

County of Monterey

*Saffron Room
1441 Schillings Place
Salinas, Ca 93901*



Meeting Agenda

Thursday, March 27, 2025

1:30 PM

In Person: Saffron Room 1441 Schilling Place Salinas Ca. 93901

**Layla Decker remotely from Administrative Conference Room
10625 Lake Nacimiento Rd. Bradley Ca. 93426**

Water Resources Agency Reservoir Operations

Advisory Committee

John Batlle

Ken Ekelund , Chair

Mark Gonzalez

Matthew Simis

Patrick Collins

Jon Anthony

Denis Lebow

Bill Lipe

Patrick Breen

Anna McKenna

Marc Kelley

Layla Decker

Doug Scattini

Richard Ortiz

Steve Blois

To participate in this Reservoir Operations Advisory Committee meeting, the public is invited to observe and address the Committee telephonically or electronically. Instructions for public participation are below:

1. For ZOOM participation please join by computer audio at:

<https://montereycty.zoom.us/j/92085702216>

OR to participate by phone call any of these numbers below:

+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 346 248 7799 US (Houston)

+1 312 626 6799 US (Chicago)

+1 929 205 6099 US (New York)

+1 253 215 8782 US

+1 301 715 8592 US

Enter this Meeting ID number: 920 8570 2216 PASSWORD 877574 when prompted. Please note there is no Participant Code, you will just hit # again after the recording prompts you.

You will be placed in the meeting as an attendee; when you are ready to make a public comment, if joined by computer audio, please Raise your Hand; and by phone, please push *9 on your keypad.

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to end of meeting.

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8. The Chair and/or Secretary may set reasonable rules as needed to conduct the meeting in an orderly manner.

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4. Los miembros del público que deseen hacer un comentario público general para temas que no están en la agenda del día o que deseen comentar en un artículo específico mientras se escucha la presentación, lo pueden hacer enviando un comentario por correo electrónico, preferiblemente limitado a 250 palabras o menos, a WRAPublicComment@countyofmonterey.gov. Para ayudar al personal de la Agencia a identificar el artículo de la agenda con el cual se relaciona el comentario, se solicita al público que indique el nombre del Comité (por ejemplo: Comité Asesor de la Operación de Embalses) y el número del artículo de la agenda (por ejemplo: Artículo # 10). Se hará todo lo posible para leer el comentario en el registro, pero algunos comentarios pueden no leerse en voz alta debido a limitaciones de tiempo. Los comentarios recibidos después del cierre del período de comentarios públicos sobre un artículo de la agenda serán parte del registro si se reciben antes que termine la reunión del Comité.

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8. El Presidente y / o Secretario pueden establecer reglas razonables según sea necesario para llevar a cabo la reunión de manera ordenada.

Call to Order

Roll Call

Public Comment

Committee Member Comments

Consent Calendar

1. Approve the Minutes of the Reservoir Operations Advisory Committee meeting held on February 27, 2025.

Attachments: [Draft ResOps Minutes February 27, 2025](#)

Scheduled Items

2. Consider recommending a release schedule for Nacimiento and San Antonio Reservoirs for 2025.

Attachments: [Board Report](#)
[Reservoir Release Schedule Proposal 2025](#)
[auto 2025 ReleaseSchedule 4 20250320 Proposal](#)

Staff Reports

3. Reservoir Storage & Release Update.

Attachments: [Reservoir Storage Release Update Report](#)
[ResOps Slides 20250320](#)

4. 2025 Year Type Forecast (Staff Presenting: Joseph Klein)

5. Current Operations and Maintenance Activities at the Reservoirs. (Staff Presenting:

Jason Demers)

Status Reports

- 6.
- Reservoir Recreation by Concessionaire and Parks Department
 - County of San Luis Obispo Activities
 - National Marine Fisheries Service
 - Invasive Mussel Update

Calendar

7. Set next meeting date and discuss future agenda items.

Adjournment



County of Monterey

Item No.1

Board Report

Board of Supervisors
Chambers
168 W. Alisal St., 1st Floor
Salinas, CA 93901

Legistar File Number: WRARO 25-019

March 27, 2025

Introduced: 3/11/2025

Current Status: Agenda Ready

Version: 1

Matter Type: WRA ResOps Item

Approve the Minutes of the Reservoir Operations Advisory Committee meeting held on February 27, 2025.

County of Monterey

*Saffron Room
1441 Schillings Place
Salinas, Ca 93901*



Meeting Minutes

Thursday, February 27, 2025

1:30 PM

**SLO County Chair location: Old Courthouse Room 207
976 Osos St. San Luis Obispo Ca. 93408 or via Zoom**

**Layla Decker remotely from Administrative Conference Room 10625
Lake Nacimiento Rd. Bradley Ca. 93426**

Water Resources Agency Reservoir Operations Advisory Committee

*John Baillie
Ken Ekelund , Chair
Mark Gonzalez
Matthew Simis*

<i>Jon Anthony</i>	<i>Zach Barnes</i>
<i>Bill Lipe</i>	<i>Eric Morgan</i>
<i>Anna McKenna</i>	<i>Marc Kelley</i>
<i>Layla Decker</i>	<i>Doug Scattini</i>
<i>Richard Ortiz</i>	<i>Zach Barnes</i>
<i>Steve Blois</i>	

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8. El Presidente y / o Secretario pueden establecer reglas razonables según sea necesario para llevar a cabo la reunión de manera ordenada.

Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 1:30pm.

Roll Call

Present: Ken Ekelund, John Baillie, Mark Gonzales, Matthew Simis (arrived 1:32pm), Jon Anthony, Anna McKenna, Richard Ortiz, Marc Kelley, Doug Scattini (arrived 1:31pm)

Absent: Layla Decker, Zach Barnes, Eric Morgan, Bill Lipe

Public Comment

None

Committee Member Comments

None

Consent Calendar

1. Approve the Minutes of the Reservoir Operations Advisory Committee meeting held on January 30, 2025.

Attachments: [Draft ResOps Minutes January 30, 2025](#)

Upon Motion of Jon Anthony, Second by Marc Kelley the Committee approved the Consent Calendar of the Reservoir Operations Advisory Committee Meeting.

Ayes: John Baillie, Matt Simis, Marc Kelley, Jon Anthony, Steve Blois, Anna McKenna, Doug Scattini, Ken Ekelund, Mark Gonzalez, Richard Ortiz

Noes: None

Absent: Zach Barnes, Layla Decker, Bill Lipe, Eric Morgan

Abstained: None

Public Comment: None

Staff Reports

2. Reservoir Storage and Release Schedule Update. (Staff Presenting: Peter Kwiek)

Attachments: [Reservoir Storage Release Update Report](#)
 [ResOps Slides 20250219](#)

Committee Member Comments: Ken Ekelund, Steve Blois, Jon Anthony, Richard Ortiz, John Baillie

Public Comments: None

3. Current Operations and Maintenance Activities at the Reservoirs. (Staff Presenting: Jason Demers)

Committee Member Comments: Ken Ekelund, Richard Ortiz

Public Comments: None

4. Committee Appointments 2025. (Staff Presenting: Jason Demers)

Committee Member Comments: Doug Scattini, Ken Ekelund, Anna McKenna

Public Comments: None

Status Reports

Committee Member Comments: Marc Kelley, Ken Ekelund, Richard Ortiz, Mark Gonzalez

Public Comments: None

- 5.
- Reservoir Recreation by Concessionaire and Parks Department
 - County of San Luis Obispo Activities
 - National Marine Fisheries Service
 - Quagga Mussel Update

Committee Member Comments: Marc Kelley, Richard Ortiz, Ken Ekelund, Mark Gonzalez

Public Comments: None

Calendar

6. Set next meeting date and discuss future agenda items.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 2:05pm.



County of Monterey

Item No.2

Board Report

Board of Supervisors
Chambers
168 W. Alisal St., 1st Floor
Salinas, CA 93901

Legistar File Number: WRARO 25-020

March 27, 2025

Introduced: 3/19/2025

Current Status: Agenda Ready

Version: 1

Matter Type: WRA ResOps Item

Consider recommending a release schedule for Nacimiento and San Antonio Reservoirs for 2025.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that the Monterey County Water Resources Agency Reservoir Operations Advisory Committee:

Recommend that the Monterey County Water Resources Agency Board of Directors Consider Adopting a Release Schedule for Nacimiento and San Antonio Reservoirs for 2025.

SUMMARY/DISCUSSION:

In most years, continuous reservoir releases are made during the “conservation season” (April-October) to optimize Salinas Valley groundwater recharge as well as Salinas River Diversion Facility (SRDF) operations. These conservation releases are guided by a schedule developed each year in late winter to early spring by staff to approximate the expected sequence of reservoir withdrawals that fully accounts for a complex set of obligations, constraints and, to the extent possible, hydrologic conditions.

Key obligations include annual withdrawal limits and conditions-based prescribed flows supportive of federally listed species. Both are stipulated in the water rights that authorize the Agency to store, withdraw and re-divert waters of the state within the Nacimiento, San Antonio and Salinas River watersheds. Constraints are of physical, administrative and environmental nature. Physical constraints include elevation-dependent limits on methods and rates of releases as well as safe operating limits of release mechanisms; administrative constraints include guaranteed water allotments established by contractual agreements. Minimum required releases, required lagoon bypass flows, as well as limits on release rate changes are among the environmental constraints accounted for in the development of the annual release schedule.

