

**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  
Paavo Ogren  
Tom Shepherd/Richard Riddle (Parks)  
Mark Sandoval (CalParks)

**TIME:** 1:30 pm  
**DATE:** Wednesday March 5, 2014  
**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 6, 2014**

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; AND, DISCUSS SALINAS RIVER DIVERSION FACILITY OPERATIONAL STRATEGIES FOR THE 2014 SEASON**

Howard Franklin, Senior Water Resources Hydrologist, 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 forecasts and present Salinas River Diversion Facility operational options for the Committee to consider.

5. **RECEIVE REPORT ON AGENCY DISCUSSIONS WITH NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES ON POSSIBLE RESERVOIR OPERATION DROUGHT CONTINGENCIES**  
Staff will report on options for reducing minimum release requirements from Nacimiento and San Antonio Reservoirs.
6. **RECEIVE REPORT ON CLOUD-SEEDING**  
Staff will report on and discuss possible options for cloud-seeding opportunities.
7. **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.
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  
BOARD OF DIRECTORS  
RESERVOIR OPERATIONS COMMITTEE**

David Hart, Chair  
Ken Ekelund  
*Vacant (BOD Rep)*  
Mark Nielsen  
David Pozzi  
Mark Gonzales

John Baillie  
Benny Jefferson  
Paavo Ogren  
Tom Shepherd (Parks)  
Mark Sandoval (CalParks)

**TIME:** 1:30 p.m.  
**DATE:** Thursday, February 6, 2014  
**PLACE:** Monterey County Water Resources Agency  
Board Room  
893 Blanco Circle  
Salinas, CA 93901  
(831) 755-4860

**MINUTES**

**1. CALL TO ORDER @ 1:30 p.m. by Chair David Hart.**

Members present: David Hart, David Pozzi, Mark Gonzales, John Baillie,  
Benny Jefferson, Paavo Ogren, Richard Riddle (*for Tom Shepherd*),  
Mark Sandoval

Members absent: Ken Ekelund, Mark Nielsen

A quorum was established.

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

None

**3. APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE RESERVOIR OPERATIONS COMMITTEE HELD ON JANUARY 9, 2014**

The following correction will be made to Item 4: San Antonio Minimum Pool is at elevation 666 feet and 23,000 Acre-Foot Storage.

**Committee Action:** On motion and second of Committee members John Baillie and Mark Gonzales, the Committee unanimously approved the minutes, with the correction stated above.

**4. REVIEW THE STATUS OF BOTH RESERVOIRS; AND, REVIEW RELEASES AND RELEASE SCHEDULE / DISCUSS POSSIBLE RELEASE OPTIONS**

Howard Franklin, Senior Water Resources Hydrologist/Program Manager provided a status report. There is a flow of 79 cfs in the Salinas River at Bradley. The Committee discussed

water orders received through September 2014 for the San Luis Obispo County Nacimiento Water Project. The Committee reviewed elevation projections for Nacimiento and San Antonio and discussed scenarios for next season based on forecasts.

**NACIMIENTO** elevation is 725.65 feet and 81,578 acre-feet of storage, 22% of capacity, and current release is 60 cfs.

**SAN ANTONIO** elevation is 655.90 feet and 15,935 acre-feet of storage, 5% of capacity, and current release is 10 cfs.

**5. RECEIVE REPORT ON AGENCY DISCUSSION WITH NATIONAL MARINE FISHERIES ON POSSIBLE RESERVOIR OPERATION DROUGHT CONTINGENCIES**

Howard Franklin reported on this item and discussed operation strategies for the 2014 SRDF season. At the direction of this Committee and the Board of Directors, staff has met with NOAA Fisheries to discuss reducing minimum releases from both reservoirs. The Committee reviewed elevation, inflow and release projections for San Antonio and Nacimiento reservoirs. Options were discussed with the Committee recommending holding back on releases if the reservoirs lacked to outflow capacity for flows necessary to operate the Salinas River Diversion Facility (SRDF). The Committee urged the Agency to obtain a commitment from National Marine Fisheries to allow for a reduction in the minimum releases during times of drought.

