to be placed at appropriate location within the dam site.</p> <p>Soil Erosion will continue from the uplands. Soil erosion from within the watershed is being addressed through Prescribed Grazing Mgmt., although soils are inherently erosive.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>NOT meet PC</p>	<p>Soil Erosion will continue as the source is from the uplands. Sediment transport through arroyos is a natural process and as a result of the landscape position the planned land unit has and will always be subject to sediment deposition. This alternative addresses a natural functioning floodplain albeit human concerns.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>NOT meet PC</p>
<p>Concentrated Flow - Classic Gully Erosion- Range</p> <p>Classic gullies and rills are present along constructed dam, levees, and access road slopes.</p>	<p>Continued concerns with classic gully erosion without NRCS assistance.</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>NOT meet</p>	<p>Erosion will be treated with a combination of structural and vegetative practices.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>NOT meet</p>	<p>Erosion will be treated with a combination of structural and vegetative practices.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>NOT meet</p>

Excessive Bank Erosion - Range	Continued concerns with bank erosion without NRCS assistance.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Banks will be stabilized with combinations of structural and vegetative measures.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Banks will become stable, protected by roots or natural vegetation, wood, or rock or a combination of materials with little erosion or bank failures by implemented practices.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Bank erosion is present but it is beyond the client's control. Banks of the Canada Ancha Arroyo are currently armoured in various locations by tires. Contributing upstream flows over time continue to erode bank and redistribute sediment throughout the channel. As a result of the naturally occurring flashy precipitation events typical of the arid west impacts to stream channel (receiving channel) is to be expected.		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC

SOIL: SOIL QUALITY DEGRADATION

WATER: EXCESS / INSUFFICIENT WATER

Excess (Ponding, flooding, seasonal high water table, seeps, and drifted snow) - Range	No Effects	<input type="checkbox"/>	No Effects	<input type="checkbox"/>	Excess water concerns (flooding) will threaten people and property downstream. Downstream effects must be taken into consideration in this design.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Not a Resource Concern. Ponding, flooding, seasonal high water tables, seeps, or drifted snow is not a problem and activities do not cause excess water problems.		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC
Insufficient (Inefficient moisture management) - Range	No Effects	<input type="checkbox"/>	No Effects	<input type="checkbox"/>	No Effects	<input type="checkbox"/>
Not a Resource Concern.		NOT meet		NOT meet		NOT meet

WATER: WATER QUALITY DEGRADATION

Excessive sediment in surface waters - Range	Continued concerns with sediment transported to ground and surface waters without NRCS assistance.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Minor temporary impacts, BMPs would be in place during construction.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Minor temporary impacts, BMPs would be in place during construction.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Project Work within a surface water feature. There are untreated sources of erosion and there are streams or shorelines adjacent to the site.		NOT meet PC	Upslope treatment and/or practices reduce sediment delivery to water bodies, but significant concerns still exist. The contributing watershed has a very high sedimentation rate. This alternative results in this sediment being caught within the dam.	NOT meet PC	Upslope treatment and/or practices reduce sediment delivery to water bodies, but some concerns still exist.	NOT meet PC

AIR: AIR QUALITY IMPACTS

PLANTS: DEGRADED PLANT CONDITION

Undesirable plant productivity and health - Range	Removal of plant community much of which is undesirable, a beneficial outcome if revegetation measures are successful.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Removal of plant community much of which is undesirable, a beneficial outcome if revegetation measures are successful.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Restoration of historic native plant community.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Invasive (pervasive) non-native brush species Russian olive (Class C spp) Siberian elm (not listed). Herbaceous invasive (pervasive) non-native (scattered/isolated) Russian knapweed (Class B), Kochia (not listed), annual brome, annual foxtail are present in the plant community. Adjacent Plant communities DO contain adequate diversity, composition, and structure to support desired ecological functions and serve as a seed source as natural succession proceeds.		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC
Inadequate structure and composition - Range	Removal of plant community much of which is undesirable, a beneficial outcome if revegetation measures are successful.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Removal of plant community much of which is undesirable, a beneficial outcome if revegetation measures are successful.	<input type="checkbox"/>	Restoration of historic native plant community.	<input type="checkbox"/>
Invasive (pervasive) non-native brush species Russian olive (Class C spp) Siberian elm (not listed). Herbaceous invasive (pervasive) non-native (scattered/isolated) Russian knapweed (Class B), Kochia (not listed), annual brome, annual foxtail are present in the plant community. Adjacent Plant communities DO contain adequate diversity, composition, and structure to support desired ecological functions and serve as a seed source as natural succession proceeds.		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC
Excessive plant pest pressure - Range	No Effects	<input type="checkbox"/>	No Effects	<input type="checkbox"/>	No Effects	<input type="checkbox"/>
Not a Resource Concern. Pest damage to plants are BELOW economic or environmental thresholds.		NOT meet		NOT meet		NOT meet
Wildfire hazard, excessive biomass accumulation - Range	No Effects	<input type="checkbox"/>	No Effects	<input type="checkbox"/>	No Effects	<input type="checkbox"/>
Not a Resource Concern. Wildfire hazard is not a		NOT meet		NOT meet		NOT meet