The Agency has made releases during 12 of the 16 summer conservation seasons since the Salinas River Diversion Facility (SRDF) began operating in 2010. Two extended droughts resulted in insufficient reservoir levels to operate from 2014-2016 and in 2022. More recently, 2023 and 2024 marked a return to wet conditions providing large storage increases at both Reservoirs and enough water to fully operate in both years and also in 2025. Combined storage as of March 20, 2025 is sufficient to plan a third consecutive full diversion season this year, despite limited net inflow totals (approximately 64,000 acre-feet at Nacimiento, approximately 10,700 acre-feet at San Antonio this winter).

The attached proposed 2025 release schedule accounts for current reservoir inflow rates but assumes no new inflow events for the remainder of the calendar year. The schedule also reflects an estimation of reservoir releases needed to complete a steelhead smolt outmigration release action initiated on March 16 which was triggered by inflow to Nacimiento, as stipulated in water rights authorizing the Agency to operate the reservoirs and the SRDF. Temporary release adjustments are also incorporated into the proposed schedule in consideration of recreation activities over summer holiday periods.

SRDF startup is expected to occur as early as the first week of April, pending assessments of demands and watershed conditions as they relate to SRDF operability. The proposed schedule reflects an assumed April 1 start date and maintains conservation flows to recharge the Salinas Valley groundwater basin and operate the SRDF into mid-October while meeting the operational requirements of State Water Resources Control Board appropriative water rights held by the Agency for the Nacimiento and San Antonio Rivers.

As is the standard procedure each year, the release schedule will be updated monthly based on actual weather and river conditions, changing SRDF demands, and other reservoir operational considerations as may be necessary subsequent to the development of this draft release schedule.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

None

FINANCING:

None

Prepared by: Peter Kwiek, Associate Water Resources Hydrologist (831) 755-4860

Attachments: Reservoir Release Schedule For 2025



County of Monterey

Item No.2

Board Report

Board of Supervisors
Chambers
168 W. Alisal St., 1st Floor
Salinas, CA 93901

Legistar File Number: WRARO 25-020

March 27, 2025

Introduced: 3/19/2025

Current Status: Draft

Version: 1

Matter Type: WRA ResOps Item

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OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

None

FINANCING:

None

Prepared by: Peter Kwiek, Associate Water Resources Hydrologist (831) 755-4860

Attachments: Reservoir Release Schedule For 2025



Today's Action

Consider recommending that
the Monterey County Water Resources Agency
Board of Directors adopt a Release Schedule
for Nacimiento and San Antonio Reservoirs for
2025.



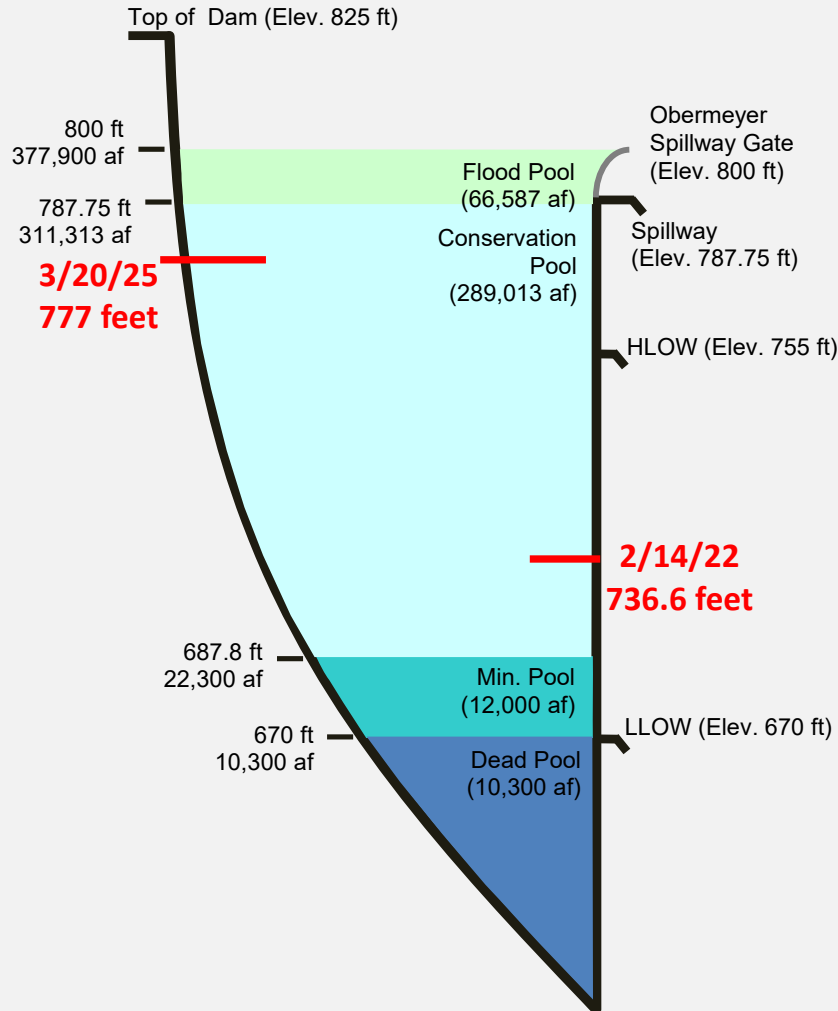
Background

Nacimiento and San Antonio Dams & Reservoirs

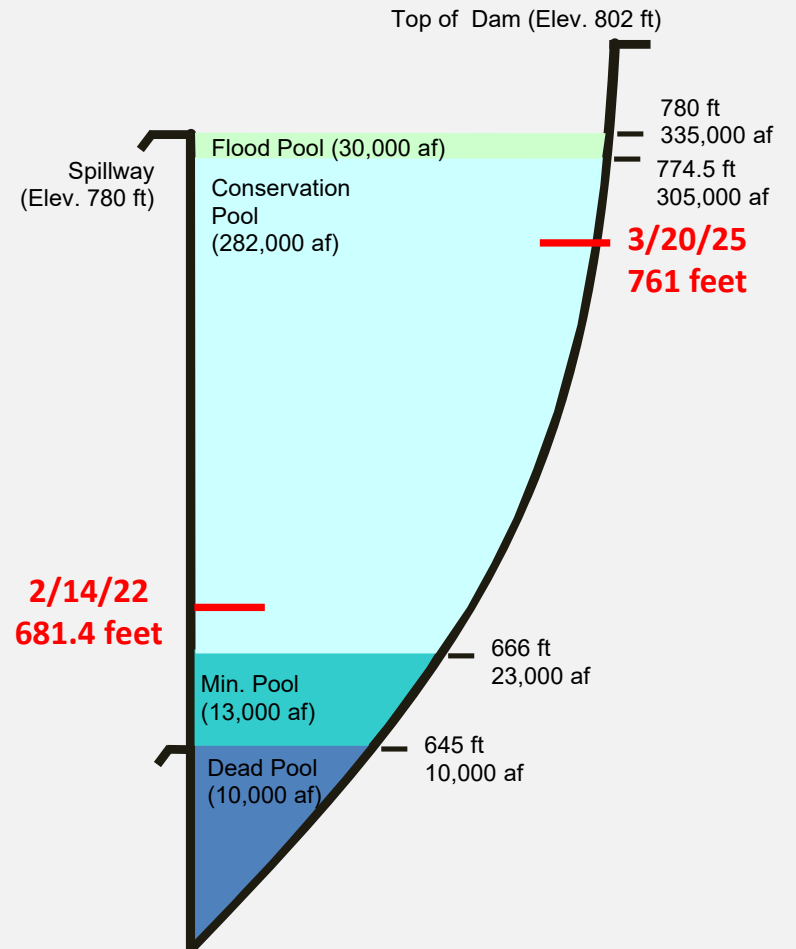
- Agency-owned Multi-Use
 - Flood control, groundwater recharge, SRDF operation, water supply, fish habitat, recreation, incidental power generation.
- Each year the Agency develops annual release schedule in a monthly format as an operational guide.
- Incorporates various demands, constraints and proposed operations.