**COMMITTEE ACTION:** By motion from John Baillie and seconded by Benny Jefferson, the Committee approved an action for staff to evaluate if conditions would exist for operation of the SRDF for the period April 1 through October 31, 2014. If there were a reasonable option for SRDF operations, of two to four weeks in April, it was the direction of the Committee that an attempt is made to do so. Additionally, whether the SRDF is operated or not, the Agency should reduce to minimum fisheries to the extent possible as negotiated with National Marine Fisheries. The Committee recommends this action to the full Board of Directors for approval.

**AYES:** 7  
**NOES:** 1

**6. RECEIVE REPORT ON CLOUD-SEEDING**

Robert Johnson, Assistant General Manager & Chief of Water Resources Management, reported on past cloud-seeding events. In 2004 a cloud-seeding reserve fund was started as recommended by this Committee. Funds were initially added annually to the reserve fund until budget issues were encountered. The existing reserve fund currently has \$125,000. In 2010 a Mitigated Negative Declaration for cloud-seeding activities was prepared for CEQA compliance, but the Agency was informed that legal action would be taken if a full Environmental Impact Report (EIR) was not prepared. For perspective, it was reported to the Committee that the cost of the EIR being developed by the Agency for channel maintenance has to date exceeded \$600,000. The committee was also informed that storm patterns this season were not “ideal” for cloud-seeding opportunities. Additionally, concerns of possible landslides and debris flows in the areas where wild fires have occurred

have raised opposition to cloud-seeding activities. There was discussion on cloud seeding efforts by Santa Barbara County in which they utilize cost-sharing with water purveyors in their area; and their successful use of a Mitigated Negative Declaration for CEQA compliance. The Committee suggested the Agency explore similar options. Mr. Ogren stated there may be CEQA exemptions due to the State Declaration of a Drought Emergency and offered to discuss the cost-sharing idea with the Board of Supervisors in SLO County.

At the Committee's direction, the Agency has been asked to continue to explore possibilities for cloud-seeding.

**COMMITTEE ACTION:** On motion of Committee member Paavo Ogren and a second from Mark Gonzalez, the Committee unanimously approved Agency staff direction to pursue options for cloud-seeding opportunities and seek eligibility information for the use of a Negative Declaration under the Emergency Drought Declaration.

**7. RECEIVE REPORT ON EFFORTS RELATED TO PASO ROBLES GROUNDWATER BASIN**

Paavo Ogren, San Luis Obispo County, provided a report on computer modeling of the Paso Robles Groundwater Basin, feasibility studies, governance and management and the potential creation of a water district for management of the groundwater basin. Mr. Ogren will coordinate with Agency staff to give a presentation to the Board of Directors.

**8. RECEIVE REPORT REGARDING OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE ACTIVITIES AT THE RESERVOIRS**

Brent Buche, Assistant General Manager & Chief of Operations and Maintenance, provided an update on operations and maintenance activities at the reservoirs. The annual inspection with DSOD will be scheduled for February or March. Staff will conduct an evaluation on what repairs need to be made to the inlet structure to the outlet works and trash racks at San Antonio. The evaluation has been delayed because of inaccessibility to the location due to closed ramps as well as excessive mud preventing a walk-in inspection.

**9. RECEIVE REPORTS ON STATUS OF:**

**A. LAKE RECREATION BY CONCESSIONAIRE & PARKS DEPARTMENT**

Richard Riddle, Senior Park Ranger, Monterey County Parks Department, and Mark Sandoval, CalParks, provided a status report on lake recreation activities. Bass tournaments are the current activities at this time. Operation scenarios are being discussed by Parks staff. One scenario would be possible partial closure at San Antonio, with the worst case scenario being a full closure. The annual Triathlon/Wildflower Festival, including the swim event, is scheduled to occur at San Antonio in May 2014. Details of the proposed dock system at Running Deer Ranch were discussed.

**B. EASEMENTS AND AGENCY LEASES**

Chris Keehn, Right-Of-Way Specialist, provided an update to the Committee. He reported on a site visit to Rancho del Lago at Nacimiento that there appears to be a watering system that goes into the lake. Mr. Keehn and Mr. Ogren stated they will coordinate to review the list of well owners in the area, and review the contract

amendments with San Luis Obispo County. The Committee was shown one of the no trespassing signs that will be installed around Agency property near Nacimiento Reservoir. The signs state "*No Trespassing, No Off-Road Activities, and No Hunting.*" The signs will be installed next week.

