

**MONTEREY COUNTY WATER RESOURCES AGENCY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS
RESERVOIR OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

David Hart, Chair
Ken Ekelund
Richard Ortiz
Mark Nielsen
David Pozzi
Mark Gonzalez

John Baillie
Benny Jefferson
Dean Benedix
Richard Riddle (Parks)
Mark Sandoval (CalParks)

TIME: 1:30 pm
DATE: Thursday March 5, 2015
PLACE: Monterey County Water Resources Agency
Board Room
893 Blanco Circle
Salinas, CA 93901

AGENDA

1. **CALL TO ORDER**
2. **PUBLIC COMMENT**
(Limited to three (3) minutes per speaker on matters within the jurisdiction of the Agency not listed on this agenda. The public will have the opportunity to ask questions and make statements on agenda items as the Committee considers them.)
3. **APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE RESERVOIR OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON FEBRUARY 5, 2015**
The Committee will consider approval of the minutes of the above-mentioned meeting (Attachment 1).
4. **REVIEW THE STATUS OF BOTH RESERVOIRS; REVIEW RELEASES AND RELEASE SCHEDULE**
Staff will present a summary of current conditions at both reservoirs, as well as provide a synopsis of release changes that have occurred since the last meeting (Attachments 2, 2a, 3, 3a, 4). Staff will discuss reservoir inflow and inflow forecasts.
5. **RECEIVE REPORT ON CLOUD-SEEDING**
Staff will report on and discuss possible options for cloud-seeding opportunities.

- 6. RECEIVE REPORT REGARDING OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE ACTIVITIES AT THE RESERVOIRS**
Brent Buche, Assistant General Manager / Chief of Operations and Maintenance will present a verbal report discussing the various Operations and Maintenance activities at both reservoirs that have occurred over the last month.
- 7. RECEIVE REPORT REGARDING INTERLAKE TUNNEL PROJECT**
Staff will report on current activities regarding the interlake tunnel project.
- 8. RECEIVE REPORTS ON STATUS OF:**
 - A. LAKE RECREATION BY CONCESSIONAIRE & PARKS DEPARTMENT**
 - B. EASEMENTS AND AGENCY LEASES**
 - C. QUAGGA / ZEBRA MUSSEL PLAN**
 - D. UPDATE ON SLO COUNTY ACTIVITIES**
- 9. SET NEXT MEETING DATE AND DISCUSS FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**
The Committee will discuss and determine details for its next meeting.
- 10. ADJOURNMENT**

**MONTEREY COUNTY WATER RESOURCES AGENCY
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TIME: 1:30 p.m.
DATE: Thursday, February 5, 2015
**PLACE: Monterey County Water Resources Agency
Board Room
893 Blanco Circle
Salinas, CA 93901
(831) 755-4860**

MINUTES

1. CALL TO ORDER @ 1:32 p.m. by Chair David Hart.

Members present: David Hart, Ken Ekelund, Richard Ortiz, Mark Nielsen, David Pozzi, John Baillie, Benny Jefferson, Dean Benedix, Casey Nielsen (representing Parks), Nate Merkle (representing CalParks)

Members absent: Mark Gonzalez

A quorum was established.

2. PUBLIC COMMENT

Committee Member John Baillie provided several comments. The California Department of Water Resources website contains a map that identifies all the sloughs that run into the Salinas River and many of the sloughs shown for the Blanco area no longer exist. The Ad Hoc Committee meetings that include members of the Board of Directors and Board of Supervisors need to have transparency and should be addressed due to previous issues. A report dated February 2015 developed by water lawyers in Sacramento states that local water agencies can enforce mandatory water conservation restrictions. Mr. Baillie asked when the Agency would be submitting a written document to the Board of Supervisors to declare that Monterey County is in an extreme drought.

Committee Member Ken Ekelund stated he recently met with Doug Smith, CSUMB professor, and he mentioned he is in favor of the Jerrett Site for permit 11043.

Directors Hart and Ortiz will be leaving @ 1:45 p.m. to attend the Board of Directors and Board of Supervisors Ad Hoc Committee meeting.

3. APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE RESERVOIR OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETING HELD ON JANUARY 8, 2015

Committee Action: On motion and second of Committee members John Baillie and Benny Jefferson the Committee unanimously approved the minutes.

4. REVIEW THE STATUS OF BOTH RESERVOIRS; REVIEW RELEASES AND RELEASE SCHEDULE

Jason Demers, Hydrologist, provided a status report. Nacimiento Reservoir elevation is 727.70 feet and 86,515 acre-feet of storage, 23% of capacity, and current release is 30 cfs. San Antonio Reservoir elevation is 649.00 feet and 12,014 acre-feet of storage, 4% of capacity, and current release is 5 cfs.