ANIMALS: INADEQUATE HABITAT / FISH & WILDLIFE

Habitat degradation - quantity and quality of food - Wildlife Modifier	No Effects	<input type="checkbox"/>	No Effects	<input type="checkbox"/>	No Effects	<input type="checkbox"/>
Not a Resource Concern. Food is available in quality and extent to support habitat requirements for habitat type endemic species.		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC
Habitat degradation - quantity and quality of water - Wildlife Modifier	No Effects	<input type="checkbox"/>	No Effects	<input type="checkbox"/>	No Effects	<input type="checkbox"/>
Not a Resource Concern. Conservation practices and management ARE in place to meet species habitat model thresholds for habitat type endemic species.		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC

Habitat degradation - quantity and quality of cover/shelter - Wildlife Modifier	No Effects	<input type="checkbox"/>	No Effects	<input type="checkbox"/>	No Effects	<input type="checkbox"/>
Not a Resource Concern. Cover/Shelter is available in quality and extent to support habitat requirements for habitat type endemic species.		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC
Habitat degradation - habitat continuity/space - Wildlife Modifier	No Effects	<input type="checkbox"/>	No Effects	<input type="checkbox"/>	No Effects	<input type="checkbox"/>
Not a Resource Concern. The connectivity of habitat components are adequate to support stable populations of endemic species.		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC		NOT meet PC

ANIMALS: LIVESTOCK PRODUCTION LIMITATION

Inadequate feed and forage - Grazing Modifier	No Effects	<input type="checkbox"/>	No Effects	<input type="checkbox"/>	No Effects	<input type="checkbox"/>
Not a Resource Concern. Planned land unit supports management for livestock grazing.		NOT meet		NOT meet		NOT meet
Inadequate livestock shelter - Grazing Modifier	No Effects	<input type="checkbox"/>	No Effects	<input type="checkbox"/>	No Effects	<input type="checkbox"/>
Not a Resource Concern. Shelters MEET animal health and client needs.		NOT meet		NOT meet		NOT meet
Inadequate livestock water - Grazing Modifier	No Effects	<input type="checkbox"/>	No Effects	<input type="checkbox"/>	No Effects	<input type="checkbox"/>
Not a Resource Concern. Water quality and quantity IS adequately distributed to meet animal needs.		NOT meet		NOT meet		NOT meet

