

## Reservoir Storage & Release Update

### SUMMARY/DISCUSSION:

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

**RESERVOIR ELEVATION / STORAGE:** As of April 18, 2024, San Antonio Reservoir has a water surface elevation of approximately 768.1 feet (NGVD 29), with 272,980 acre-feet of water in storage. Nacimiento Reservoir has a water surface elevation of approximately 795.75 feet, with 353,938 acre-feet of water in storage. San Antonio Reservoir is currently at 81% of storage capacity and Nacimiento Reservoir is at 94% of capacity.

**RESERVOIR RELEASES:** With all trigger thresholds substantially exceeded in the week leading up to the March 15 Year Type Forecast, the Agency initiated a block flow release on March 13 to best take advantage of existing flow in the Salinas River. As described in the Flow Prescription, a block flow release action is intended to meet and sustain a target of 700 cfs at the USGS Salinas River near Soledad streamflow gage (“Soledad gage”) for five consecutive days as soon as the trigger thresholds are exceeded on or after March 15, followed by a flow of 300 cfs at the Salinas River near Spreckels streamflow gage (“Spreckels gage”), to be sustained for 15 consecutive days or until April 20, whichever is longer. With recession limbs and river forecasts indicating a likely flow decline to below 700 cfs by around March 15, Nacimiento releases were increased by approximately 300 cfs on March 13, from 340 cfs to approximately 640 cfs. With provision of adequate releases to meet block flow requirements of at least 700 cfs at the Soledad gage from March 15-19, releases were then reduced to 340 cfs on March 19. Continued release adjustments were made in late March to meet block flow requirements. A reduction to minimum releases was completed on March 29, 2024, based on forecasted storm flows expected to sustain block flow requirements into early April.

Inflow to the Nacimiento Reservoir from March 29, 2024 through April 5, 2024 brought the water surface elevation from approximately 793.6 feet to 796.3 feet. With this increase, it became clear that planned releases would not be sufficient to lower the water surface elevation to the level of 787.75 feet that is required for spillway maintenance scheduled to begin on June 3, 2024. To meet this target, releases from Nacimiento Reservoir were increased to approximately 400 cfs on April 5, 2024, then approximately 1000 cfs on April 8, 2024. On April 10, 2024, there was an approximately four hour reduction in releases to approximately 350 cfs for inspection downstream of the dam.

On the weekend of April 13 and 14, 2024, An additional storm produced inflow to Nacimiento Reservoir, bringing the water surface elevation from approximately 795.2 feet up to approximately 796 feet. Due to this additional inflow, maintenance releases were increased to approximately 1500 cfs on April 18, 2024 with the continued goal of a water surface elevation of 787.75 feet by June 3, 2024. The block flow requirement of 300 cfs at the Spreckels gage continues to be met by both natural streamflow and maintenance releases.

**INFLOW:** Rainfall through the region this winter generated inflow to both reservoirs. As of April 6, 2024, storage volume at Nacimiento reservoir had increased by approximately 149,500 acre-feet and as of April 18, 2024, storage volume at San Antonio Reservoir has increased by approximately 60,000 acre-feet, since December 18, 2023, when reservoir elevations saw their first seasonal increase.

**SALINAS LAGOON:** High tides and large waves on December 28 and 30, 2023 caused the Salinas Lagoon to fill to over 7 feet in elevation. Agency staff managed the sandbar to open the lagoon to the ocean on January 4, 2024. The lagoon has remained open to the ocean since this action.

Releases as of the morning of April 18, 2024:

- Nacimiento Reservoir: 1010 cfs
- San Antonio Reservoir: 10 cfs

Total releases from both reservoirs to the Salinas River are approximately 1020 cfs. The following “provisional” flows have been recorded by the USGS:

- Salinas River near Bradley: 1,780 cfs
- Salinas River at Soledad: 1,660 cfs
- Salinas River near Chualar: 2,020 cfs
- Salinas River near Spreckels: 1,800 cfs

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