

Reservoir Restrictions

California's Dam Safety Program was established on August 14, 1929. The California Water Code entrusts the state regulatory authority of 1,243 non-federally owned and operated dams and reservoirs to the Department of Water Resources, which delegates this authority to its Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD). The California Dam Safety Program includes annual maintenance inspections, construction oversight, independent design reviews, re-evaluations of existing dams, inundation map reviews for emergency action plans, and emergency response.

Assembly Bill 2516 (Eggman, Chapter 543, Statutes of 2018) amended the California Water Code to require DSOD to post on its website an annual report on reservoir restrictions of dams under state jurisdiction with respect to dam safety. Information required for reporting includes the dam name, downstream hazard classification, effective date and reason for the reservoir restriction, and planned or completed actions the dam owner has reported to DSOD to address the restriction.

Reservoir restrictions are typically imposed when dam safety related deficiencies are identified at a dam or its related facilities. To reduce the risk, DSOD may direct an owner to operate the reservoir at a water surface elevation level that is lower than the maximum storage level. A reservoir restriction reduces potential downstream impacts to life, property, and the environment by lessening possible flood inundation scenarios as an interim risk reduction measure until the dam or structure is repaired.

The following report contains the 41 dams under DSOD's jurisdiction with restricted reservoirs. DSOD defines the reason for the reservoir restriction in three categories: seismic, hydraulic or other (deficiencies not related to hydraulic or seismic).

Reservoir Restriction Category

- Seismic – 22
- Hydraulic – 5
- Other – 14

Downstream Hazard Classification

- Extremely High – 13
- High – 14
- Significant – 8
- Low – 6

Dam Condition Assessment

- Satisfactory – 3
- Fair – 31
- Poor – 6
- Unsatisfactory – 1

Restricted Dams

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Dam Name: #3 Forebay

Dam Number: 95-6

Owner Name: Pacific Gas and Electric Company

Condition Assessment: Fair

Downstream Hazard Potential Classification: Low

Effective Date of Restriction: December 28, 2018

Reason for Restriction: Other

Owner's Reported Planned Action(s): PG&E has taken the #3 Forebay out of service. The reservoir is an off-stream facility and will not be re-filled until the dam embankment is repaired. PG&E is currently considering potential repair alternatives.

Dam Name: Agnew Lake

Dam Number: 104-38

Owner Name: Southern California Edison

Condition Assessment: Satisfactory

Downstream Hazard Potential Classification: High

Effective Date of Restriction: February 14, 2013

Reason for Restriction: Seismic

Owner's Reported Planned Action(s): Two 5-ft by 6-ft notches were constructed at the bottom of the dam to keep the reservoir at the natural lake level. The permanent mitigation will be determined through consultation with resource agencies and stakeholders beginning in 2020.

Dam Name: Almaden

Dam Number: 72-4

Owner Name: Santa Clara Valley Water District

Condition Assessment: Fair

Downstream Hazard Potential Classification: Extremely High

Effective Date of Restriction: March 29, 2012

Reason for Restriction: Hydraulic

Owner's Reported Planned Action(s): The Almaden Dam Improvements Project is currently under design. The reservoir restriction will be removed after completion of the improvements.

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Dam Name: Bear Gulch

Dam Number: 581-6

Owner Name: California Water Service Company

Condition Assessment: Fair

Downstream Hazard Potential Classification: Extremely High

Effective Date of Restriction: March 5, 2012

Reason for Restriction: Seismic

Owner's Reported Planned Action(s): Cal Water is evaluating several alternatives including constructing a downstream rock buttress and adding an emergency spillway to meet DSOD requirements and to maintain a safe and reliable supply for Cal Water customers.

Dam Name: Beardsley Afterbay

Dam Number: 62-7

Owner Name: Tri-Dam Project

Condition Assessment: Fair

Downstream Hazard Potential Classification: Significant

Effective Date of Restriction: January 20, 2016

Reason for Restriction: Other

Owner's Reported Planned Action(s): Implementation of the Beardsley Afterbay Dam Maintenance Repair Project, in accordance with the plans and specifications authorized by DSOD, Project 62-7, Phase I will begin in the fall of 2019.