Schematic of Reservoir Pools

Nacimientto Reservoir



San Antonio Reservoir



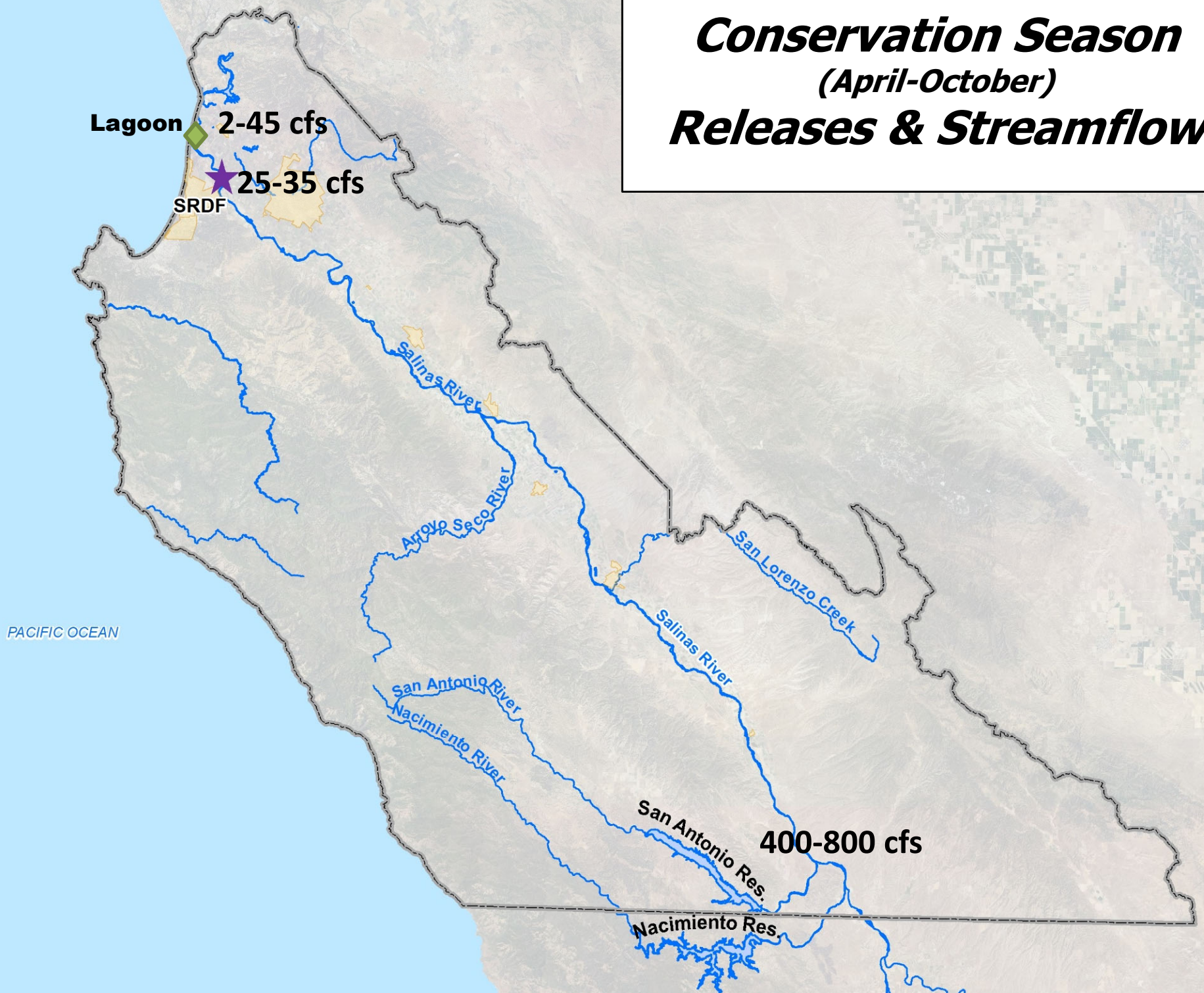


Background

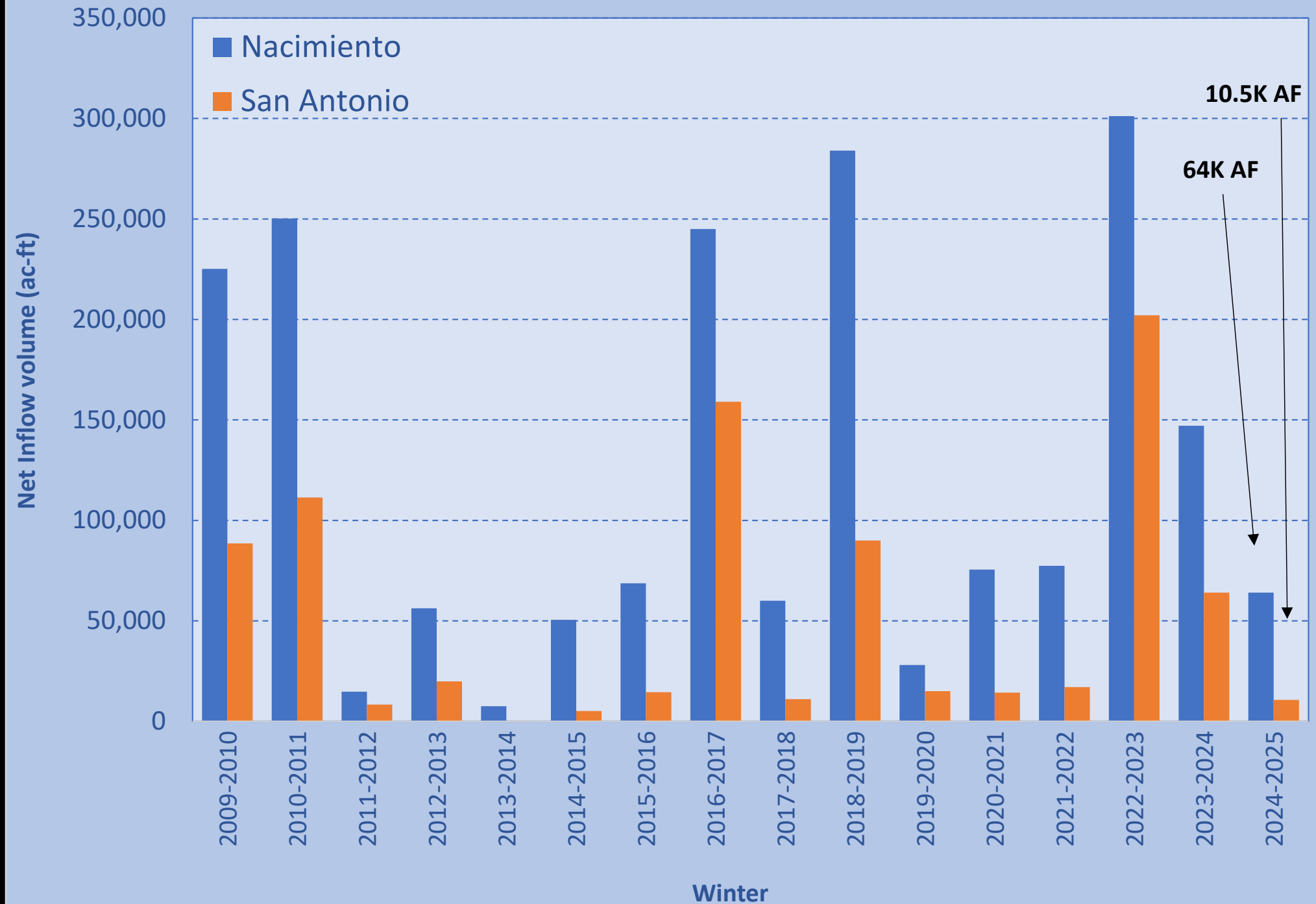
Reservoir Release Schedules

- ROAC March, BOD April
- Adopted 2024 Schedule included Conservation Releases, May-mid-October

