

Reservoir Storage & Release Update

SUMMARY/DISCUSSION:

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

RESERVOIR ELEVATION / STORAGE: As of January 9, 2026, San Antonio Reservoir has a water surface elevation of approximately 745.9 feet (NGVD 29), with 181,445 acre-feet of water in storage. Nacimiento Reservoir has a water surface elevation of approximately 759.55 feet, with 185,218 acre-feet of water in storage. San Antonio Reservoir is currently at 54% of storage capacity and Nacimiento Reservoir is at 49% of capacity.

RAINFALL: Recent rounds of rainfall have caused significant winter flows in the Salinas watershed. The first significant storm, from December 22, 2025 to December 28, 2025 created connected flow in the Salinas river from the upper watershed to the lagoon, with a peak flow of 4,238 cfs at the Nacimiento River below Sapaque Creek gage, above the Nacimiento reservoir on December 25, 2025. The second major group of rainfall events occurred between January 1, 2026 and January 6, 2026. This group created a peak flow of 8,836 cfs at Nacimiento below Sapaque on January 4, 2026, and a peak flow of 2,483 cfs at the San Antonio River near Lockwood gage, above the San Antonio Reservoir, on January 5, 2026.

Water year net inflows (since October 1, 2025) to the reservoirs are now 10,800 acre-feet to San Antonio Reservoir and 46,000 acre-feet to Nacimiento Reservoir.

SALINAS RIVER LAGOON: Following the late December rainfall and subsequent river flows, water surface elevation in the Salinas Lagoon rose from approximately 3 ft (NGVD29) to 4.9 ft. Following the second set of storms in early January, Lagoon water surface elevation rose from 4 ft on January 2, 2026 to above 5 ft on January 3, 2026. With natural flows from the Arroyo Seco and upper Salinas Rivers reaching the Lagoon and continuing to increase, the Agency facilitated a breach of the lagoon to alleviate localized flooding in accordance with the Agency's Low Effect Habitat Conservation Plan on January 4, 2026. Water surface elevation in the lagoon reached a peak of 6.82 ft on January 4, 2026.

RESERVOIR RELEASES: Minimum releases are being made from both reservoirs for maintenance of habitat below the dams. Conservation season releases concluded on Wednesday, September 24, 2025, from San Antonio Reservoir, and Friday, September 26, 2025 from Nacimiento Reservoir.

Releases as of January 9, 2026:

- Nacimiento Reservoir: 60 cfs
- San Antonio Reservoir: 10 cfs

Total releases from both reservoirs to the Salinas River are approximately 70 cfs. The following “provisional” flows have been recorded by the USGS:

- Nacimiento River below Nacimiento Dam 65 cfs
- Salinas River near Bradley: 388 cfs
- Salinas River near King City Greater than 295 cfs*
- Salinas River at Soledad: 710 cfs
- Arroyo Seco below Reliz Creek near Soledad 240 cfs
- Salinas River near Chualar: 778 cfs
- Salinas River near Spreckels: 779 cfs

*Partial range gage, not currently rated higher than 295 cfs.

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