Dam Name: Calero

Dam Number: 72-3

Owner Name: Santa Clara Valley Water District

Condition Assessment: Fair

Downstream Hazard Potential Classification: Extremely High

Effective Date of Restriction: February 8, 2013

Reason for Restriction: Seismic

Owner's Reported Planned Action(s): The Calero Dam Seismic Retrofit Project is currently under design. The reservoir restriction will be removed after completion of the seismic retrofits.

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Dam Name: Early Intake

Dam Number: 9-0

Owner Name: San Francisco Public Utilities Commission

Condition Assessment: Fair

Downstream Hazard Potential Classification: Low

Effective Date of Restriction: October 30, 1998

Reason for Restriction: Other

Owner's Reported Planned Action(s): HHWP is evaluating the structural capability of the dam to verify that the installation of a liner will temporarily extend the life of the dam until a dam or facility replacement analysis can be performed, followed subsequently by construction.

Dam Name: El Capitan

Dam Number: 8-7

Owner Name: City of San Diego

Condition Assessment: Fair

Downstream Hazard Potential Classification: Extremely High

Effective Date of Restriction: May 27, 2015

Reason for Restriction: Seismic

Owner's Reported Planned Action(s): The City of San Diego has engaged Consultants to complete a seismic stability evaluation of El Capitan Dam. The results of the study will be used to determine if improvements to the dam are needed to mitigate the seismic stability concern.

Dam Name: El Dorado Forebay

Dam Number: 53-10

Owner Name: El Dorado Irrigation District

Condition Assessment: Fair

Downstream Hazard Potential Classification: High

Effective Date of Restriction: May 20, 2009

Reason for Restriction: Seismic

Owner's Reported Planned Action(s): EID is actively addressing the stability issue by installing a buttress and filter/drain system, and implementing other improvements to meet current dam safety standards, which are part of a 3-year project scheduled for completion in December 2019.

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Dam Name: Gem Lake

Dam Number: 104-37

Owner Name: Southern California Edison

Condition Assessment: Fair

Downstream Hazard Potential Classification: High

Effective Date of Restriction: February 14, 2013

Reason for Restriction: Seismic

Owner's Reported Planned Action(s): There are plans to upgrade the Arch 8 outlet in 2020 to help maintain safe reservoir levels. The permanent mitigation will be determined through consultation with resource agencies and stakeholders beginning in 2020.

Dam Name: Guadalupe

Dam Number: 72-5

Owner Name: Santa Clara Valley Water District

Condition Assessment: Fair

Downstream Hazard Potential Classification: Extremely High

Effective Date of Restriction: April 25, 2012

Reason for Restriction: Seismic

Owner's Reported Planned Action(s): The Guadalupe Dam Seismic Retrofit Project is currently under design. The reservoir restriction will be removed after completion of the seismic retrofits.

Dam Name: Haiwee

Dam Number: 6-24

Owner Name: City of Los Angeles Department of Water And Power

Condition Assessment: Fair

Downstream Hazard Potential Classification: High

Effective Date of Restriction: July 23, 2002

Reason for Restriction: Seismic

Owner's Reported Planned Action(s): A new earthfill dam will be constructed 800 feet north of the existing North Haiwee Dam. Ground improvement will be completed for the foundation of the new dam. Construction of the new dam project is scheduled to begin in the Fall of 2020.

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Dam Name: Healdsburg Recreation

Dam Number: 1002-0

Owner Name: County of Sonoma Regional Parks Department

Condition Assessment: Fair

Downstream Hazard Potential Classification: Low

Effective Date of Restriction: August 25, 2014

Reason for Restriction: Other

Owner's Reported Planned Action(s): Per DSOD's reservoir restrictions in place, Healdsburg Recreation Dam operates at a reduced reservoir height of 7' and completes annual monitoring of critical dam components.

Dam Name: Hodges, Lake

Dam Number: 8-3

Owner Name: City of San Diego

Condition Assessment: Fair

Downstream Hazard Potential Classification: Extremely High

Effective Date of Restriction: September 4, 2019

Reason for Restriction: Seismic

Owner's Reported Planned Action(s): The City of San Diego has engaged Consultants to perform a comprehensive condition assessment and a seismic stability analysis of Hodges Dam. A plan is being developed to implement dam performance and safety improvements, based on results.