ENERGY: INEFFICIENT ENERGY USE

HUMAN: ECONOMIC & SOCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Land Use	No Effect	No Effect	No Effect
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G. Special Environmental Concerns (Document existing/ benchmark conditions)	J. Impacts to Special Environmental Concerns					
	No Action		Alternative 1		Alternative 2	
	Document all impacts (Attach Guide Sheets as applicable)	√ if needs further action	Document all impacts (Attach Guide Sheets as applicable)	√ if needs further action	Document all impacts (Attach Guide Sheets as applicable)	√ if needs further action
•Clean Air Act <i>Guide Sheet FS1 FS-2</i> No Nonattainment or Maintenance areas designated for non-attainment of air quality standards AND there are no Class 1 areas nearby. Source: EPA	No Effect Activities are not expected to increase the emission rate of any regulated air pollutant. Increase in emissions during construction. Minor, temporary impacts. BMPs would be implemented.	<input type="checkbox"/>	No Effect Planned practices are not expected to increase the emission rate of any regulated air pollutant. Increase in emissions during construction. Minor, temporary impacts. BMPs would be implemented.	<input type="checkbox"/>	No Effect Activities are not expected to increase the emission rate of any regulated air pollutant. Increase in emissions during construction. Minor, temporary impacts. BMPs would be implemented.	<input type="checkbox"/>
•Clean Water Act / Sec 404 Waters of the U.S. <i>Guide Sheet Fact Sheet</i> Waters of the U.S. within the basin and within the Cañada Ancha Arroyo and along the acequia at outlet . Source: ACOE. Work within the basin/pond and along approximately 2000 linear feet of the Cañada Ancha and 250 feet of the acequia, which are considered to be waters of the U.S. USACE permitting requirements apply.	No Effect Client activities do not involve the discharge of dredged or fill material or other pollutants into potential Waters of the US.	<input type="checkbox"/>	May Effect Discharge or placement of dredged or fill material into waters of the US will result from implemented practices. 404 permit and 401 certification WILL BE obtained by client. See documentation in case file.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	May Effect Discharge or placement of dredged or fill material into waters of the US will result from implemented practices. 404 permit and 401 certification WILL BE obtained by client. See documentation in case file.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
•Clean Water Act / Sec 303 Impaired Waters <i>Guide Sheet Fact Sheet</i> No "impaired" waters listed under Section 303(d) of the CWA are located in proximity to the planning area. Source: NMED. Project is within Española Basin Aquifer System (sole source aquifer). Sole Source Aquifers are protected under 1424(e) of the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1974 (42 U.S.C. 201,300 et. Seq., and 21 U.S.C. 349) that requires protection of drinking water systems that are the sole or principal drinking water source of and area and which, if contaminated would create a significant hazard to public health.	No Effect Client activities do not contribute to degradation of 303(d) listed waters.	<input type="checkbox"/>	May Effect Minor temporary impacts, BMPs would be in place during construction.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	May Effect Planned practice(s) are consistent with existing water quality or associated watershed action plans that have been established for the stream segment and the action will not contribute to further degradation of the stream segment because hydro geo fluvial functions considered in this alternative. Revegetation measures will be taken to reduce offsite sediment transport.	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>

