

1. Administrative Details

Proposal Name: Mitchell Lake Dam Restoration and Flood Control Project

by Agency: San Antonio Water System

Locations: TX

Date Submitted: 09/22/2015

Confirmation Number: cdbdf2e9-913e-4a02-a4c8-38c4c4b6a345

Supporting Documents

File Name	Date Uploaded
SEC 7001 SAWS Report to Congress submission to the USACE - Mitchell Lake Restoration -6-.pdf	09/22/2015

2. Provide the name of the primary sponsor and all non-Federal interests that have contributed or are expected to contribute toward the non-Federal share of the proposed feasibility study or modification.

Sponsor	Letter of Support
San Antonio Water System(Primary)	This is a proposal for a feasibility study. The goal would be to partner with the Army Corps of Engineers to determine the potential of rebuilding the dam or - if necessary - replacing it altogether.

3. State if this proposal is for a feasibility study, a modification to an authorized USACE feasibility study or a modification to an authorized USACE project. If it is a proposal for a modification, provide the authorized water resources development feasibility study or project name.

Feasibility Study

4. Clearly articulate the specific project purpose(s) of the proposed study or modification. Demonstrate that the proposal is related to USACE mission and authorities and specifically address why additional or new authorization is needed.

The primary purposes for the feasibility study are related to flood damage reduction, public safety and habitat restoration related to the Mitchell Lake Dam. The dam is located inside the boundaries of the City of San Antonio in Southern Bexar County. During periods of high water levels, the lake and dam can overflow causing flooding.

Once outside the immediate vicinity of the lake and the 1200 acre habitat area, the land is completely flat resulting in a risk to landowners during periods where the water overflows its banks.

The age of the structure is a concern without rehabilitation of any kind, and is potentially at risk of failure under extreme duress. Mitchell Lake must have proper flood control mechanisms for the public safety of surrounding communities, as well as the quality of the habitat of the birds, plants and animals in the region.

5. To the extent practicable, provide an estimate of the total cost, and the Federal and non-Federal share of those costs, of the proposed study and, separately, an estimate of the cost of construction or modification.

	Federal	Non-Federal	Total
Study	\$120,000	\$30,000	\$150,000
Construction	\$10,000,000	\$10,000,000	\$20,000,000

Explanation (if necessary)

Projected cost of construction will depend upon the results of the study.

6. To the extent practicable, describe the anticipated monetary and nonmonetary benefits of the proposal including benefits to the protection of human life and property; improvement to transportation; the national economy; the environment; or the national security interests of the United States.

Mitchell Lake is a 600-acre impoundment, with a maximum storage capacity of approximately 5,000 acre-feet, and is owned by the San Antonio Water System. Inspections of the dam have determined that it is in need of rehabilitation and possibly replacement. The dam is a critical part of controlling the water flows, flooding and public safety of people in this surrounding part of Bexar County.

The anticipated benefits of this project, monetary and non-monetary, are:

- Flood damage reduction in a growing part of San Antonio,
- Protection of human life in the event of severe flooding,
- Strengthening of dam, reducing the likelihood of complete dam failure,
- Job creation in a lower income part of San Antonio.

The individual bodies of water that make up the lake including basins, storm water ponds and drainages all have a high surface-to-depth ratio. This has all made the lake an ideal home for over 300 species of birds, which more than 30 are on the Audubon's Watchlist in Bexar County. One of these birds - the Yellow Billed Cuckoo - is listed as threatened on the USFWS Endangered Species List.

The muddy shores and mudflats are the only site in the San Antonio area that has mud flat habitat which can support migrating shorebirds. The lake is also a major wintering site for the migratory waterfowl.

7. *Does local support exist? If 'Yes', describe the local support for the proposal.*

Yes

Local Support Description

- Audubon Texas • San Antonio Audubon Society;

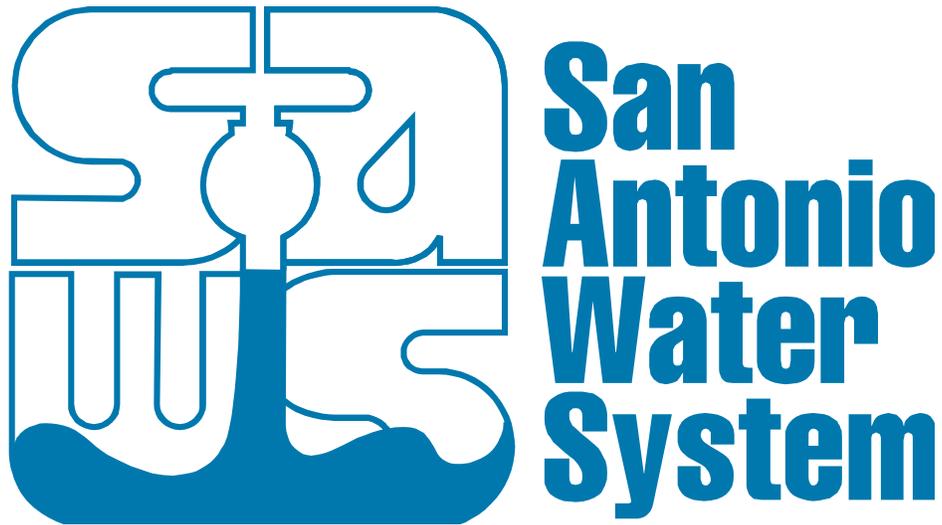
8. *Does the primary sponsor named in (2.) above have the financial ability to provide for the required cost share?*

Yes

Additional Proposal Information

(This is as uploaded, a blank page will show if nothing was submitted)

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Mitchell Lake Restoration _6_ .pdf**



San Antonio Water System

Proposed Feasibility Study
Mitchell Lake Dam Restoration and Flood Control Project
for the
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

September 23, 2015

Point of Contact:

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Pursuant to P.L. 113 - 121 SEC. 7001, the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014, this document will serve as the San Antonio Water System (SAWS) submission for the Water Resources Infrastructure Report to Congress.

