Reservoir Restrictions

California’s Dam Safety Program was established on August 14, 1929. The California Water Code entrusts the state regulatory authority of 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 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).
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 announced the divestiture of the Crane Valley Hydroelectric Project. PG&E has taken the #3 Forebay, an off-stream facility out of service. The sale will include the dam in "as-is" condition, for the buyer to repair after transfer of ownership.

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 in the final stages of assessing modification options to meet DSOD requirements and to maintain a safe and reliable supply of water to Cal Water customers.
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.

Dam Name: Campbell Lake
Dam Number: 180-0
Owner Name: Private Entity
Condition Assessment: Fair
Downstream Hazard Potential Classification: Low
Effective Date of Restriction: October 6, 2010
Reason for Restriction: Other
Owner's Reported Planned Action(s): The low-level outlet is maintained nearly in the fully open position year-round to meet the restricted elevation. A group of ranchers plan to move debris from the dam and spillway in the upcoming year.

Dam Name: Double U Fish Ranch
Dam Number: 7000-143
Owner Name: Private Entity
Condition Assessment: Unsatisfactory
Downstream Hazard Potential Classification: High
Effective Date of Restriction: February 23, 2021
Reason for Restriction: Other
Owner's Reported Planned Action(s): No response from owner.
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: Poor
Downstream Hazard Potential Classification: Extremely High
Effective Date of Restriction: May 27, 2015
Reason for Restriction: Seismic
Owner's Reported Planned Action(s): An initial geologic and seismic stability evaluation of El Capitan Dam has been completed. Additional analyses will be needed 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: February 12, 2021
Reason for Restriction: Other
Owner's Reported Planned Action(s): EID has conducted a geophysical survey to identify the location(s) and nature of seepage paths at the dam. The results will be transmitted to FERC & DSOD to support discussions & any further actions, if needed.
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): As planned, the Arch 8 outlet has been upgraded to help maintain safe reservoir levels. The permanent mitigation will be determined through consultation with resource agencies and stakeholders during relicensing.

Dam Name: Grizzly Creek  
Dam Number: 349-0  
Owner Name: Clipper Mills, LLC  
Condition Assessment: Poor  
Downstream Hazard Potential Classification: Significant  
Effective Date of Restriction: August 19, 2021  
Reason for Restriction: Other  
Owner's Reported Planned Action(s): DSOD is responding on behalf of the owner who did not have sufficient time to respond. The reservoir restriction was imposed shortly prior to the date of this report. Construction began in mid-September to address the deficiency.

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 earthenfill 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 began in July 2021.

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: 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 2023.
Dam Name: Lake Alta  
Dam Number: 1030-7  
Owner Name: Placer County Water Agency  
Condition Assessment: Fair  
Reason for Restriction: Hydraulic  
Owner's Reported Planned Action(s): Further review by DSOD of the geotechnical and stability analysis necessary before further progress on design.

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Dam Name: Lake Buck  
Dam Number: 291-0  
Owner Name: Private Entity  
Condition Assessment: Fair  
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.

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Dam Name: Lake Curry  
Dam Number: 14-0  
Owner Name: City of Vallejo  
Condition Assessment: Fair  
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: Lake Hodges  
Dam Number: 8-3  
Owner Name: City of San Diego  
Condition Assessment: Poor  
Downstream Hazard Potential Classification: Extremely High  
Effective Date of Restriction: September 4, 2019  
Reason for Restriction: Seismic  
Owner's Reported Planned Action(s): A comprehensive condition assessment and a seismic stability analysis have been completed. Near-term repairs surrounding the dam and spillway apron are being implemented. Long-term improvements are being developed to increase dam safety and performance.

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Dam Name: Lake Wohlford  
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 has been designed to go downstream of the existing dam. The project EIR has been certified. The City is in the process of obtaining enviromental permits for the project.

