

“THE REALITY ON THE GROUND”

OROVILLE CASE STUDY

26 AUGUST 2020

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BACKGROUND

Oroville Dam:

- Located 65 miles north of Sacramento on the Feather River
- California's second largest reservoir (3.5 million acre-feet)
- Tallest earth-fill dam in the United States (770-feet)
- A multipurpose reservoir providing water supply, hydropower and flood control.
 - Contributes to the irrigation of 755,000 acres in the arid San Joaquin Valley
 - Generates 762 megawatts (MW).
 - Provides 750,000 acre feet or storage for flood control
 - Provides municipal supplies to some 25 million people
 - Max release at spillway design is 296,000 cfs
- Construction was completed in 1968.

Oroville Spillways:

- Flood Control Outlet crest – El. 813.6
- Conservation pool – El 850.0
- Emergency Spillway crest - El 901.0

USACE Role:

- While USACE did not construct, design, nor build Oroville Dam or it's spillways, there is a federal interest in the project, as this is a Section 7 Dam (i.e. federal dollars were invested to provide flood control space in the reservoir).

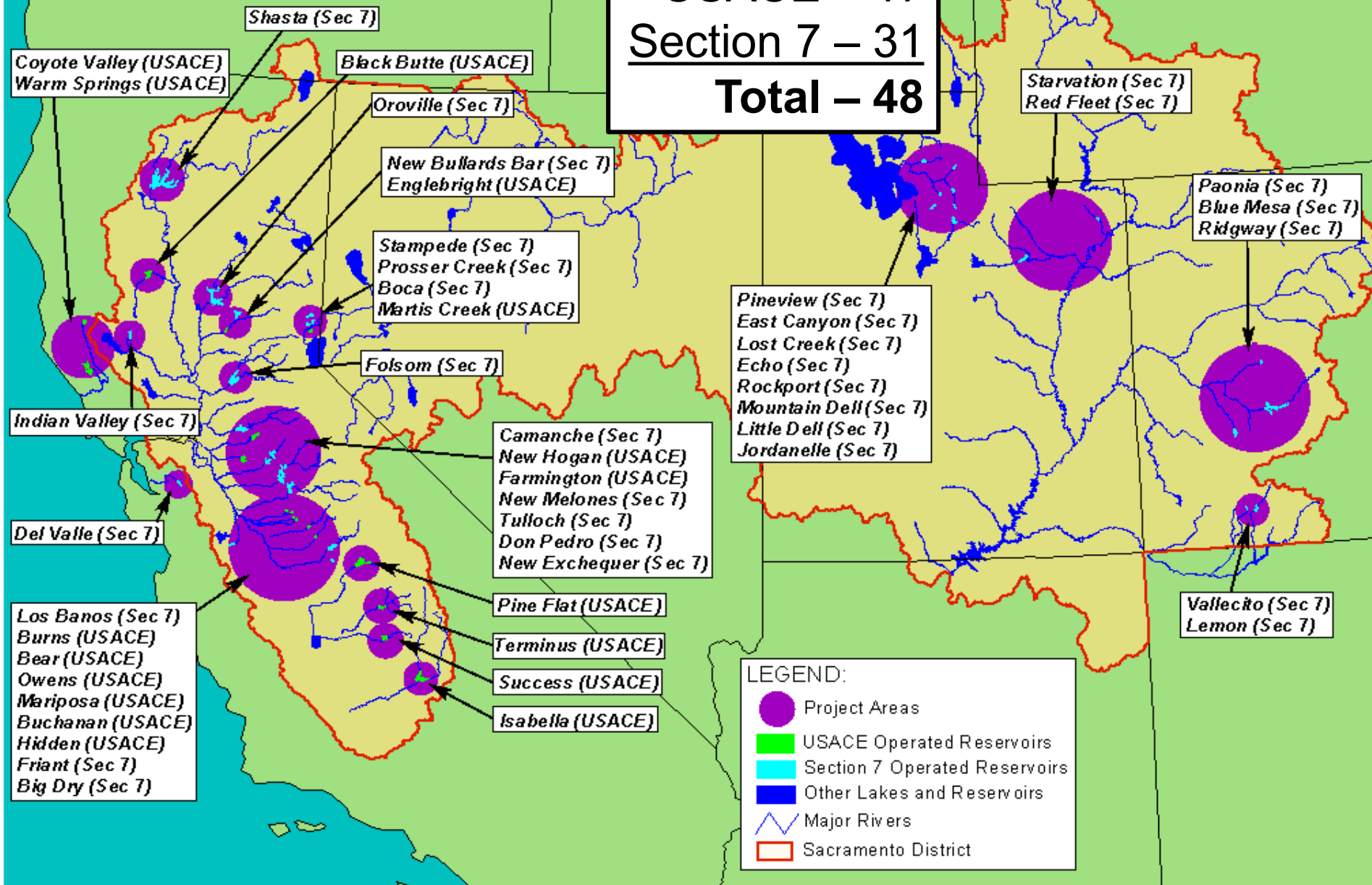


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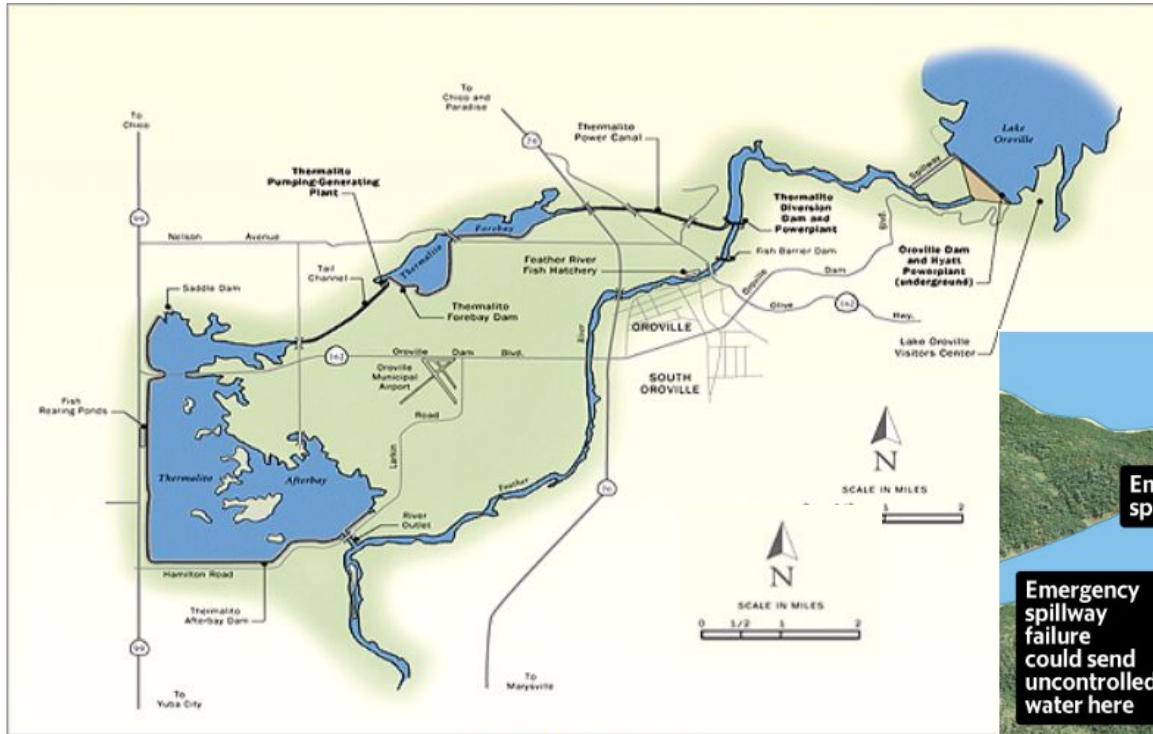


SACRAMENTO DISTRICT PROJECTS

USACE – 17
Section 7 – 31
Total – 48



PROJECT FEATURES



Map of Oroville Facilities



The Sacramento Bee

Features: Oroville Dam and Spillway
Hyatt Powerhouse
Thermolito Diversion Dam and Powerplant
Thermolito Power Canal
Thermolito Forebay
Thermolito Pumping Generating plant
Thermolito Afterbay



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FLOOD CONTROL OUTLET (FCO)



03/24/16

The FCO has been used historically during the flood season. It is designed for routine flood releases of 150,000 cfs, and can release as much as 300,000 cfs.

