

Reservoir Storage & Release Update

SUMMARY/DISCUSSION:

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

RESERVOIR ELEVATION / STORAGE: As of July 9, 2024, San Antonio Reservoir has a water surface elevation of approximately 767.8 feet (NGVD 29), with 271,540 acre-feet of water in storage. Nacimiento Reservoir has a water surface elevation of approximately 782.95 feet, with 287,255 acre-feet of water in storage. San Antonio Reservoir is currently at 81% of storage capacity and Nacimiento Reservoir is at 76% of capacity.

RESERVOIR RELEASES: Several late season storm events in April and May brought inflow to the Nacimiento Reservoir requiring an extended period of maintenance releases to ensure meeting a target elevation of 787.75 feet, required for scheduled spillway maintenance which began in early June. The Salinas River Diversion Facility (SRDF) has been rediverting flows since May 10 to supplement the recycled water project deliveries in the Castroville Seawater Intrusion Project (CSIP). After reaching the target elevation of 787.75 feet on June 8, 2024, releases were reduced to more closely target needs downstream. Releases were increased from Nacimiento reservoir on June 27 and July 5, 2024, and increased from San Antonio reservoir on July 2, 3, and 5, 2024. Reservoir release increases in late June and early July were necessitated by hot conditions leading to increased losses of river flow between gages, and demand at the SRDF.

SALINAS LAGOON: The lagoon has remained open to the ocean since this January 4.

Releases as of July 9, 2024:

- Nacimiento Reservoir: 397 cfs
- San Antonio Reservoir: 120 cfs

Total releases from both reservoirs to the Salinas River are approximately 517 cfs. The following “provisional” flows have been recorded by the USGS:

- Salinas River near Bradley: 465 cfs
- Salinas River at Soledad: 221 cfs
- Salinas River near Chualar: 98 cfs
- Salinas River near Spreckels: 37 cfs

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