



# Boca Dam

## Overview

Boca Dam and Reservoir are located on the Little Truckee River, about 6 miles east of Truckee, California, and 27 miles west of Reno in Northeastern California. Completed in 1939, this earthfill dam is 116-feet high and 1,630-feet long; it creates Boca Reservoir with a capacity of about 40,000 acre-feet. Boca Dam is owned by the Bureau of Reclamation and operated by the Washoe County Water Conservation District. Part of the Truckee Storage Project, the dam area includes the counties of Nevada (Northeast California, borders Nevada), and Washoe (west-central Nevada).

## Background

Reclamation started the Safety of Dams (SOD) Program in 1978 to ensure Reclamation dams do not present unreasonable risks to people, property, and the environment. The program focuses on evaluating and implementing actions to resolve safety concerns at Reclamation dams.

This SOD project modified Boca Dam to reduce risks due to seismic events, ensuring the safety of downstream Reno and Sparks communities. The project began in 2019 and was completed in October 2020. Upgrades to the 81-year-old dam reduced the likelihood of overtopping if slumping were to occur during a large earthquake.



*The Fremont Weir is located on the northern end of the Yolo Bypass, along the Sacramento River northeast of Woodland.*

Primary project changes included shear key construction (retaining wall footing), a stability berm addition, and spillway structure modification. The project also enhanced security by widening the crest by 25 feet and reinforcing the road over the dam, which was funded by Reclamation's

Security Program. These important improvements supported many local jobs - Reclamation invested \$26 million in this project.

## Benefits

Boca Dam's modernized infrastructure now provides improved flood protection for Reno and Sparks. In addition to the enhanced safety of the road over the dam, the reservoir regulates the Truckee River, as well as provides water for irrigation, recreation, fish and wildlife benefits, power generation, and drought supplies for municipal and industrial users in Reno and Sparks.



*The 1965 fish ladder is displayed.*

## Additional Information

Visit the Boca SOD Project here:

<https://usbr.gov/mp/sod/projects/boca/index.html>