

IX - WATER CONTROL MANAGEMENT

9-01 Responsibilities and Organization.

a. Corps of Engineers. Mathews Canyon Dam is owned and maintained by Corps of Engineers, Los Angeles District (LAD). Table 9-1 shows the organizational chart depicting the chain of command for water control and operations and maintenance decisions in the LAD. The chart shows that the Reservoir Regulation Section, in the Hydrology and Hydraulics Branch is charged with water control decisions. However, since the dam was designed to control floods with an ungated outlet, water control decisions are seldom necessary. Decisions about the dam and reservoir maintenance are made by the Operations and Maintenance Section, Operations Branch, Construction and Operations Division, in coordination with the Reservoir Regulation Section.

b. Other Federal Agencies. There are no other Federal agencies that are directly responsible for the operation and maintenance of Mathews Canyon Dam.

c. State and County Agencies. There are no state or county agencies directly responsible for the operation and maintenance of Mathews Canyon Dam. However, Lincoln County Emergency Management has agreed with the Corps of Engineers to keep the downstream channels free from man-made encroachment, and to adjust all water rights claims resulting from the operation of Mathews Canyon Dam.

9-02 Interagency Coordination. The Corps of Engineers, LAD coordinates with the following organizations and agencies:

a. Local Press and Corps Bulletins. The Public Affairs Office of LAD is responsible for interfacing with the press regarding floods and other aspects of project operation. This is accomplished through interviews and the occasional issuance of press releases. LAD does not issue flood watches or warnings or other status reports or forecasts to the general public. These are the responsibility of the National Weather Service.

b. National Weather Service (NWS). The NWS has the responsibility for issuing the flood watches and warnings to the public. The LAD utilizes NWS data to aid in real-time flood control operations. The airport station of the NWS at Las Vegas, Nevada, upon request, provides the LAD Reservoir Regulation Section with weather forecasts and climatological reports for the Muddy River Basin. The NWS - Colorado River Forecast Center at Salt Lake City, Utah, provides a Water Supply Outlook monthly for the Lower Colorado River watershed, which encompasses the Mathews Canyon Dam watershed.

c. U.S. Geological Survey. The data from Mathews Canyon Dam is published in the USGS publication, “USGS Water Resources Data - Nevada”, under the station name, Mathews Canyon Wash near Caliente, NV.

d. The Natural Resources Conservation Service. The Natural Resources Conservation Service maintains an office in Caliente, Nevada. The staff at Caliente cooperates with the Corps of Engineers during emergency situations in the area of Mathews Canyon Dam. The Natural Resources Conservation Service monthly publication “Nevada Basin Outlook Report” gives an estimate of antecedent precipitation.

e. The Bureau of Land Management (BLM). The U.S. Department of Interior, Bureau of Land Management, coordinates with the Corps of Engineers in case an emergency evacuation of people and property on the lands adjacent to Mathews Canyon Dam is necessary. The BLM manages this from their local office in Caliente, NV.

9-03 Interagency Agreements. In a letter dated April 27, 1965, the Lincoln County Flood Control District wrote to the Corps of Engineers advising the Corps that they were adopting a resolution which furnishes assurance of local responsibilities in connection with adjustment of water rights claims as a result of the project, and in keeping the flood control channels downstream of the dam free from encroachments. A copy of this letter is contained in Exhibit C.

9-04 Commissions, River Authorities, Compacts, and Committees. Mathews Canyon Dam controls flood flows in Mathews Canyon which is a small tributary in the Lower Muddy River Basin, for the purpose of preventing erosion adjacent to the tracks of the major transcontinental railroad passing along Meadow Valley Wash and Clover Creek. As such, the facility is not part of any river authority, compact, or committee.

9-05 Non-Federal Hydropower. There is no hydropower associated with Mathews Canyon Dam.

9-06 Reports. As required by ER 1110-2-240 “Water Control Management”, the LAD prepares three reports for transmittal to the South Pacific Division Office concerning the regulation of Mathews Canyon Dam and reservoir. These reports are as follows:

a. Annual Water Control Management Report. This report is prepared by LAD each year to document significant water control related activities including the operation of Mathews Canyon Dam.

b. Periodic Inspection Report. Every five years, LAD is required to inspect its flood control projects which include Mathews Canyon Dam. The inspection findings and recommendations are documented in a periodic inspection report prepared by LAD.

Table 1-1 contains a list of inspection reports to date.

c. Flood Emergency Plan. The LAD has prepared a Flood Emergency Plan for Mathews Canyon Dam titled, “Flood Emergency Plan Mathews Canyon Dam, Clover Creek, Lincoln County, Nevada, Emergency Action and Notification Subplan”, for LAD reference. In addition, there is also a General Report that supplements the Flood Emergency Plan, which provides information about the general project area.

**Table 9-1. Chain of Command for Reservoir Operations*
(Decisions at Mathews Canyon Dam)**

South Pacific Division** (415) 977-8102	
District Engineer (213) 452-3961	
<u>Water Control Decisions</u>	<u>Operation and Maintenance Decisions</u>
Chief, Engineering Division (213) 452-3629	Chief, Construction and Operations Division (213) 452-3349
Chief, Hydrology and Hydraulics Branch (213) 452-3525	Chief, Operations Branch (213) 452-3385
Chief, Reservoir Regulation Section (213) 452-3527	Chief, Operations and Maintenance Section (626) 401-4008
Chief, Reservoir Regulation Unit (213) 452-3530	

*Notes:

1. Point of contacts and their pager numbers are updated annually. These references can be found within the “Instructions for Reservoir Operations Center Personnel (“Orange Book”)”.
2. Call Reservoir Operation Center (ROC) for the latest phone numbers.

**South Pacific Division point of contacts and their phone numbers are also in the “Orange Book”. SPD is notified when unusual circumstances occur, or when a deviation is necessary.