

New Bullards Bar Dam-Reservoir

Water Control Manual Update Fact Sheet

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

New Bullards Bar Dam is located on the North Yuba River in Yuba County, California. Construction was completed in 1970 by the Yuba County Water Agency (YCWA) as part of Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Project No. 2246 to provide water for power generation, irrigation, water supply, flood control, and recreation. Through authority provided by the 1944 Flood Control Act, USACE prescribes the operating rules for flood risk management functions of the reservoir through the Water Control Manual (WCM). The current WCM for New Bullards Bar, approved in 1972, is undergoing an update with planned completion in 2027. The USACE WCM for New Bullards Bar Reservoir specifies flood releases in a major flood event. Releases from New Bullards Bar Reservoir are made through the New Colgate Powerhouse, via the dam's low-level outlet, or the gated spillway. The WCM Update will make changes to existing hydrology including: a longer period of record and land use changes; availability of forecast information for reservoir inflows and local inflows downstream to the reservoir control points; operational coordination between New Bullards Bar and Oroville dams; absence of Marysville Reservoir (the WCMs for New Bullards Bar and Oroville dams originally included Marysville Reservoir, which was never constructed), and future addition of a new ARC spillway at New Bullards Bar Dam, which has been designed, but not constructed. The planned 2027 WCM Update will also incorporate a Forecast Informed Reservoir Operations (FIRO) space – an adaptive operational storage space where water may be retained during dry conditions and pre-released prior to incoming storms. This FIRO space will be above the Top of Conservation, where USACE has the authority to make release decisions, and below the Top of Conservation, where USACE can recommend releases to be made by YCWA.

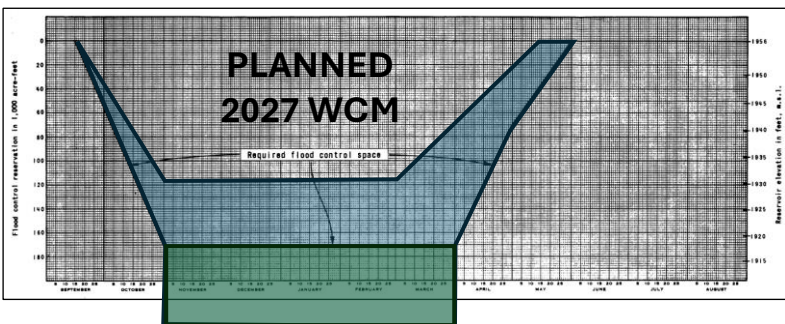
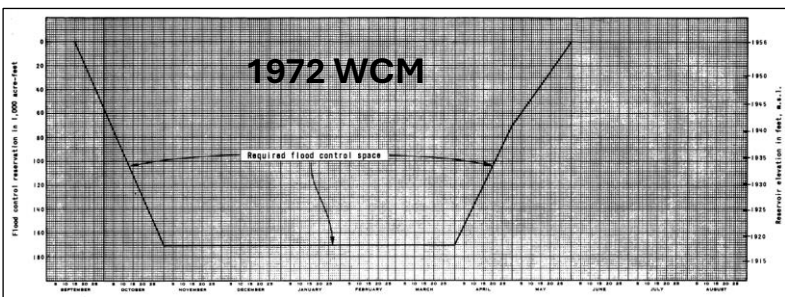


For additional information on the New Bullards Bar and Oroville Dams Water Control Manual Updates, visit the project webpage by using the QR code or visiting our [webpage](#)



OPERATIONAL PARAMETERS COMPARISON

PARAMETER	1972 WCM	PLANNED 2027 WCM
Flood Risk Management	100% authorized flood pool maintained	100% authorized flood pool maintained
Downstream Objective Flows	120,000/180,000 cfs Yuba River at Marysville if Feather River is high/low 300,000 cfs at the Yuba-Feather River confluence 320,000 cfs downstream of the Feather-Bear River confluence	180,000 cfs at Marysville 300,000 cfs at the Yuba-Feather River confluence 320,000 cfs downstream of the Feather-Bear River confluence - Required coordination between New Bullards Bar and Oroville
Decision Logic	Observed pool elevations/inflows	Observed pool elevations/inflows plus multi-day forecasts
Dry Condition Flexibility	No - standard calendar-based drawdowns	Discretionary retention during extended dry forecasts
Pre-Storm Evacuation	No - reactive to observed rainfall/inflows	Proactive drawdown ahead of forecasted storm events



FIRO SPACE ABOVE TOC FIRO SPACE BELOW TOC