



# 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.

September 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. Due to the recent wildfires, USACE is also monitoring the air quality and acting accordingly following the air quality index rating.
- 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 embanking on the Auxiliary Dam on the East and West sides of the Borel Canal. Structural concrete work continues on the labyrinth weir and emergency spillway. Blasting and excavation of the emergency spillway also continues as planned.
- SR155 continues to have one-lane traffic controlled by temporary traffic signals. There is a minor construction delay with this portion of the project and we now expect completion of SR155 by the end of the year. This does *not*, however, impact the overall DSMP project completion, which is still on schedule for 2022.

As a reminder, Highway Patrol officers continue to monitor the area for traffic violations. 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.

- Site selection activities for the Visitor Center continue with an expected decision in the fall.

## Current Lake Status (as of September 1, 2020)

The current pool resides at 109,039 acre-feet, which is 30% of restricted pool, and an elevation of 2,549 feet-IPD. As part of our interim risk reduction measures, Isabella Lake has a restricted elevation of 2,589 feet-IPD (361,250 acre-feet). 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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