

MANAGING FLOOD RELEASES

at U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Dams and Reservoirs in California

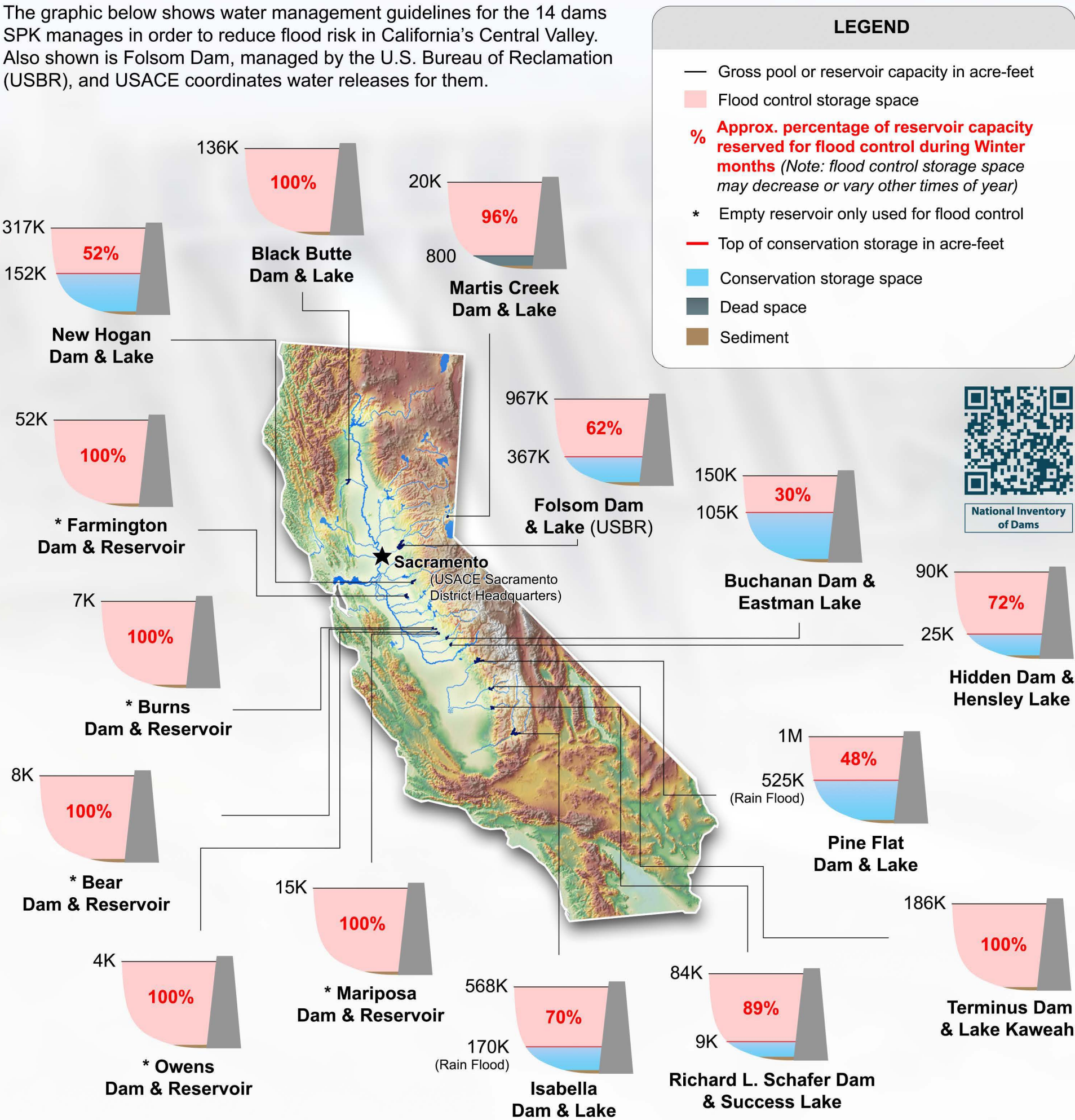


Folsom Lake at 94% capacity prompting water releases from Folsom Dam and the auxiliary spillway into the American River to make room for continuing runoff, Folsom, Calif., June 12, 2023. (Credit: California Department of Water Resources)

California ended its latest drought cycle in 2023, which lasted more than three years. Many of California's reservoirs have been replenished from recent storms and precipitation. In fact, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) water managers anticipated so much water and runoff at reservoirs like Folsom Lake that they made releases to reduce the risk of flooding and threat to public safety.

Knowing when to conserve water and release water can be a complex balancing act. The USACE Sacramento District (SPK) has developed water control manuals in coordination with local, state and federal partners that provide climate and science-based guidelines on when to release water, typically when water levels reach the top of the conservation pool and enter the flood control storage space.

The graphic below shows water management guidelines for the 14 dams SPK manages in order to reduce flood risk in California's Central Valley. Also shown is Folsom Dam, managed by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation (USBR), and USACE coordinates water releases for them.



Visit spk.usace.army.mil/Water-Control/ for water control data