<p>•Clean Water Act / Sec 402 National Pollutant Discharge Elimination <i>Guide Sheet</i> <i>Fact Sheet</i></p> <p>Point-source discharges could result from from both existing or planned activities.</p>	<p>No Effect</p> <hr/> <p>Without NRCS assistance, point-source discharges [may/will] occur from [developments/ construction sites/ other areas of soil disturbance/ stormwater ponds/ (CAFOs)]. A permit may be needed.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>needs further action</p>	<p>May Effect</p> <hr/> <p>U.S. EPA: Under Section 402 of the Clean Water Act, a stormwater Construction General Permit is required for construction activities. Conservation measures will be taken to avoid adverse effects.</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>needs further action</p>	<p>May Effect</p> <hr/> <p>U.S. EPA: Under Section 402 of the Clean Water Act, a stormwater Construction General Permit is required for construction activities. Conservation measures will be taken to avoid adverse effects.</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>needs further action</p>
<p>•Coastal Zone Management <i>Guide Sheet</i> <i>Fact Sheet</i></p> <p>No Coastal Zone Management Areas are in or near the planning area.</p>	<p>No Effect</p> <hr/> <p>Not applicable</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>needs further</p>	<p>No Effect</p> <hr/> <p>Not applicable</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>needs further</p>	<p>No Effect</p> <hr/> <p>Not applicable</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>needs further</p>
<p>Coral Reefs <i>Guide Sheet</i> <i>Fact Sheet</i></p> <p>No coral reefs or associated water bodies (e.g. embayment areas) are present in or near the planning area.</p>	<p>No Effect</p> <hr/> <p>Not applicable</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>needs further action</p>	<p>No Effect</p> <hr/> <p>Not applicable</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>needs further action</p>	<p>No Effect</p> <hr/> <p>Not applicable</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>needs further action</p>
<p>•Cultural Resources / Historic Properties <i>Guide Sheet</i> <i>Fact Sheet</i></p> <p>There may be cultural resources or historic properties present in the Area of Potential Effect. Past undertaking on the potential area of effect resulted in findings of resources on and/or nearby. Cultural Resources are being investigated by NRCS. Consultation in progress.</p>	<p>May Effect</p> <hr/> <p>Client is aware of and does not plan any activities that could adversely affect cultural resources or historic properties.</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>needs further action</p>	<p>May Effect</p> <hr/> <p>Consultation with SHPO/Tribes will be completed and no adverse effect to cultural resources or historic properties is anticipated in the proposed APE.</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>needs further action</p>	<p>May Effect</p> <hr/> <p>Consultation with SHPO/Tribes will be completed and no adverse effect to cultural resources or historic properties is anticipated in the proposed APE.</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>needs further action</p>
<p>•Endangered and Threatened Species <i>Guide Sheet</i> <i>Fact Sheet</i></p> <p>iPac County listed species: Jemez Mountains salamander; Least tern; Mexican Spotted owl; Southwestern Willow flycatcher; Yellow-Billed Cuckoo; Canada Lynx; New Mexico meadow jumping mouse. Project location is outside all listed DCH. A "no effect" BE is being prepared by McMillen Jacobs Associates, NEPA consulting firm.</p> <p>There are no federally listed, proposed, or candidate species; or Tribal spp of concern: or habitat for any of these at-risk species present in proximity to the planning area, based on field inventory of habitat when compared to constituent habitat elements for each species.</p> <p>BLM/state listed plant species: One state-listed plant listed for Rio Arriba County is Brack hardwall cactus (<i>Sclerocactus cloverae</i> ssp. <i>brackii</i>). The BLM sensitive species list identifies plant species, the Santa Fe cholla (<i>Opuntia viridiflora</i>) and the Grama Grass cactus (<i>Sclerocactus</i> or <i>Pediocactus papyracanthus</i>) are documented within the general vicinity of the project.</p>	<p>No Effect</p> <hr/> <p>Client's actions without NRCS assistance are not likely to adversely affect species and habitats because they nor suitable habitat for the species occurs in the project area.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>needs further action</p>	<p>May Effect</p> <hr/> <p>No Effect to at-risk species or their habitats will occur because no suitable habitat for the species occurs in the project area and the area has been surveyed for species using accepted protocol and no occupied habitat was found.</p> <hr/> <p>Construction activities will be limited to the smallest extent practicable within the project area. Disturbed areas will be restored to preconstruction conditions after construction completion.</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>needs further action</p>	<p>May Effect</p> <hr/> <p>No Effect to at-risk species or their habitats will occur because no suitable habitat for the species occurs in the project area and the area has been surveyed for species using accepted protocol and no occupied habitat was found.</p> <hr/> <p>Construction activities will be limited to the smallest extent practicable within the project area. Disturbed areas will be restored to preconstruction conditions after construction completion.</p>	<p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/></p> <p>needs further action</p>
<p>Environmental Justice <i>Guide Sheet</i></p> <p>22.5% and 27.6% of households in County vs Chimayo census area are low income and 37 % are minorities (~ 27 % is the State average.) Nambé Pueblo, Ohkay Owingeh Pueblo, Pojoaque Pueblo, Tesuque Pueblo are located near the planning area. Source: US CENUS 2010/BIA</p>	<p>No Effect</p> <hr/> <p>Not applicable</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>needs further action</p>	<p>No Effect</p> <hr/> <p>No disproportionately high and adverse environmental or human health effect on a low-income population, minority population, or Indian Tribe will occur because no adverse environmental or human health effects are anticipated to result from planned practices.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>needs further action</p>	<p>No Effect</p> <hr/> <p>No disproportionately high and adverse environmental or human health effect on a low-income population, minority population, or Indian Tribe will occur because no adverse environmental or human health effects are anticipated to result from planned practices.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>needs further action</p>
<p>•Essential Fish Habitat <i>Guide Sheet</i> <i>Fact Sheet</i></p> <p>No EFH is present in or downstream of the planning area. Source :NOAA_NMFS. Native fish/habitats regulated by USFWS.</p>	<p>No Effect</p> <hr/> <p>Not applicable.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>needs further action</p>	<p>No Effect</p> <hr/> <p>Not applicable.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>needs further action</p>	<p>No Effect</p> <hr/> <p>Not applicable.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>needs further action</p>