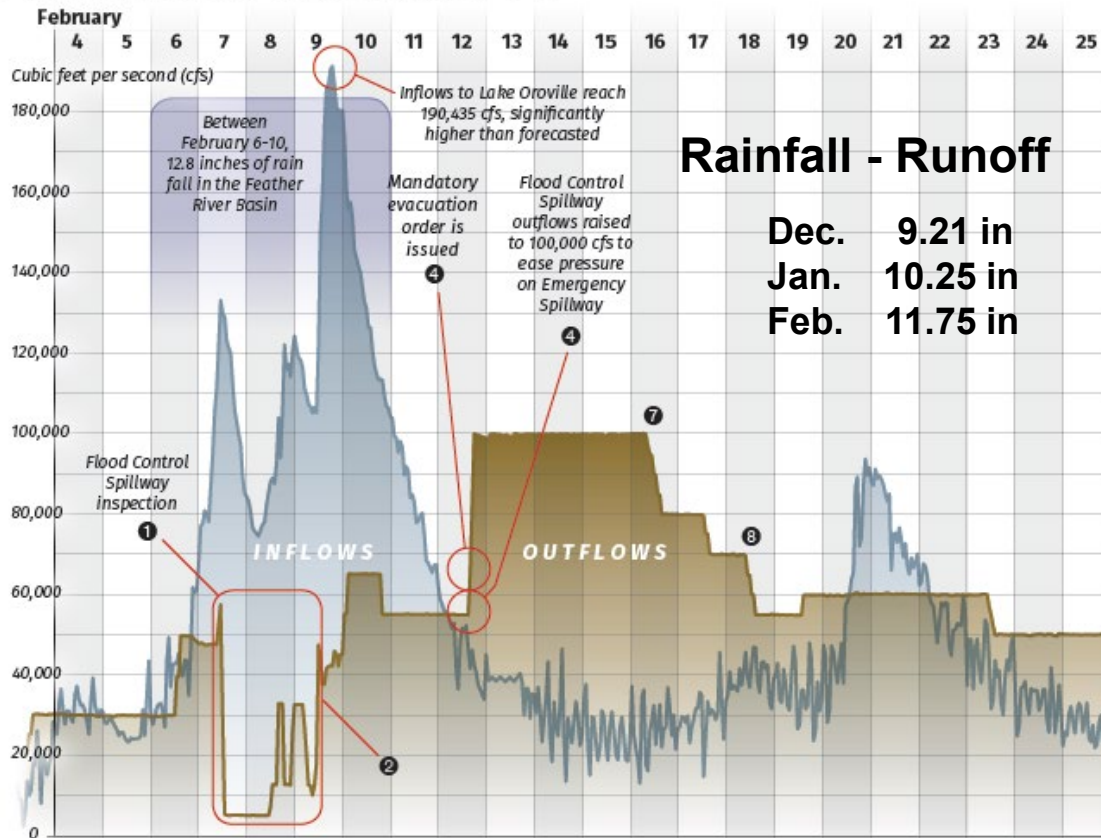


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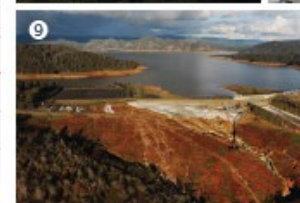
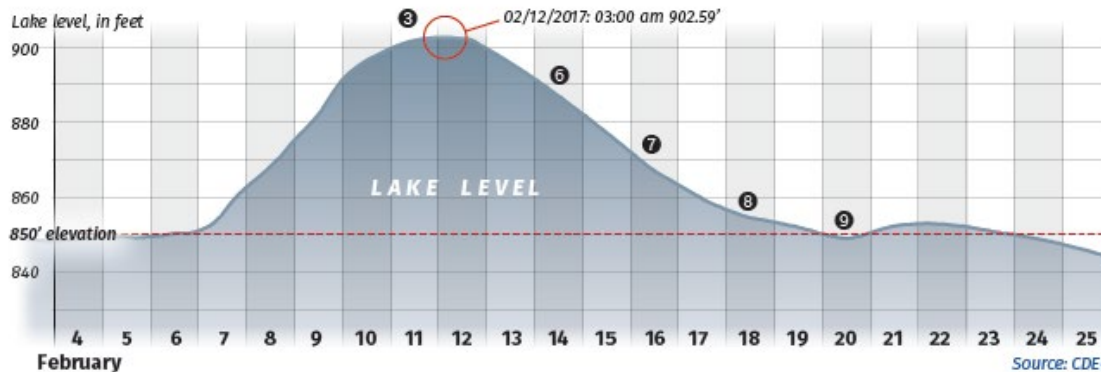


