

Reservoir Storage & Release Update

SUMMARY/DISCUSSION:

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

RESERVOIR ELEVATION / STORAGE: As of February 19, 2026, San Antonio Reservoir has a water surface elevation of approximately 750.15 feet (NGVD 29), with 196,913 acre-feet of water in storage. Nacimiento Reservoir has a water surface elevation of approximately 770.15 feet, with 228,153 acre-feet of water in storage. San Antonio Reservoir is currently at 59% of storage capacity and Nacimiento Reservoir is at 60% of capacity.

RAINFALL: A series of storms throughout the month of February have brought renewed inflow to the reservoirs and created natural flow along the entire Salinas River. Seven-day rain accumulations have been recorded ranging from two inches in the drier valley floors of the Salinas, Nacimiento, and San Antonio watersheds to over nine inches in the Santa Lucia. Inflow to Nacimiento Reservoir peaked at 7,690 cfs measured at the Nacimiento River below Sapaque gage, and inflow to San Antonio Reservoir peaked at 5,810 cfs measured at the San Antonio River near Lockwood gage.

SALINAS RIVER LAGOON: Following storms in late December and 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. The Salinas Lagoon remains open to the ocean.

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 February 19, 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 70 cfs
- Salinas River near Bradley: 2670 cfs
- Salinas River near King City Greater than 603 cfs
- Salinas River at Soledad: 1210 cfs
- Arroyo Seco below Reliz Creek near Soledad 1250 cfs
- Salinas River near Chualar: 2830 cfs
- Salinas River near Spreckels: 2220 cfs

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Synopsis of Reservoir Release Changes
Since September 24, 2025

	San Antonio Reservoir		Nacimiento Reservoir		
Date	Starting Flow	Ending Flow	Starting Flow	Ending Flow	Total Releases
September 24, 2025	245	10	270	270	280
September 25, 2025	10	10	270	130	140
September 26, 2025	10	10	130	60	70

Reservoir Elevation and Storage