The Salinas River near Bradley USGS gage has been recording approximately 35 cfs. There has been no change in the releases since August 2014. The Committee reviewed the preliminary release schedule with reservoir information for the year to date. A preliminary release schedule for the complete calendar year will be presented to the Committee at the April meeting. Rainfall forecasted for the area tomorrow is expected to bring three to six inches to the Santa Lucia Mountains and approximately two inches in the Salinas Valley.

The National Weather Service keeps records for the Salinas No. 2 gage in South Salinas dating back to 1958. For this area, December 2014 had a record high rainfall of 7.45 inches. January 2015 had a record low of zero rainfall, which was only the second time since 1958 that zero rainfall was recorded for January. Zero rainfall was also recorded in January 1971.

The Salinas Valley remains in the drought category 3 (Extreme Drought) condition and South County is category 4 (Exceptional Drought). The National Weather Service predicts a 50-60% chance of an El Niño developing over the next couple of months and a 33-40% chance of above-normal rainfall for February through April. A 50-60% chance of above-normal temperatures is also being predicted for the same months.

David Hart and Richard Ortiz left the meeting and Ken Ekelund took over facilitating the meeting.

5. RECEIVE REPORT ON CLOUD-SEEDING

Germán Criollo, Associate Water Resources Hydrologist, reported on possible options for cloud-seeding opportunities. Staff contacted the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD) to obtain information relating to environmental impacts of the program. Their cloud-seeding program has been in place since 1975 and was ground-based until 2008, and then began using airplanes.

About \$150,000 is spent each year on the program and the rainfall gained is estimated at between 1-3 %. SMUD suggested the Agency contact Santa Barbara County to obtain

information on the process Santa Barbara County followed to implement its cloud-seeding program.

The Committee asked about the targeted area for cloud-seeding by SMUD. John Baillie stated there is currently an Assembly Bill that proposes to re-organize the CEQA process to include exemptions for projects that are experiencing droughts.

Dean Benedix talked about PG&E doing cloud-seeding for 30 years and being exempt. San Luis Obispo (SLO) County is looking to do an analysis to determine what would be most beneficial. SLO County Public Works requested information on the Agency's cloud-seeding program and was provided a copy of the Negative Declaration from 2009.

6. RECEIVE REPORT REGARDING OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE ACTIVITIES AT THE RESERVOIRS

A. OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE ACTIVITIES

Brent Buche, Assistant General Manager / Chief of Operations and Maintenance presented a verbal report on O&M activities. At Nacimiento, staff is working with Monterey County Public Works on the installing new monuments at the dam, as required by the FERC and DSOD.

Staff is also coordinating with San Luis Obispo County on providing their staff access to their project.

San Antonio now has a new caretaker residing there. The water system has always been provided by the reservoir and it is now being trucked in. Monterey County Parks Department (Parks) has a water treatment system at Nacimiento and Agency staff is coordinating with them.

At the Nacimiento Hydroelectric Plant, Unit 2 is still in non-operation mode. The reservoir elevation needs to be at 728 feet and rising in order to operate Unit 2 and the Agency anticipates reaching this level with this weekend's rainfall. Maintenance is being done on the linkage that operates the wicket gates on Unit 2. Also, the fire alarm has been replaced, connected, and tested. A live test can be conducted once there is water to generate power.

As requested by NRWMAC, the Agency has scheduled a public information meeting about the Interlake Tunnel Project. The presentation is scheduled for Thursday, February 26, 2015 at 6:00 p.m. at Heritage Ranch Conference Room Rec Barn. Notices will be sent via U.S. mail and email and provided to Parks and CalParks staff for posting at the reservoirs.

7. RECEIVE REPORTS ON STATUS OF:

A. LAKE RECREATION BY CONCESSIONAIRE & PARKS DEPARTMENT

Casey Nielsen, Monterey County Parks Department, provided a report. Parks developed a draft of the Strategic Plan and presented it to the Parks Commission. The document is available on the Parks website. Parks anticipates having a new Director by March 2015. The monthly report for January 2015 for boat usage reports 548 staff hours for

inspectors at a cost of approximately \$9,000. There were 171 inspected boats and 160 abandoned boats. Parks has starting working on the budget for this next fiscal year and it does not look favorable for San Antonio. The San Antonio Wildflower Triathlon is still scheduled for May 2015.

