

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 10, 2026, San Antonio Reservoir has a water surface elevation of approximately 747.25 feet (NGVD 29), with 186,263 acre-feet of water in storage. Nacimiento Reservoir has a water surface elevation of approximately 760.5 feet, with 188,900 acre-feet of water in storage. San Antonio Reservoir is currently at 56% of storage capacity and Nacimiento Reservoir is at 50% of capacity.

RAINFALL: There has been no significant rainfall since early January. Inflow to Nacimeinto reservoir has receded from a peak of 8760 cfs on January 4, 2026 to 14 cfs as of February 10, 2026. Inflow to San Antonio Reservoir has receded from a peak of 2880 cfs on January 4, 2026 to 38 cfs as of February 10, 2026. Rain is starting to fall in the Santa Lucia range, with renewed inflow to both reservoirs expected.

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 10, 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: 106 cfs
- Salinas River near King City 88 cfs
- Salinas River at Soledad: 120 cfs
- Arroyo Seco below Reliz Creek near Soledad 0 cfs
- Salinas River near Chualar: 60 cfs
- Salinas River near Spreckels: 47 cfs

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