

During the Bid Tour on February 12, 2026, there was only one question from a contractor and it was regarding what current issues the dam was having. Please see the description below that was listed in the original RFP.

Project Description

In recent years, numerous deficiencies have been identified during dam safety inspections by the Village's engineer and EGLE. In addition to the dam safety concerns, sea lamprey escapement has been documented in recent years, requiring lampricide treatment upstream. These escapements have been attributed to overtopping the auxiliary spillway and gaps in and around the stop logs of the primary spillway. Given the size of the upstream connected watershed, lampricide treatments are costly and carry their own ecological risks. For these reasons, USFWS and GLFC are partnering with the Village of Hesperia to rehabilitate the dam and improve sea lamprey barrier function. The noted deficiencies for the existing dam and spillway structure from the latest dam safety inspection report and completed feasibility study are as follows:

1. Monitor seepage/leakage and slope erosion at the downstream left berm at least monthly. Look for discolored water or other signs of material transport. Report any changed conditions immediately.
2. During the inspection, debris on the gates of the dam was very minor, limited to light wood debris and leaves/cattails. Debris should be removed routinely to prevent buildup, which can impede operation of the stop logs.
3. Minor brush growth was noted in various areas around the footprint of the structure. This should be removed routinely, as it prevents thorough inspection and provides habitat for burrowing animals.
4. The stop logs should be exercised at least annually to prevent them from locking up and inspect them for any wear or damage.
5. In conjunction with stop log operations, it is recommended that sections of the spillway be isolated to better inspect the lower spillway for deterioration and/or undermining. The normal flow of water over the spillway does not allow for visual inspection and makes probing somewhat impractical.
6. Several voids were detected in the grouted riprap between the principal and emergency spillways. It should be filled with loose grout or flowable fill as needed to fill the void and mitigate additional loss of material.
7. The toe of the grouted riprap on the downstream slope of the emergency spillway is settling. It should be monitored and replaced as needed.
8. Leakage through stoplogs allowing for sea lamprey escapement upstream.
9. Auxiliary spillway activation at 2-year event leading to sea lamprey escapement upstream.

These deficiencies have led to the dam receiving a poor condition rating. Given the poor condition rating and the challenges of maintenance and upkeep on the dam, the Village is seeking to develop a long-term plan for rehabilitation and maintenance of the dam. A feasibility study has been completed evaluating three dam rehabilitation alternatives and two fish passage options. The Village and the project partners have selected a preferred rehabilitation alternative and fish passage option. The preferred design option selected was Alternative 2 (see feasibility study), Gated straight drop Spillway structure with Fish passage.

The feasibility study can be found on the Village of Hesperia website www.hesperiaivillage.com for reference.