

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 10, 2026, San Antonio Reservoir has a water surface elevation of approximately 753.8 feet (NGVD 29), with 210,820 acre-feet of water in storage. Nacimiento Reservoir has a water surface elevation of approximately 775.05 feet, with 249,780 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. Seven-day rain accumulations were recorded ranging from two inches in the drier valley floors of the Salinas, Nacimiento, and San Antonio watersheds to over nine inches in the Santa Lucia. Inflow to Nacimiento Reservoir peaked at 7,690 cfs measured at the Nacimiento River below Sapaque gage, and inflow to San Antonio Reservoir peaked at 5,810 cfs measured at the San Antonio River near Lockwood gage. There has been no significant rain in March.

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 10, 2026:

- Nacimiento Reservoir: 66 cfs
- San Antonio Reservoir: 10 cfs

Total releases from both reservoirs to the Salinas River are approximately 76 cfs. The following "provisional" flows have been recorded by the USGS:

- Nacimiento River below Nacimiento Dam 66 cfs
- Salinas River near Bradley: 357 cfs
- Salinas River near King City 199 cfs
- Salinas River at Soledad: 225 cfs
- Arroyo Seco below Reliz Creek near Soledad 66 cfs
- Salinas River near Chualar: 346 cfs
- Salinas River near Spreckels: 289 cfs

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