Nate Merkle, CalParks also provided an update. If the reservoir doesn't receive any rain in February staff will begin moving the marina due to the lake level. There is still no fuel – was shut down earlier. The fuel line is difficult to move when full and costly to shut off and on. Business has been slow but picked up a bit when the weather was warm.

B. EASEMENTS AND AGENCY LEASES

Brent Buche stated there are no updates on easements and leases. Prior to Chris Keehn retiring, he was working with County Counsel on several property issues. The documents are currently at County Counsel's for review.

C. QUAGGA / ZEBRA MUSSEL PLAN

Elizabeth Krafft, Senior Hydrologist, provided a report. Training classes for new inspectors and screeners are being scheduled for the upcoming season. In addition, SLO will be providing recertification training for approximately 112 people. The Agency is seeking ways to convey the message to the non-boating community; Parks and NRWAC are looking into doing on-screen advertisements at theaters.

Casey Nielsen stated Parks submitted a grant application to the State Boating and Waterways and provided a vulnerability assessment.

D. UPDATE ON SLO COUNTY ACTIVITIES

Dean Benedix, SLO County Public Works, provided an update. Work on the leak repair at the Nacimiento Water Project started last week. The work involves installing new pipe inside the existing leaking pipe. SLO County has been utilizing approximately 40-50% of its water entitlement. There will be an agreement that all the agencies are going to buy all the water available. All the water will be accounted for by specific agencies, probably within the next two years. There will be amendments made to the contract that will remove some restrictions on how each agency can use the water.

8. SET NEXT MEETING DATE AND DISCUSS FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday March 5, 2015 at 1:30 p.m. at the Agency.

An item providing an update on the Interlake Tunnel Project will be included in the agenda for the next meeting.

9. ADJOURNMENT BY KEN EKELUND @ 2:47 p.m.

SUBMITTED BY: TERESA CAMPA

**MONTEREY COUNTY WATER RESOURCES AGENCY
BOARD OF DIRECTORS - RESERVOIR OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**

MEETING DATE:	March 5, 2015	AGENDA ITEM:	
AGENDA TITLE:	Reservoir Release Update		
Consent () Action () Information (X)			
SUBMITTED BY:	Germán Criollo	PREPARED BY:	Jason Demers
PHONE:	(831) 755-4860	PHONE:	(831) 755-4860
DEADLINE FOR BOARD ACTION:	March 5, 2015		

RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION:

None – item presented for informational purposes.

SUMMARY:

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

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS:

RESERVOIR ELEVATION / STORAGE: As of February 26, 2015, San Antonio Reservoir is at an elevation of approximately 655.65 feet mean sea level (msl), 15,773 acre-feet of storage. Nacimiento Reservoir is at elevation 736.3 feet msl, 108,825 acre-feet of storage. San Antonio Reservoir is currently at 5% of storage capacity and Nacimiento Reservoir is at 29% of capacity.

RESERVOIR RELEASES: As directed by the Agency Board of Directors and in coordination with guidelines provided by the National Marine Fisheries Service, releases from Nacimiento were incrementally decreased to a target flow rate of 25 cfs. Releases from San Antonio Reservoir remain at 5 cfs.

