

Reservoir Storage & Release Update

SUMMARY/DISCUSSION:

The Board of Directors receives monthly updates on the status of Agency reservoirs.

RESERVOIR ELEVATION / STORAGE: As of March 19, 2026, San Antonio Reservoir has a water surface elevation of approximately 754.15 feet (NGVD 29), with 212,193 acre-feet of water in storage. Nacimiento Reservoir has a water surface elevation of approximately 775.35 feet, with 251,160 acre-feet of water in storage. San Antonio Reservoir is currently at 63% of storage capacity and Nacimiento Reservoir is at 66% of capacity.

RAINFALL: A series of storms throughout the month of February brought inflow to the reservoirs and created natural flow along the entire Salinas River. On February 18, 2026, inflow to Nacimiento Reservoir peaked at 7,751 cfs at the Nacimiento River below Sapaque gage, and San Antonio Reservoir inflow peaked at 5,791 cfs at the San Antonio River near Lockwood gage. No significant precipitation has been observed since mid-February.

SALINAS RIVER LAGOON: Following storms in late December and early January, the Agency facilitated a breach of the lagoon to alleviate localized flooding in accordance with the Agency's Low Effect Habitat Conservation Plan on January 4, 2026. Water surface elevation in the lagoon reached a peak of 6.82 ft on January 4, 2026 and began fluctuating with tides on January 5, 2026. The Salinas Lagoon remains open to the ocean.

RESERVOIR RELEASES: Minimum releases are being made from both reservoirs for maintenance of habitat below the dams. Conservation season releases concluded on Wednesday, September 24, 2025, from San Antonio Reservoir, and Friday, September 26, 2025 from Nacimiento Reservoir.

Releases as of March 19, 2026:

- Nacimiento Reservoir: 69 cfs
- San Antonio Reservoir: 10 cfs

Total releases from both reservoirs to the Salinas River are approximately 79 cfs. The following "provisional" flows have been recorded by the USGS:

- Nacimiento River below Nacimiento Dam: 69 cfs
- Salinas River near Bradley: 171 cfs
- Salinas River near King City: 167 cfs
- Salinas River at Soledad: 163 cfs
- Salinas River near Chualar: 165 cfs
- Salinas River near Spreckels: 131 cfs

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