Timeline of Major Events February 4-25 FEBRUARY 2017

Oroville Spillway Public Info Line: (530) 538-7826



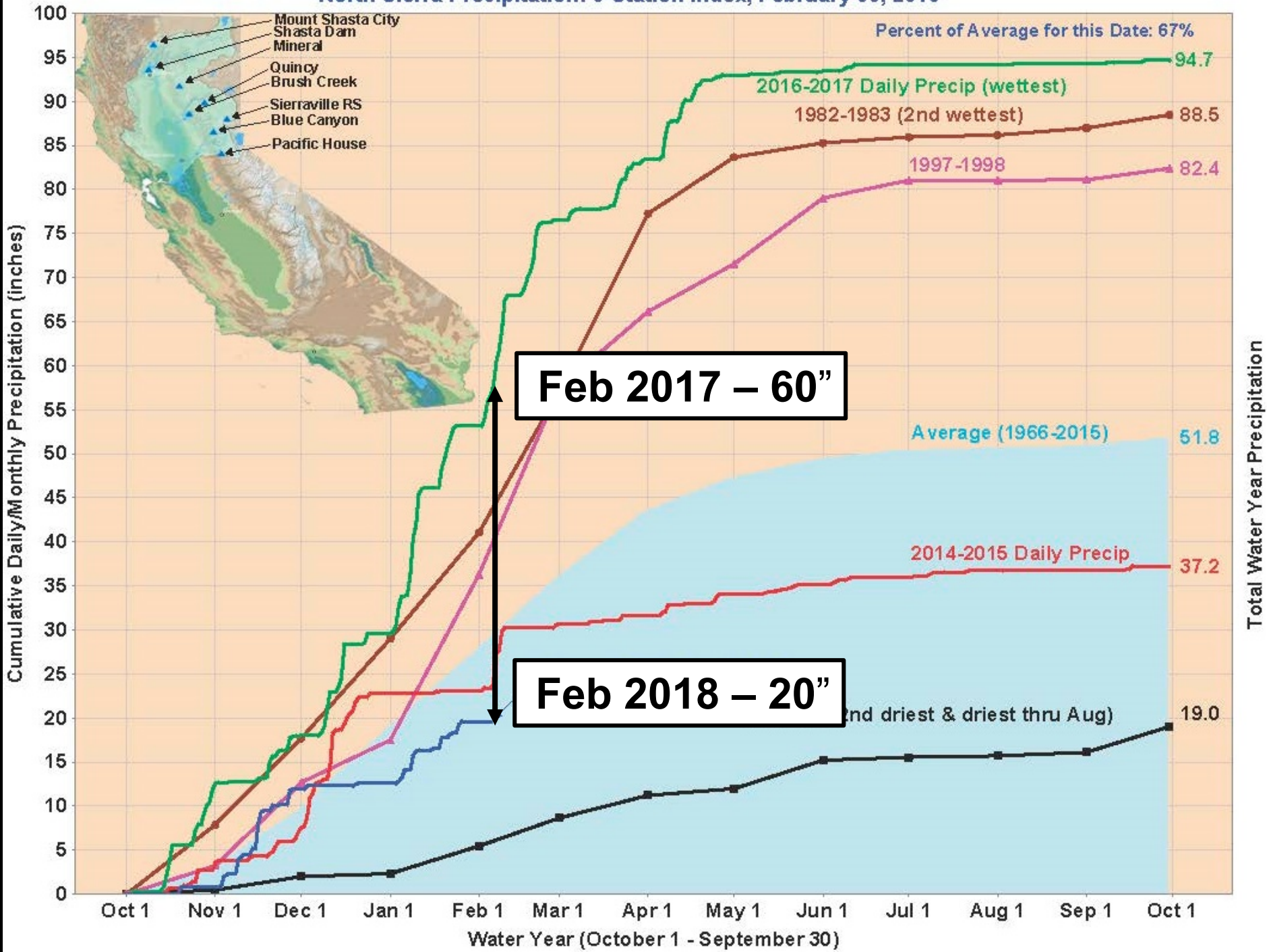
Dec. 9.21 in
Jan. 10.25 in
Feb. 11.75 in



water.ca.gov
cdec.water.ca.gov/reservoir.html



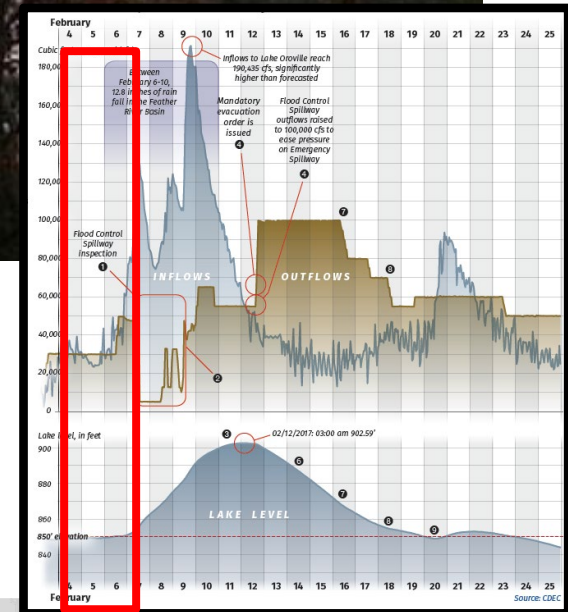
North Sierra Precipitation: 8-Station Index, February 05, 2018