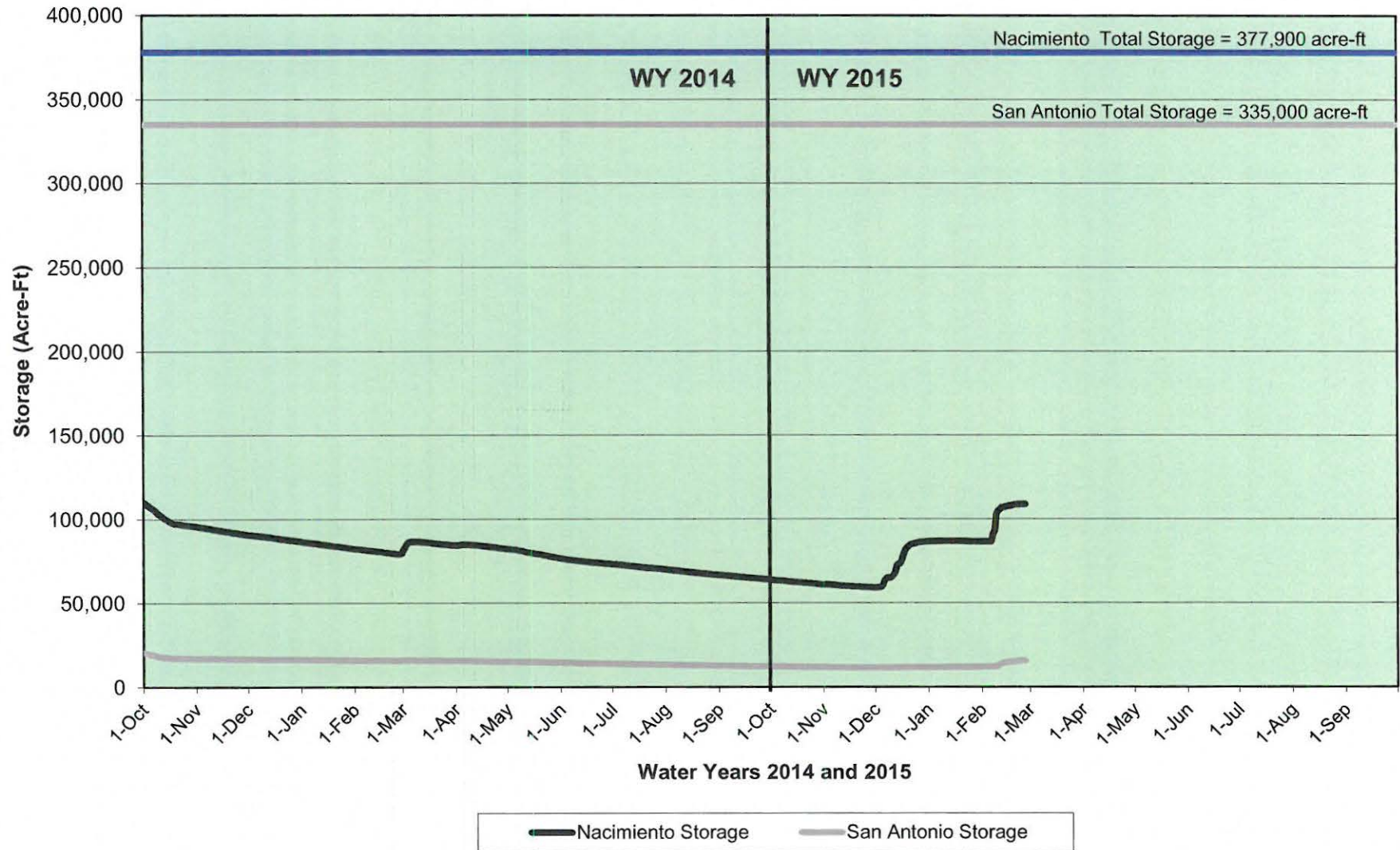
Releases as of February 26, 2015:

