Central Valley Project
December Hydrology and Operations Update
December 27, 2021

Recent storms in California have provided some relief from severe drought conditions across the state. These storms, however, bring their own water management challenges for different parts of the Central Valley Project—an integrated water system that provides water to California farms, communities, and the environment.

Below is a summary of the current hydrology and varied effects on Reclamation's facilities as of December 26.

CVP RESERVOIR STATUS:

	Storage Percent of Capacity	Storage (1,000 ac-ft)	Percent of 15-Year Average
Trinity Reservoir	29	715	54
Shasta Reservoir	28	1,277	54
Folsom Reservoir	53	520	120
New Melones Reservoir	38	918	71
Millerton Lake	69	357	133
Federal San Luis	10	93	20

Shasta Reservoir

- Inflow to Shasta Reservoir—the state's largest reservoir and cornerstone of the Central Valley Project—was at a record low during the 2021 water year.
- Shasta Reservoir is currently at 28% of storage capacity.
- Daily inflow into Shasta Reservoir from recent storms peaked at about 11,800 cfs on December 25 and has been receding since.
- Reclamation is working to store as much water as possible from winter storms for releases later in the year when most needed.

Folsom Reservoir

- With a capacity of approximately 1.0 million acre-feet, Folsom Reservoir is less than 1/4 the size of Shasta Reservoir.
- Folsom Reservoir is located just upstream of Sacramento on the American River and is a key feature for flood management in the region.
- With minimum releases and above average precipitation and inflows, the reservoir was able to make some storage gains to approximately 53% of storage capacity.
- The additional storage, combined with forecasted inflow from recent and projected storms, calls for temporary flood operations to begin today under the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Water Control Manual for Folsom Reservoir.
- Increased releases from the reservoir will begin early tomorrow morning to allow for storage to remain within flood control parameters given current and forecasted inflow.
- Folsom releases may continue to change in the coming weeks as a result of hydrologic conditions.

San Luis Reservoir

- During winter storms when there is excess water in the system, like current conditions, Reclamation would generally increase exports from the Delta to store the excess water in San Luis Reservoir to use later in the water year.
- San Luis Reservoir supplies water for critical health and safety needs, agriculture, and wildlife refuges south of the Delta.
- However, the current influx of water into the system has increased flow and associated turbidity into the Delta creating conditions that can draw endangered fish species into proximity of the Central Valley Project and State Water Project pumping facilities.
- To comply with federal endangered species permits, pumping was reduced on December 20 for 14 consecutive days to reduce the direct impacts to endangered fish, specifically delta smelt.

- This 14-day pumping reduction is anticipated to reduce movement of endangered fish toward the pumping facilities, thereby reducing impacts to endangered fish and potentially allowing for increased flexibility in pumping operations for the remainder of the winter.

A daily Central Valley Project water supply report is available here: http://www.usbr.gov/mp/cvo/vungvari/dayrpt