

IX - WATER CONTROL MANAGEMENT

9-01 Responsibilities and Organization.

a. Corps of Engineers. Prado Dam is owned, operated, and maintained by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, LAD which has complete regulatory responsibility.

Reservoir regulation at Prado Dam is directed by water control managers from the Reservoir Operations Center (ROC). The ROC is staffed by personnel from the Reservoir Regulation Section of the LAD. Table 9-1 is an organizational chart depicting the chain of command for reservoir regulation decisions.

Gate regulation instructions to the dam tender are issued by the ROC (see sections 5-04 and 5-05). In the event that communications between the ROC and Prado Dam are interrupted, a set of "Standing Instructions to the Project Operator for Water Control" are included in this manual as Exhibit A. Dam tenders are part of the Operations Branch, under the Construction-Operations Division, LAD.

b. Other Federal Agencies. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, LAD is the only federal agency with water control responsibilities at Prado Dam and Reservoir.

c. State and County Agencies. The California Regional Water Quality Control Board (Santa Ana Region) is responsible for setting water quality standards for the Santa Ana River.

The OCEMA is responsible for the maintenance of the downstream portion of the Santa Ana River within Orange County. The improved channel begins at Weir Canyon Road. Flood control releases are coordinated with the OCEMA.

The portion of the Santa Ana River just downstream of Prado Dam in Riverside County is for the most part unimproved. The improvements in this reach have been initiated by agencies or organizations which either have developments which cross the river or lie adjacent to the river.

The OCWD operates a groundwater recharge facility in and along the Santa Ana River downstream of Imperial Highway. Releases from Prado Dam are coordinated with OCWD.

d. Private Organizations. There are no private organizations which have water control responsibilities for waters flowing in or through Prado Dam.

Table 9-1

**Chain of Command for Reservoir Operations
Decisions at Prado Dam
(Revised May 1990)**

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Los Angeles District			
District Engineer		(213) 894-5300	
Water Control Decisions		Operation and Maintenance Decisions	
Title	Phone	Title	Phone
Chief, Engineering Division	(213) 894-5470	Chief, Construction-Operations Division	(213) 894-5600
Chief, Hydrology & Hydraulics Branch	(213) 894-5520	Chief, Operations Branch	(213) 894-5620
Chief, Reservoir Regulation Section	(213) 894-6915	Chief, Operations and Maintenance Section	(818) 401-4008
Chief, Reservoir Regulation Unit (ROC)	(213) 894-6916	Dam Tender Foreman	(818) 401-4006
		Dam Tender, Prado Dam	(714) 737-1623

9-02 Interagency Coordination. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers coordinates with other Federal, State, County, and local organizations concerning water control at Prado Dam and Reservoir.

a. Local Press and Corps of Engineers Bulletins. The Public Affairs Office of the Corps of Engineers, LAD, coordinates with the local press regarding floods and other aspects of project operation. This is accomplished through both telephone and in-person interviews and occasional issuance of press releases. It should be noted that the Corps of Engineers does not publicly issue flood watches or warnings, or other status reports or forecasts to the general public.

b. National Weather Service (NWS). The NWS has the responsibility for issuing flood watches and warnings to the public. The LAD utilizes NWS data to aid in real-time flood control operations. Both real-time and post-event data is shared between the two agencies.

c. U.S. Geological Survey (USGS). The LAD receives streamflow data from the USGS, primarily on a historical basis in southern California. The LAD coordinates data collection with the USGS through the Cooperative Stream Gauging Program.

d. Orange County Environmental Management Agency (OCEMA). During flood events the LAD is in constant communication with the OCEMA. OCEMA is responsible for the condition and maintenance of the downstream Santa Ana River below Weir Canyon Road and, therefore, dispatches channel observers along the Santa Ana River during floods. Information from the OCEMA is used to determine if releases from Prado Dam need to be reduced due to channel problems.

e. Orange County Water District (OCWD). The OCWD operates the groundwater recharge facilities located downstream of Prado Dam. During non-flood operations, releases from Prado Dam are closely coordinated with the OCWD.

f. U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. In accordance with the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (PL 93-205) and the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (PL 85-624) the Corps coordinates with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service regarding environmental impacts at Corps projects.

g. California Department of Fish and Game. In accordance with the Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (PL 85-624) the Corps coordinates with the California Department of Fish and Game regarding environmental impacts at Corps projects located within California.

9-03 Interagency Agreements. There are currently no interagency agreements between the LAD and any other agencies which affect the regulation of Prado Dam.

9-04 Commissions, River Authorities, Compacts, and Committees.

a. Santa Ana River Watermaster. On April 17, 1969, the Orange County Superior Court entered a Stipulated Judgement in Case No. 117628 involving the Orange County Water District vs. City of Chino et al. The judgement, which became effective on October 1, 1970, contained a declaration of rights of the entities in the Lower Area of the Santa Ana River basin (i.e., the Orange County Water District) as against those in the Upper Area (i.e., the San Bernardino Valley Municipal Water District, the Western Municipal Water District, and the Chino Basin Municipal Water District). The arrangement leaves to each of the major hydrologic units in the watershed the determination and regulation of individual rights therein and the development and implementation of its own basin management plans. A court appointed Watermaster, consisting of five persons, prepares an annual report of the

Santa Ana River Watermaster which documents and accounts for flows within the Santa Ana River.

OCWD has the right to receive 42,000 ac-ft annually of base flow waters at Prado Dam in addition to the right to capture any storm flows which reach Prado Dam.

9-05 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 Prado Dam and Reservoir.

a. Annual Division Water Control Management Report (RCS DAEN-CWE-16) (R1). This report covers significant activities of the previous water year and a description of project accomplishments planned for the current year.

b. Summary of Runoff Potentials in Current Season (RCS DAEN-CWO-2). This report is generally submitted monthly during the storm season (October 15 - April 15), and covers snow accumulation and runoff potential in the District. Supplemental reports are submitted in the event of severe situations.

c. Monthly Water Control Charts (RCS DAEN-CWE-6(R1)). A monthly record of reservoir operations prepared in either a graphical or tabular format is issued when requested.

Two reports are prepared for LAD use. They are:

d. Flood Control Basin Operation Report. A report of daily observations is made at the dam. This record is stored by the Water Control Data Unit of the Reservoir Regulation Section in the Districts Base Yard (Plate 5-04).

e. Daily Reservoir Report. Daily reservoir observations are entered into the RESCAL computer program which stores the records in a computer database and produces a "Daily Reservoir Report" that is distributed to interested LAD offices.