

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

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Ken Ekelund, Chair  
David Hart  
Fred Ledesma  
Mark Nielsen  
David Pozzi

John Baillie  
Benny Jefferson  
Paavo Ogren  
Tom Shepherd  
Randy Korsgaard (CalParks)

**TIME:** 1:30 pm  
**DATE:** Thursday, January 10, 2013  
**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 MEETINGS HELD ON DECEMBER 6, 2012**

The Committee will consider approval of the minutes of the above-mentioned meetings (Page 3).

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

Howard Franklin, Senior Water Resources Hydrologist / Program Manager will present a summary of current conditions at both reservoirs, as well as provide a synopsis of the release changes that have occurred since the last meeting (Page 9).

**5. 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.

**6. 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**

**7. DISCUSS POSSIBLE RELEASE SCENARIO OPTIONS FOR NON-SALINAS VALLEY WATER PROJECT WATER DELIVERY SEASON**

The Committee will discuss possible reservoir release scenario options for the months of January to March, dependant on the SVWP Biological Opinion and Flow Prescription.

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

The Committee will discuss and determine details for its next meeting.

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

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

**COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

Ken Ekelund, Chair  
David Hart  
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Mark Nielsen  
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Tom Shepherd  
Randy Korsgaard (CalParks)

**TIME:** 1:30 pm  
**DATE:** Thursday, December 6, 2012  
**PLACE:** Monterey County Water Resources Agency  
Board Room  
893 Blanco Circle  
Salinas, CA 93901

**MINUTES**

**1. CALL TO ORDER @ 1:45 p.m. by Chair Ken Ekelund.**

Members present: Ken Ekelund, David Hart, John Baillie, Tom Shepherd,  
Paavo Ogren, Randy Korsgaard, Fred Ledesma, Mark Nielsen, and  
Adam Secondo (*alternate for SRCC*)

Members absent: *Benny Jefferson*, David Pozzi

A quorum was established.

**2. PUBLIC COMMENT**

Robert Johnson, Assistant General Manager & Chief of Water Resources Planning, made a statement that the Committee representative for the Salinas River Channel Coalition is Benny Jefferson. They've selected Adam Secondo as their alternate to attend these meetings if Mr. Jefferson cannot attend.

**Committee Action: On motion and second of Committee members John Baillie and Fred Ledesma the Committee unanimously accepted Adam Secondo as the alternate representative for the Salinas River Channel Coalition, for the Reservoir Operations Committee.**

**3. APPROVE THE MINUTES OF THE RESERVOIR OPERATIONS COMMITTEE MEETINGS HELD ON OCTOBER 4 AND NOVEMBER 1, 2012**

**Committee Action: On motion and second of Committee members John Baillie and Mark Nielsen the Committee unanimously approved both sets of minutes.**

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

Howard Franklin, Senior Water Resources Hydrologist/Program Manager, provided a status report. The peaks were slow from the Arroyo Seco River into the Salinas River, and the Carmel and Salinas River Lagoon sandbars were both mechanically managed to reduce the chance of local flooding. Rainfall totals were up to 15 inches in the mountains and two to four inches in the Salinas Valley.

Amy Gagne, Hydrologist, presented a PowerPoint slide show depicting the storage and elevation changes from the storm. Nacimiento Reservoir went up over five feet in elevation, with roughly 16,800 acre-feet of inflow. San Antonio Reservoir went up about a foot, equating to approximately 3,000 acre-feet of inflow.

**NACIMIENTO** elevation is 747.40 feet and 142,220 acre-feet of storage, 38% of capacity, and current release is 60 cfs.

**SAN ANTONIO** elevation is 742.95 feet and 171,128 acre-feet of storage, 51% of capacity, and current release is 10 cfs.

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

Brent Buche, Assistant General Manager & Chief of Operations and Maintenance, provided a report. At San Antonio activities involved routine maintenance, as well as repair to hillside drains, staff gages in the reservoir, and the butterfly valves. Weed and rodent control activities were also performed. At Nacimiento, activities included recycling the low-level valves, clearing debris from a fallen tree, weed and rodent control. Additionally, releases were increased for three hours to allow for a swift-water rescue training session by Paso Robles and Atascadero.

