

Oroville Dam and Spillways: Background and Update



About 30 percent of Southern California's water comes from Northern California and the State Water Project, which is owned and operated by the California Department of Water Resources. Oroville Dam on the Feather River is part of the State Water Project.

The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California is the largest of the state water contractors that participates in and receives water supplies from the State Water Project, and has contributed funding of more than \$11 billion in today's dollars to the state's construction of this vital water delivery system. The state's proper maintenance of Oroville and the entire State Water Project is essential to water reliability for Metropolitan and two-thirds of California residents and businesses.

Oroville's main spillway suffered severe damage during the record wet start to the 2017 rain season. The subsequent use of an emergency spillway created erosion concerns that prompted an evacuation of communities downstream.

California Department of Water Resources: Oroville Spillways Construction and Cost Estimate Update, September 2018

As work continues to meet the November 1, 2018 public safety construction milestone to fully reconstruct the main spillway, DWR has updated its cost estimates. The current estimate for emergency response and reconstruction of the main and emergency spillways is \$1.1 billion.

- \$940 million for emergency recovery.
- \$160 million for emergency response activities including erosion mitigation for the main and emergency spillways during the incident, sediment removal, installation of temporary transmission lines, staff time, technical consultants and inter-agency support.



Cost estimates are based on actual and projected work and may be adjusted further as work continues through completion of the project in 2019.

DWR is submitting to the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) estimated emergency response and recovery effort costs totaling \$870 million, which covers completion of the project through January 2019. FEMA reimburses up to 75 percent of the requested costs for a federal emergency. To date, FEMA has approved reimbursement of \$86.9 million of the \$115.9 million submitted by DWR.

Main Spillway: November 1, 2018 is a milestone to complete placement of all concrete on the main spillway. Dry finishing, concrete curing, joint sealing, completing sidewall backfill and site clean-up on the main spillway will continue.

Emergency Spillway: Placement of roller-compacted concrete on the southern half of the emergency spillway splashpad is 72 percent complete. The RCC buttress at the base of the emergency spillway will be built later this year. Work at the emergency spillway site is not dependent on the public safety construction milestone and will continue past November.