<p>Floodplain Management Guide Sheet Fact Sheet</p> <p>There would be no change to flood zone designations. Project actions would change the frequency of flow of the auxiliary spillway. The project would be in compliance with Executive Order (E.O.) 11988 and there would be no change to floodplain management from existing conditions.</p> <p>A 100-year floodplain is present in or near the planning area. Source: FEMA</p> <p>Work within a tributary of the Santa Cruz River. The existing dam, spillway, debris basin, and associated infrastructure are located within flood zone A.</p>	<p>No Effect</p> <p>Without NRCS assistance, client will continue with benign activities in the 100-year floodplain. Client's action will not likely result in an increased flood hazard, incompatible development, or other adverse effect to the existing natural and beneficial values of the floodplain or lands adjacent or downstream because no negative actions will be undertaken.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	<p>May Effect</p> <p>No increased flood hazard or other adverse effect to the existing natural and beneficial values of the floodplain or lands adjacent or downstream is likely because specific conservation measures will be implemented to ensure compatibility with floodplain management.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> needs further action	<p>May Effect</p> <p>No increased flood hazard or other adverse effect to the existing natural and beneficial values of the floodplain or lands adjacent or downstream is likely because the rehabilitated dam will continue to provide flood protection in the downstream inundation area which includes several miles of floodplain.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action
<p>Invasive Species Guide Sheet Fact Sheet</p> <p>Invasive (pervasive) non-native brush species Russian olive (Class C spp) Siberian elm (not listed). Herbaceous invasive (pervasive) non-native (scattered) Russian knapweed (Class B), Kochia (not listed), annual brome, annual foxtail are present in the plant community.</p> <p>ARE present in or near the planning area. Source : Field inventory.</p>	<p>No Effect</p> <p>Without NRCS assistance, invasive species will persist, and/or spread due to lack of vegetation management.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	<p>No Effect</p> <p>Removal of plant community much of which is undesirable, a beneficial outcome if revegetation measures are successful.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	<p>No Effect</p> <p>Removal of plant community much of which is undesirable, a beneficial outcome if revegetation measures are successful.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action
<p>•Migratory Birds/Bald and Golden Eagle Protection Act Guide Sheet Fact Sheet</p> <p>Habitat for migratory birds is present in the planning area in. Neo-tropical migratory bird habitat is found within reservoir and along downstream site (acequia). No bald or golden eagle foraging, roosting, or nesting habitat is in or near the planning area.</p>	<p>No Effect</p> <p>Continuation of benchmark conditions has no potential to take migratory birds, nests, or eggs and will not take or disturb eagles.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	<p>No Effect</p> <p>No take of any migratory bird, nest, or egg is expected to occur and planned practices will not take or disturb eagles because if construction activities occur during migratory bird breeding/nesting periods, the project area (and surrounding habitats) will be surveyed by a qualified biologist for active nests no more than 5 days prior to the commencement of work. If active nests are found during surveys, spatial buffers will be established around such in coordination with USFWS and NRCS. Construction activities within the buffer areas will be prohibited until a qualified biologist confirms that all nests are no longer active.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> needs further action	<p>No Effect</p> <p>No take of any migratory bird, nest, or egg is expected to occur and planned practices will not take or disturb eagles because if construction activities occur during migratory bird breeding/nesting periods, the project area (and surrounding habitats) will be surveyed by a qualified biologist for active nests no more than 5 days prior to the commencement of work. If active nests are found during surveys, spatial buffers will be established around such in coordination with USFWS and NRCS. Construction activities within the buffer areas will be prohibited until a qualified biologist confirms that all nests are no longer active.</p>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> needs further action
<p>Natural Areas Guide Sheet Fact Sheet</p> <p>There are no designated natural areas present in or near the planning area. Source: GIS</p>	<p>No Effect</p> <p>Not applicable</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further	<p>No Effect</p> <p>Not applicable</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further	<p>No Effect</p> <p>Not applicable</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further
<p>Prime and Unique Farmlands Guide Sheet Fact Sheet</p> <p>No prime or unique farmlands or farmlands of statewide or local importance are present in the planning area.</p>	<p>No Effect</p> <p>No effect due to no change in land use.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further	<p>No Effect</p> <p>No conversion of farmland to nonagricultural use is planned.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further	<p>No Effect</p> <p>No conversion of farmland to nonagricultural use is planned.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further
<p>Riparian Area Guide Sheet Fact Sheet</p> <p>The outlet location at the toe of the dam and along the Acequia conveys water which has influenced natural establishment of riparian vegetation. A narrow riparian corridor exists along the manmade Acequia alignment. The riparian vegetation along this corridor consist primarily of willows and cottonwoods species.. Source: GIS, field inventory</p>	<p>No Effect</p> <p>Continuation of benchmark conditions will not degrade/decrease water quality/water quantity/fish and wildlife benefits in waterbody Arroyo de la Cañada Ancha a tributary to Rio Chiquito due to no historic use change to dam or no change to irrigation system supporting riparian vegetation.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	<p>May Effect</p> <p>Client's objectives conflict with the conservation values and functions of the riparian area because the operational function of the dam is required to support it's purpose. Irrigation system improvements are required as will eliminate to some extent riparian vegetation. Reclamation of disturbed areas will ensue, although unlikely to support to riparian vegetation to existing extent.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	<p>May Effect</p> <p>Activities will restore/enhance/maintain or improve water quality, water quantity, and fish and wildlife benefits provided by the riparian area(s). Positive effect.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action
<p>Scenic Beauty Guide Sheet Fact Sheet</p> <p>The existing flood control dam negatively effects the visual quality of the landscape. Scenic beauty was locally sacrificed for the benefits of the structures. These alternatives have no further effects.</p>	<p>No Effect</p> <p>No change from benchmark conditions.</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	<p>No Effect</p> <p>Planned practice(s) will blend into the scenic quality of the general landscape and not adversely affect [designated scenic area name(s)].</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action	<p>No Effect</p> <p>Planned practice(s) will blend into the scenic quality of the general landscape and not adversely affect [designated scenic area name(s)].</p>	<input type="checkbox"/> needs further action