Dam Name: James Porter

Dam Number: 1123-2

Owner Name: Private Entity

Condition Assessment: Fair

Downstream Hazard Potential Classification: High

Effective Date of Restriction: December 11, 2017

Reason for Restriction: Other

Owner's Reported Planned Action(s): To remove portions of James Porter Dam that have been identified as seeping, repair and repack.

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Dam Name: Lafayette

Dam Number: 31-2

Owner Name: East Bay Municipal Utility District

Condition Assessment: Fair

Downstream Hazard Potential Classification: Extremely High

Effective Date of Restriction: December 11, 2017

Reason for Restriction: Seismic

Owner's Reported Planned Action(s): The dam is safe. The tower requires seismic upgrades. EBMUD lowered the reservoir and is performing environmental studies and evaluating retrofit alternatives. Permitting, design, and public outreach will follow, with construction planned in 2021.

Dam Name: Lake Alta

Dam Number: 1030-7

Owner Name: Placer County Water Agency

Condition Assessment: Fair

Downstream Hazard Potential Classification: Significant

Effective Date of Restriction: June 7, 2019

Reason for Restriction: Hydraulic

Owner's Reported Planned Action(s): 1) Geotechnical sampling/lab analysis conducted and results provided to DSOD. 2) Design of dam modifications in progress.

Dam Name: Lake Angela

Dam Number: 89-2

Owner Name: Donner Summit Public Utility District

Condition Assessment: Fair

Downstream Hazard Potential Classification: High

Effective Date of Restriction: January 21, 2016

Reason for Restriction: Other

Owner's Reported Planned Action(s): Engineered plans are currently at the DSOD for review and approval for the tendon repairs.

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Dam Name: Lake Buck

Dam Number: 291-0

Owner Name: Private Entity

Condition Assessment: Fair

Downstream Hazard Potential Classification: Low

Effective Date of Restriction: November 8, 2017

Reason for Restriction: Hydraulic

Owner's Reported Planned Action(s): A depth survey will be performed to determine reservoir storage capacity at the current lowered spillway control section with the intent to eventually remove the dam from state jurisdiction.

Dam Name: Lake Curry

Dam Number: 14-0

Owner Name: City of Vallejo

Condition Assessment: Fair

Downstream Hazard Potential Classification: High

Effective Date of Restriction: November 8, 1995

Reason for Restriction: Other

Owner's Reported Planned Action(s): The radial gates will be maintained in the raised position, and will be adequately secured in a full open position. The radial gates will be assessed for replacement or removal upon the completion of the spillway re-design being performed by Consultants.

Dam Name: Leroy Anderson

Dam Number: 72-9

Owner Name: Santa Clara Valley Water District

Condition Assessment: Fair

Downstream Hazard Potential Classification: Extremely High

Effective Date of Restriction: May 8, 2017

Reason for Restriction: Seismic

Owner's Reported Planned Action(s): The Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit Project is currently under design. The reservoir restriction will be removed after completion of the seismic retrofits.

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Dam Name: Lower Blue Lake

Dam Number: 97-62

Owner Name: Pacific Gas and Electric Company

Condition Assessment: Fair

Downstream Hazard Potential Classification: Significant

Effective Date of Restriction: July 27, 2018

Reason for Restriction: Other

Owner's Reported Planned Action(s): PG&E plans to perform a geotechnical investigation at Lower Blue Lake Dam in 2019. Results of the investigation will be used to evaluate subsurface conditions and support the design and construction of seepage mitigation measures.

Dam Name: Lower Crystal Springs

Dam Number: 10-6

Owner Name: City and County of San Francisco

Condition Assessment: Satisfactory

Downstream Hazard Potential Classification: Extremely High

Effective Date of Restriction: June 29, 2018

Reason for Restriction: Other

Owner's Reported Planned Action(s): Lower Crystal Springs Dam (10-6) is placed under reservoir operation restriction due to a gap in the left abutment parapet wall. A construction contract to close the gap is being processed. The work is planned for completion in March 2020.