Unit 2 at the Nacimiento Hydroelectric Powerplant (NHP) is running. On December 3, 2012 the BOD approved a contract for \$1.189 million for repair of the NHP. The repairs will take approximately six (6) months to complete. There were questions from the Committee about the damage to the NHP. There is a \$1,000 deductible and Agency staff is coordinating with the insurance company and will provide invoices. The Agency has submitted a request to PG&E for an extension of the current Power Purchase Agreement for March 31, 2013. The Agency is seeking other alternatives for a new power purchase agreement.

San Luis Obispo County and Oak Shores are looking to place about 50 buoys to identify the sewerlines located along the lake.

Brent Buche discussed the recent events leading to the sandbar management activities at the Salinas River Lagoon. The Old Salinas River Channel was full and the lagoon began to flood before the peak reached the lagoon. The regulatory agencies were notified and

emergency proclamation was signed by the Monterey County Board of Supervisors, which allowed the sandbar management activities to be performed.

**6. REPORTS ON STATUS OF:**

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

Randy Korsgaard, Cal-Parks Manager and Tom Shepherd, Monterey County Parks Department, provided updates on projects that are being performed. Activities underway include various repairs and painting. Preparations are being made to re-cable the Marina, allowing it to be moved during times of high water levels in the reservoir. The Management Contract with Cal-Parks has recently been extended for one year. The recruitment for Park Rangers is in process and background checks are currently being conducted on the final candidates.

There was erosion that occurred from flooding at San Lorenzo Park in King City and Parks Department staff performed the repairs. The Parks Department would like to discuss mitigation plans for the bank of the river with Agency staff. Brent Buche committed to working with Tom Shepherd, including Fish & Game staff, to discuss mitigation alternatives.

**B. EASEMENTS AND AGENCY LEASES**

Chris Keehn, Right-Of-Way Specialist, provided an update to the Committee. There is an Agency lessee who was behind on their lease payments. Agency staff met with the lessee and he was informed he needed to pay what is owed. Future improvements and procedures were also discussed at the meeting. The lessee provided payment and is now current on his lease payments.

The Agency has a fence at the north end of San Antonio Reservoir that is currently underwater. When the lake elevation is low, the fence becomes exposed and presents a possible hazard. When the lake is full, buoys are placed in the water to mark the location of the fences as a warning to boaters.

**C. QUAGGA / ZEBRA MUSSEL PLAN**

Elizabeth Krafft, Senior Water Resources Hydrologist provided an update. On two occasions this summer, plankton tows in both reservoirs were conducted to check for Quagga and Zebra Mussel larva. None were detected in either lake. The Legislation on aquatic invasive species has been approved. This allows the addition of a \$10 fee to boat licenses, which will be collected and managed by the Department of Boating & Waterways. These funds may be available in 2015.

Tom Shepherd reported about a recent conference call between Parks and WRA, SLO County, and private communities that discussed the 2012 season and preparations for next season. Parks will begin banding at both lakes in 2013. There are concerns with the traffic flow during the busy season at Nacimiento as a result of banding, though adjustments may be made during heavy season weekends.

#### **D. UPDATE ON SLO COUNTY ACTIVITIES**

Paavo Ogren, San Luis Obispo County (SLO), provided an update. Payment related to some outstanding issues was provided to the Agency. The Nacimiento Water Project repair contractor, OCI, is scheduled to begin repairing the intake structure on Monday, December 10, 2012. At Heritage Ranch, the Nacimiento Commission has approved an emergency turnout from the pipeline. Input was provided to the Camp Roberts Technical Advisory Committee about off-stream reservoirs to capture excess storm flows. In SLO County's IRWM application, there will be a grant request that will include 50% funding for the Attyeh Ranch Conservation preservation easement, an 8000-acre area.

