



ISABELLA LAKE, CA CONSTRUCTION

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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Location & Description

Isabella Lake Dam (consisting of a Main Dam, Auxiliary Dam and service spillway) is located about 40 miles northeast of Bakersfield in Kern County, California, and became fully operational in 1953. The Main Dam is located near the confluence of the north and south forks of the Kern River and the Auxiliary Dam is located about half a mile east of the Main Dam. The Main Dam is a 185-foot-high earth-fill dam, and the Auxiliary Dam is a 100-foot-high earth-fill dam. The service spillway is located between the two dams. The reservoir (Isabella Lake) has a gross storage capacity of 568,075 acre feet.

August 2018



Highlights (Last 30 days)

- The Phase II Dams and Spillways contractor (Flatiron/Dragados/Sukut Joint Venture, or FDS) has begun construction activities.
- USACE has finished construction activities at the French Gulch interim boat launch, but will be adding some signage around the entrance to improve traffic circulation. FDS continues to coordinate with local labor unions for labor support to the project. The FDS local office is open and they have information about employment opportunities and a telephone information line for job seekers and other inquiries – (833) 640-1010.

Looking Ahead (Next 30+ days)

- USACE is working with Southern California Edison to obtain the Borel canal easement through the Auxiliary Dam. USACE anticipates decommissioning the Borel Outlet Works in fall 2018 and is coordinating with water users to lower the water level to the appropriate level.
- USACE is preparing a plan to extend the French Gulch boat launch during the low water level period.
- Construction on SR155 will create traffic delays near the Main Dam later this year. USACE expects construction to begin in September and continue into 2019. We will provide updates on expected impacts via public outreach, the monthly SITREP, and the Isabella Task Force.
- Blasting will commence later this fall between the Main and Auxiliary Dams for the Emergency Spillway Excavation. A public meeting will be scheduled beforehand to provide more information on the schedule and impacts to the public.
- Reservoir pool levels are being lowered in anticipation of beginning Borel construction work in October 2018. The pool elevation will be lowered to 72,000 acre-feet (2543.0 feet).

Current Lake Status (as of August 6, 2018)

The current pool resides at 139,060 acre-feet, which is 39% of the restricted pool, and an elevation of 2,554.9 feet. As part of our interim risk reduction measures, Isabella Lake has a restricted elevation of 2,589 feet (361,250 acre-feet). Current lake status can be viewed at <http://1.usa.gov/1enHdTy>

Milestones	
Pre-Construction Engineering and Design	Complete
Construction of USFS Facilities	Complete
Dams and Spillways Construction	2018-2022