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Dam Name: Lee Lake  
Dam Number: 818-2  
Owner Name: Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District  
Condition Assessment: Poor  
Downstream Hazard Potential Classification: High  
Effective Date of Restriction: November 20, 2019  
Reason for Restriction: Other  
Owner's Reported Planned Action(s): EVMWD is currently in the process of upgrading the dam by removal of the existing dam and replacement with a new dam or flood control structure. The conceptual design for a new dam has been submitted and reviewed by DSOD and 50% design is underway.
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: Low  
Effective Date of Restriction: July 27, 2018  
Reason for Restriction: Other  
Owner's Reported Planned Action(s): PG&E has completed a geotechnical investigation to evaluate subsurface conditions, developed alternative design concepts, and has begun design of a project to mitigate seepage through the left embankment and foundation of the dam.

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: October 29, 2020  
Reason for Restriction: Seismic  
Owner's Reported Planned Action(s): Matilija Dam water level will be lowered to el. 1,088 by opening the dam's 36" valve. The valve will be closed between November 15, 2021 and April 30, 2022 for water supply benefit if Critical Drought Project Measures are implemented at Lake Casitas.
Dam Name: McCloud  
Dam Number: 97-123  
Owner Name: Pacific Gas and Electric Company  
Condition Assessment: Fair  
Downstream Hazard Potential Classification: High  
Effective Date of Restriction: January 9, 2020  
Reason for Restriction: Other  
Owner's Reported Planned Action(s): An analysis of potential alternatives for a project to rehabilitate and increase the capacity of the existing spillway is underway. PG&E is working to select a preferred alternative and plans to begin design of the project in 2022.

Dam Name: Misselbeck  
Dam Number: 2220-2  
Owner Name: Igo-Ono Community Services District  
Condition Assessment: Poor  
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.
Dam Name: North Fork
Dam Number: 77-0
Owner Name: Pacheco Pass Water District
Condition Assessment: Poor
Downstream Hazard Potential Classification: High
Effective Date of Restriction: April 6, 2018
Reason for Restriction: Hydraulic
Owner's Reported Planned Action(s): Pacheco Pass Water District is in the process of receiving funding by FEMA to assist in the interim repair of the spillway. COVID-19 and the scope of work has delayed the process.

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 submitted a December 30, 2019 Statement of Intent for Modifications to Patterson Reservoir.

Dam Name: San Andreas
Dam Number: 10-10
Owner Name: City and County of San Francisco
Condition Assessment: Fair
Downstream Hazard Potential Classification: Extremely High
Effective Date of Restriction: August 3, 2020
Reason for Restriction: Other
Owner's Reported Planned Action(s): The SFPUC has prepared a 15-year Dam Safety Improvement Plan to make improvements to our dams, including the San Andreas Dam Spillway. The plan is to replace the existing spillway with a new one by 2026.
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): Design plans were changed to meet US Army Corps of Engineers requirements. They were finalized in 2020. We are working to complete environmental documentation as per NEPA requirements to obtain permits from the Corps.

Dam Name: Santiago Creek  
Dam Number: 75-0  
Owner Name: Serrano Water District and Irvine Ranch Water District  
Condition Assessment: Poor  
Downstream Hazard Potential Classification: Extremely High  
Effective Date of Restriction: May 8, 2020  
Reason for Restriction: Other  
Owner's Reported Planned Action(s): Planning efforts for the replacement of the existing outlet tower and spillway are underway. Replacement facilities will be online by 2029.

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: Extremely 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): Scotia CSD has submitted an application to DSOD that includes a geotechnical boring investigation and data report, followed by the repair of seepage with sheet piles at 2 locations. The District will continue to restrict the level required by DSOD.

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): The City of St. Helena is planning to replace the existing intake steel riser tower and repair the outlet valve system at the downstream control house at the toe of the dam. The lower concrete base foundation of the tower will not be removed or modified.
Dam Name: Tinemaha  
Dam Number: 6-26  
Owner Name: City of Los Angeles Department of Water And Power  
Condition Assessment: Poor  
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: 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): In 2014 DSOD approved Interim Operating Plan that restricts water level, and reviewed a new dam Pre-Design Report in 2020. Environmental compliance, permitting, and final design for a new Vail Dam 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, 8 feet below the certified elevation. The valve associated with the high level outlet is left fully open to maintain this restriction. The property caretaker checks reservoir conditions weekly.