3-7 FEBRUARY 2017



3-7 Feb Release through FCO increased from 20,000 to 54,000 cfs
 7 Feb Release increased to 54,500 cfs
 DWR discovers plume of dirty water in spillway flow
 Release cut back to 5200 cfs to inspect
 Engineers discover large crater
 Water surface reaches EI 860 ft



8-9 FEBRUARY 2017



February 7, 2017



February 9, 2017

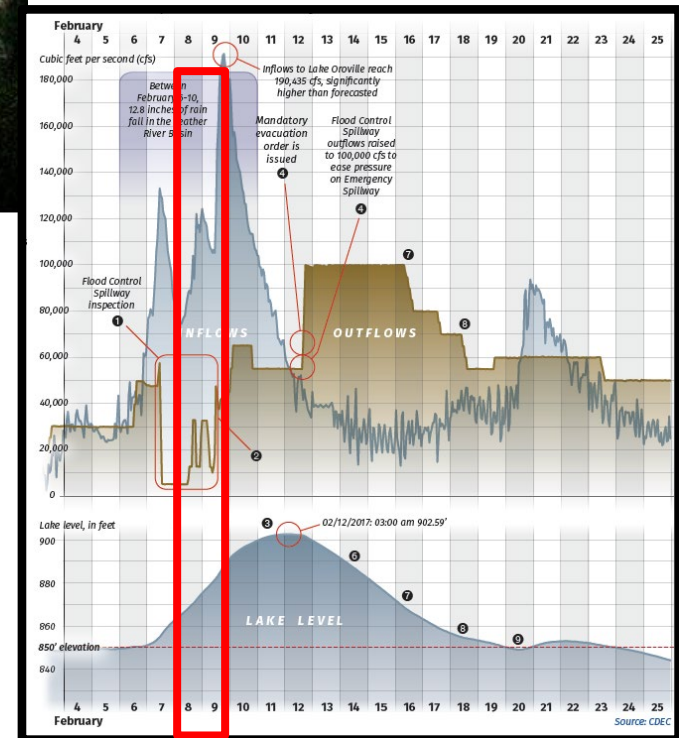
Photos courtesy of the Department of Water Resources

8 Feb

- DWR requested USACE technical assistance
- EOC activated
- FCO erosion worsened
- FCO test flows up to 30,000 cfs

9 Feb

- Larger than expected inflows peak at 190,000 cfs
- SPK Personnel deploy to DWR office to lend tech assistance as authorized under PL84-99



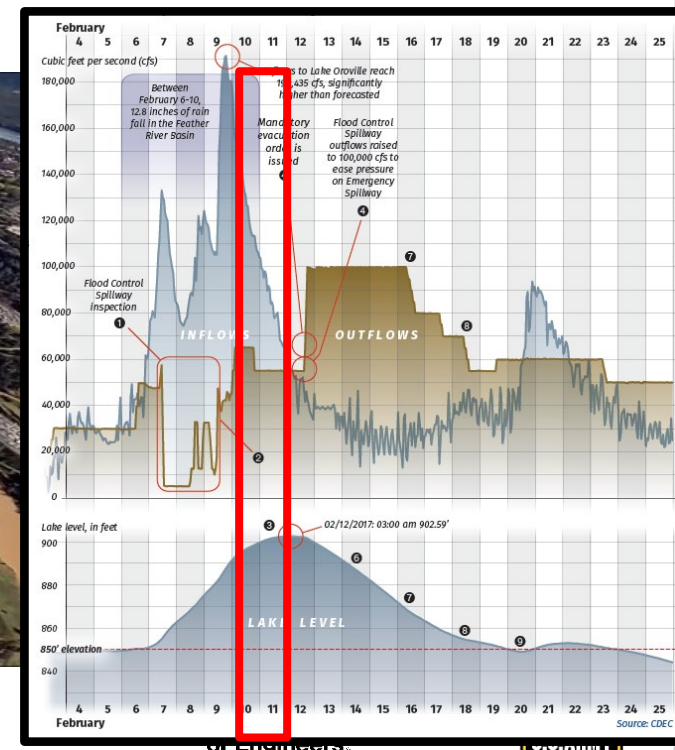
10-11 FEBRUARY 2017

10 Feb

- Spillway flow increased to 48,000 cfs
- SPK is standing by to provide the State with additional engineering and geotechnical experts as well as additional flood fight materials as needed.

