

Update as of 2/24/17 at 1600

TID's request to maintain flows for regional protection is denied

The United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) today officially denied Turlock Irrigation District's request for a deviation to maintain Don Pedro Reservoir releases of 16,000 cubic feet per second (cfs) until Don Pedro Reservoir could be lowered to an elevation of 815 feet. Since Monday, TID has been utilizing a single Controlled Spillway Gate at the Reservoir to make additional releases to the River. The Reservoir is currently at 829 feet and its physical capacity is 830 feet.

TID is now determining when it will need to close the Controlled Spillway Gate as stipulated in the USACE Flood Control Manual. Based on the current inflow of approximately 14,500 cfs into Don Pedro, the Controlled Spillway Gate will close in the next two to three days.

The deviation would have created additional space in the Reservoir to accommodate future inflows. To date, the Tuolumne River Watershed is experiencing the wettest year in recorded history and has accumulated more than 200 percent of average precipitation for this date. Snow sensors are recording a historic snowpack ready to unleash millions of acre-feet of additional inflow into Don Pedro when significantly warm storms or warm weather unfold in the coming months. Without adequate room in the Reservoir, TID could be forced to use its Controlled Spillway again this year; this is something TID and others affected were attempting to avoid with the deviation request.

TID has gathered support from downstream stakeholders for this deviation. More than 15 affected local public agencies, governing bodies, elected officials and businesses petitioned the USACE for the deviation because it is necessary to prevent future Tuolumne River flows at levels greater than currently being experienced. Many downstream stakeholders would rather maintain the Tuolumne River and San Joaquin River at their current flow rates and elevations for an acceptable period of time, rather than see flows and elevation drop significantly only to watch them rise to historic levels later this year due to historic rainfall and snowpack runoff.

[Additional Updates](#)

Electrical Restorations: In the interest of electrical safety near the River, TID began de-energizing power lines along the Tuolumne River channel on Monday. Once River flows stabilized, re-inspections began in the areas that had experienced increased water releases to determine if any service locations could have power restored. **More than 900 service connections have been re-energized since Monday's safety outages.** This re-inspection process will continue, and power will only be restored to locations that are deemed safe. TID will continue to monitor and re-evaluate power restoration timelines based on current and forecasted River levels. TID customers without power due to flooding can call TID at 209-883-8300 to learn if their power has been restored. More information on these scheduled outages is available at tid.org/RiverOutage.

Bonds Flat Road Closure: Bonds Flat Road is closed beyond Fleming Meadows and Blue Oaks campgrounds to public access to ensure the safety of the public and spillway operations.

Don Pedro Recreation Agency: The Lake will be closed for boaters during the use of the spillway gates. For more information about lake operations visit donpedrolake.com

Register for Emergency Alerts: Those in Stanislaus and Merced counties are encouraged to register for emergency notifications from their respective county; Stanislaus County residents at StanAware.com and Merced County residents at CountyofMerced.com/alert.

Online Resources

- For additional information from TID about these increased River levels
 - tid.org/flows
- For Don Pedro levels and Tuolumne River releases
 - tid.org/water/hydrological-data.
- For information about River water level and flows at 9th Street in Modesto
 - <http://www.c6y7y7566y7nrfc.noaa.gov/graphicalRVF.php?id=MDSC1>.
- For updates from the Stanislaus County Sheriff's Office
 - www.scsdonline.com/info/press-releases-via-nixle.html.
- **Register for Emergency Alerts from your County**
 - **Stanislaus County:** StanAware.com
 - **Merced County:** CountyofMerced.com/alert
- General Emergency Information:
 - <http://www.stanemergency.com/>
- Information on road closures in Stanislaus County:
 - <http://www.stanemergency.com/pdf/2017Flood/roadclosures.pdf>
- Information on shelters in Stanislaus County:
 - http://www.stanemergency.com/pdf/2017Flood/ARC_Shelter.pdf
- How to obtain sandbags:
 - In Stanislaus County: <http://www.stanemergency.com/naturalDisasters/weather.shtm>
 - In Merced County: <http://www.co.merced.ca.us/DocumentCenter/Home/View/2680>