



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 2021



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 continue on the Emergency Spillway at 63% complete. Steel rebar, slab, and wall placement work also continue on the Labyrinth Weir at 76% complete (see photo above).
- Main Dam and Service Spillway work continues with 37% and 65% completion respectively.
- Main Dam Right abutment wall is at 87% completion and anticipated to be completed by the end of the year.
- Auxiliary Dam embankment is now at new crest elevation 2653.
- Property Appraisal for the U.S. Forest Service Visitor Center is complete and real estate negotiations are in evaluation.
- Final design for the Permanent Operations Building is scheduled to be complete at the end of this month.
- USACE will provide updates on any changes via public outreach, the monthly SITREP, and the Isabella Task Force engagements.

Current Lake Status (as of November 1, 2021)

The current pool resides at 50,712 acre-feet (elevation 2,532 feet-IPD), which is 14% of restricted pool and 30% of flood conservation 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
Permanent Operations Building	2023
Dams and Spillways Construction	2018-2022

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

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