Conservation Season
(April-October)
Releases & Streamflow

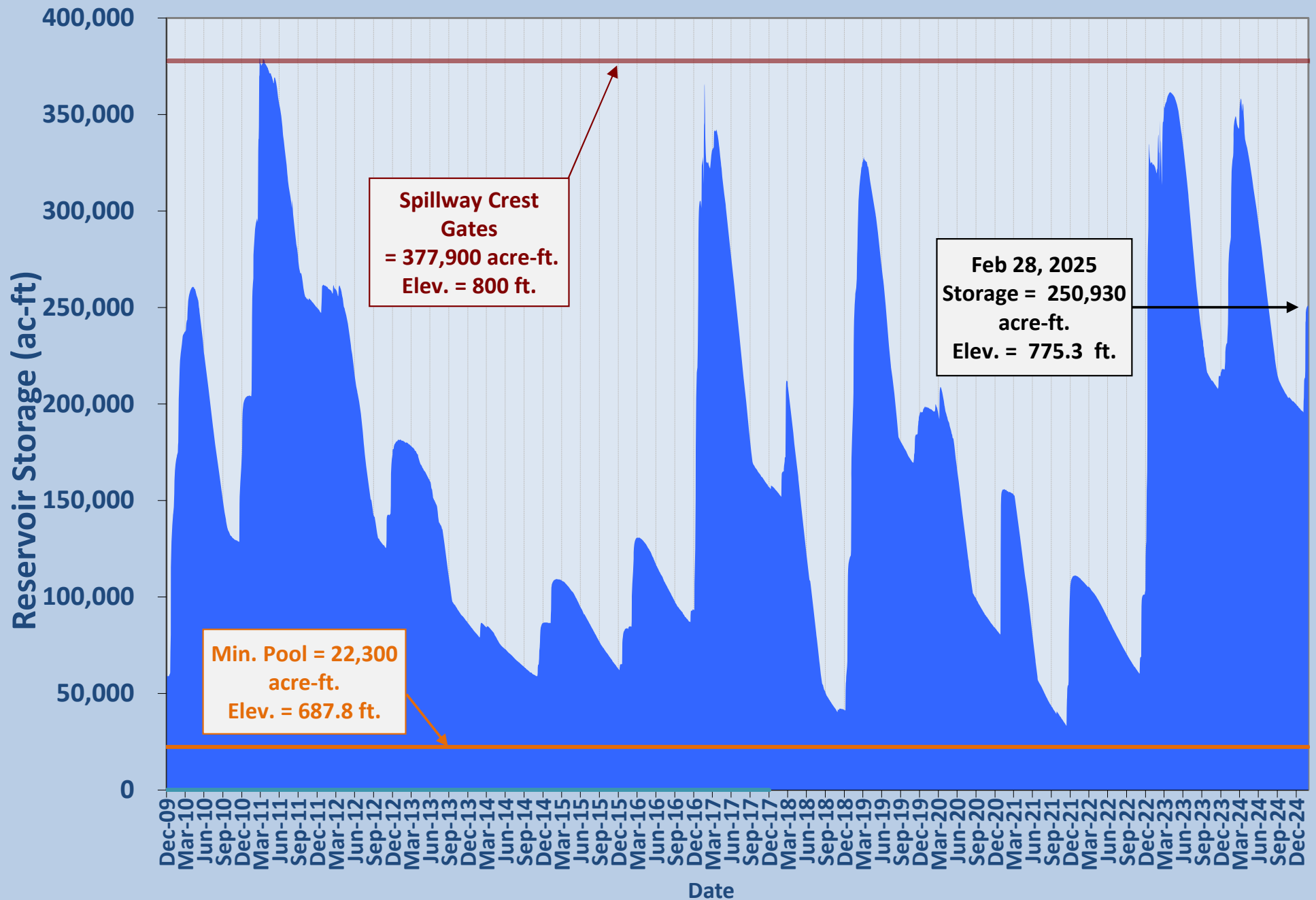


Net Reservoir Inflow Totals Since 2010



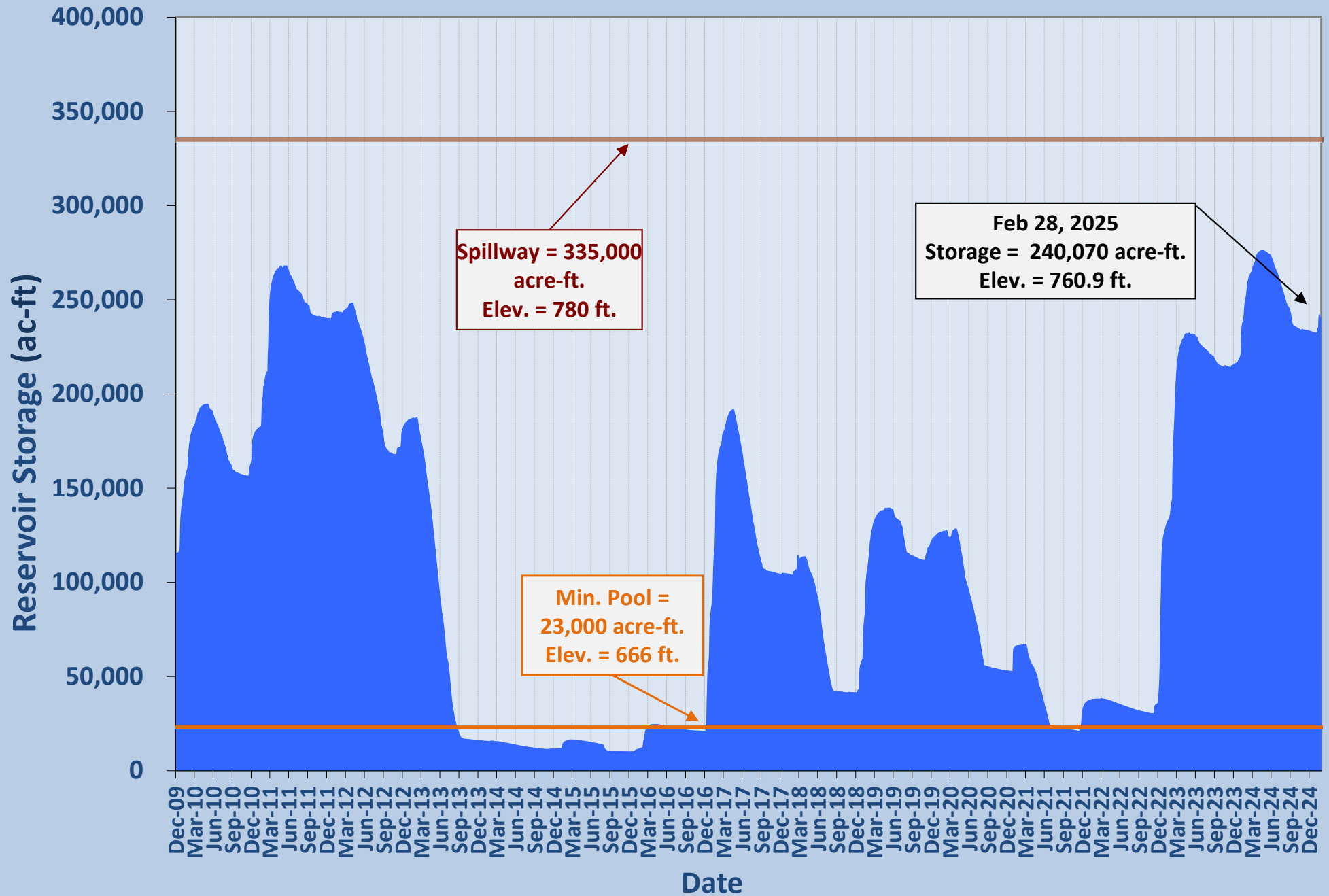
NACIMIENTO RESERVOIR

DAILY STORAGE Since 2010



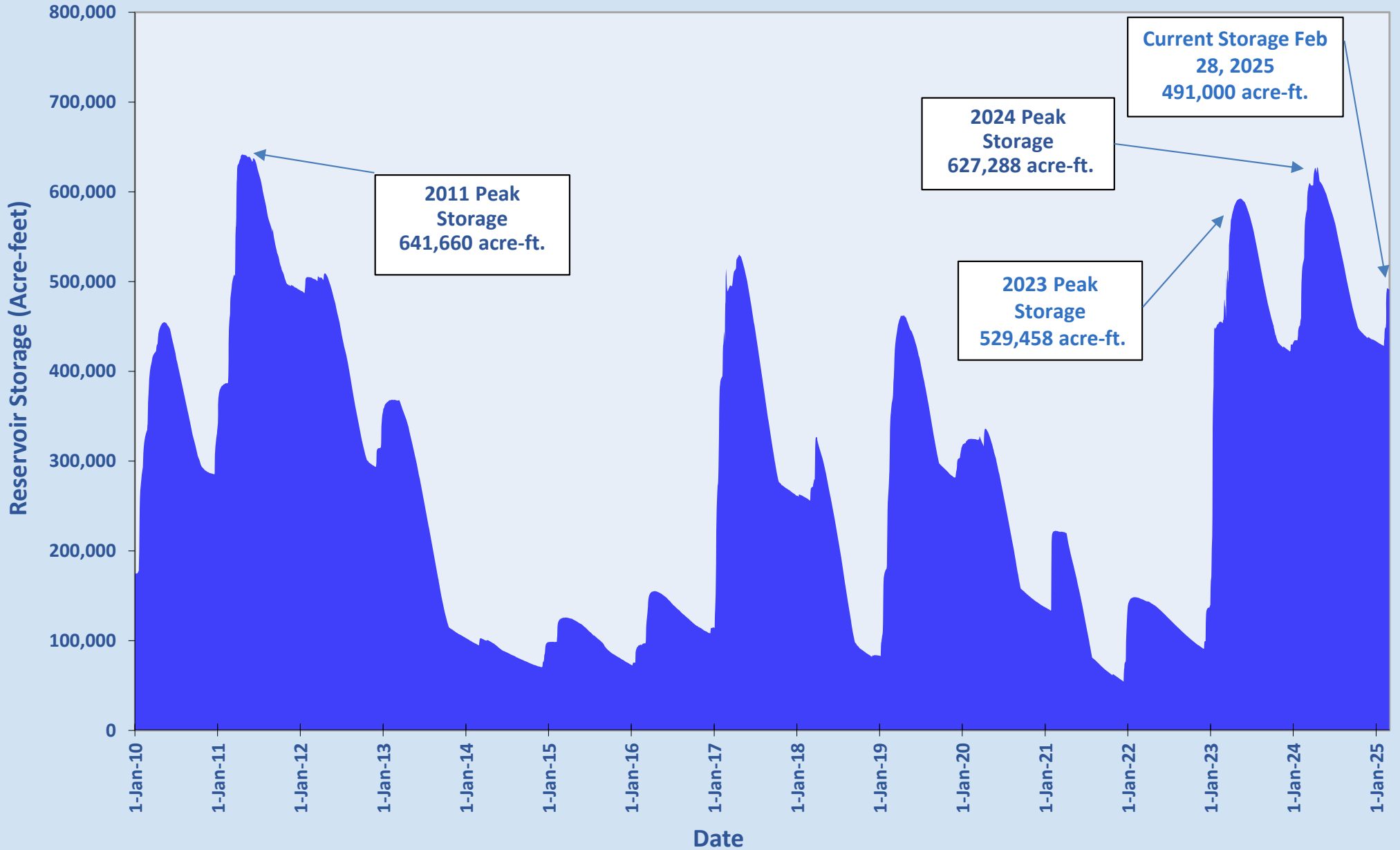
SAN ANTONIO RESERVOIR

DAILY STORAGE Since 2010



NACIMIENTO & SAN ANTONIO RESERVOIRS

Combined Storage Since 2010





2025 Release Schedule Proposal

- Provides full conservation releases/SRDF Operations, April 1 through mid-October.
- Complies with water rights withdrawal limits.
- Adheres to water rights Flow Prescription
- Manages temporary operational limitations
- Accommodates peak holiday recreational activities
- Provides operational flexibility



