



# ISABELLA LAKE, CA CONSTRUCTION

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

**BUILDING STRONG.**

**March 2023**

### 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.



Photo shows aerial visual overlooking the Labyrinth Weir

### 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)

- There will be ongoing construction efforts into spring/summer 2023 that will not affect the functionality of the project; this 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's Center project, USACE continues working closely with the U.S. Forest Service on the design process. The Main Dam Campground is in the early stages of design.
- In the coming weeks, USACE will be releasing an SEA/FONSI to cover the remaining vegetation mitigation for the Isabella DSMP. Following the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act, a Supplemental Environmental Assessment (SEA) and Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the Isabella Lake Dam Safety Modification Project, Fay Ranch Road East Vegetation Mitigation, Kern County, California, has been prepared and will be available at <https://www.spk.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Isabella-Dam/>.

### Current Lake Status (as of March 7, 2023)

The current pool resides at 120,762 acre-feet (elevation 2,536 feet-IPD), which is 39% of restricted pool and 82% 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

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS, SACRAMENTO DISTRICT, 1325 J ST., SACRAMENTO, CA 95814

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

916-557-5100

[Isabella@usace.army.mil](mailto:Isabella@usace.army.mil)