



MEDIA ADVISORY

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS

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AGENCIES WILL TEST SEVEN OAKS DAM OUTLET WORKS

LOS ANGELES – Media are invited to observe testing of the Seven Oaks Dam outlet works between 8:30 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Tuesday, July 13.

- **Because of safety requirements and limited access to the gated test site, media must coordinate their attendance through the San Bernardino County Department of Public Works listed below.**
- **Media interested in attending are strongly encouraged to coordinate with San Bernardino County Department of Public Works before the morning of the test to ensure receiving access.**
- **Security personnel will not permit unauthorized personnel to access the gated test site.**

Who: The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, the San Bernardino County Flood Control District, the Riverside County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, and the Orange County Flood Control District will conduct the test. The agencies are partners for the Santa Ana River Mainstem Project, whose purpose is to reduce the potential for damage from flooding to private property, businesses and infrastructure along the Santa Ana River.

What: Reservoir Regulation Staff (Operators) will test Seven Oaks Dam's two regulating outlet gates for vibrations by opening each separately and then together, up to a discharge of approximately 2,500 cubic feet per second. Operators will also perform a test of the Low Flow Gate and the Minimum Discharge Line Cone Valves in order to confirm the expected discharge-elevation relationships.

When: The week-long tests will begin the morning of Tuesday, July 13 when operators begin releases through one of two regulating outlet gates at Seven Oaks Dam.

Where: Seven Oaks Dam, 32330 Santa Ana Canyon Road, Highland, Calif., 92346.

Why: The test will collect data and assess the performance of the dam's two regulating outlet gates, low flow gate and the Minimum Discharge Line Cone Valves. Operators and engineers will monitor gate vibrations, fill line vibrations, the Minimum Discharge Line Cone Valves performance, and the outlet tunnel invert condition.

The test is a requirement included in the original design and construction of the dam to be implemented upon the availability of a sufficient pool volume. Because there is not a sufficient pool volume for full prototype testing, this test will be a supplement to the complete prototype testing. It is not tied to the transfer of the project to the local sponsors for ownership and operations and maintenance, which occurred in October 2002.

- **Media interested in observing the test must contact Roni Edis, San Bernardino County Department of Public Works at redis@dpw.sbcounty.gov or 909-387-7866 for an access badge to the test site.**

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- For additional information about the tests, please contact Greg Fuderer at gregory.a.fuderer@usace.army.mil or 213-479-8698.

Additional information:

- Seven Oaks Dam currently retains about 17,900 acre-feet of water. (One acre-foot is the volume of water of one acre covered to a depth of one foot. It is equivalent to 43,560 cubic feet or about 325,850 gallons.)
- Seven Oaks Dam is capable of retaining approximately 148,000 acre-feet of water. Water above that capacity will flow over the dam's spillway. The historical high retained by Seven Oaks Dam is approximately 43,000 acre-feet and occurred March 8, 2005.
- Operators expect to release about 5,500 acre-feet during the week of the testing.
- As the flow moves downstream from the dam, flow quantities will decrease due to infiltration and water district diversions. The extent of flow in the river is expected to be similar to a 2-year to 5-year storm event. Erosion or bank overtopping is not anticipated. Stream velocities are expected to range from 2 to 8 feet per second in the Santa Ana River reach between Mill Creek and City Creek.
- In combination with the test of the regulating outlet gates, agencies may station channel observers at strategic locations along the Santa Ana River to evaluate the extent of flow from dam releases during dry river conditions. This information will be used to aid in the continuing Multi-Species Habitat Management Plan, water quality study and water conservation efforts. The Corps is conducting a water quality study to evaluate how to maximize the quality and use of the water held by Seven Oaks Dam.
- After conclusion of the gate testing, normal dam operations will resume in which releases will be coordinated with the local water purveyors.

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