Stampede Dam and Reservoir

Overview
Stampede Dam and Reservoir are located on the Little Truckee River, 10 miles northeast of Truckee, California. Situated immediately below the mouth of Davies Creek and 8 miles above the confluence of the Little Truckee and Truckee rivers, this earthfill dam was completed in 1970. Stampede Dam is 239-feet high and 1,511-feet long. The reservoir has a capacity of 226,610 acre-feet and 22,000 acre-feet of flood control storage in the winter months. Owned and operated by the Reclamation, it is part of the Washoe Project - comprised of the drainage basins of the Truckee and lower Carson rivers. This west-central Nevada project area includes the cities of Reno, Sparks, and Fallon, as well as the town of Fernley.

Stampede Safety of Dams Project
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 at Stampede Dam began in September 2016 and was completed in November 2018. The project raised the crest of the dam by 11.5 feet to protect downstream communities from flooding. In addition to the raise, this project constructed a mechanically stabilized earth wall over the dam and dike and two small earthen dikes in low-lying areas on the south rim of the reservoir. Reconstruction of the spillway crest structure now limits outflows during large floods. The project cost was $21.8 million.

Benefits
Key benefits of the project include: enhanced recreation, improved fisheries, habitat, and water supply to improve spawning habitat conditions on the Lower Truckee River for the endangered cui-ui and threatened Lahontan cutthroat trout. The cui-ui is a lake sucker found only in Pyramid Lake and the lower Truckee River, within the Pyramid Lake Paiute Reservation.

Additional Information