**C. QUAGGA / ZEBRA MUSSEL PLAN**

Howard Franklin provided a brief update. It has been determined that some boats that were at Lake Piru in Ventura County have been at Lake San Antonio. It was reported to the Committee last month that in December 2013 Lake Piru was found to be infested with Dreissenid Mussels. Parks staff reported they have had discussions about closing access to hand-launched watercraft at San Antonio. Mr. Ogren stated forty-nine (49) vessels visited Nacimiento in 2013 that had visited Lake Piru.

**D. UPDATE ON SLO COUNTY ACTIVITIES**

There was no additional information to report. (See Item 7)

**E. UPDATE ON WINTER OUTLOOK**

An update was provided.

**10. SET NEXT MEETING DATE AND DISCUSS FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday March 5, 2014 at 1:30 p.m. at the Agency. Items for discussion include cloud seeding opportunities, and an update on discussions with NOAA Fisheries.

**11. ADJOURNMENT BY CHAIR DAVID HART @ 3:30 P.M.**

**SUBMITTED BY: TERESA CAMPA**

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

<b>MEETING DATE:</b>	March 5, 2014	<b>AGENDA ITEM:</b>	
<b>AGENDA TITLE:</b>	RESERVOIR RELEASE UPDATE		
Consent ( )		Action ( )	
Information ( X )			
<b>SUBMITTED BY: PHONE:</b>	Howard Franklin (831) 755-4860	<b>PREPARED BY: PHONE:</b>	Howard Franklin (831) 755-4860
<b>DEADLINE FOR BOARD ACTION:</b>		March 5, 2014	

**RECOMMENDED BOARD ACTION:**

None – item presented for informational purposes

**PRIOR RELEVANT BOARD ACTION:**

None – the Board of Directors receives monthly updates on the Agency’s reservoir status

**DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS:**

**RESERVOIR ELEVATION / STORAGE:** As of February 25, 2014 San Antonio Reservoir is at approximately 655.55 feet mean sea level (msl), 15,708 acre-feet of storage. Nacimiento Reservoir is at elevation 724.6 feet msl, 79,130 acre-feet of storage. San Antonio Reservoir is currently at 5% of storage capacity and Nacimiento Reservoir is at 21% of capacity.

**RESERVOIR RELEASES:** Releases from both reservoirs are being made to meet minimum fisheries flow requirements.

Releases as of February 25, 2014:

- 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:

- Salinas River near Spreckels: 0 cfs
- Salinas River near Chualar: 0 cfs
- Salinas River near Soledad: 0 cfs
- Salinas River near Bradley: 77 cfs (steady)