<p>Wetlands <i>Guide Sheet</i> <i>Fact Sheet</i></p> <p>Wetlands identified (NWI/field inventory) are present, albeit artificially human caused by creation of dam infrastructure and irrigation infrastructure. Ephemeral hydrology, no hydric soils, poor vegetation correlation to hydrophytic vegetation with sediment basin; and . Source: GIS & Field inventory.</p> <p>Freshwater emergent wetland within the debris basin. Project would impact the entire wetland (4.5 acres). USACE permitting requirements apply.</p>	<p>No Effect</p> <p>Wetlands would be impacted from project actions. Actions (in longer term) will through natural succession due to ephemeral hydrological conditions created within the pool reservoir will return to similar wetland type vegetation. Actions are short-term negetative effect.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>needs further action</p>	<p>No Effect</p> <p>Wetlands would be impacted from project actions. Actions (in longer term) will through natural succession due to ephemeral hydrological conditions created within the pool reservoir will return to similar wetland type vegetation. Actions are short-term negetative effect.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>needs further action</p>	<p>No Effect</p> <p>Wetlands would be impacted from project actions. Practice(s) are planned to compensate for historic adverse impacts to wetlands in and near the planning area by restoring the floodplain to historic natural functions as best possible.</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>needs further action</p>
<p>Wild and Scenic Rivers <i>Guide Sheet</i> <i>Fact Sheet</i></p> <p>No Federal or State designated Wild, Scenic, or Recreational river segments or rivers listed in the Nationwide Rivers Inventory (NRI) are present in or near the planning area.</p>	<p>No Effect</p> <p>Not applicable</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>needs further action</p>	<p>No Effect</p> <p>Not applicable</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>needs further action</p>	<p>No Effect</p> <p>Not applicable</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>needs further action</p>
<p>K. Other Agencies and Broad Public Concerns</p>	<p>No Action</p>		<p>Alternative 1</p>		<p>Alternative 2</p>	
<p>Easements, Permissions, Public Review, or Permits Required and Agencies Consulted.</p>	<p>Assume no federal nexus, therefore all concerns shall be addressed by sponsor. Activities associated with this alternative would require the same consultations as Alternative 1 if properly addressed.</p>	<p>BLM: A BLM right-of-way application would be submitted and a permit obtained for work on BLM lands.</p> <p>Section 7 Consultation, USFWS: A BE has been completed and concluded that there would be No Effect to listed plant or animal species.</p> <p>USACE: Under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, a USACE permit will not be required for discharge of dredged or fill materials in waters of the U.S. including wetlands.</p> <p>U.S. EPA: Under Section 402 of the Clean Water Act, a stormwater Construction General Permit is required for construction activities. A SWPPP would be developed, including submitting a Notice of Intent (NOI).</p> <p>NM OSE Dam Safety Bureau: Approval required for the final design report, construction drawings, and specifications by the NM State Assistant Engineer.</p> <p>NM SHPO: A Cultural Resources Inventory Report will be submitted to NM SHPO for concurrence with determination.</p> <p>Unknown required Rio Arriba County Permits, although will be investigated to determine and submit as appropriate.</p>	<p>BLM: A BLM right-of-way application would be submitted and a permit obtained for work on BLM lands.</p> <p>Section 7 Consultation, USFWS: A BE has been completed and concluded that there would be No Effect to listed plant or animal species.</p> <p>USACE: Under Section 404 of the Clean Water Act, a USACE permit will not be required for discharge of dredged or fill materials in waters of the U.S. including wetlands.</p> <p>U.S. EPA: Under Section 402 of the Clean Water Act, a stormwater Construction General Permit is required for construction activities. A SWPPP would be developed, including submitting a Notice of Intent (NOI).</p> <p>NM OSE Dam Safety Bureau: Approval required for the final design report, construction drawings, and specifications by the NM State Assistant Engineer.</p> <p>NM SHPO: A Cultural Resources Inventory Report will be submitted to NM SHPO for concurrence with determination.</p> <p>Unknown required Rio Arriba County Permits, although will be investigated to determine and submit as appropriate.</p>			
<p>Cumulative Effects Narrative (Describe the cumulative impacts considered, including past, present and known future actions regardless of who performed the actions)</p>		<p>Cumulative effects of historic flooding (human life, damage to infrastructure, farmlands) lead to the installation of this flood control infrastructure in 1962. This alternative has no further associated cumulative effects rather extends the function of the flood control dam to resolve inherent human concerns associated with the environment.</p> <p>Project measures intended to protect the downstream community and associated socioeconomic conditions.</p>	<p>Cumulative effects of historic flooding (human life, damage to infrastructure, farmlands) lead to the installation of this flood control infrastructure in 1962. This alternative proposed to restore floodplain functions to best practical extent, although the extent of human encroachment into the floodplain will always be under threat of flood. This alternative will not resolve inherent human concerns associated with the environment.</p> <p>The longterm effects of project measures albeit intended to protect from people downstream are linked to historic natural floodplain process which cumulatively have been disrupted by humans.</p>			
<p>L. Mitigation (Record actions to avoid, minimize, and compensate)</p>	<p>None Required</p>	<p>Compensatory mitigation would not be required for this Rehabilitation Alternative. Appropriate Conservation measures will be employed to avoid any adverse effects to listed plant resources. Additional measures will be implemented to conform to ACOE 404 permit.</p>	<p>Compensatory mitigation would not be required for this Rehabilitation Alternative. Appropriate Conservation measures will be employed to avoid any adverse effects to listed plant resources. Additional measures will be implemented to conform to ACOE 404 permit.</p>			

