



# ISABELLA LAKE, CA CONSTRUCTION

**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS**

**BUILDING STRONG.**

## 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 2020



## Advisory

- USACE has established enhanced protocols to ensure the safety of our employees and our partners, and to take necessary precaution to prevent the spread of COVID-19. Poor air quality, due to wild fires 20-40 miles from the project, has not resulted in significant impacts to progress.
- The Phase II Dams and Spillways contractor (Flatiron/Dragados/Sukut Joint Venture, or FDS JV) continues construction activities. As a result, the site including Engineers Point is an active construction area and is off limits to the public.
- Corps policy prohibits public operation of unmanned aircraft systems, such as drones, on or above federal lands and waters managed by USACE. The policy is intended to ensure critical infrastructure security and public safety.

## Looking Ahead Next 30+ days)

- Construction crews continue excavation and slope stabilization on the Emergency Spillway. The Contractor successfully embanked the Aux Dam back to flood elevation 2570 in October. Steel rebar and slab placement work continues on the labyrinth weir and excavation on the emergency spillway. Main Dam and Service Spillway work continues.
- SR155 continues to have one-lane traffic with signals, but has moved to the southbound lane (see image above), and is expected to open up to two lanes in mid-December with minor lane refinements through the end of year. USACE will provide updates on any changes in traffic patterns or lane closures via public outreach, the monthly SITREP, and the Isabella Task Force engagements. Please help us ensure everyone's safety and obey all traffic signals and directions.
- The first iteration of screening site alternatives for the USFS Visitor Center was completed in September and the project delivery team continues with the NEPA process.

## Current Lake Status (as of November 3, 2020)

The current pool resides at 97,792 acre-feet (elevation 2,546 feet-IPD), which is 58% of flood conservation pool and 27% of restricted pool.

As part of our interim risk reduction measures, Isabella Lake is restricted to 361,250 acre-feet (elevation 2,589 feet-IPD) outside of flood season. During flood season (~November-March), flood conservation pool is restricted to 170,000 acre-feet (elevation 2,585.5 feet-IPD). Current lake status can be viewed at <https://go.usa.gov/xE2pX>

Milestones	
Pre-Construction Engineering and Design	Complete
Construction of USFS Fire Station and Admin Facilities	Complete
U.S. Forest Service 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](http://www.spk.usace.army.mil/Missions/CivilWorks/IsabellaDam.aspx)

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