PURPOSE OF THIS FACT SHEET

In response to recent changes in State law brought about due to the February 2017 crisis at the Oroville Spillway, the SFPUC has submitted updated inundation maps and Emergency Action Plans for each of the 18 dams overseen by Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD) for review and approval. All final DSOD-approved inundation maps will be published on the DSOD website at water.ca.gov/Programs/All-Programs/Division-of-Safety-of-Dams/Inundation-Maps.

It is our goal to tell our neighbors:

• What dams under DSOD jurisdiction might be near you;
• What you need to know in case of an emergency; and
• What the SFPUC has been doing, and will continue to do, to protect public safety and the integrity of our dams.

What you can do to prepare for an Emergency

• Sign up with your local emergency notification system to receive public service announcements, text messages and email alerts, and emergency preparedness tips.
• San Francisco: sf72.org
• Alameda County: acgov.org/ready/
• San Mateo County: smcready.org/
• Tuolumne County: https://www.tuolumnecounty.ca.gov/308/Office-of-Emergency-Services
• Store emergency supplies such as drinking water, non-perishable food, first aid kit, clothes and shoes, critical contact information, and medications in a “go-bag.”

DAM SAFETY

The SFPUC has a robust dam safety monitoring and maintenance program to ensure the integrity of our dams and to protect the public. We use precise instrumentation and monitoring, conduct regular field inspections of the facilities, and perform emergency response planning to monitor the integrity of these structures.

We place instruments called piezometers in dams and foundations to monitor water pressure and the presence of water seepage. We are also on the lookout for changes in the rate of flow and changes in the turbidity of the water in the seepage which may indicate a developing structural issue for the dam.

We measure survey markers to check for any potential change in the shape or dimensions of the dam as a result of potential land movement. Measurements of the instruments are compared to long term data and trends to evaluate the condition of the dams and their appurtenances.

In addition to these measurements and routine visual observations by our workers, we perform a complete visual inspection of each of our dams and reservoirs on a regular basis and after any significant nearby earthquakes. In addition, DSOD inspects all dams under its jurisdiction annually.

Using all of these tools, SFPUC crews can be forewarned of facility conditions that could warrant further investigation long before a dam’s integrity might be compromised.
SFPUC Emergency Planning and Coordination

- SFPUC maintains Emergency Action Plans for each of our dams; these plans include notification procedures and contacts with the Office of Emergency Services in each respective county, and other first responders needed in the unlikely case of a dam emergency.
- SFPUC staff regularly train and practice using these plans.

WHO ARE WE?

The San Francisco Public Utilities Commission (SFPUC) owns and operates the Hetch Hetchy Regional Water System, which delivers high-quality drinking water to 2.7 million customers in four Bay Area counties. Our major water source originates from the Tuolumne River watershed in Yosemite National Park. This water is supplemented with surface water from watersheds in Alameda and San Mateo counties and from groundwater.