M. Preferred Alternative	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> preferred alternative	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Describe impacts (+ or -) on any resources not identified above:			Sediment removed must be placed in appropriate and available location. Spoil site(s) with proper reclamation measures may provide erosion protection.	Sediment removed must be placed in appropriate and available location. Spoil site(s) with proper reclamation measures may provide erosion protection.
Supporting reason	The proposed practices are compatible with Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act. The Santa Cruz Site 1 Dam will continue to provide flood protection, be maintained, and managed consistent with the goals of the program. The proposed projects have been/will be assessed and will not adversely impact any special environmental concerns. There are no known significant or extraordinary circumstances as a result of this federal action which have not already been realized or addressed through NEPA.			

N. Context (Record context of alternatives analysis) local local
The significance of an action must be analyzed in several contexts such as society as a whole (human, national), the affected region, the affected interests, and the locality.

O. Determination of Significance or Extraordinary Circumstances

Intensity: Refers to the severity of impact. Impacts may be both beneficial and adverse. A significant effect may exist even if the Federal agency believes that on balance the effect will be beneficial. Significance cannot be avoided by terming an action temporary or by breaking it down into small component parts.

If you answer ANY of the below questions "yes" then contact the State Environmental Liaison as there may be extraordinary circumstances and significance issues to consider and a site specific NEPA analysis may be required.

Yes	No	
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	• Is the preferred alternative expected to cause significant effects on public health or safety?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	• Is the preferred alternative expected to significantly affect unique characteristics of the geographic area such as proximity to historic or cultural resources, park lands, prime farmlands, wetlands, wild and scenic rivers, or ecologically critical areas?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	• Are the effects of the preferred alternative on the quality of the human environment likely to be highly controversial?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	• Does the preferred alternative have highly uncertain effects or involve unique or unknown risks on the human environment?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	• Does the preferred alternative establish a precedent for future actions with significant impacts or represent a decision in principle about a future consideration?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	• Is the preferred alternative known or reasonably expected to have potentially significant environment impacts to the quality of the human environment either individually or cumulatively over time?
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	• Will the preferred alternative likely have a significant adverse effect on ANY of the special environmental concerns? Use the Evaluation Procedure Guide Sheets to assist in this determination. This includes, but is not limited to, concerns such as cultural or historical resources, endangered and threatened species, environmental justice, wetlands, floodplains, coastal zones, coral reefs, essential fish habitat, wild and scenic rivers, clean air, riparian areas, natural areas, and invasive species.
<input type="checkbox"/>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	• Will the preferred alternative threaten a violation of Federal, State, or local law or requirements for the protection of the environment?

P. To the best of my knowledge, the data shown on this form is accurate and complete:

In the case where a non-NRCS person (e.g. a TSP) assists with planning they are to sign the first signature block and then NRCS is to sign the second block to verify the information's accuracy.