Dam Name: Lower Howell

Dam Number: 622-2

Owner Name: San Jose Water Company

Condition Assessment: Satisfactory

Downstream Hazard Potential Classification: Significant

Effective Date of Restriction: September 25, 2008

Reason for Restriction: Other

Owner's Reported Planned Action(s): Constructed in 1877 and contains a small lake of 50 million gallons when full. SJW no longer uses the water in this lake and is evaluating the costs of making corrections to the dam versus draining the lake permanently. Water is kept at a safe level.

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Dam Name: Matilija

Dam Number: 86-0

Owner Name: Ventura County Watershed Protection District

Condition Assessment: Poor

Downstream Hazard Potential Classification: Extremely High

Effective Date of Restriction: January 18, 2019

Reason for Restriction: Seismic

Owner's Reported Planned Action(s): Interim risk reduction measures include public noticing, EAP engagement noticing to Ventura Co. EOC, a publicly accessible web-enabled dam face camera and quarterly dam movement survey/analysis reporting. Removal of the dam is the long-term remedial plan.

Dam Name: Misselbeck

Dam Number: 2220-2

Owner Name: Igo-Ono Community Services District

Condition Assessment: Unsatisfactory

Downstream Hazard Potential Classification: High

Effective Date of Restriction: November 2, 2017

Reason for Restriction: Seismic

Owner's Reported Planned Action(s): The Igo Ono Community Services District (IOCSO) is looking for and applying for funding to do pre-construction dam buttress planning and design.

Dam Name: Moccasin Lower

Dam Number: 9-4

Owner Name: San Francisco Public Utilities Commission

Condition Assessment: Fair

Downstream Hazard Potential Classification: High

Effective Date of Restriction: April 3, 2019

Reason for Restriction: Hydraulic

Owner's Reported Planned Action(s): HHWP is performing an alternative analysis report to identify possible facility modifications to increase release capacity in order to manage storm flows. This improvement would lift the current elevation restriction.

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Dam Name: North Fork

Dam Number: 77-0

Owner Name: Pacheco Pass Water District

Condition Assessment: Poor

Downstream Hazard Potential Classification: Extremely High

Effective Date of Restriction: April 6, 2018

Reason for Restriction: Hydraulic

Owner's Reported Planned Action(s): No response provided by owner.

Dam Name: Patterson

Dam Number: 1065-0

Owner Name: Alameda County Water District

Condition Assessment: Fair

Downstream Hazard Potential Classification: Significant

Effective Date of Restriction: September 13, 2004

Reason for Restriction: Seismic

Owner's Reported Planned Action(s): ACWD will continue operating the reservoir at the DSOD restricted maximum elevation of 196 feet and is in the process of developing a long term plan to include infrastructure modifications as appropriate.

Dam Name: Rush Creek Meadows

Dam Number: 104-34

Owner Name: Southern California Edison

Condition Assessment: Fair

Downstream Hazard Potential Classification: High

Effective Date of Restriction: February 14, 2013

Reason for Restriction: Seismic

Owner's Reported Planned Action(s): A 12-ft by 20-ft notch has been cut in the spillway to help maintain the reservoir about 50% elevation of normal pool. The permanent mitigation will be determined through consultation with resource agencies and stakeholders beginning in 2020.

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Dam Name: Santa Anita Debris Basin

Dam Number: 32-29

Owner Name: Los Angeles County Department Of Public Works

Condition Assessment: Fair

Downstream Hazard Potential Classification: Low

Effective Date of Restriction: June 7, 1995

Reason for Restriction: Seismic

Owner's Reported Planned Action(s): LACoPW is finalizing the design plans for SADD Seismic Strengthening project, which includes buttressing existing spillway walls and westerly embankment; replacing existing outlet tower; and modifying existing outlet works. Project to begin in 2021.

Dam Name: Sawpit Debris Basin

Dam Number: 32-31

Owner Name: Los Angeles County Department Of Public Works

Condition Assessment: Fair

Downstream Hazard Potential Classification: High

Effective Date of Restriction: June 7, 1995

Reason for Restriction: Seismic

Owner's Reported Planned Action(s): LA County Public Works is finalizing a concept for Sawpit Debris Dam Seismic Strengthening Project. The project will include: Buttressing existing spillway walls; replacing existing outlet tower; and modifying existing outlet works.