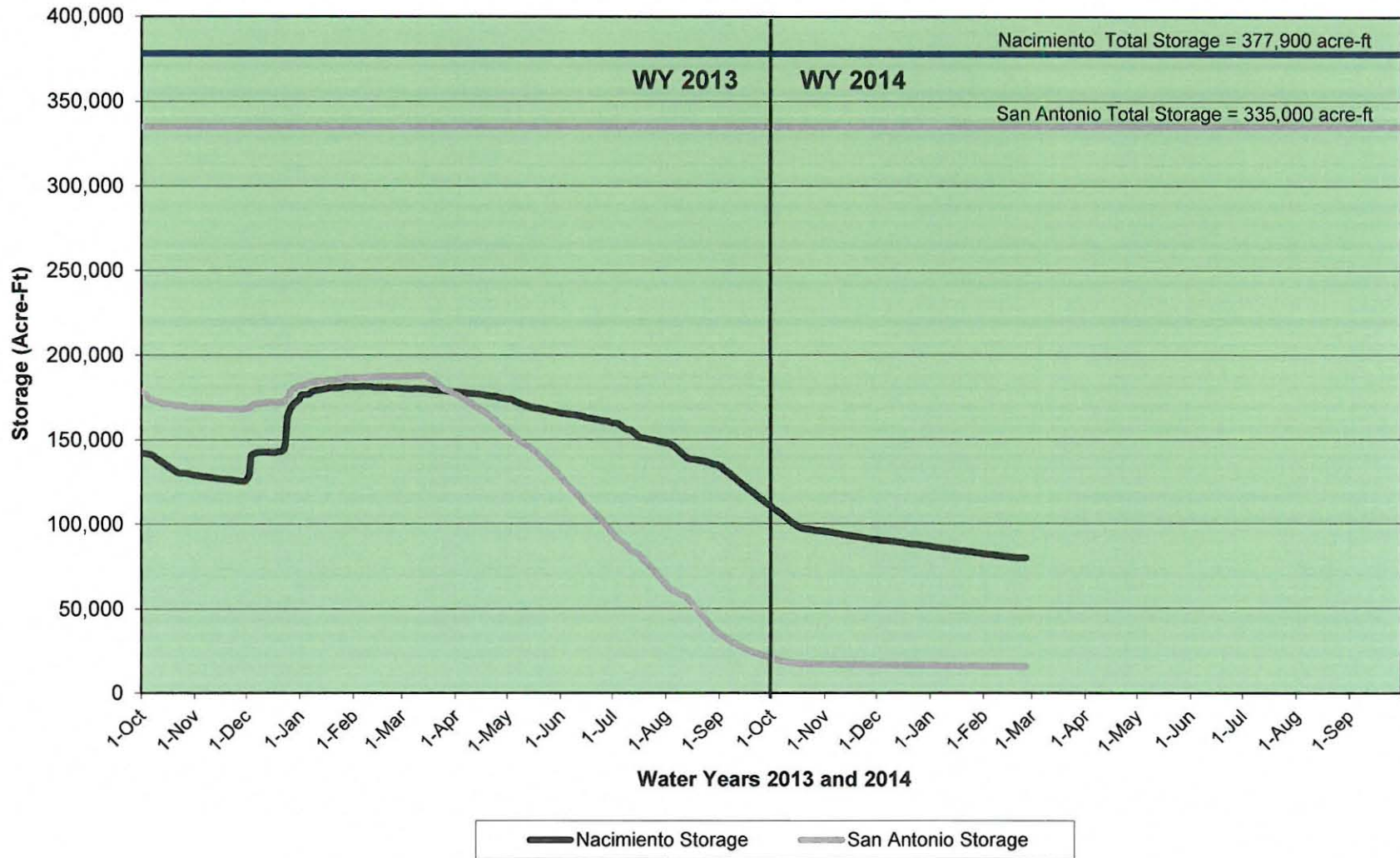
**Synopsis of Reservoir Release Changes from  
October 1, 2013 to February 25, 2014**

<b>Date</b>	<b>San Antonio Reservoir</b>		<b>Nacimiento Reservoir</b>		<b>Total Releases</b>
	<b>Starting Flow</b>	<b>Ending Flow</b>	<b>Starting Flow</b>	<b>Ending Flow</b>	
October 2, 2013	175	175	360	355*	530
October 3, 2013	175	150	355	350*	500
October 4, 2013	150	125	350	350	475
October 8, 2013	125	100	350	350	450
October 9, 2013	100	75	350	350	425
October 14, 2013	75	50	350	350	400
October 16, 2013	50	50	350	250	300
October 17, 2013	50	25	250	150	175
October 18, 2013	25	25	150	60	85
October 25, 2013	25	10	60	60	70