- Nacimiento Reservoir: 30 cfs
- San Antonio Reservoir: 5 cfs

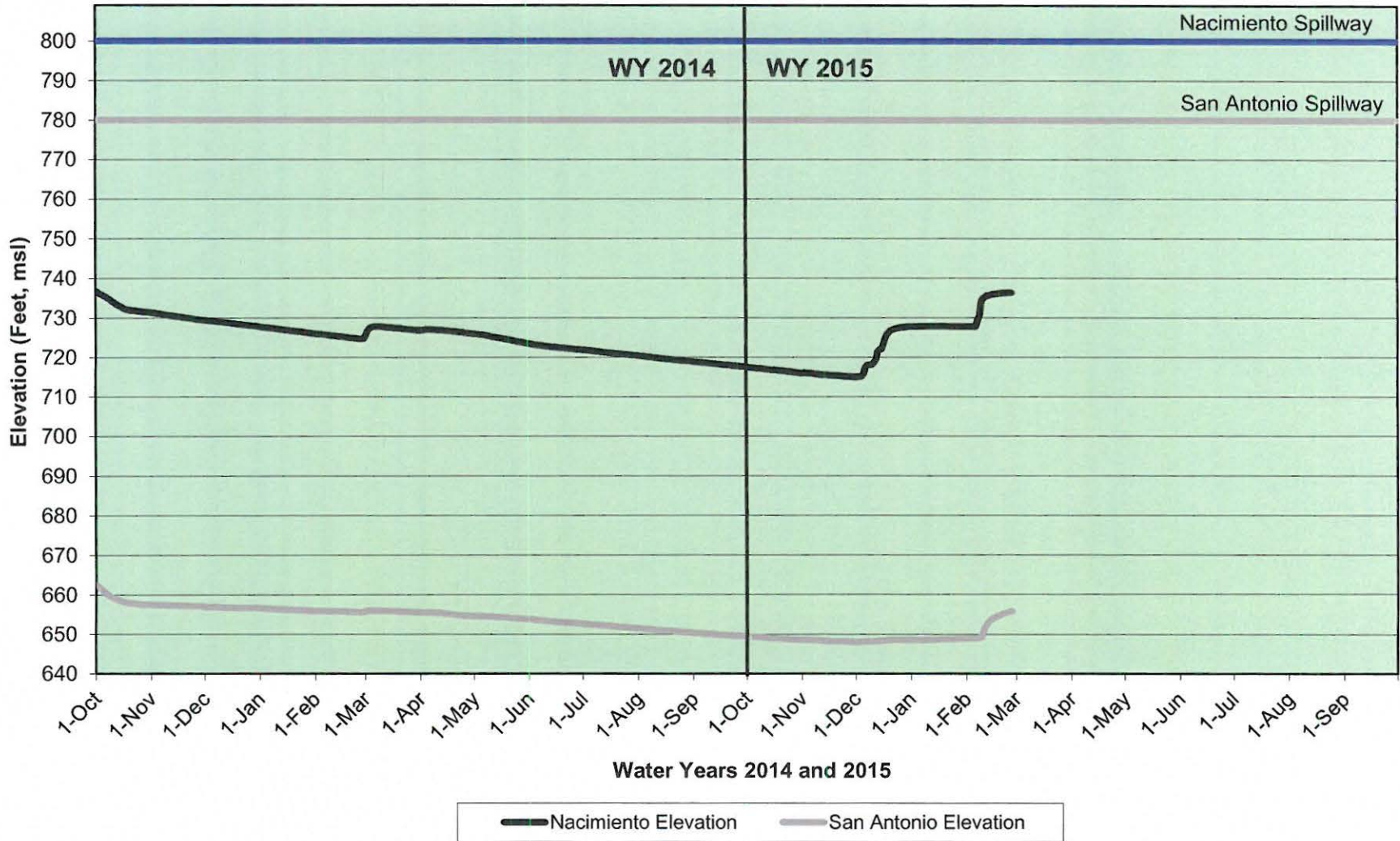
Total releases from both reservoirs to the Salinas River are approximately 35 cfs. The following “provisional” flows have been recorded by the USGS:

- Salinas River near Spreckels: 0 cfs
- Salinas River near Chualar: 0 cfs
- Salinas River near Soledad: 0 cfs
- Salinas River near Bradley: 37 cfs (steady)

Reservoir Storage



Reservoir Elevation



MONTEREY COUNTY WATER RESOURCES AGENCY
PRELIMINARY - Estimated Elevation/Storage/NWP Diversions; after Feb. 1st

2/26/2015

RESERVOIR RELEASE SCHEDULE FOR 2015

	NACIMIENTO								SAN ANTONIO					
	Combined Releases (cfs)*	Combined Releases (ac-ft)	Evap. Losses (ac-ft)**	Reservoir Releases (cfs)*	Reservoir Releases (ac-ft)	NWP Orders (ac-ft)	NWP Diversions (ac-ft)	Storage (ac-ft)	Elev. (ft)	Evap. Losses (ac-ft)**	Reservoir Releases (cfs)*	Reservoir Releases (ac-ft)	Storage (ac-ft)	Elev. (ft)
1/1/2015	35	2,152	255	30	1,845	0	0	86,638	727.8	47	5	307	11,775	648.6
2/1/2015								86,515	727.7				12,003	649.0
3/1/2015														
4/1/2015														
5/1/2015														
6/1/2015														
7/1/2015														
8/1/2015														
9/1/2015														
10/1/2015														
11/1/2015														
12/1/2015														
1/1/2016														
TOTALS:		2,152	255		1,845	0	0			47		307		

* Mean daily flow for the month in cubic feet per second.

** Evap. Losses estimated from long term pan evaporation data at Nacimiento and San Antonio Reservoirs.

NOTES:

- Nacimiento Reservoir storage capacity 377,900 acre feet.
- San Antonio Reservoir storage capacity 335,000 acre feet.
- Reservoir Operations Committee may make release considerations for fish spawn and holiday periods to benefit recreation.
- Shaded areas represent periods when elevations are influenced by inflow/runoff; releases may include flood control releases.
- Preliminary Schedule assumes no inflow to reservoirs after May 1st.
- "NWP Diversions" are San Luis Obispo County - Nacimiento Water Project conveyance facilities diversions. Max. allowable diversions for water year (Oct. 1 - Sept. 30) are 15,750 ac-ft. To Be Reported (TBR)
- NACIMIENTO "NWP Diversions" do not include lakeside water use which is estimated at approximately 1,750 acre feet per year.