



— BUREAU OF —
RECLAMATION

Folsom Dam Joint Federal Project

Background

Folsom Dam was authorized in 1944 as a 355,000 acre-foot flood control unit and then reauthorized in 1949 as an almost 1 million acre-foot multiple-purpose facility. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) completed construction in 1956 and then transferred the dam to the Bureau of Reclamation for coordinated operation as an integral part of the federal Central Valley Project. Folsom Dam regulates flows in the American River for flood control, and releases from Folsom Reservoir are used for municipal and



industrial water supply, agricultural water supply, power, fish and wildlife management, recreation, navigation and water quality purposes. Recreation at Folsom Reservoir is managed by the California Department of Parks and Recreation under an agreement with Reclamation.

The Folsom Facility

Managed by the Central California Area Office (CCAO), the Folsom Facility comprises Folsom Dam and Reservoir, left and right earthfill wing dams, Mormon Island Auxiliary Dam and eight earthfill dikes that protect the surrounding communities and the cities of Folsom and Granite Bay. The Sacramento metropolitan area sits in a valley at the confluence of the American and Sacramento Rivers; the valley is a huge floodplain which has flooded countless times over the centuries, and Folsom Dam is the area's key flood control structure. The Folsom Dam spillway is divided into eight sections, each controlled by a 42-by 50-foot radial gate. The spillway capacity is 567,000 cubic feet per second.

Reclamation's Safety of Dams Program

Under the Safety of Dams Program, Reclamation is working to reduce hydrologic (flood), seismic (earthquake) and static (seepage) risks at the Folsom Facility. Although these events are unlikely to occur, it was determined that modifications were needed to ensure the protection of the public who live and work next to or downstream of the Folsom Facility.

Flood Damage Reduction – the Power of Partnerships



Under the Joint Federal Project (JFP), Reclamation, the Corps, the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency and the Central Valley Flood Protection Board formed an unprecedented partnership to provide enhanced flood protection for the Sacramento area – one of the most at-risk communities in the nation. The JFP's new auxiliary spillway was constructed southwest of the existing main concrete dam. It is the key feature to improving the Folsom Facility's flood control ability. When completed in October 2017, the auxiliary spillway includes a 1,000-foot-long approach channel

beginning in Folsom Reservoir, a concrete control structure with six gates, a 3,100-foot-long auxiliary spillway chute and a stilling basin which will act as an energy dissipation structure as water discharges enter the American River below the main concrete Folsom Dam. The new facility will allow Reclamation's dam operators to better manage large floods by safely releasing more water from Folsom Reservoir earlier during a large storm through both the spillway gates on Folsom Dam (which sit at elevation 418 ft.) and the new control structure's six gates (which will sit lower in Folsom Reservoir at elevation 368 ft.), thus reducing hydrologic risk and leaving more storage capacity in the reservoir.

Construction of the Auxiliary Spillway



After excavating more than 2.5 million cubic yards of rock and soil for the spillway site, Reclamation handed the project over to the Corps' Sacramento District in January 2011. The Corps eventually removed more than 315,000 cubic yards of earth and constructed the approach channel, control structure, concrete-lined spillway chute, and stilling basin. The spillway was ready for use in fall 2017.

See www.usbr.gov/mp/jfp for more.

