

# Staff Report

**TO:** Board of Directors

**FROM:** Gabe Aronow, P.E., Director of Engineering

**DATE:** January 28, 2026

**SUBJECT:** **Scotts Flat Spillway Replacement Project Update**

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## ***ENGINEERING***

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

Receive an update on the status of the Scotts Flat Spillway Replacement Project.

### **BACKGROUND:**

NID has been working on the Scotts Flat Spillway Replacement Project for most of a decade. The background presented below is not comprehensive. It is intended as a summary for purposes of presenting a project status update.

The existing Scotts Flat spillway is an uncontrolled concrete gravity structure, with a vertical height of 175 feet from top to bottom, and 960 feet long, located south of the left abutment of the embankment dam. It was originally built in 1949 and raised to the noted height in 1964 (along with dam embankment). The original 1949 weir acts as both a shear key for the spillway and creates a stilling basin, known as the upper plunge pool, between the spillway chute and the new 1964 crest.

As mandated by FERC and DSOD, NID was working into 2025 on the analysis and design to replace the lower chute to address concerns related to its condition, and to accommodate a new PMF (probable maximum flood) flow rate of almost 24,000 cfs. In April 2025, DSOD directed NID to also replace the upper plunge pool. This forced development of a new scope and contract amendment with HDR to support this new project component, which was approved by the Board over the summer of 2025. This work is in progress and design is anticipated to be complete by April 2026.

### **OPINION OF PROBABLE COSTS (OPC):**

The chute-only replacement project had a base opinion of probable construction costs estimate of approximately \$24 million, according to the Design Report. With the addition of the upper plunge pool, tree removal, access improvements,

construction contingency, and soft costs (construction management, inspection, engineering support, material testing, etc.), the total opinion of probable project costs are estimated at nearly \$50 million, as follows:

<b>Project Component</b>	<b>Base Estimate (In Millions)</b>	<b>Estimating Contingency (In Millions)</b>	<b>Construction Estimate (In Millions)</b>	<b>Construction Contingency (In Millions)</b>	<b>Total OPC (In Millions)</b>
Chute & Lower Plunge Pool	\$24.0	\$4.6	\$28.6	\$2.9	\$31.5
Upper Plunge Pool	\$8.0	\$2.4	\$10.4	\$1.0	\$11.4
Construction Total	\$32.0	\$7.0	\$39.0	\$3.9	\$42.9
Soft Costs					\$6.6
<b>Project Total</b>					<b>\$49.5</b>
* All costs are presented in 2025 dollars.					

These costs are currently being incorporated into the rate study that will be presented to the Board over the next two months. The costs are based on incomplete progress submittals for the various project components. An updated cost estimate will be provided after completion of the final design. Any revisions in the final costs will be incorporated into the rate study, as appropriate.

## **SCHEDULE**

The Scotts Flat Spillway Replacement project has a number of elements that have to be addressed prior to implementation, including completion of the design, CEQA, NEPA, environmental permits, and FERC approval of everything. FERC also requires a design PFMA (Potential Failure Mode Analysis) workshop with the design team, and FERC and DSOD staff, a Construction PFMA with the contractor, both of which could result in design modifications, a new FERC review, and associated schedule impacts. If everything concludes on time, the construction schedule, and approximate cost distribution, may be implemented as presented in the table below. However, a one-year delay for any one permit or approval step is possible.

<b>2026</b>	<b>2027</b>	<b>2028</b>	<b>2029</b>
Access Improvements & Tree Removal (Oct)	Upper Plunge Pool & Part of Upper Chute	Mid-Span Chute	Lower Chute and Lower Plunge Pool
\$1.6M	\$18.8M	\$16.7M	13.6M
* All costs are presented in 2025 dollars.			

Attachments: None

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