#### **7. DISCUSS POSSIBLE RELEASE SCENARIO OPTIONS FOR NON-SALINAS VALLEY WATER PROJECT WATER DELIVERY SEASON**

Robert Johnson discussed possible reservoir release scenario options for the months of November to March. There was a rain event last March in which the Arroyo Seco River flowed to the Salinas River, presenting a chance for fish to leave the Arroyo Seco River. During this time there was no flow in the Salinas River and the lagoon was closed. The Committee discussed considering "other scenario" releases that would occur outside of the SVWP water delivery period.

#### PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Roger Moitoso: Discussed the storm event that occurred in March 2012. There were steelhead on the Arroyo Seco River, and that flow reached the Salinas River. Mr. Moitoso felt the actual water loss to the ocean would not be that much; and would take five or six days to flush the fish to the ocean.

Nancy Isakson, SVWC: Commented on the wording of the agenda item title, and suggested finding out if the SVWP Biological Opinion (BO) covers release operations year-round. The assessments collected from Zone 2C paid for everything related to the SVWP. As part of the SVWP, the Agency is tasked with developing a Reservoir Operations Manual as well as a Drought Contingency Plan. Ms. Isakson agreed with the suggestion by Mr. Moitoso about seeing if anything can be done; as well as how possible changes in the interpretation of the BO could change the benefits that property owners who voted on for the SVWP would receive – benefits like flood protection and drought contingency. Ms. Isakson also added that there is a newly elected official, Mark Stone, who was formerly a member of the Coastal Commission, and it was suggested that Agency staff seek assistance from elected officials.

Howard Franklin stated that Agency staff has been meeting with NMFS to discuss the various interpretations of the BO, and whether it applies to year-round operations. Mr. Franklin discussed how the Flow Prescription and the BO were developed; by year-round modeling scenarios and not just for the delivery periods, and using three different water year types (normal-year, dry-year, and wet year).

Mr. Buche also talked about the Agency's difficulty in obtaining a permit to manage the sandbar at the Salinas River Lagoon. The Agency applied for a permit from the COE in

2002 and 2010. In order to obtain a permit from COE we must obtain a Coastal Development Permit from the California Coastal Commission. Staff has provided the additional documents requested but have been unable to obtain the permit.

Dave Hart, Agency Board member: When property owners in Zone 2C voted in favor of the SVWP, the goals were flood protection and water conservation, which have been the main goals of the reservoirs. When we release water for non-conservation, it can become an issue. Another concern is the danger of flooding of private property at the Salinas River Lagoon caused by not being able to manage the sandbar when necessary.

Adam Secondo: Expressed concern about the vegetation growth in the Salinas River causing the flow to slow down, and causing the need for additional releases.

Ken Ekelund: Concerned about the vegetation growth in the Salinas River and the environmental damage being caused Arundo. Vegetation issues need to be included in the discussions with NMFS.

Mark Nielsen: Prior to the SVWP the minimum releases from Nacimiento were 25 cfs and are now 60 cfs. There is excessive vegetation growth in the Salinas River.

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

The next meeting is set for January 10, 2013 at the Agency. Items for the agenda include further discussion of various release scenario options.

**9. ADJOURNMENT BY CHAIR KEN EKELUND @ 3:33 P.M.**

**SUBMITTED BY: TERESA CAMPA**



WATER RESOURCES AGENCY

MEMORANDUM

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Monterey County

DATE: January 2, 2013

TO: Reservoir Operations Committee

FROM: Howard Franklin

SUBJECT: Reservoir Release Update

**RESERVOIR ELEVATION / STORAGE:** As of the date of this memorandum, San Antonio Reservoir is at approximately 746.05 feet mean sea level (msl), 181,978 acre-feet of storage. Nacimiento Reservoir is at elevation 757.20 feet msl, 176,462 acre-feet of storage. San Antonio Reservoir is currently at 54% of storage capacity and Nacimiento Reservoir is at 47% of capacity.

**RESERVOIR RELEASES:** October 19, 2012 marked the end of the 2012 Diversion Season at the Salinas River Diversion Facility (SRDF). Impoundment of water at the SRDF ended on November 15, 2012 and the gates were completely lowered.

Releases from Nacimiento Reservoir were reduced to minimum fisheries flows on October 23, 2012. Releases from San Antonio Reservoir were reduced to minimum fisheries flows on October 29, 2012.

