



Walker River Irrigation District

Established in 1919

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Q&A Session:

What pre-flood mitigation is the District doing? And why are there excavators around the valley?

WRID staff have been working to clear drains, canals/ditches, and river corridors of debris and other obstructions. Cleaning of the areas will allow for some relief when the river significantly rises over flood stage. Due to limited equipment, WRID contacted Nevada Department of Emergency Management (NDEM) for additional excavators to expedite the mitigation efforts. In response to the NDEM request, WRID received a long-reach excavator and a heavy excavator in early April. The two borrowed machines, WRID's long-reach excavator, and a privately owned excavator have been working around the clock and have cleared over 67 miles so far.

Why is there a flood threat when the Reservoirs are not full?

Questions have arisen concerning the amount of storage in both Topaz and Bridgeport Reservoirs at the present time. As of May 25, 2017, the storage in Topaz Reservoir was 28,970 acre feet, and additional water was being stored in the Reservoir as of the same date. Storage in Bridgeport Reservoir on that date was 12,040 acre feet, and inflow and outflow were approximately equal. The District has been maintaining space in both Reservoirs to avoid a situation where inflow greatly exceeded outflow, potentially causing problems with the dam facilities. In addition, the District has been maintaining space in both Reservoirs to store water during the peak runoff period in order to help mitigate downstream flooding and to avoid having to release water from storage during that period.

The District has been consulting with MBK Engineers and Cal Poly Irrigation Training and Research Center concerning reservoir operations, as well as with other state and federal agencies. Records of runoff, including runoff patterns, for the four wettest years for which there are records, 1983, 1995, 2006 and 2011, have been examined. In all four of those years, the Walker River was on "Full Decree" or more until August. In all four of those years, the District stored water in both Reservoirs in June and in July. However, both Reservoirs had more water in storage at the end of May in those years than at present.

Nevertheless, based upon all available information, the District anticipates that there will be water available to store in June and July this year. The 90% exceedance forecast (the lowest or most conservative estimate) for the month of June is that 66,000 acre feet will flow from the East Walker, and 127,000 acre feet will flow from the West Walker. If every decreed right is called for every day during the entire month of June, there will still be 100,000 acre feet of excess available for storage in the Reservoirs. In addition, the 90% exceedance forecast for July indicates that additional flow will be available for storage in July if the Reservoirs are not filled in June. The District and its consultants monitor this information on a daily basis, and will adjust reservoir storage as required based upon events as they occur and all available information.

Special Point of Interest:

-RESERVOIR CAPACITIES: TOPAZ: 60,000 ACRE FEET BRIDGEPORT: 42,355 ACRE FEET