



# ISABELLA LAKE, CA CONSTRUCTION

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

**BUILDING STRONG.**

May 2022

## 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)

- Emergency Spillway is 91% complete with 330,200 BCY remaining including borrow and deepening. Labyrinth Weir at 94.8% completion with 10 of 12 cycles complete. Target for completion is projected in November 2022.
- Main Dam and Service Spillway work continues with 68.8% completion and 88.4% respectively. Service Spillway is projected for completion by July 2022.
- Auxiliary Dam is 95% complete overall. 30,600 cubic yards of upstream slope protection and embankment remaining to complete the Aux Dam. Photo above shows current embankment of Aux Dam.
- Property appraisal for the US Forest Visitor Center is scheduled by June 20, 2022. Real Estate office is in negotiations with new owner.
- The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Sacramento District will be holding a virtual public meeting to discuss a new draft Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) for the Isabella Lake Dam Safety Modification Project (DSMP). The public meeting will be from 4:00 to 5:00 pm on May 19, 2022, via WebEx and participants will have the option to call in. Further meeting details will be added soon to the Isabella DSMP website: <https://www.spk.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Isabella-Dam/>

## Current Lake Status (as of May 3, 2022)

The current pool resides at 71,573 acre-feet (elevation 2,536 feet-IPD), which is 20% of restricted pool and 42% 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://www.spk-wc.usace.army.mil/plots/california\\_new.html?name=isb&year=2022&interval=d&tab=plot&window=wy](https://www.spk-wc.usace.army.mil/plots/california_new.html?name=isb&year=2022&interval=d&tab=plot&window=wy)

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](http://www.spk.usace.army.mil/Missions/CivilWorks/IsabellaDam.aspx)

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