Current releases are as follows:

Nacimiento Reservoir:	60 cfs
San Antonio Reservoir:	10 cfs

Total releases from both reservoirs to the Salinas River are approximately 70 cfs. As of the date of this memorandum the following “provisional” flows have been recorded by the USGS and/or Agency:

- Salinas River near Spreckels: 79 cfs (decreasing)
- Salinas River near Chualar: 111 cfs (decreasing)
- Salinas River near Soledad: 98 cfs (steady)
- Salinas River near Bradley: 98 cfs (decreasing)

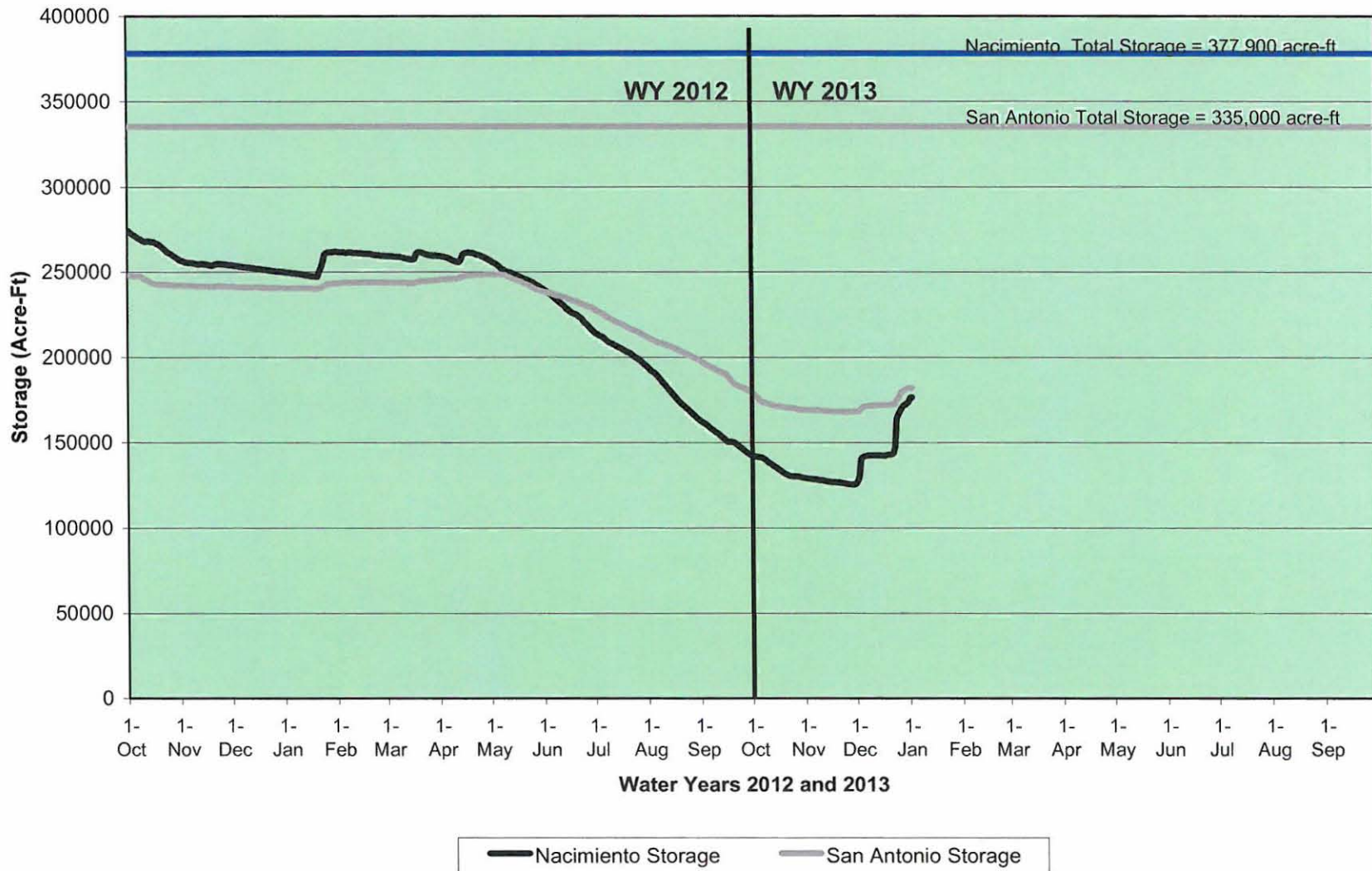


**Synopsis of Reservoir Release Changes from  
October 1, 2012 to January 2, 2013**

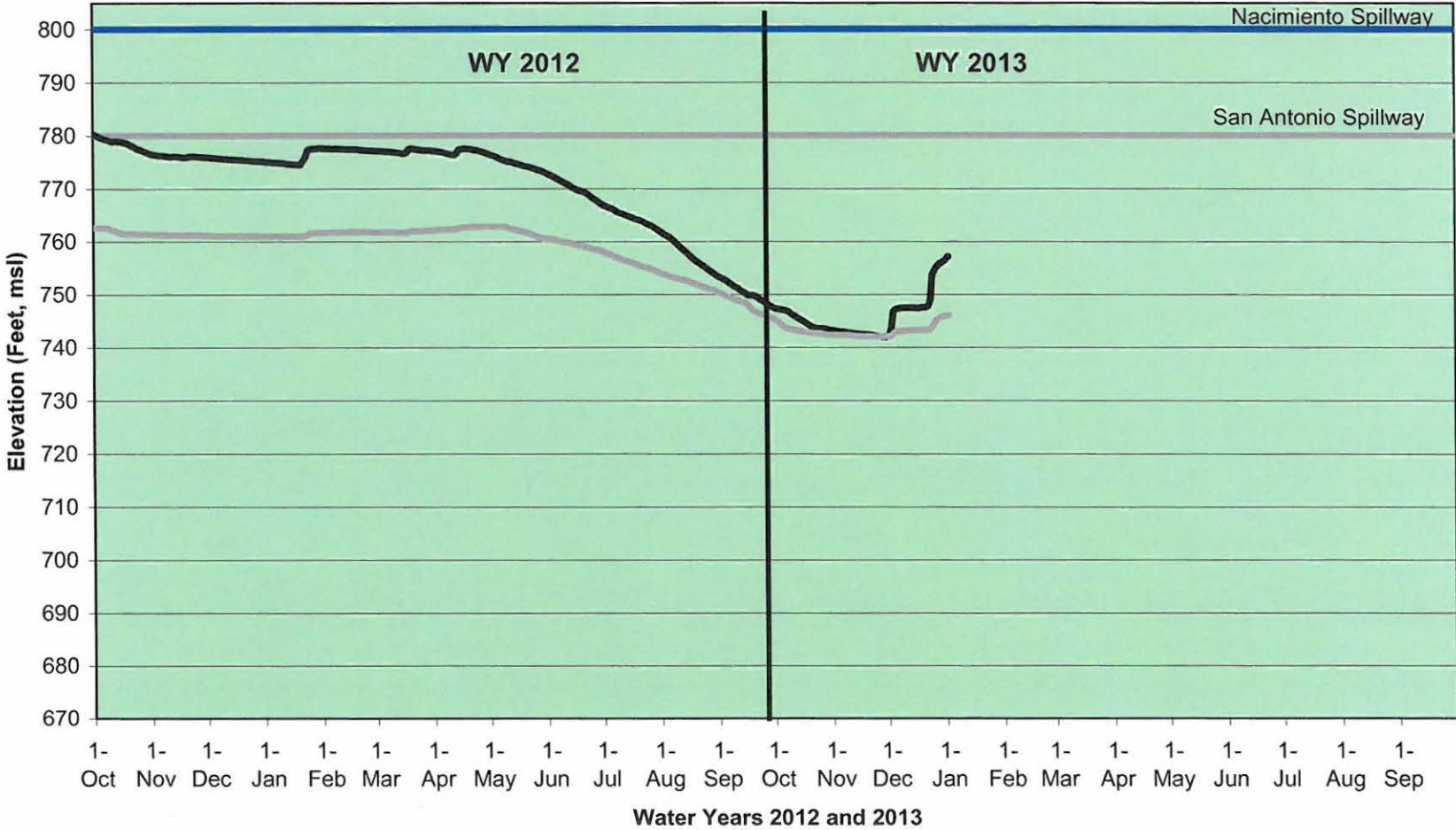
Date	San Antonio Reservoir		Nacimiento Reservoir		Total Releases
	Starting Flow	Ending Flow	Starting Flow	Ending Flow	
October 1, 2012	300	550	233	39	589
October 2, 2012	550	550	39	23	573
October 3, 2012	550	500	23	24	524
October 4, 2012	500	500	24	25	525
October 5, 2012	500	425	25	60	485
October 6, 2012	425	125	60	350	475
October 8, 2012	125	150	350	350	500
October 12, 2012	150	100	350	350	450
October 15, 2012	100	75	350	350	425
October 16, 2012	75	50	350	350	400
October 20, 2012	50	50	350	250	300
October 22, 2012	50	50	250	90	140
October 23, 2012	50	90	90	60	150
October 26, 2012	90	75	60	60	135
October 29, 2012	75	10	60	60	70
November 28, 2012	10	10	60	300	310
November 28, 2012	10	10	300	100	110
November 29, 2012	10	10	100	60	70