DRAFT RESERVOIR RELEASE SCHEDULE FOR 2025

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16
			NACIMIENTO								SAN ANTONIO					
Month	Combined Releases (cfs) ¹	Combined Releases (ac-ft)	Evap. Losses (ac-ft)	Reservoir Releases (cfs) ¹	Reservoir Releases (ac-ft)	NWP Orders (ac-ft)	NWP Diversions (ac-ft)	Beginning of Month			Evap. Losses (ac-ft)	Reservoir Releases (cfs) ¹	Reservoir Releases (ac-ft)	Beginning of Month		
								Storage		Elev.				Storage		Elev.
								(ac-ft)	(%)	(ft)				(ac-ft)	(%)	(ft)
Jan	73	4,487	554	63	3,872	600	126	199,548	53%	763.2	640	10	615	233,863	70%	759.5
Feb	172	9,894	486	60	3,466	553	97	196,183	52%	762.4	510	112	6,428	232,588	69%	759.2
Mar	217	13,345	990	152	9,320	696		251,160	66%	775.4	947	65	4,025	239,640	72%	760.8
Apr	380	22,592	1,375	368	21,878	677		251,998	67%	775.5	1,365	12	714	238,926	71%	760.6
May	409	25,171	1,905	326	20,033	1,616		228,011	60%	770.1	1,961	84	5,137	236,765	71%	760.1
Jun	488	29,058	2,462	358	21,283	2,129		204,298	54%	764.4	2,686	131	7,775	229,665	69%	758.5
Jul	600	36,893	2,457	270	16,602	2,188		178,656	47%	757.8	2,697	330	20,291	218,643	65%	755.8
Aug	638	39,234	2,184	275	16,899	2,188		157,413	42%	751.9	2,296	363	22,334	195,678	58%	749.8
Sep	470	27,967	1,675	279	16,622	2,144		136,174	36%	745.5	1,766	191	11,346	171,139	51%	743.0
Oct	220	13,527	1,110	158	9,719	1,369		115,741	31%	738.7	1,213	62	3,808	158,389	47%	739.2
Nov	70	4,165	558	60	3,570	996		104,012	28%	734.5	634	10	595	153,606	46%	737.7
Dec	70	4,304	341	60	3,689	594		98,916	26%	732.6	409	10	615	152,389	45%	737.3
Jan 2026								94,441	25%	730.9				151,400	45%	737.0
Totals		230,637	16,098		146,954	15,750	223				17,124		83,683			

Draft Date: 3/19/25





DRAFT RESERVOIR RELEASE SCHEDULE FOR 2025

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																Draft Date: 3/19/25

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Today's Action

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Board of Directors adopt a Release Schedule
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2025.

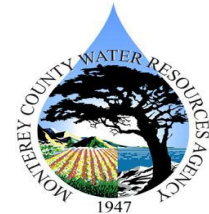
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Totals	230,703	16,098			146,944	15,750	223				17,124		83,759			

Draft Date: 3/20/25

Notes:

1. Mean daily flow for the month in cubic feet per second.
2. Shaded areas denote actual values. Non-shaded areas are projected values.
3. Nacimiento Reservoir storage capacity: 377,900 acre feet; San Antonio Reservoir storage capacity: 335,000 acre feet.
4. Reservoir Operations Advisory Committee may make release considerations for holiday periods to benefit recreation.
5. Schedule assumes no additional storm events that provide inflow to reservoirs. Actual elevations and or releases may be influenced by inflow.
6. "NWP Diversions" are San Luis Obispo County - Nacimiento Water Project conveyance facilities diversions. Max. allowable water year (Oct. 1 - Sept. 30) diversions: 15,750 ac-ft.
7. Nacimiento "NWP Diversions" do not include lakeside water use which is estimated at approximately 1,750 acre feet per year.





County of Monterey

Item No.3

Board Report

Board of Supervisors
Chambers
168 W. Alisal St., 1st Floor
Salinas, CA 93901

Legistar File Number: WRARO 25-021

March 27, 2025

Introduced: 3/19/2025

Current Status: Agenda Ready

Version: 1

Matter Type: WRA ResOps Item

Reservoir Storage & Release Update.

SUMMARY/DISCUSSION:

The Board of Directors receives monthly updates on the status of Agency reservoirs.

RESERVOIR ELEVATION / STORAGE: As of March 21, 2025, San Antonio Reservoir has a water surface elevation of approximately 761.05 feet (NGVD 29), with 240,720 acre-feet of water in storage. Nacimiento Reservoir has a water surface elevation of approximately 777.2 feet, with 259,730 acre-feet of water in storage. San Antonio Reservoir is currently at 72% of storage capacity and Nacimiento Reservoir is at 69% of capacity.

RAINFALL: Precipitation events in early February brought significant inflow to both reservoirs, with sustained smaller amounts of inflow through the month. Rainfall in early and mid-march brought lesser, but still measurable, inflow. Relative to February 1st, storage volumes at San Antonio and Nacimiento reservoirs are approximately 8,100 and 63,600 acre-feet higher, respectively.

SALINAS RIVER LAGOON: Following February winter storms that generated connected flow along the entire mainstem Salinas River, the Agency facilitated a breach of the lagoon to alleviate localized flooding in accordance with the Agency's Sandbar Management Plan on Saturday, February 15th, 2025. The lagoon and remains open to the ocean at the time of this report.

RESERVOIR RELEASES: Minimum fisheries releases have continued to be made from both reservoirs since the end last year's conservation releases in October. Additional releases from San Antonio Reservoir were made from February 17th through March 3rd in accordance with Flow Prescription requirements contained in Agency water rights licenses and permits, to support adult steelhead migration in the Salinas River. Additional required releases were again made from both reservoirs starting Sunday, March 16, 2025, to support downstream migration of steelhead smolt. Approximate releases as of the morning of February 21, 2025:

- Nacimiento Reservoir: 255 cfs
- San Antonio Reservoir: 50 cfs

Total releases from both reservoirs to the Salinas River are approximately 305 cfs. The following "provisional" flows have been recorded by the USGS:

- Nacimiento River below Nacimiento Dam 253 cfs
- Salinas River near Bradley: 407 cfs
- Salinas River at Soledad: 271 cfs
- Salinas River near Chualar: 223 cfs
- Salinas River near Spreckels: 166 cfs

Prepared by: Joseph Klein, Hydrologist (831) 755-4860
Peter Kwiek, Associate Hydrologist (831) 755-4860