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0.0 Executive Summary



Mitchell Lake is a 600-acre impoundment, with a maximum storage capacity of approximately 5,000 acre-feet, and is owned by the San Antonio Water System. Inspections of the dam have determined that it is in need of rehabilitation and possibly replacement. The dam is a critical part of controlling the water flows, flooding and public safety of people in this surrounding part of Bexar County.

The lake was first utilized by the Spanish in the early 18th century to supply their large abundance of cattle with water. They called it the "Lake of the Ducks" because of the bounty of ducks that dwelled near the waters. The lake and the Dam are named for the Mitchell family of San Antonio who owned the lake in the 19th century and used it for fowl hunting.

SAWS has leased the lake and surrounding uplands and wetlands to the Audubon Society, for public use and as an education facility. The facility is widely featured as a site for birdwatchers, featuring over 300 species of birds and 120 species of plants.

1.0 Non-Federal Sponsor

The non-Federal sponsor of the program is San Antonio Water System (SAWS). There are no other non-Federal interests that will be contributing to the proposed feasibility study. SAWS provides water and wastewater services to over 1.7 million people in the City of San Antonio, Bexar County, as well as parts of neighboring Medina and Atascosa Counties. This includes more than 367,000 water connections and 415,000 wastewater connections. SAWS also provides services to a number of Federally owned facilities including the Audie Murphy Medical Center, a hospital owned by the VA, and two major military installations to include Joint Base San Antonio - Fort Sam Houston, and Joint Base San Antonio - Lackland.

2.0 Feasibility Study

This is a proposal for a feasibility study. The goal would be to partner with the Army Corps of Engineers to determine the potential of rebuilding the dam or - if necessary - replacing it altogether.



3.0 Project Purpose

The primary purposes for the feasibility study are related to flood damage reduction, public safety and habitat restoration related to the Mitchell Lake Dam. The dam is located inside the boundaries of the City of San Antonio in Southern Bexar County. During periods of high water levels, the lake and dam can overflow causing flooding.

Once outside the immediate vicinity of the lake and the 1200 acre habitat area, the land is completely flat resulting in a risk to landowners during periods where the water overflows its banks.

The age of the structure is a concern without rehabilitation of any kind, and is potentially at risk of failure under extreme duress. Mitchell Lake must have proper flood control mechanisms for the public safety of surrounding communities, as well as the quality of the habitat of the birds, plants and animals in the region.

A map of the impacted region is attached (See APPENDIX A).

4.0 Cost Estimate

To date, SAWS has spent approximately \$30,000 on this matter. The estimated remaining cost for the feasibility study will be an additional \$150,000.

5.0 Environmental Benefits

The anticipated benefits of this project, monetary and non-monetary, are:

- Flood damage reduction in a growing part of San Antonio,
- Protection of human life in the event of severe flooding,
- Strengthening of dam, reducing the likelihood of complete dam failure,
- Job creation in a lower income part of San Antonio.

The individual bodies of water that make up the lake including basins, storm water ponds and drainages all have a high surface-to-depth ratio. This has all made the lake an ideal home for over 300 species of birds, which more than 30 are on the Audubon's Watchlist in Bexar County. One of these birds - the Yellow Billed Cuckoo - is listed as threatened on the USFWS Endangered Species List.

The muddy shores and mudflats are the only site in the San Antonio area that has mud flat habitat which can support migrating shorebirds. The lake is also a major wintering site for the migratory waterfowl.

6.0 Project Support

The lake is wholly owned by the San Antonio Water System and leased to the Audubon society for use as an Audubon Center.

7.0 Sponsor Financial Ability

SAWS is capable of providing the required cost share amount for the feasibility study. SAWS currently has over \$4.1 billion in total assets, over \$462 million in operating revenues, and a solid credit rating of Aa2 (Moody's), A (Fitch) and AA+ / AA (Standard & Poor). For more information regarding SAWS financials please refer to the 2013 comprehensive annual financial report: [http://www.saws.org/who we are/Financial Reports/CAFR/](http://www.saws.org/who_we_are/Financial_Reports/CAFR/)

8.0 Statement of Support

Please refer to Appendix 1 for letters of support.

APPENDIX A: Map of Mitchell Lake and Dam



Figure 1: Map of the Mitchell Lake Region. The lake is inside the boundaries of the city of San Antonio. It is close to major roads including Highway 281 and 410 and more densely populated parts of the city. Affected area includes homes and major roads.

APPENDIX B: Letters of Support

- Audubon Texas
- San Antonio Audubon Society;

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Points of Contact for this document are:

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