11 Feb

- Emergency Spillway begins to flow at 8:00 pm for first time
- Spill across the 1,700-foot-wide crest and was expected to peak at 6,000 to 12,000 cfs





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12-16 FEBRUARY 2017



12-16 Feb - FCO flow kept at 100,000 cfs. Pool drops from El. 901 to El. 862

13 Feb

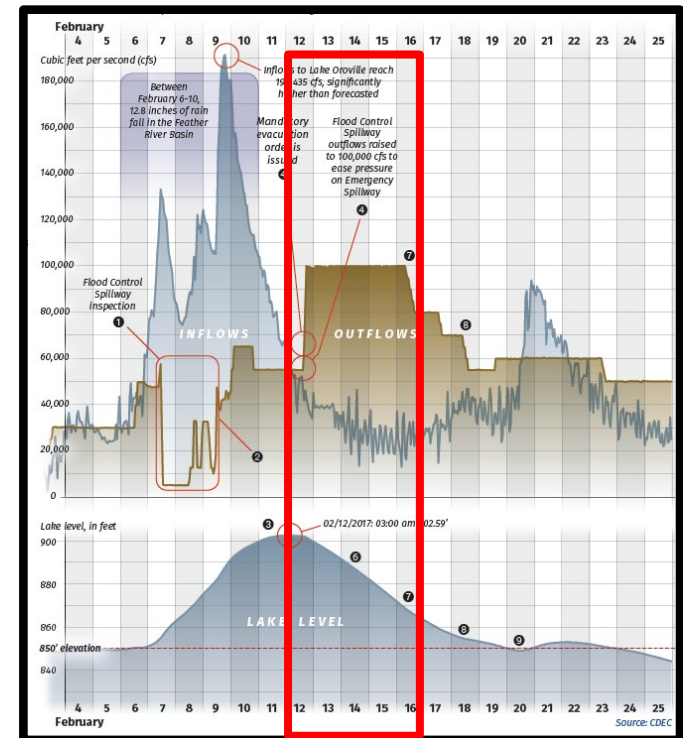
- USACE (SPK) personnel deploy to Oroville to provide technical assistance for emergency response.

15 Feb

- USACE/RMC began coordination with DWR to determine mission needs and USACE support

12 Feb

- Butte County Sheriff ordered mandatory evacuation
- FCO flow increased to 100,000 cu ft/s
- Max pool elevation of 902.5
- Flow over emergency spillway ended at 2030 hrs



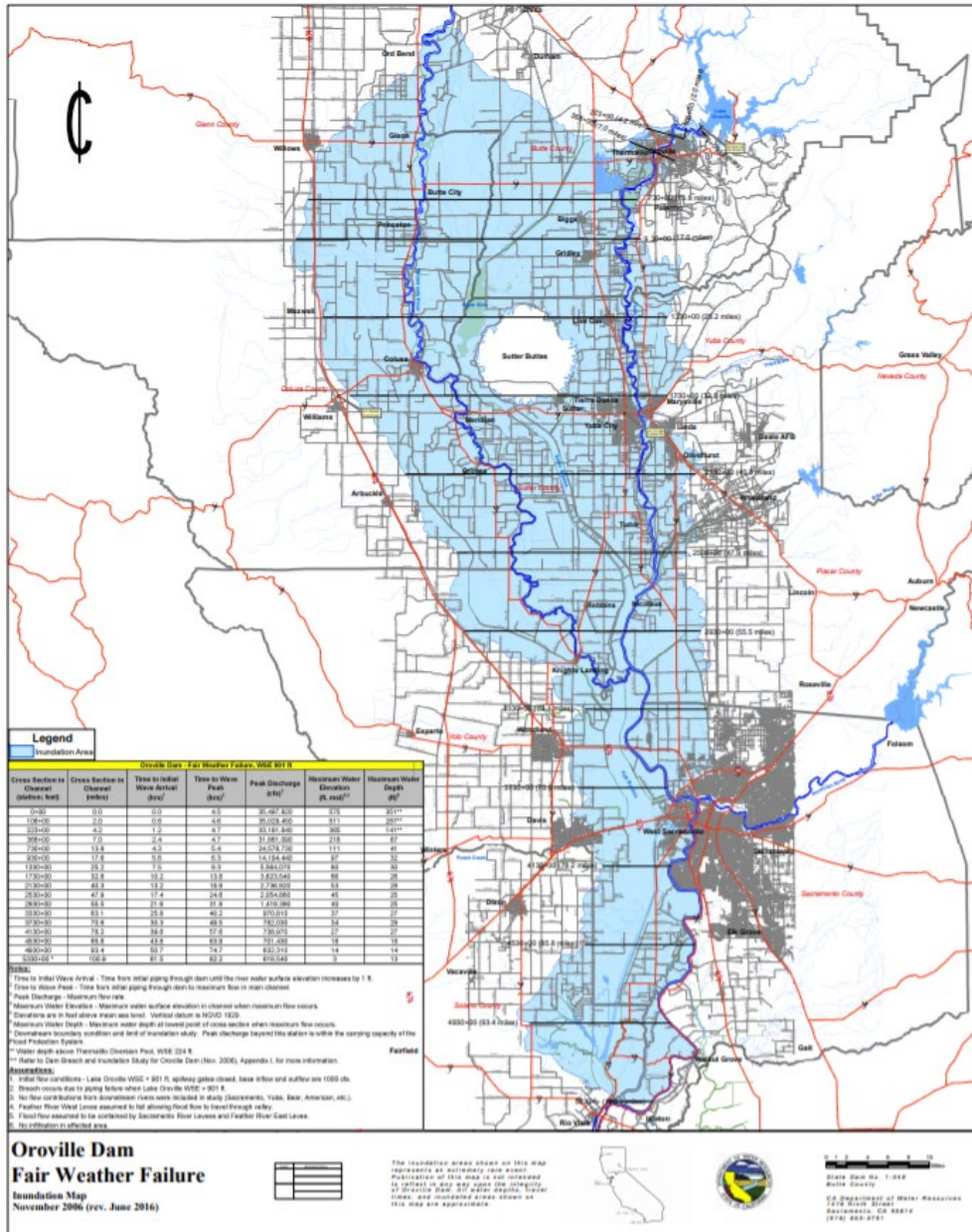
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INUNDATION AREA (2006) SUNNY DAY