Reservoir Storage & Release Update

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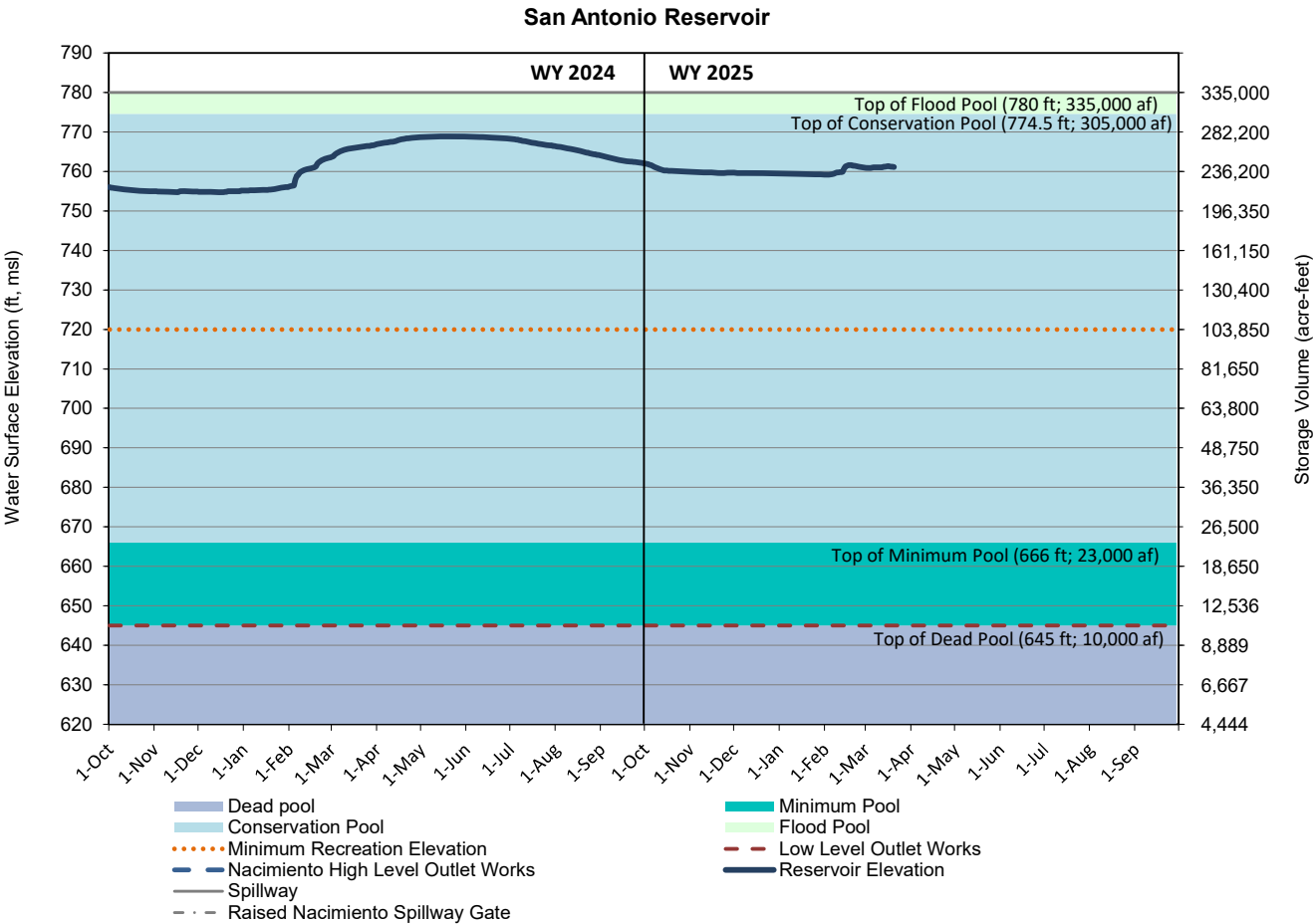
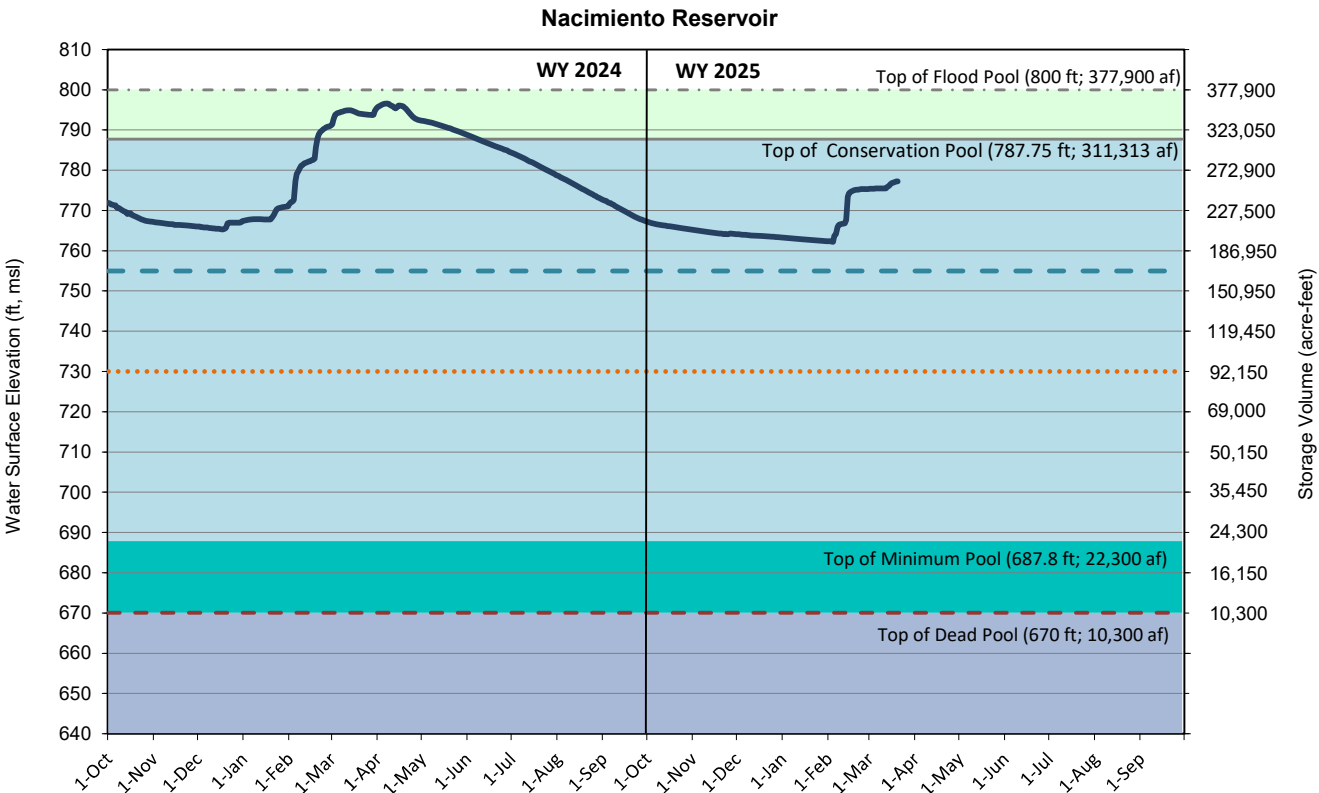
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Prepared by: Joseph Klein, Hydrologist (831) 755-4860
Peter Kwiek, Associate Hydrologist (831) 755-4860

Reservoir Elevation and Storage



Synopsis of Reservoir Release Changes

Since October 10, 2024

	San Antonio Reservoir		Nacimientto Reservoir		
Date	Starting Flow	Ending Flow	Starting Flow	Ending Flow	Total Releases
October 10, 2024	340	300	110	110	410
October 11, 2024	300	220	110	60	280
October 14, 2024	220	10	60	60	70
February 17, 2025	10	300	60	60	360
February 21, 2025	300	270	60	60	330
February 24, 2025	270	240	60	60	300
February 26, 2025	240	200	60	60	260
February 28, 2025	200	130	60	60	190
March 1, 2025	130	90	60	60	150
March 2, 2025	90	50	60	60	110
March 3, 2025	50	10	60	60	70
March 16, 2025	10	300	60	60	360
March 18, 2025	300	260	60	255	515
March 19, 2025	260	215	255	255	470
March 20, 2025	215	115	255	255	370
March 21, 2025	115	50	255	255	305

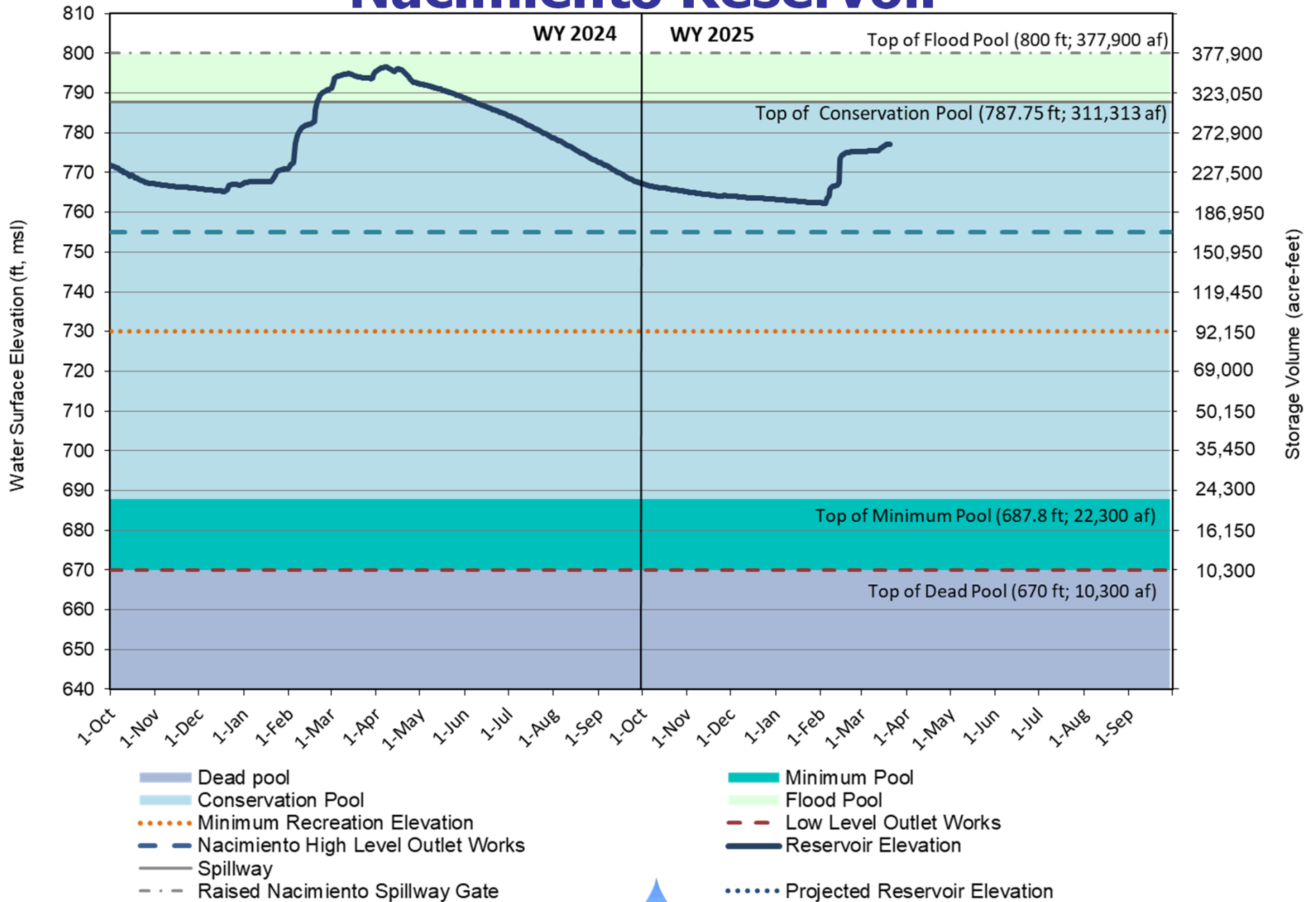
Current Reservoir Conditions

(3/21/25)

