



# Division of Safety of Dams

Since August 14, 1929, the State of California has regulated dams to prevent failure, safeguard life, and protect property. [The California Water Code](#) entrusts dam safety regulatory power to DWR, Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD). We provide oversight to the design, construction, and maintenance of over 1,200 [jurisdictional sized dams](#) in California.

We ensure dam safety by:

- Reviewing and approving dam enlargements, repairs, alterations, and removals to ensure that the dam appurtenant structures are designed to meet minimum requirements.
- Performing independent analyses to understand dam and appurtenant structures performance. These analyses can include structural, hydrologic, hydraulic, and geotechnical evaluations.
- Overseeing construction to ensure work is being done in accordance with the approved plans and specifications.
- Inspecting each dam on an annual basis to ensure it is safe, performing as intended, and is not developing issues. Roughly 1/3 of these inspections include in-depth instrumentation reviews of the dam surveillance network data.
- Periodically reviewing the stability of dams and their major appurtenances in light of improved design approaches and requirements, as well as new findings regarding earthquake hazards and hydrologic estimates in California.

Information regarding the supervision of dams is provided here to better serve the public, dam owners, and applicants.

---

## Dams within Jurisdiction of the State of California

Information about each jurisdictional dam was obtained from applications and plans submitted by owners, surveys, supplementary information acquired during inspections, and special studies. View the publications section below for more information.

---

Dam owners should read the Responsibility and Liability brochure (PDF) prepared by the [Association of State Dam and Safety Officials](#).

## Publications

- > [Definitions of Downstream Hazard and Condition Assessment](#)
- > [Dams Within Jurisdiction of the State of California Listed Alphabetically by County](#)
- > [Dams Within Jurisdiction of the State of California Listed Alphabetically by Name](#)
- > [Jurisdictional Dams Listed Alphabetically by Reservoir Name](#)
- > [Dams Within Jurisdiction of the State of California with Reservoir Restrictions](#)

- > [California Jurisdictional Dams Included in the Spillway Re-evaluation Program \(2019\)](#)
- > [Notice of Intent to Update Inspection and Reevaluation Protocols](#)
- > [Technical Advisory Panel--Inspection and Reevaluation Protocols--Proposed Amendments](#)
- > [DSOD Inspection and Reevaluation Protocols](#)

## Resources

- > [Army Corps of Engineers](#)
- > [Association of State Dam Safety Officials \(ASDSO\)](#)
- > [California Office of Emergency Services](#)
- > [DHS Dam Sector Resources](#)
- > [Federal Energy Regulation Commission \(FERC\)](#)
- > [FEMA National Dam Safety](#)
- > [International Committee on Large Dams \(ICOLD\)](#)
- > [United States Society on Dams \(USSD\)](#)