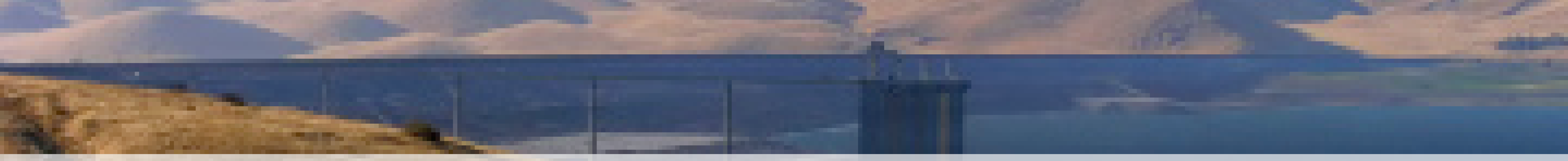

B.F. Sisk (San Luis) Dam Background Information

1933 Federal Central Valley Project Created

1960 California Water Resources Development Bond Act initiates the State Water Project

1960 San Luis Unit (San Luis Dam and O'Neill Forebay Dam) Authorized

1960s (early) San Andreas Fault (37 miles west of San Luis Dam) was identified as most severe source of seismic shaking for design and analysis

1962 Groundbreaking ceremony, August 18; President John F. Kennedy was guest of honor

1962 Bureau of Reclamation constructs B.F. Sisk Dam (313 ft high, 3-1/2 miles long) to provide supplemental irrigation water storage for the Federal Central Valley Project and municipal and industrial water for the California State Water Project

1967 San Luis Reservoir created (2 million acre-feet)

1970s Dam safety becomes focus of national concern

1981 Slide occurs on upstream slope of dam during a rapid drawdown of the reservoir

1982 Slide area repaired and four berms added to prevent future slides

1980s (early) Seismic studies identified the Ortigalita Fault, which runs through San Luis Reservoir, as capable of producing a magnitude 6.75 earthquake

1980s (early) Extensive seismic safety investigations and analysis conducted

1980-2005 State of the art seismic analysis of dams changes significantly

1989 San Luis Dam renamed B.F. Sisk Dam in honor of Bernice Frederick Sisk (1910-1995), congressman from the San Joaquin Valley, who was a major political force for creation of the Central Valley Project

2001 Additional seismologic investigations determined that the Ortigalita Fault was longer than previously thought and therefore capable of producing a larger earthquake

2002 Reanalysis of foundation data shows foundation materials at some sections to be weaker than originally estimated

2005 Updated seismic deformation and stability analysis using new understanding of material strengths, followed by Issue Evaluation Risk Analysis considering all information available about the dam and site geology

2006 Decision to initiate Corrective Action Study to reduce risks to the dam posed by seismic sources

2007 The California Department of Water Resources and the Bureau of Reclamation agree to share costs of the Corrective Action Study

2008 Alternatives scoping meeting held

2008 Field exploration to identify geotechnical features of the dam and of potential borrow sources began

2009 Contract awarded for environmental compliance documentation (EIS/EIR) and permitting

2009 Public Scoping Meeting at State Parks facility, San Luis State Recreation Area