



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.

January 2023



Photo shows aerial visual overlooking HWY 155 and the Main Dam in Dec. 2022

Advisory

- USACE is following the latest CDC guidelines to ensure the safety of our employees and our partners, and to take necessary precautions 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)

- The flood season is November 1, 2022, through April 1, 2023.
- On October 25, 2022, the Contractor placed the final wall section of the Labyrinth Weir and this marks the substantial completion of the Phase II project dam safety risk reduction measures.
- There will be ongoing construction efforts into spring/summer 2023; these will not affect the functionality of the project and includes road work, utilities, emergency spillway concrete apron, site restoration, disposal of waste materials, final clean-up of local rock surfaces, and demobilization.
- In support of the USFS Visitor Center project, USACE Sacramento District completed the property acquisition of the former Bank of America property on 16 December 2022. The kickoff design charrette was held 6-8 December 2022 and we will continue working closely with the U.S. Forest Service on the design process.

Current Lake Status (as of January 3, 2023)

The current pool resides at 56,307 acre-feet (elevation 2,536 feet-IPD), which is 16% of restricted pool and 33% 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-April), 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/fcgi-bin/hourly.py?report=isb>

Completion Milestones	
Pre-Construction Engineering and Design	Complete
Construction of USFS Fire Station and Admin Facilities	Complete
Dams and Spillways Construction	2023
Permanent Operations Facilities	2024
U.S. Forest Service Visitor's Information Center	2025

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

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