

Watershed Rehabilitation

April 2009

Reinvesting in the Calaveras Creek Dam No. 6, Texas

Introduction

This watershed rehabilitation project will create or save jobs, put this dam into compliance with current safety standards, and provide better flood protection to an urbanizing area near San Antonio.



The Calaveras Creek Dam No. 6 is located in Bexar County, Texas.

Project Description

- **Location:** Bexar County, 28th Congressional District
- **Federal Funding:** \$2,373,000
- **Sponsor Funding:** \$800,000

The project will raise the top of the dam, add another principal spillway, and modify existing auxiliary spillways.

Partners

- USDA, Natural Resources Conservation Service
- San Antonio River Authority
- Alamo Soil and Water Conservation District
- Wilson County Soil and Water Conservation District

Benefits

This rehabilitation project will protect 25 homes, businesses, and public facilities, as well as a major four-lane highway from flooding. If the dam were to breach, thousands of cubic yards of earth fill from the dam would move downstream, clogging stream channels, and increasing flooding on roads and bridges.

Funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act (ARRA) of 2009, this project is part of the Obama Administration's plans to modernize the nation's infrastructure, jump-start the economy, and create jobs. NRCS is using Recovery Act dollars to update aging flood control structures, protect and maintain water supplies, improve water quality, reduce soil erosion, enhance fish and wildlife habitat, and restore wetlands. NRCS acquires easements and restores floodplains to safeguard lives and property in areas along streams and rivers that have experienced flooding.



The flood pool of Calaveras Creek Dam No. 6, although dry now, provides flood protection downstream. Rehabilitation to meet current safety standards will require the following: raising the top of the dam, adding an additional principal spillway, adding an impact basin and modifying auxiliary spillways.

Reinvesting in the Calaveras Creek Dam No. 6, Texas



This house and others sit in an area immediately downstream of Calaveras Creek dam No. 6 that could be flooded if the dam breached.

Economic Opportunities

Jobs will be created or saved through this project, including jobs in industries that supply or support construction activities and in businesses that sell goods and services to these workers and their families. Upon the completion of this construction project these jobs will not be directly sustainable at this project location. However, the experience gained from this project will position these workers to future employment as more dam rehabilitation projects are undertaken. The project will provide an average annual flood damage reduction benefit of up to \$150,000 and a net economic benefit of up to \$50,000 annually.

Statewide Perspective

Calaveras Creek Dam No. 6 is one of nearly 2,000 dams constructed by NRCS in Texas. These dams provide nearly \$120 million of benefits annually, protecting lives, property, and infrastructure.

For More Information

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(254) 742-9800
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Several highways run through the breach floodplain of Calaveras Creek Dam No. 6 and would be damaged by a breach. In addition, 25 residences, businesses, and public facilities are located less than a mile downstream of the dam within the breach floodplain.

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