

Flood control cited as reason for releases from New Hogan

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The large volume of water released the past month from New Hogan Lake has been attributed to maintaining enough room in the reservoir for flood control.

“Flood control is a primary purpose of New Hogan Dam, which recent increased water releases illustrated,” said Ken Wright, a public affairs specialist for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. “We initiated the increases on Jan. 8, due to significant rise of inflow that was caused by the series of atmospheric rivers much of Northern California was experiencing at that time, and because the reservoir was already within the designated flood control space.”

The dam and reservoir are operated under the authority of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers.

“The releases continued until Jan. 23, after the conclusion of the series of storms,” Wright added. “We then began to reduce them as the reservoir regained sufficient flood control space for potential future inflows from rain and snowmelt, which helps reduce the chance of uncontrolled releases out of the reservoir.”

The artificial lake has a water storage capacity of 317,000 acre-feet. It reached a high of 228,772 acre-feet on Jan. 17 and with the recent draw down of water was at 169,583 acre-feet as of Tuesday morning.

Releases reached a high of 4,446 acre-feet a second on Jan. 23 and were down to 172 acre-feet as of Tuesday. After the past weekend’s rains, measured at .73 inches at New Hogan, inflows into the lake from the Calaveras River were 655 acre-feet a second.

New Hogan Lake and New Hogan Dam are the successors of the original 1930 Hogan Lake and Hogan Dam.

The dam was constructed as a response to flooding of the Calaveras River, which caused problems for the City of Stockton. The original Hogan dam was deemed ineffective when floods reoccurred in the 1950s. These problems with flooding led to the construction of the New Hogan Dam and New Hogan Lake by the Army Corps of Engineers. The earth-filled New Hogan Dam was completed in 1963.