



New Exchequer spillway system update

July 27, 2017

This week Merced Irrigation District safely made controlled, voluntary releases of water through its gated spillway at Lake McClure into downstream Lake McSwain.

The New Exchequer gated spillway was not used this winter, faced no threat and has not been needed to manage flood flows for the past 50 years.

The gates are regularly operated for maintenance and inspection. However, the District routinely and safely manages large inflows to Lake McClure using its primary outlet at the base of New Exchequer Dam.

Merced Irrigation District remains engaged in ongoing and positive discussions with the California Department of Water Resources following the Oroville spillway incident this past winter. The District is in full compliance with requests and requirements of the California DWR Division of Safety of Dams (DWR-DSOD).

In May, MID voluntarily undertook work to bolster the channel downstream of Lake McClure's gated spillway. The work was done in coordination DWR-DSOD and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). MID will continue to evaluate its emergency spillway system in close coordination with both DWR-DSOD and FERC.

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