<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
Signature (TSP if applicable)	Title	Date
<input type="text"/>	State Wildlife Biologist	6/18/2018
Signature (NRCS)	Title	Date

If preferred alternative is not a federal action where NRCS has control or responsibility and this NRCS-CPA-52 is shared with someone other than the client then indicate to whom this is being provided.

The following sections are to be completed by the Responsible Federal Official (RFO)

NRCS is the RFO if the action is subject to NRCS control and responsibility (e.g., actions financed, funded, assisted, conducted, regulated, or approved by NRCS). These actions do not include situations in which NRCS is only providing technical assistance because NRCS cannot control what the client ultimately does with that assistance and situations where NRCS is making a technical determination (such as Farm Bill HEL or wetland determinations) not associated with the planning process.

Q. NEPA Compliance Finding (check one) The preferred alternative:		Action required
<input type="checkbox"/>	1) is not a federal action where the agency has control or responsibility.	Document in "R.1" below. No additional analysis is required
<input type="checkbox"/>	2) is a federal action ALL of which is categorically excluded from further environmental analysis AND there are no extraordinary circumstances as identified in Section "O" .	Document in "R.2" below. No additional analysis is required
<input type="checkbox"/>	3) is a federal action that has been sufficiently analyzed in an existing Agency state, regional, or national NEPA document and there are no predicted <u>significant adverse environmental effects or extraordinary circumstances</u> .	Document in "R.1" below. No additional analysis is required.
<input type="checkbox"/>	4) is a federal action that has been sufficiently analyzed in another Federal agency's NEPA document (EA or EIS) that addresses the proposed NRCS action and its' effects and has been formally adopted by NRCS . NRCS is required to prepare and publish its own Finding of No Significant Impact for an EA or Record of Decision for an EIS when adopting another agency's EA or EIS document. (Note: This box is not applicable to FSA)	Contact the State Environmental Liaison for list of NEPA documents formally adopted and available for tiering. Document in "R.1" below. No additional analysis is required
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	5) is a federal action that has NOT been sufficiently analyzed or may involve predicted significant adverse environmental effects or extraordinary circumstances and may require an EA or EIS.	Contact the State Environmental Liaison. Further NEPA analysis required.

R. Rationale Supporting the Finding

R.1 Findings Documentation	edit when complete _ Watershed Plan and Environmental Assessment #2 for the Santa Cruz Site 1 Dam Rehabilitation, 2008; McMillen Jacobs Associates)
R.2 Applicable Categorical Exclusion(s) (more than one may apply) 7 CFR Part 650 <i>Compliance With NEPA</i> , subpart 650.6 <i>Categorical Exclusions</i> states prior to determining that a proposed action is categorically excluded under paragraph (d) of this section, the proposed action must meet six sideboard criteria. See NECH 610.116.	(14) Repairing or maintaining principal spillways and appurtenances associated with existing serviceable dams, originally constructed to NRCS standards, in order to meet current safety standards. Work will be confined to the existing footprint of the dam, and no major change in reservoir or downstream operations will result; (17) Increasing the freeboard (which is the height from the auxiliary (emergency) spillway crest to the top of embankment) of an existing dam or dike, originally built to NRCS standards, by raising the top elevation in order to meet current safety and performance standards. The purpose of the safety standard and associated work is to ensure that during extreme rainfall events, flows are confined to the auxiliary/emergency spillway so that the existing structure is not overtopped which may result in a catastrophic failure. Elevating the top of the dam will not result in an increase to lake or stream levels. Work will be confined to the existing dam and abutment areas, and no major change in reservoir operations will result. Examples of work may include the addition of fill material such as earth or gravel, placement of

I have considered the effects of the alternatives on the Resource Concerns, Economic and Social Considerations, Special Environmental Concerns, and Extraordinary Circumstances as defined by Agency regulation and policy and based on that made the finding indicated above.

S. Signature of Responsible Federal Official:

Signature	Title	Date

Additional notes

This CPA52 requires follow up action. 1) Cultural Resource consultation in progress. 2) McMillen Jacobs Associates, in progress in preparation/consultation of the biological evaluation, watershed plan and environmental assessment, ACOE permitting/PCN. (Preliminary Draft Supplemental Watershed Plan and Environmental Assessment #2 rev for the Santa Cruz Site 1 Dam Rehabilitation, 2008; McMillen Jacobs Associates, consulting firm preparing NEPA/engineering support).