**TABLE 1**

## Reservoir Storage



### Reservoir Elevation



Nacimiento Elevation    
  San Antonio Elevation

**MONTEREY COUNTY WATER RESOURCES AGENCY**

1/2/2013

<b>RESERVOIR RELEASE SCHEDULE FOR 2012</b>														
	<b>NACIMIENTO</b>									<b>SAN ANTONIO</b>				
	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)
1/1/2012	73	4,526	489	63	3,906	776	207	249,780	775.1	324	10	620	240,285	761.0
2/1/2012	70	4,060	970	60	3,480	1,023	247	261,590	777.6	840	10	580	243,140	761.6
3/1/2012	194	12,000	1,567	184	11,380	1,037	213	259,265	777.1	1,288	10	620	243,580	761.7
4/1/2012	266	15,960	1,111	256	15,360	1,134	192	259,265	777.1	1,036	10	600	245,340	762.1
5/1/2012	408	25,296	2,888	263	16,306	1,392	273	256,010	776.4	3,138	145	8,990	248,420	762.8
6/1/2012	512	30,720	3,330	374	22,440	1,734	246	239,280	772.7	3,669	138	8,280	238,350	760.5
7/1/2012	590	36,580	3,505	362	22,444	1,961	583	213,930	766.8	4,071	228	14,136	227,545	758.0
8/1/2012	619	38,378	2,982	410	25,420	1,936	709	193,418	761.7	3,494	209	12,958	211,210	753.9
9/1/2012	592	35,520	2,034	325	19,500	1,407	52	162,203	753.3	2,467	267	16,020	197,288	750.3
10/1/2012	349	21,638	1,302	200	12,400	1,261	0	142,055	747.4	1,623	149	9,238	178,783	745.2
11/1/2012	73	4,380	620	63	3,780	1,258	47	129,160	743.2	843	10	600	169,058	742.4
12/1/2012	70	4,340	390	60	3,720	766	N/A	127,330	742.6	506	10	620	168,195	742.1
1/1/2013								176,101	757.1				181,623	746.0
<b>TOTALS:</b>		<b>233,398</b>	<b>21,190</b>		<b>160,136</b>	<b>15,685</b>	<b>2,768</b>			<b>23,297</b>		<b>73,262</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:**

1. Nacimiento Reservoir storage capacity 377,900 acre feet.
2. San Antonio Reservoir storage capacity 335,000 acre feet.
3. Reservoir Operations Committee may make release considerations for fish spawn and holiday periods to benefit recreation.
4. Shaded areas represent periods when elevations are influenced by inflow/runoff; releases may include flood control releases.
5. Preliminary Schedule assumes no inflow to reservoirs after May 1st.
6. "NACIMIENTO "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.