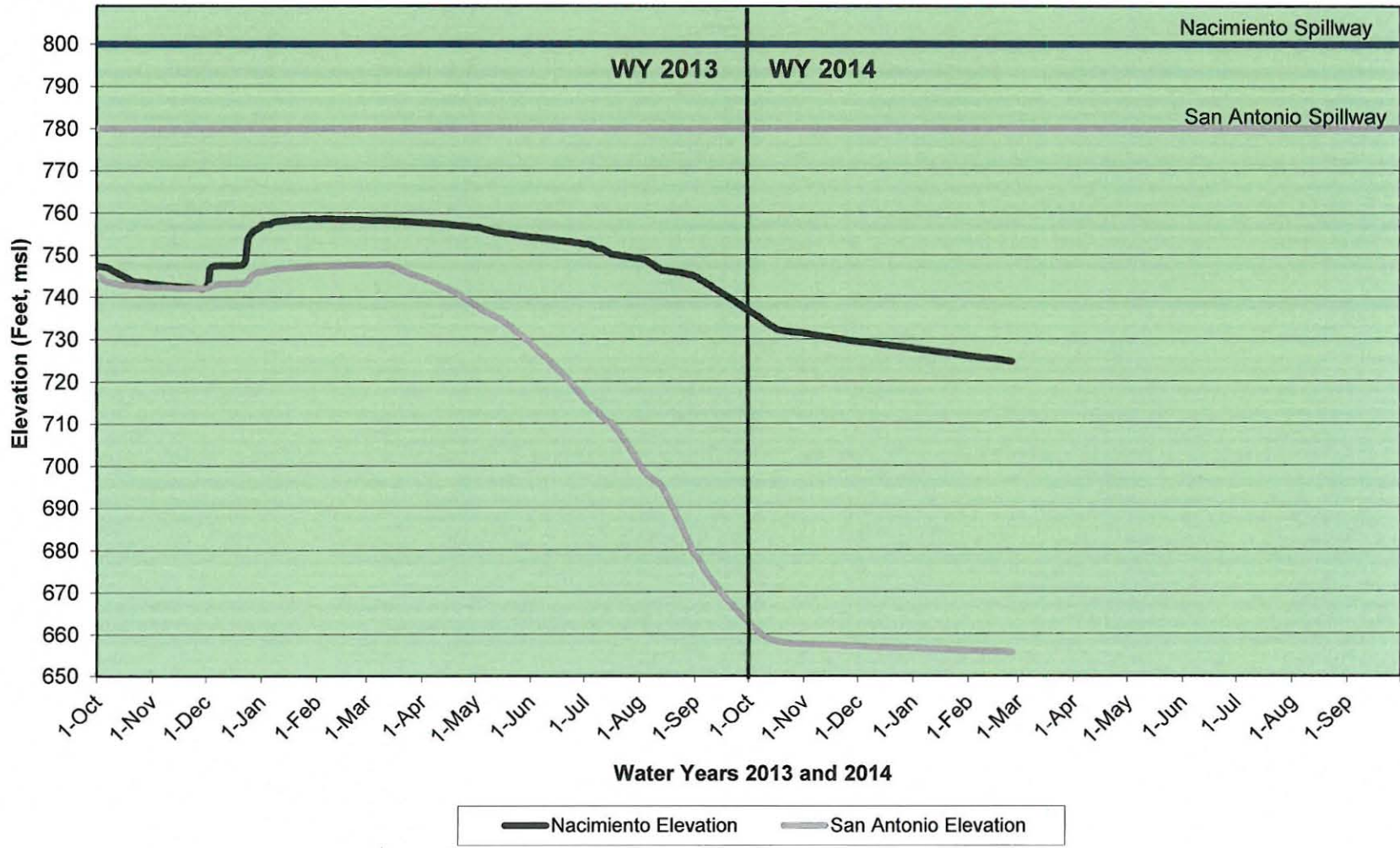
\*Reduction of release output due to head loss.



## Reservoir Storage



## Reservoir Elevation



**MONTEREY COUNTY WATER RESOURCES AGENCY**

**PRELIMINARY - Estimated Elevation/Storage/NWP Diversions; after Feb. 1<sup>st</sup>**

2/25/2014

**RESERVOIR RELEASE SCHEDULE FOR 2014**

	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)
1/1/2014	70	4,304	446	60	3,689	766	123	86,392	727.7	397	10	615	16,390	656.6
2/1/2014	70	3,888	579	60	3,332	1,037		82,250	725.9	431	10	555	15,935	655.9
3/1/2014						1,033		79,046	724.6				15,614	655.4
4/1/2014														
5/1/2014						1,133								
6/1/2014						1,166								
7/1/2014						1,258								
8/1/2014						2,035								
9/1/2014						2,094								
10/1/2014						1,880								
11/1/2014														
12/1/2014														
1/1/2015														
<b>TOTALS:</b>		<b>8,192</b>	<b>1,025</b>		<b>7,022</b>	<b>12,403</b>	<b>123</b>			<b>828</b>		<b>1,170</b>		

\* 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.