

Goal:

The newly envisioned McClure Storage Enhancement Project represents a multi-benefit proposal to increase the carryover storage capacity of Lake McClure. Owned and operated by Merced Irrigation District, Lake McClure is impounded behind New Exchequer Dam on the lower reaches of the Merced River in the foothills of California's Central Sierra Nevada foothills. The proposed project provides multiple water storage and flood control benefits and would not affect the Wild and Scenic River Boundary above Lake McClure.

Description:

MID could safely increase the storage capacity of Lake McClure by 57,000 acre feet. The new project relies on a combination of modernizing flood control operations based on new data, and minor infrastructure modifications to MID spillways. The new McClure Storage Enhancement Project has absolutely no effect on the Wild and Scenic River boundary.



Benefits of the project include:

- Newly created flood and storage space
- Increased downstream flood safety, and increased flexibility during flooding events
- Improved dam and spillway safety
- Groundwater replenishment for several nearby communities
- Increased water for ongoing environmental stewardship and fishery benefits
- Mitigation and preparation for depletion in water supply related to climate change

Congressional Action:

The Army Corps of Engineers policy requires flood control manuals to be updated periodically to reflect new data and changes to a project. The manual for Lake McClure was last updated in 1981 and still relies on the 1959 Standard Project Flood.

MID proposes that Congress immediately prioritize and expedite review and revision of outdated flood control manuals for non-federal "Section 7" projects in drought stricken areas, when requested by the project owner, and when revision of the manual could produce multiple benefits including increased water supply while reducing flood risks.

Contact:

Mike Jensen
Merced Irrigation District
mjensen@mercedid.org
209-354-2856
744 W. 20th Street, Merced, CA 95340