



Boca Dam and Reservoir

Overview

Boca Dam is a key component of the Truckee Storage Project, located on the Little Truckee River, just east of Truckee, California. Built by the Bureau of Reclamation in the late 1930s and operated by the [Washoe County Water Conservation District](#), the dam and reservoir help support water management throughout the Truckee River Basin. The dam works in coordination with nearby reservoirs, Stampede and Prosser, to regulate flows, provide water storage, and reduce flood risks for downstream communities.

- ✓ Location: Near Truckee, CA
- ✓ Impounds: Little Truckee River
- ✓ Creates: Boca Reservoir
- ✓ Total Capacity: 40,000 acre-feet
- ✓ Part of: Truckee Project
- ✓ Built: 1937-1939
- ✓ Type: Earthfill
- ✓ Size: 116-ft high; 1,630-ft long

Operations

Boca Dam was built to help manage and regulate water deliveries from the Little Truckee River into the Truckee River, particularly during the spring and summer when snowmelt drives high flows. It plays an important role in flood control, especially during spring runoff; supplementing water supplies for agricultural, and municipal and industrial uses; coordinated flow management under the [Truckee River Operating Agreement](#), and supporting downstream ecosystems.

Boca Reservoir is a popular year-round destination for outdoor enthusiasts. The reservoir and surrounding area offer boating, fishing, camping, hiking, off-roading, and wildlife viewing. Recreational use is managed in partnership with the U.S. Forest Service.

Safety Improvements

To address seismic safety concerns, Boca Dam underwent major [Safety of Dams](#) modifications between 2017

and 2020. Investigations determined that the dam's foundation was susceptible to liquefaction during a large earthquake, posing a risk to public safety and downstream communities. Reclamation reconstructed the downstream embankment, improved foundation stability, and installed additional instrumentation to monitor performance. These improvements ensure the dam meets modern safety standards and can continue to operate reliably as part of the Truckee River system.



Nestled in the Sierra Nevada near Truckee, California, Boca gets its name from the Spanish word for "mouth," named for its location near the mouth of the Little Truckee River.