



# PUBLIC NOTICE

**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS  
LOS ANGELES DISTRICT**

**BUILDING STRONG®**

## **Planned Minor Deviation from the Prado Dam Water Control Plan**

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) proposes to implement a planned minor deviation (PMD) from the Prado Dam Water Control Plan from December 22, 2014 through March 1, 2015. The PMD would support water conservation efforts within Orange County.

Prado Dam and Reservoir is a Federal flood control and water conservation project located on the Santa Ana River, approximately two miles west of the City of Corona in Riverside County, California. The Santa Ana River watershed has an approximate area of 2,450 square miles, of which 92% (2,255 square miles) are upstream of Prado Dam.

Under current operations, the dam is used to impound water up to a pool elevation of 490 ft. (NGVD) prior to initiating flood control releases. During the flood season (Oct 1 to Feb 28), water may be temporarily stored in the pool anywhere between 490-498 ft. (NGVD) for water conservation purposes. For flood control purposes, water could be held as needed up to 556 ft., the current maximum elevation of the basin. Holding the pool elevation to 505 ft. for water conservation (NGVD) is already authorized during the non-flood season of March 10 - October 1 of each year.

Under the PMD, the reservoir would be operated with a pool elevation up to 504 ft (NGVD) through the remainder of the current flood season. This would increase the potential storage from 9,300 to approximately 18,000 acre-feet, providing an additional 8,700 acre-feet of water for conservation.

The proposed PMD would increase the amount of water conserved for groundwater recharge without impacting the flood control mission. As with current operations, the reservoir would be drawn down as necessary prior to anticipated flow events, ensuring adequate storage for flood control operations.

### **National Environmental Policy Act**

Pursuant to the National Environmental Policy Act, the Corps will be preparing an Environmental Assessment (EA). The EA will evaluate the impacts of the PMD on environmental resources and determine whether the environmental impacts warrant the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement.

The Corps is soliciting comments from the public; Federal, state, and local agencies and officials; and other interested parties in order to evaluate environmental impacts associated with implementation of the PMD. Comments will be accepted from Dec 5 to Dec 20, 2014. Comments should be mailed to Mr. Jesse Ray, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, 915 Wilshire Blvd., Los Angeles, CA 90017-3401. Alternatively, comments can be received electronically at: [jesse.w.ray@usace.army.mil](mailto:jesse.w.ray@usace.army.mil)

**U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS – LOS ANGELES DISTRICT**