

Stony Gorge Dam Modification



Stony Gorge Dam

Stony Gorge Dam is located about 1.3 miles upstream from the town of Elk Creek, California, and about 25 miles west of the town of Willows, California. It was identified by the Bureau of Reclamation's Safety of Dams Program as a potential risk to downstream residents in the event of a large earthquake. Reclamation is implementing a structural modification that will strengthen and reduce the potential failure of the dam.

On September 22, 2006, a \$23,956,700 contract to modify Stony Gorge Dam to make it more earthquake resistant was awarded to Shimmick Construction Company, Inc. of Hayward, California. Construction began early in 2007, and will take about 3 years to complete.

Stony Gorge Dam has a structural height of 139 feet and a crest length of 868 feet. Stony Gorge Reservoir, which has a storage capacity of about 50,000 acre-feet, regulates flows along the lower reaches of Stony Creek, stores surplus water for irrigation purposes, and provides for hydropower and recreation. Releases from the reservoir travel 22 miles down Stony Creek to Black Butte Lake.

The dam is part of the Orland Project, one of the oldest projects in Reclamation. Preliminary surveys were made on the Stony Gorge site as early as 1909. Construction of the dam was completed in 1928. Principal crops made possible by irrigation water from the dam are alfalfa, hay, sorghum, olives, almonds, walnuts, and citrus fruits.

For More Information

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