

# DON PEDRO DAM AND RESERVOIR



**WATER & POWER**  
Serving Central California since 1887



## HISTORY OF DON PEDRO RESERVOIR

With historic water rights dating back to the late 1850's, TID diverts most of the water it supplies to its growers from the Tuolumne River. The river originates high in the Sierra Nevada on Mt. Lyell in Yosemite National Park in an area known as the Tuolumne River watershed.

In 1923, Turlock and Modesto Irrigation Districts joined forces to build the first Don Pedro Dam. With a storage capacity of only 289,000 acre feet, the dam held virtually enough water to accommodate growers' irrigation needs for a single growing season. After numerous dry winters, the districts made the decision to replace the original dam with a much larger one in order to store water necessary to bridge multiple years of drought.

Construction on the new Don Pedro Dam began in fall 1967 and was completed in 1971 at a cost of \$105 million. Built primarily for irrigation water storage, the reservoir has a capacity of 2,030,000 acre feet and has many additional benefits including power generation, flood control, recreation, and environmental benefits. By virtue of their historic sharing agreement based on acreage served within each district, TID's share is 68.46%, while MID's share is 31.54%.

## RESERVOIR FACTS

**585 FEET** HEIGHT  
Height of Don Pedro Reservoir

**855 FEET** CREST ELEVATION  
Height of Don Pedro Reservoir crest elevation

**1,900 FEET** CREST LENGTH  
Length of Don Pedro Reservoir crest

**40 FEET** CREST WIDTH  
Width of Don Pedro Reservoir crest

**2,030,000 ACRE FEET** MAXIMUM STORAGE  
Maximum amount of water storage

**9TH TALLEST**  
Don Pedro Dam is the 9th tallest dam in the United States



## IRRIGATION

TID currently serves over 4,700 irrigation customers. The water stored in Don Pedro Reservoir irrigates nearly 150,000 acres of farmland within the District's 307 square-mile irrigation service area. Irrigation water is delivered via a gravity fed system of 250 miles of canals and laterals.

The irrigation season typically begins in mid-March and continues through mid-October. The predominant crops being grown are alfalfa, almonds, apples, beans, corn, grain, grapes, oats, peaches, sweet potatoes, and walnuts.



## FLOOD CONTROL

Lake Don Pedro provides flood protection for the valley below. Don Pedro's immense capacity is able to absorb surges from Sierra storms to protect property, farmland and industry. At reservoir elevation 580, the gated and ungated spillways are capable of discharging 472,500 cubic feet of flood water per second.



## RELICENSING

Don Pedro Reservoir is licensed by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). The existing FERC license expired in 2016 and has been renewed annually each year since. The relicensing process can be both complex and time consuming. TID began working with its project partners in 2008 to outline the work needed to ensure a smooth as possible relicensing process.



## RECREATION

More than 14 million people have visited Lake Don Pedro since 1971. With 160 miles of shoreline and nearly 13,000 acres of surface area, visitors can enjoy fishing, boating, swimming and water sports. Additionally, there are camping and picnicking facilities, boat ramps and a swimming lagoon. For more information, contact the Don Pedro Recreation Agency at (209) 852-2396 or visit their website at [www.donpedrolake.com](http://www.donpedrolake.com).



## POWER

As a public power agency, TID has been delivering power to retail customers since 1923. TID is the majority owner and operator of the reservoir and generation facilities. The power plant was originally constructed with three generators. A fourth unit was added in 1989. Up to 203 megawatts of hydroelectric power can be generated with 139MW going to TID and 64MW to MID.



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