The Bureau of Reclamation has awarded the first in a series of construction contracts for a new auxiliary spillway at Folsom Dam and Reservoir.

The auxiliary spillway, or Joint Federal Project (JFP), represents an unprecedented partnership among Reclamation, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), the Central Valley Flood Protection Board (formerly the State Reclamation Board) and the Sacramento Area Flood Control Agency. When completed, the JFP will address the hydrologic risks to Folsom Dam identified through Reclamation’s Safety of Dams (SOD) evaluation program. The JFP also achieves the Corps’ objective for increasing flood protection.

The JFP consists of a water-side approach channel, a control structure with six submerged tainter gates, a concrete-lined spillway chute approximately 3,000-feet long, and a stilling basin which acts as an energy dissipation structure as discharges enter the American River below the main concrete dam.

The JFP will be constructed in three successive phases by Reclamation and the Corps. The Phase I work will begin in late fall 2007 and will be completed by 2009. Phases II and III will follow with full completion of the JFP expected by 2015.

In addition to the JFP, Reclamation will complete additional dam safety work on Dikes 4, 5, and 6, the main concrete dam and the Mormon Island Auxiliary Dam. These activities are expected to be completed between 2008 and 2020. The Right and Left Wing Dams are expected to be completed by January 2009, Dike 5 from the summer of 2008 to spring 2009, Mormon Island Auxiliary Dam from winter 2010 to summer 2014, Dikes 4 & 6 in winter 2014/15 and concrete dam modifications from summer 2011 to fall 2020.