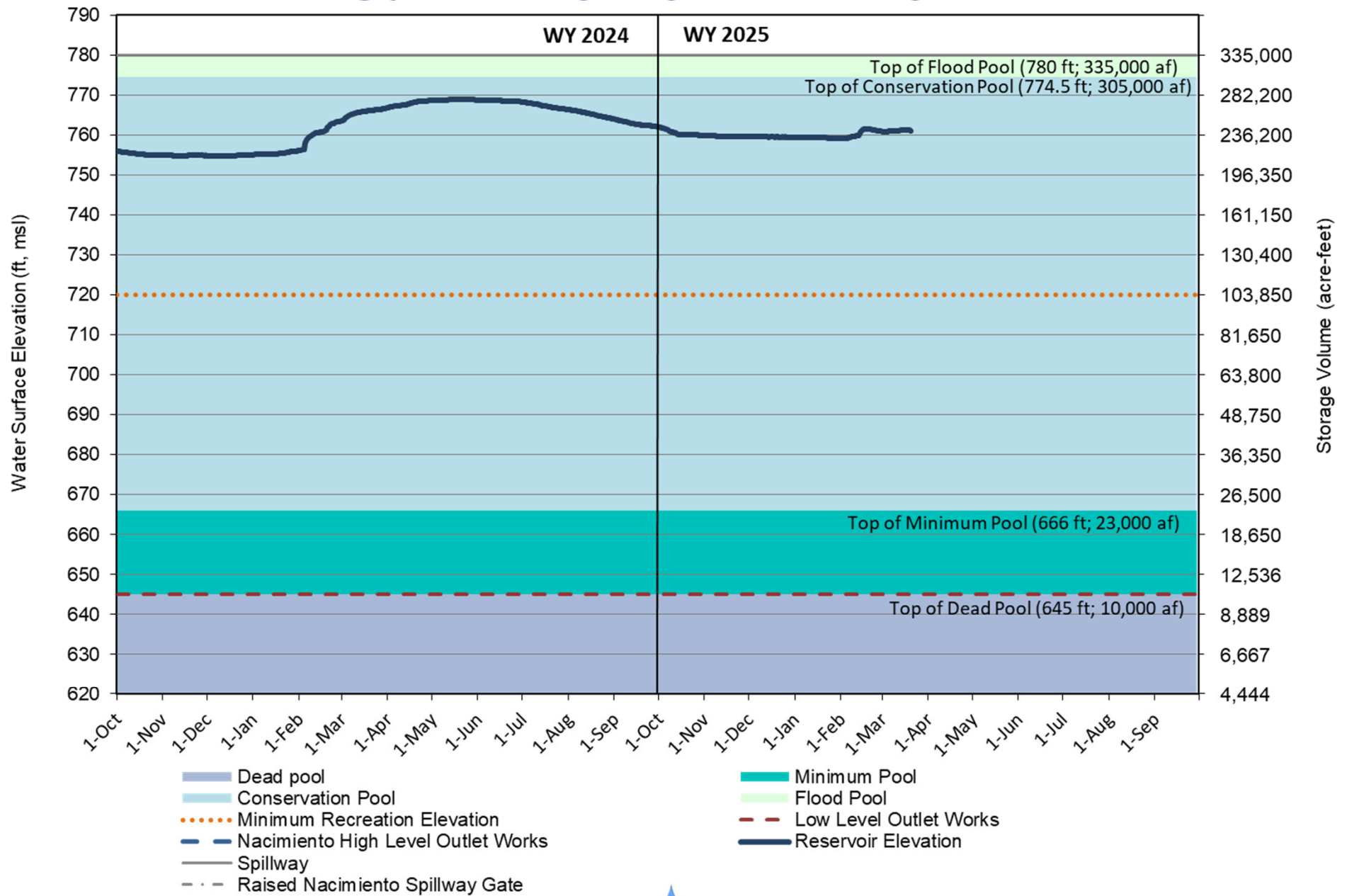
	Nacimiento	San Antonio
Percentage of Capacity	69%	72%
Elevation (ft.)	777.2	761.05
Storage (ac-ft)	259,730	240,720
Releases (cfs)	255	50



Nacimiento Reservoir



San Antonio Reservoir



Synopsis of Reservoir Release Changes

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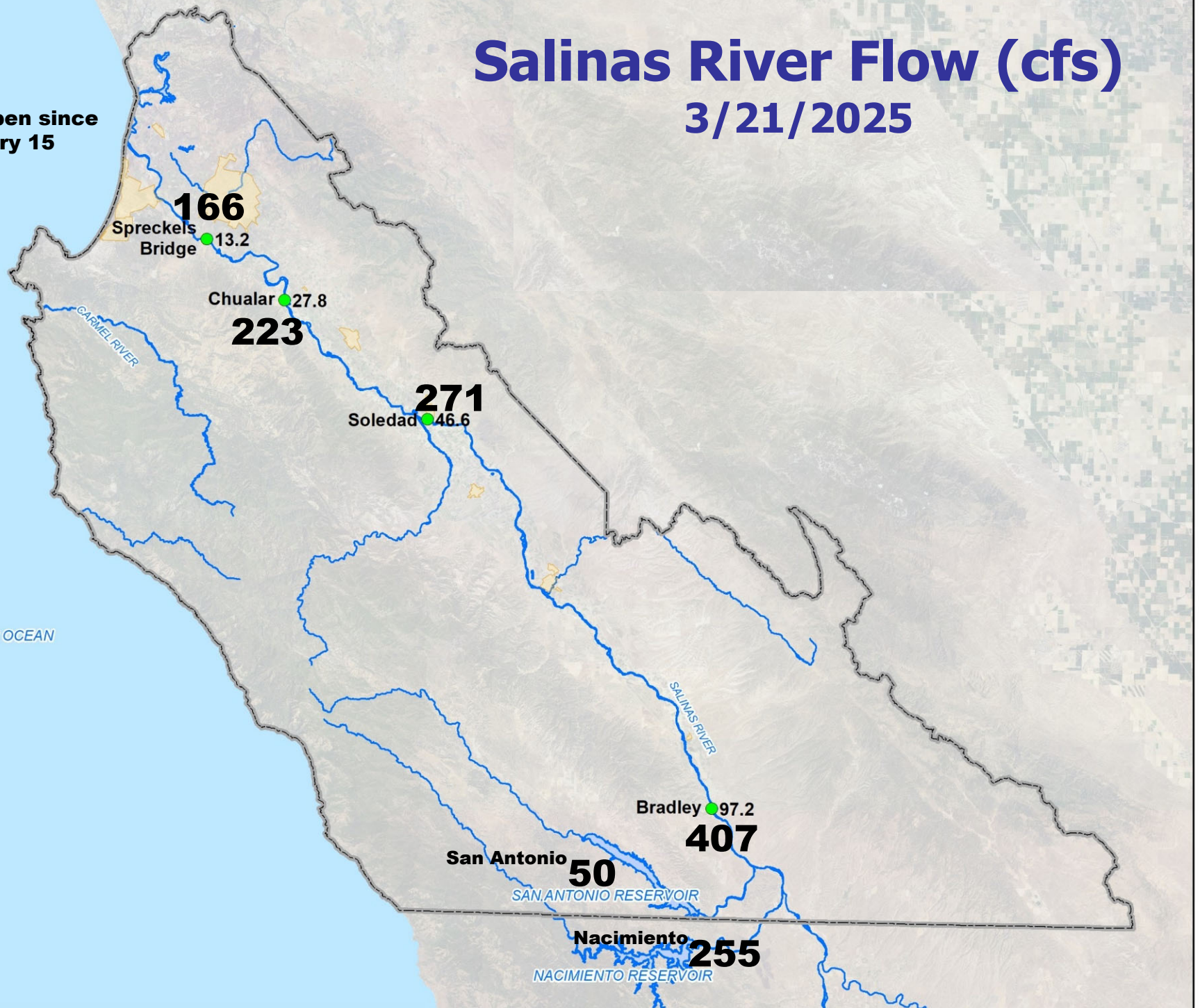


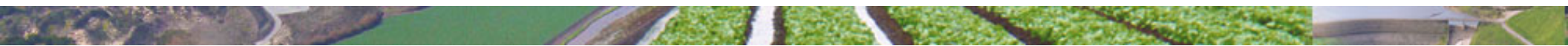
Salinas River Flow (cfs)

