

Friant Dam/Millerton Lake Operations

There are several operating parameters that must be considered in determining the Friant Division Water Supply Allocation, such as:

1. Artificial dead storage volume of 135,000 acre-feet in Millerton Lake
2. Army Corps of Engineer's Reservoir Regulation for Flood Control Manual
3. Mammoth Pool Agreement - Southern California Edison (SCE)
4. Miller Lux Agreement – Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E), Crane Valley
5. Department of Water Resources (DWR) forecast
6. California State Water Resource Control Board Permit
7. San Joaquin River Water Holders
8. Friant Long-Term Contractors
9. San Joaquin River Restoration Program Releases

On or about February 1st of each year, DWR issues an exceedence water supply forecast based on precipitation and snow measurements. DWR issues three (3) exceedence forecasts (90 percent, 50 percent and 10 percent). Because of the uncertainty, Reclamation has historically initially used the 90 percent exceedence numbers (conservative). As the year progresses, the three forecast merge closer together. These numbers are updated until June.

The Army Corps of Engineers uses DWR's 50 percent exceedence forecast to determine the Top of Conservation storage for Millerton Lake. The Top of Conservation storage generally dictates Millerton Lake storage requirements as per the Flood Control Manual.

Based on DWR's water year projection, Reclamation determines the water year classification as outlined in the San Joaquin River Restoration guidelines, which determine the required releases. As DWR updates the forecast, Reclamation adjusts accordingly.

After subtracting the restoration releases, SCE and PG&E storage, the artificial dead storage, and rescheduled water, Reclamation determines a volume of water which is converted to a water allocation for the Friant Division. The first 800,000 acre – feet of water supply is considered Class 1, any remaining water is considered Class 2.

As the year progresses, Reclamation tracks the water supply and make adjustments to the allocation as needed.