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
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.
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.
Restricted Dams
Listed Alphabetically by Dam Name

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.
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.
Restricted Dams
Listed Alphabetically by Dam Name

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.
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.

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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.

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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.
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.
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.
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 (IOCSD) 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.
Restricted Dams
Listed Alphabetically by Dam Name

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.
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.
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.
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.
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.