



Scotts Flat Dam Spillway

Infrastructure: Scotts Flat Dam spillway replacement

The Scotts Flat Reservoir is vital to local communities, which rely on it for water delivery, recreation opportunities, wildlife habitat, and as an economic driver.

In addition, the Scotts Flat hydropower plant generates 875 kilowatts of electricity. This is an important piece in the District's policy to become more socially, environmentally, and economically sustainable.

Water Infrastructure Issue: Scotts Flat Dam spillway needs to be replaced

FERC & DSOD mandatory regulatory replacement

- The 1950's slab concrete spillway has experienced recurring spall damage over time, with several severe spalling areas caused by the early flood flows in 2017.
- In the wake of the 2017 Oroville Spillway incident, the California Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD) and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) required investigation and assessment of many spillways under their jurisdiction, including Scotts Flat.
- In 2017, NID contracted more than \$540,000 for extensive repairs to the spillway's concrete slab.
- Between 2018-2025, NID awarded more than \$2.8 million in preparation work, including site exploration, conceptual design studies, hydraulic modeling and final spillway design.
- Estimated construction beginning in 2026 could see costs as high as \$55 million over a three-year construction window.

What's the Risk?

- The spillway is a crucial safety feature for the dam; it protects the earthen rock-fill infrastructure from serious erosion during spill events.
- Scotts Flat is the main mid-elevation water storage reservoir for Nevada County. It is a primary water supply for District customers' drinking- and irrigation water .
- The reservoir also is in close proximity to the towns of Nevada City and Grass Valley, as well as rural neighborhoods. Spillway replacement is necessary to provide community public safety and support of local disadvantaged communities.
- NID is pursuing federal funding/grants, to offset the cost of replacement that will fall to ratepayers through increased water rates.



Scotts Flat Reservoir is located in Nevada County at a 3,000-foot elevation. It has a capacity of 49,000 acre-feet of water.



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Flow disturbance caused by spalled concrete.



Nevada Irrigation District

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