



# ISABELLA LAKE, CA CONSTRUCTION

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

**BUILDING STRONG.**

June 2021

### 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.



### 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.
- The Phase II Dams and Spillways contractor 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)

- Excavation and slope stabilization continues on the Emergency Spillway (pictured above). Steel rebar, slab, and wall placement work also continues on the Labyrinth Weir.
- Auxiliary Dam embankment continues to work towards elevation 2637 so that work at the dogleg adjacent to HWY 178 can begin in mid-June.
- Main Dam embankment began May 24 and will continue through the end of September.
- USACE provided a briefing to the US Forest Service on May 26 to present an overview of the alternative site locations for the permanent relocation of the visitor center. USFS is currently evaluating all site alternatives and expects to reach a decision by mid-June. The Final EA is scheduled to be complete by the end of June.
- USACE will provide updates on any changes via public outreach, the monthly SITREP, and the Isabella Task Force engagements.

### Current Lake Status (as of June 1, 2021)

The current pool resides at 94,445 acre-feet (elevation 2,545 feet-IPD), which is 26% of restricted pool.

As part of our interim risk reduction measures, Isabella Lake is restricted to 361,250 acre-feet (elevation 2,585.5 feet-IPD) outside of flood season. During flood season (~November-March), flood conservation pool is restricted to 170,000 acre-feet (elevation 2,560.4 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   |