Dam Name: Scotia Log Pond

Dam Number: 205-0

Owner Name: Scotia Community Services District

Condition Assessment: Poor

Downstream Hazard Potential Classification: High

Effective Date of Restriction: April 6, 2018

Reason for Restriction: Other

Owner's Reported Planned Action(s): No response provided by owner.

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Dam Name: Selvage # 2

Dam Number: 625-0

Owner Name: Lucky Hereford Ranch

Condition Assessment: Poor

Downstream Hazard Potential Classification: Low

Effective Date of Restriction: December 29, 2008

Reason for Restriction: Other

Owner's Reported Planned Action(s): The valve was cut off so no storage can occur.

Dam Name: St. Helena Lower

Dam Number: 16-2

Owner Name: City of Saint Helena

Condition Assessment: Fair

Downstream Hazard Potential Classification: High

Effective Date of Restriction: February 1, 2016

Reason for Restriction: Seismic

Owner's Reported Planned Action(s): No response provided by owner.

Dam Name: Tinemaha

Dam Number: 6-26

Owner Name: City of Los Angeles Department of Water And Power

Condition Assessment: Fair

Downstream Hazard Potential Classification: High

Effective Date of Restriction: March 3, 1993

Reason for Restriction: Seismic

Owner's Reported Planned Action(s): LADWP initiated the Tinemaha Dam Replacement Project to replace the existing dam. The project is in the preliminary planning phase, and the estimated construction completion date is June 2033. The dam is safe to operate at the current restricted level.

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Dam Name: Tuolumne Log Pond

Dam Number: 558-0

Owner Name: The Tuolumne Band of Me-Wuk Indians

Condition Assessment: Fair

Downstream Hazard Potential Classification: Significant

Effective Date of Restriction: November 10, 2011

Reason for Restriction: Other

Owner's Reported Planned Action(s): TEDA has engaged Consultants to complete plans and specifications for repair of the dam. Once approved by DSOD and permits are obtained from agencies, the dam will be repaired. The gates are removed, the reservoir is empty and there is no hazard.

Dam Name: Upper Blue Lake

Dam Number: 97-70

Owner Name: Pacific Gas and Electric Company

Condition Assessment: Fair

Downstream Hazard Potential Classification: High

Effective Date of Restriction: May 17, 2017

Reason for Restriction: Seismic

Owner's Reported Planned Action(s): PG&E plans to construct a new rockfill buttress on the upstream side of Upper Blue Lake Dam to improve the dam's seismic stability. DSOD has approved PG&E's application for the work, which is scheduled to be complete by the end of 2019.

Dam Name: Vail

Dam Number: 2028-0

Owner Name: Rancho California Water District

Condition Assessment: Fair

Downstream Hazard Potential Classification: Extremely High

Effective Date of Restriction: June 2, 2015

Reason for Restriction: Seismic

Owner's Reported Planned Action(s): Vail Dam operates via a 2014 DSOD approved Interim Operating Plan that restricts water level. The Pre-Design Report for a new dam was mailed to DSOD on 8/27/19. Environmental compliance/permitting and an Emergency Action Plan updates are in progress.

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Dam Name: Williamson No 1

Dam Number: 464-0

Owner Name: Private Entity

Condition Assessment: Poor

Downstream Hazard Potential Classification: Significant

Effective Date of Restriction: May 7, 2009

Reason for Restriction: Other

Owner's Reported Planned Action(s): The reservoir is maintained at the restricted level, 5 feet below the spillway crest. The valve associated with the high level outlet is left fully open to maintain this restriction. The property caretaker checks reservoir conditions weekly.

Dam Name: Wohlford, Lake

Dam Number: 834-0

Owner Name: City of Escondido

Condition Assessment: Fair

Downstream Hazard Potential Classification: Extremely High

Effective Date of Restriction: November 8, 2007

Reason for Restriction: Seismic

Owner's Reported Planned Action(s): A replacement dam was designed to go downstream of the existing dam. To reduce costs, the City will study other options to reduce the dam hazard, including a lower spillway to permanently restrict lake level and rehabilitation of the outlet tower.