Understanding of Inundation Zone(s)

- Full Dam Breach
- Component Failure or Breach
- Sensitivity to Warning/Evacuation Time



EMERGENCY SPILLWAY DAMAGE



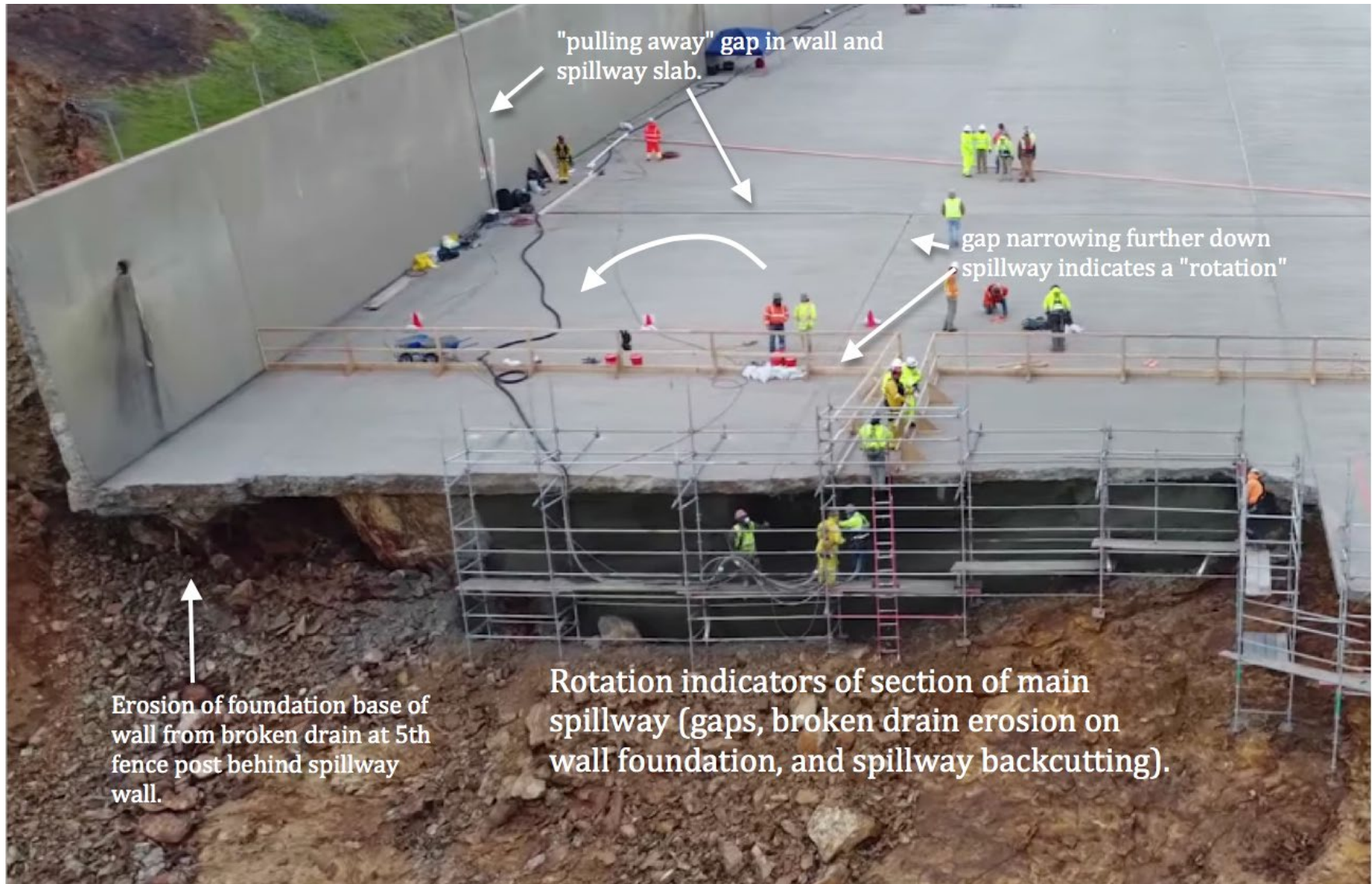
EMERGENCY SPILLWAY DAMAGE



EMERGENCY SPILLWAY DAMAGE



FCO DAMAGE



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FCO



28 Feb 2017

Between 27 Feb and
17 Mar – removed
1.25 million cy of
debris from the river.



1- 16 March 2017

Debris Removal



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17 Mar 2017



Operations after emergency repairs to draw reservoir down for construction



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Gated Flood Control Spillway Construction Comparisons

1968

2018

Length of
main spillway

3,055 feet

3,055 feet

Width of
main spillway

178.75 feet
As wide as a 12-lane freeway
with center divider

178.75 feet
As wide as a 12-lane freeway
with center divider

Flow capacity

270,000
cubic feet per second

270,000
cubic feet per second
(100,000 cfs from Nov 2017 through January 2019)

Spillway Chute
Concrete thickness

DESIGN: 1 feet, 3 inches
