

Folsom Dam Safety and Flood Damage Reduction Action



Folsom Dam Facts

- Folsom Dam and Reservoir are a component of the Central Valley Project, owned and operated by the Bureau of Reclamation, Mid-Pacific Region, Central California Area Office.
- The Flood Control Act of 1944 authorized the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to construct a 355,000-acre-foot flood control unit. The project was then reauthorized in 1949 as a 1,000,000-acre-foot multiple-purpose facility.
- Construction of Folsom Dam by the Corps began in October 1948 and was completed in May 1956. In accordance with the authorizing legislation, Folsom Dam was then transferred to Reclamation for operation. Water was first stored in February 1955.

- Folsom Dam is a concrete gravity dam 340 feet high and 1,400 feet long, flanked by left and right earthfill wing dams, Mormon Island Auxiliary Dam, and eight smaller earthfill dikes.
- Folsom is a multi-purpose facility operated by Reclamation for flood control, municipal and industrial water supply, agricultural water supply, power, fish and wildlife management, recreation, navigation, and water quality purposes. The facility is primarily operated to maximize flood control and water supply storage benefits.
- Reclamation and the Corps have several authorized projects at Folsom Dam and its Appurtenant Structures (the Folsom Facility). Both Federal agencies have obligations and interests in relation to the Folsom Facility, but they differ with respect to Congressional objectives, mandates, authorities, funding, and time lines. Three objectives are pursued in this action:

Dam Safety

Under the Safety of Dams Program, Reclamation identified the need for expedited action to reduce hydrologic (flood), seismic (earthquake), and static (seepage) events. These events have a low probability of occurrence in a given year; however, due to the large population downstream of Folsom Dam, modifying the facility is prudent and required to improve public safety. Additionally, there is a need to upgrade the security infrastructure at the Folsom Facility.

Flood Damage Reduction

The Corps, in partnership with the State Reclamation Board and the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency, identified the need to reduce the risk of flooding in the Sacramento area, identified as one of the most at-risk communities in the nation.

Joint Federal Project

The Folsom Joint Federal Project was developed to coordinate efforts of both Reclamation and the Corps at the Folsom Facility. Through their cooperation, Reclamation and the Corps seek to integrate dam safety improvements with flood risk reduction measures. Construction activities are proposed to begin in Fall 2007 and will then continue for more than 10 years until completion of the dam safety, flood damage reduction, and joint Federal project objectives.

For more information: Please contact Reclamation's Public Affairs Office at 916-978-5100.

