



City Council

Gina Dawson, Mayor  
Wei-Tai Kwok, Vice Mayor  
Carl Anduri, Council Member  
Susan Candell, Council Member  
John McCormick, Council Member

Sharon K. Tapia, P.E.  
Division Manager, Division of Safety of Dams  
2720 Gateway Oaks Drive, Suite 300  
Sacramento, CA 95833

August 26, 2024

Dear Ms. Tapia,

Thank you very much for the time that you and your colleagues spent with us earlier this month. It was very informative for us to learn about DSOD and to meet some of its key players. We were impressed by the objectives and by the technical expertise that DSOD brings to the process of ensuring dam safety in California.

As we move forward with the owner (EBMUD) of the Lafayette Reservoir and its various appurtenances, we would like to confirm with you several points that were discussed. Please let us know if the following understandings are not correct.

1. The Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD) does not require a water level in the reservoir higher than the existing level and does not require that the current water level be raised at any time.
2. The DSOD does not require that a linear elastic model be used when analyzing the performance of the tower and conduits. Indeed, the DSOD prefers nonlinear models for greater clarity on performance.
3. The DSOD is open to considering remediation options in addition to those presented to date by the dam owner, provided that any such options are proposed by the dam owner. This includes innovative remediation solutions provided that they are effective and constructible.
4. The DSOD does not require the dam owner to begin construction in 2025. The DSOD is open to the dam owner taking a reasonable amount of time to develop an alternative that is safe and that preserves the iconic tower.
5. While the DSOD does not require a dam owner to carry out a peer review, the DSOD is open to a peer review especially in cases where the design involves new concepts or where there are disagreements between the owner and DSOD.

Up until now, our focus has been on the tower structure, not only because of our interest in preserving its historic stature but also because the tower has been the main focus of what EBMUD has determined to be the basis of risk. However, as we learn more, we have become increasingly concerned about other safety risks associated with settlement of the dam, resulting damage to the conduits, and impaired ability to control water flow in the event of strong earthquake shaking. Has a broader, systems-level risk evaluation been conducted to evaluate these risks? Could you please share those studies with us? The City Council has directed me to agendize the Reservoir Tower retrofit project for a public meeting in September and they will need this information to determine next steps. Thank you.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Niroop K. Srivatsa".

Niroop K. Srivatsa, City Manager

Cc: Clifford Chan, EBMUD  
Lafayette City Council