

LA GRANGE DAM



WATER & POWER
Serving Central California since 1887



LA GRANGE DAM HISTORY

Located approximately a mile and a half above the town of La Grange, on the Tuolumne River, the La Grange Dam is among the oldest dams still operating in California. When it was completed in 1893 it was the highest overflow dam in the United States, built at a cost of \$550,000.

La Grange Dam has one basic purpose: diverting Tuolumne River water into the irrigation canal systems of the Turlock and Modesto Irrigation Districts.

Unlike most dams, very little water is stored behind La Grange Dam. Water is released upstream from the Don Pedro Dam Powerhouse, where it flows through a steep canyon to the La Grange Dam. Once it reaches the dam, the water flows three different ways. It can flow into either the Turlock or Modesto Irrigation District tunnels, the head of each District's canal system, or into the river. On rare occasions, when water is abundant, it flows over the top of the dam and directly into the river.

In 1924, TID constructed the La Grange Powerhouse which is capable of generating 5 megawatts. The maximum amount of water that is able to go through the powerhouse is 550 CFS.

DAM FACTS

127.5 FEET ORIGINAL HEIGHT
The original height of La Grange Dam

131 FEET ADDITIONAL HEIGHT
Height after 18 inch and 24 inch caps were added in 1923 and 1930, respectively

296 FEET CREST ELEVATION
Elevation of La Grange Dam

24 FEET CREST WIDTH
Crest width of La Grange Dam

96 FEET BASE WIDTH
Base thickness of La Grange Dam

16.5 FEET FLOW OVER
To date, the highest flow over the dam was 16.5 feet in 1911 and 1950