

News Releases by Month

- April 2022
- January 2022
- November 2021
- October 2021
- September 2021
- July 2021
- April 2021
- February 2021
- January 2021
- December 2020
- November 2020
- October 2020
- July 2020
- April 2020
- March 2020
- February 2020
- January 2020
- December 2019
- November 2019
- October 2019
- September 2019
- August 2019
- June 2019
- May 2019
- April 2019
- March 2019
- February 2019
- January 2019
- December 2018
- November 2018
- October 2018
- September 2018
- August 2018
- July 2018
- June 2018
- May 2018
- March 2018
- February 2018
- January 2018
- October 2017
- September 2017
- August 2017
- July 2017
- June 2017
- May 2017
- April 2017
- March 2017
- February 2017
- January 2017
- October 2016
- September 2016
- August 2016
- July 2016
- June 2016
- May 2016
- April 2016
- March 2016
- February 2016
- January 2016

News Release Manager

Army Corps reclassifies Mojave River Dam risk characterization

Published Nov. 1, 2019

Gf+21



PHOTO I

The Mojave River Dam is pictured in this undated photo.

PRINT | E-MAIL

LOS ANGELES --The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers has changed Mojave River Dam’s risk characterization from low to high urgency of action.

The change was the result of recent risk assessment findings that during an extreme flood event, water could exceed the design capacity of the dam and overtop it. This could potentially result in dam failure, flooding the communities of Hesperia, Apple Valley, Victorville and Barstow, located adjacent to the Mojave River. Flood waters also could reach Baker, more than 140 miles downstream of the dam.

Built in 1971, the Mojave River Dam was designed and constructed consistent with the standards of the day. It continues to operate as it was designed and reduces risk for more than 16,000 people and \$1.5 billion in property.

In fiscal year 2018, a periodic assessment was performed to review the condition of the dam, its expected performance and potential downstream consequences. The preliminary hydrology study done to support the assessment shows the dam could fail should water flow over the top of it.

“The dam has never experienced spillway flow or a flood event that has loaded the dam significantly,” said Col. Aaron Barta, commander of the Corps’ Los Angeles District. “This is a storm that is unlikely to occur, but it is nonetheless a real possibility and one we must be prepared for.”

- October 2015

October 2015

September 2015
- US Army Corps of Engineers

Los Angeles District Website
- July 2015

April 2015

February 2015

January 2015

December 2014

October 2014

September 2014

August 2014

July 2014

May 2014

April 2014

March 2014

February 2014

January 2014

November 2013

October 2013

September 2013

August 2013

July 2013

June 2013

May 2013

April 2013

March 2013

February 2013

January 2013

December 2012

November 2012

October 2012

September 2012

August 2012

July 2012

June 2012

May 2012

February 2012

October 2011

August 2011

July 2011

June 2011

May 2011

April 2011

February 2011

January 2011

The agency is evaluating interim risk-reduction measures associated with a potential overtopping of the dam and anticipates some of those measures will be in place prior to this year’s winter rains.

The LA District owns and operates 17 dams across California, Arizona and Nevada that reduce the risk of flooding for about 7 million people and \$200 billion in property. The dams are reviewed periodically and rated according to the age and condition of the dam and potential consequences. The District’s dams range from low to very high urgency of action. Routine operation, maintenance and inspection activities are performed to ensure the dams perform as designed.

Flood-risk management is a shared responsibility among federal, state and local agencies and the general public. The Corps is actively coordinating with its partners and conducting public outreach as interim risk-management strategies.

"We're working closely with San Bernardino County, Apple Valley, Victorville, Hesperia and other downstream agencies to improve flood-risk awareness and emergency preparedness," said Kristen Bedolla, Dam Safety Program manager for the LA District. "Community preparation also is a key component in reducing flood risk."

Activities like preparing an emergency kit, registering mobile and other phones with the San Bernardino County Telephone Emergency Notification System for emergency alerts, creating an evacuation plan and establishing a family emergency communication plan can save lives.

Bedolla and representatives with the LA District’s Emergency Management Office conducted a Dam Safety Seminar of the Mojave River Dam July 18 in Hesperia. The seminar was attended by federal, state, county and city emergency managers and responders, school district representatives and congressional staff.

About Mojave River Dam

The Mojave River Dam is an un-gated flood control structure, located at the northern side of the San Bernardino Mountains, just downstream of the confluence of the West Fork Mojave River and Deep Creek. The confluence of these two streams form the mainstem of the Mojave River. The entire river basin comprises about 4,700 square miles, of which 95 percent is desert. However, the 215 square miles of drainage area upstream of the dam consists of mountainous terrain and contributes to the majority of the surface water that reaches the Mojave River.

Contact

Luciano Vera		Dena O'Dell
(213) 452-3922		(213) 452-3925
(213) 716-8719 (cell)	or	(213) 509-4193 (cell)
San.L.Vera@usace.army.mil		Dena.M.O'Dell@usace.army.mil

Release no. 19-014



Dam Risk Characterization Reclassification

Dam Safety Action Classification change

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Los Angeles District

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Headquarters

Mojave River Dam

california

Hesperia

Apple Valley

Barstow

Baker

Victorville

San Bernardino Mountains

flood-risk management