minimum
ACTUAL: 2 feet, 8 inches
average

DESIGN: 4 foot, 6 inches
minimum
ACTUAL: 7 feet, 6 inches
average

Spillway wall height

20 feet - 27 feet
1 foot thick at the top
2 feet, 4 inches thick at the base

20 feet - 34 feet
2 feet thick at the top
5 feet thick at the base

Piezometers

0

58

Reinforcing steel

LAYERS: 1
DIAMETER: 5/8 inch

LAYERS: 2 (top is epoxy-coated)
DIAMETER: 1 inch

Underdrains

TYPE: Clay
DIAMETER: 6 inch

TYPE: PVC
DIAMETER: 8 inch

Slab Anchors

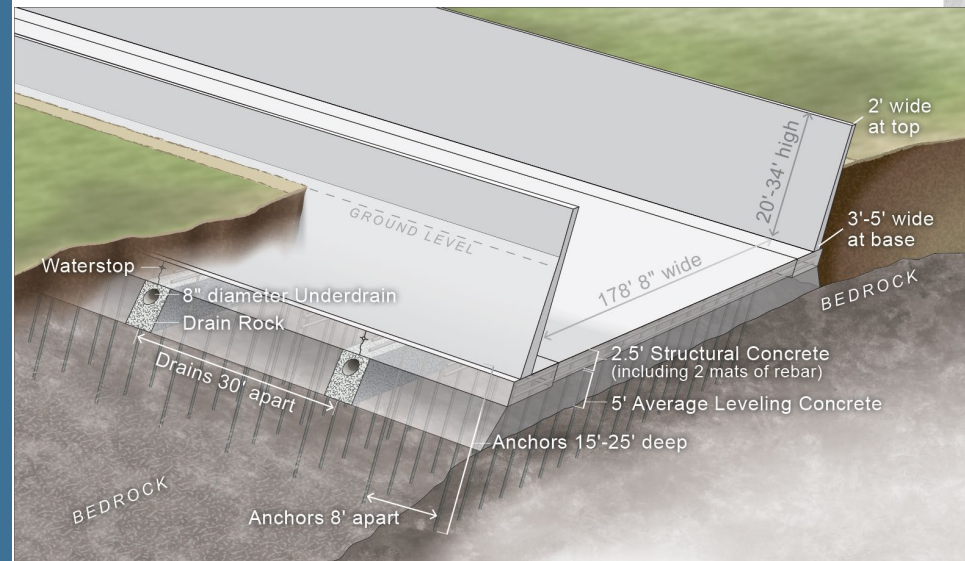
QUANTITY: Appx. 5,700
DEPTH: 5 feet deep

QUANTITY: Appx. 7,000
(epoxy-coated)
DEPTH: 15 to 25 feet deep

The need to get a contractor(s) on site
to start construction in the narrow
window

Phased Approach using contract
modifications

Took over an entire office floor at DWR



Oroville Spillway Repair Progress



Days to go until November 1, 2017 milestone



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CONSTRUCTION SITE IN OCTOBER 2017



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CONSTRUCTION SITE IN 2020



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