



IN REPLY REFER TO:

United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION

Washington, D.C. 20240

JUL 25 1995

W-6332

Mr. Gary Estes
4135 Eagles Nest
Auburn, California 95603

Dear Mr. Estes:

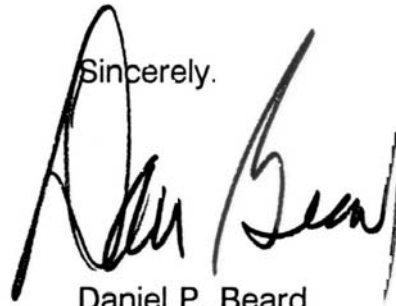
Thank you for your letter of June 6, 1995, regarding earthquake safety issues associated with an Auburn Dam facility. Your letter and the attached report raise several very important concerns which need to be answered prior to a decision to proceed with construction of Auburn Dam.

Your letter references the Bureau of Reclamation's American River Water Resources Investigation, which includes as one of the alternatives, Auburn Dam. The purpose of the American River Water Resources Investigation is to develop a water management program which will meet the needs of the study area. This investigation is in the initial phase of the decisionmaking process in which many alternatives are considered. Once the alternatives have been evaluated they are reduced to those which pass tests of economic, environmental, engineering, and social viability. These alternatives are then subjected to a more detailed and rigorous analysis which further examines the economic, engineering, environmental, and social issues including regional and cumulative impacts relating to seismic issues. This analysis will be published in a planning report/National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance document with a recommended management program.

If Auburn Dam is selected for the more detailed analysis, a comprehensive re-evaluation of the earthquake safety issues would be conducted. This could be accomplished utilizing an independent body of scientists and engineers under the auspices of the National Research Council. The initial phase will be completed in April 1996. Since Auburn Dam is only one management alternative currently being considered, it would not be prudent to invest a large amount of financial and human resources in conducting an extensive earthquake analysis for an alternative which may not be selected.

Again, thank you for your letter. If you have any further questions, comments or concerns on this issue please contact Mr. Roger Patterson, the Mid-Pacific Regional Director at (916) 979-2200.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Beard", written in a cursive style.

Daniel P. Beard
Commissioner