



# DAM SAFETY

Reducing flood risk in California's Central Valley

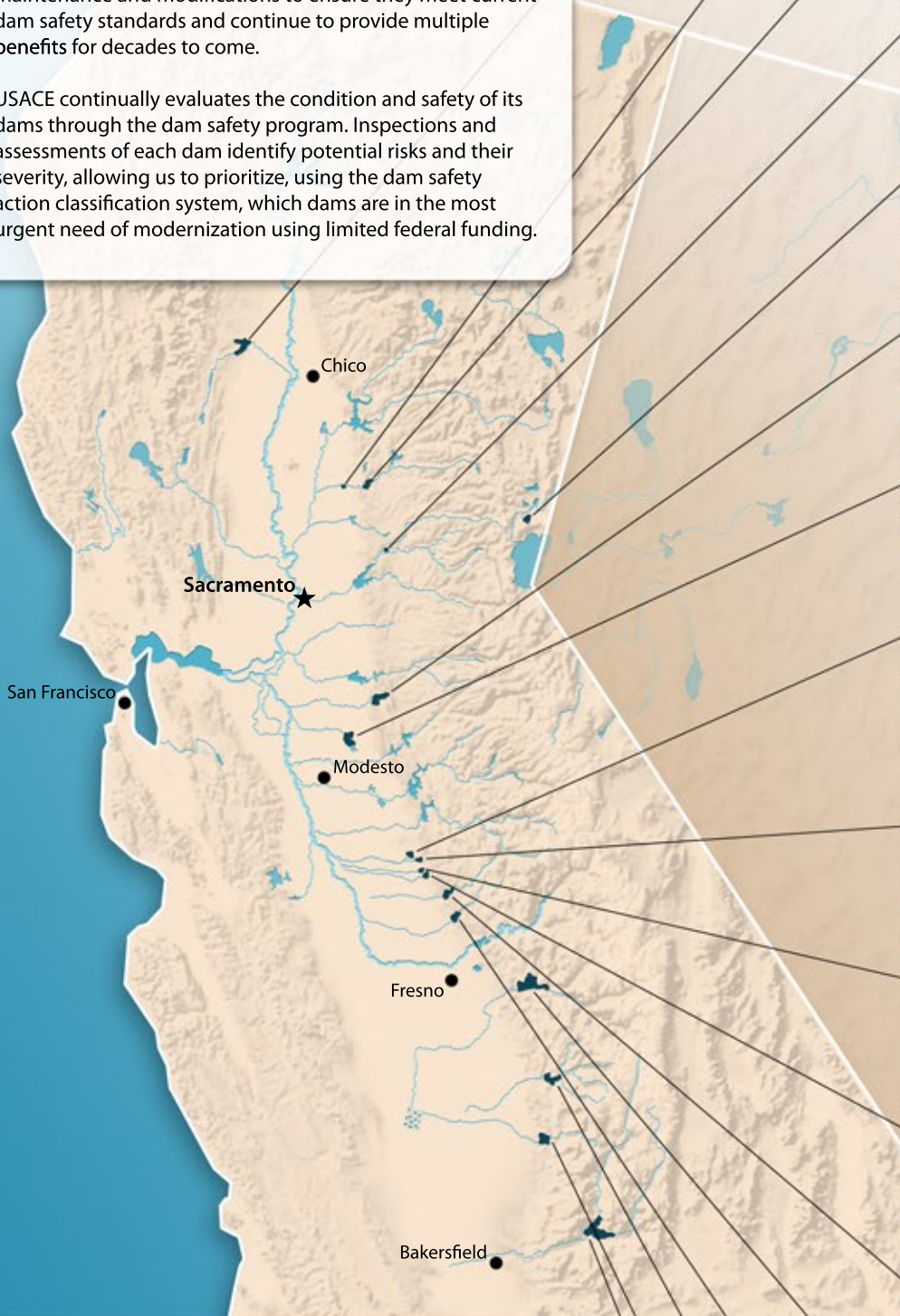
## Modernizing Our Aging Dams

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Sacramento District owns and operates 17 dams and reservoirs in California's Central Valley, which provide multiple benefits including flood risk management, navigation, water supply, hydropower, environmental stewardship, fish and wildlife conservation, and recreation.

USACE dams avoid over \$250 billion in direct damages and preserve \$25 billion annually in economic benefits.

USACE owns approximately 740 dams nationwide, 95 percent of which are more than 30 years old and over 50 percent have reached or exceeded the 50-year service lives for which they were designed. This does not mean they will fail after 50 years, but they may require additional maintenance and modifications to ensure they meet current dam safety standards and continue to provide multiple benefits for decades to come.

USACE continually evaluates the condition and safety of its dams through the dam safety program. Inspections and assessments of each dam identify potential risks and their severity, allowing us to prioritize, using the dam safety action classification system, which dams are in the most urgent need of modernization using limited federal funding.



	<b>Black Butte Dam and Lake (1963)</b>	62	Some safety concerns, to be evaluated.
	<b>Daguerre Point Dam (1906)</b>	119	Safety concerns minimal. This is a low-head dam and the public is cautioned to exercise care when recreating upstream of the dam, as it can present a hazard.
	<b>Harry L. Englebright Dam and Lake (1941)</b>	84	Safety concerns minimal.
	<b>North Fork Dam, Lake Clementine (1939)</b>	86	Safety concerns minimal.
	<b>Martis Creek Dam and Lake (1972)</b>	53	Some safety concerns. Interim measures implemented.
	<b>New Hogan Dam and Lake (1963)</b>	62	Some safety concerns, to be evaluated.
	<b>Farmington Dam and Reservoir (1951)</b>	74	Spillway adequacy currently being evaluated (2025).
	<b>Burns Dam and Reservoir (1950)</b>	75	Safety concerns minimal.
	<b>Bear Dam and Reservoir (1954)</b>	71	Safety concerns minimal.
	<b>Owens Dam and Reservoir (1949)</b>	76	Safety concerns minimal.
	<b>Mariposa Dam and Reservoir (1948)</b>	77	Some safety concerns. Interim measures implemented.
	<b>Buchanan Dam, Eastman Lake (1975)</b>	50	Safety concerns minimal.
	<b>Pine Flat Dam and Lake (1954)</b>	71	Safety concerns minimal.
	<b>Hidden Dam, Hensley Lake (1974)</b>	51	Safety concerns minimal.
	<b>Terminus Dam, Lake Kaweah (1962)</b>	63	Safety concerns minimal.
	<b>Richard L. Schafer Dam, Success Lake (1961)</b>	64	Dam safety spillway raise and modifications completed in 2025.
	<b>Isabella Dam and Lake (1953)</b>	72	Dam safety modification construction completed in 2024.

## Legend



- Dam name and year built.**
- Dam safety action classification color.**
  - (1) Very High Urgency.
  - (2) High Urgency.
  - (3) Moderate Urgency.
  - (4) Low Urgency.
  - (5) Normal.
- Age** - most dams are designed with a 50-year service life; some older dams may require more maintenance or modifications to meet current safety standards.
- Safety risks.**
  - Earthquake** - sudden, violent shaking may cause the dam to crack or collapse.
  - Overtopping** - a huge, rare flood fills the reservoir and overtops the dam causing erosion.
  - Seepage** - seepage of water through the dam may become excessive, causing erosion.
- Current status and modernization plan.**

[spk.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Dam-Safety-Program/](https://spk.usace.army.mil/Missions/Civil-Works/Dam-Safety-Program/)



National Inventory of Dams