3/21/2025

Lagoon: Open since
February 15

PACIFIC OCEAN

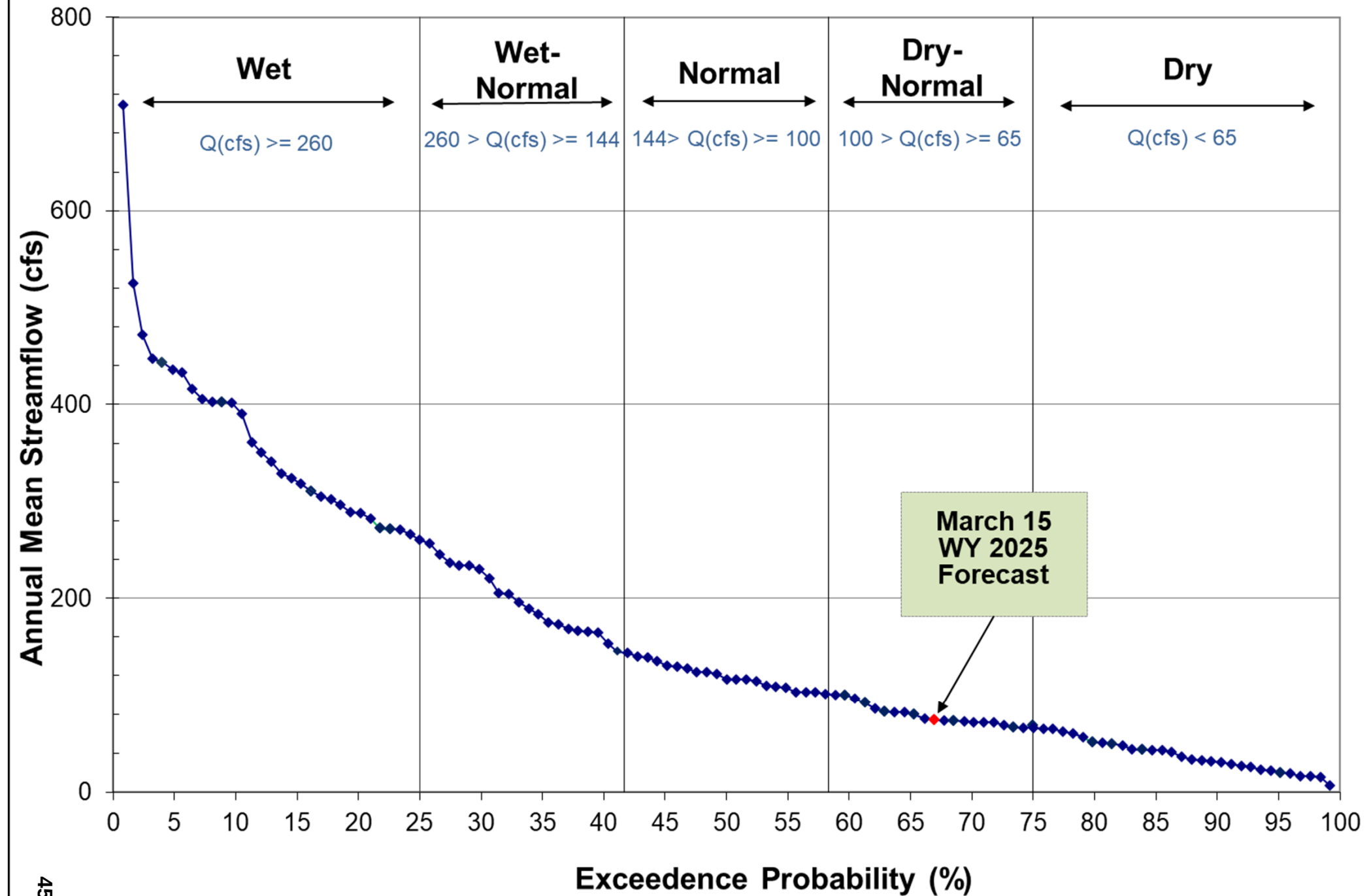




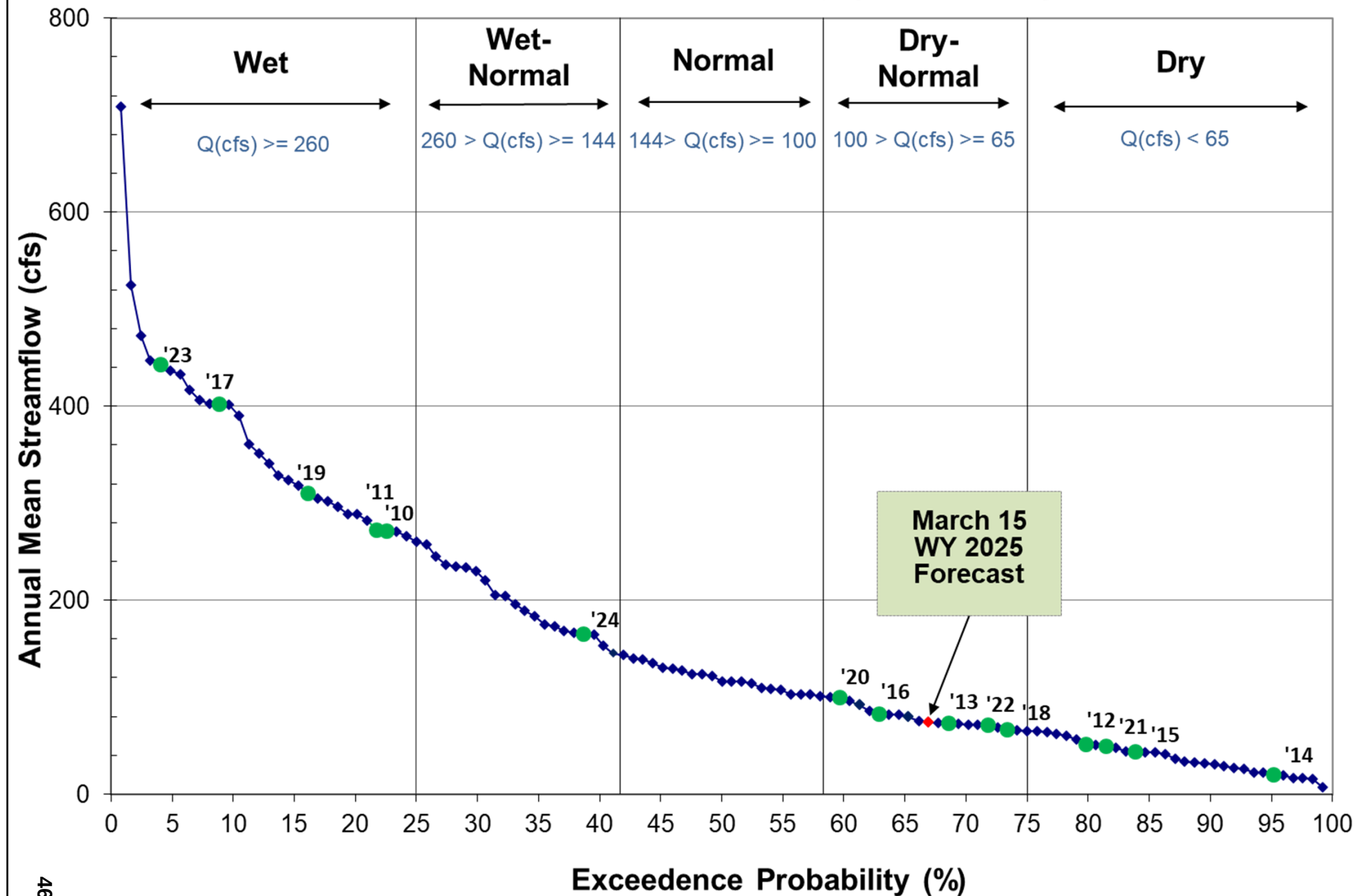
Year Type Forecast

Water Year 2025

Arroyo Seco Mean Unimpaired Annual Streamflow Exceedance Probability (1902-2023)



Arroyo Seco Mean Unimpaired Annual Streamflow Exceedance Probability (1902-2023)





County of Monterey

Item No.4

Board Report

Board of Supervisors
Chambers
168 W. Alisal St., 1st Floor
Salinas, CA 93901

Legistar File Number: WRARO 25-022

March 27, 2025

Introduced: 3/19/2025

Current Status: Agenda Ready

Version: 1

Matter Type: WRA ResOps Item

2025 Year Type Forecast (Staff Presenting: Joseph Klein)



County of Monterey

Item No.5

Board Report

Board of Supervisors
Chambers
168 W. Alisal St., 1st Floor
Salinas, CA 93901

Legistar File Number: WRARO 25-024

March 27, 2025

Introduced: 3/19/2025

Current Status: Agenda Ready

Version: 1

Matter Type: WRA ResOps Item

Current Operations and Maintenance Activities at the Reservoirs. (Staff Presenting: Jason Demers)



County of Monterey

Item No.6

Board Report

Board of Supervisors
Chambers
168 W. Alisal St., 1st Floor
Salinas, CA 93901

Legistar File Number: WRARO 25-017

March 27, 2025

Introduced: 3/11/2025

Current Status: Agenda Ready

Version: 1

Matter Type: WRA ResOps Item

- Reservoir Recreation by Concessionaire and Parks Department
- County of San Luis Obispo Activities
- National Marine Fisheries Service
- Invasive Mussel Update



County of Monterey

Item No.7

Board Report

Board of Supervisors
Chambers
168 W. Alisal St., 1st Floor
Salinas, CA 93901

Legistar File Number: WRARO 25-018

March 27, 2025

Introduced: 3/11/2025

Current Status: Agenda Ready

Version: 1

Matter Type: WRA ResOps Item

Set next meeting date and discuss future agenda items.