



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.

November 2018



Highlights (Last 30 days)

- The Phase II Dams and Spillways contractor (Flatiron/Dragados/Sukut Joint Venture or FDS) continues construction activities.
- The construction area including Engineers Point is an active construction area and is off limits to the public.
- FDS is coordinating with local labor unions for labor support to the project. The FDS local office is open and they have information about employment opportunities.
- FDS continues work to seal the Borel conduit. The work is expected to be complete in March.
- Public meetings were held on October 16 & 17—FDS discussed upcoming blasting operations, while USACE provided an update on the overall project.

Looking Ahead (Next 30+ days)

- Reservoir pool levels were lowered to approximately 72,000 ac-ft. (2543.0 feet) on October 1, 2018. USACE will attempt to maintain a maximum reservoir at of 72,000 ac-ft. until the Borel low water work is complete.
- Construction on SR-155 is underway and will continue into 2019, creating traffic delays near the Main Dam. USACE will provide updates on expected impacts via public outreach, the monthly SITREP, and the Isabella Task Force.
- The contractor is tentatively scheduled to conduct test blasting in the emergency spillway excavation area during the week of November 12, 2018. SR-155 will be temporarily closed during blasting operations. Production blasting is scheduled to begin mid-December.
- USACE is preparing a plan to extend the French Gulch boat launch during the current low water level period.

Current Lake Status (as of November 6, 2018)

The current pool resides at 67,300 acre-feet—19% of the restricted pool—and an elevation of 2,537.7 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 Fire Station and Admin Facilities | Complete 2017 |
| Bob Powers Visitor's Information Center | In Planning |
| Dams and Spillways Construction | 2018-2022 |

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www.spk.usace.army.mil/Missions/CivilWorks/IsabellaDam.aspx

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