

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 10, 2025, San Antonio Reservoir has a water surface elevation of approximately 761.0 feet (NGVD 29), with 240,500 acre-feet of water in storage. Nacimiento Reservoir has a water surface elevation of approximately 775.45 feet, with 251,620 acre-feet of water in storage. San Antonio Reservoir is currently at 72% of storage capacity and Nacimiento Reservoir is at 67% of capacity.

RAINFALL: Precipitation events since January have so far produced modest inflow to both reservoirs. Relative to early February, the start of seasonal inflow to both reservoirs this year, storage volumes at San Antonio and Nacimiento reservoirs are approximately 8,000 and 56,000 acre-feet higher, respectively. As of March 10, forecasted storms are expected to continue to add to reservoir storage.

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 from both reservoirs since the end last year's conservation releases in October. Additional releases from San Antonio Reservoir were initiated on Monday, February 17th, in accordance with Flow Prescription requirements contained in Agency water rights licenses and permits, to support adult steelhead migration in the Salinas River. Once passage conditions had been sustained for fourteen days, releases were reduced to minimum flows, on March 3rd.

Release Target flows as of the morning of March 10, 2025:

- 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 63 cfs
- Salinas River near Bradley: 206 cfs*
- Salinas River at Soledad: 98 cfs
- Salinas River near Chualar: 69 cfs
- Salinas River near Spreckels: 42 cfs

*Value considered suspect, pending calibration measurement later this month.

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