



Drilling at New Bullards Bar Dam Precedes New Spillway

Adapted from Information by Yuba Water Agency

Exploratory drilling is being conducted at the New Bullards Bar Dam in California. The drilling is related to Yuba Water Agency's plans to design and build a \$160 million secondary spillway at the dam. Large drills will be positioned on both the water and downstream sides of the reservoir to obtain samples to determine the strength



of the underlying rock. The information gathered will influence how the planned spillway tunnel and foundation will be designed.

The exploratory drilling phase of the project is estimated to take a few months. Traffic is not expected to be

impacted, but caution has been advised for those traveling across the dam because large trucks and machinery may occasionally be entering the roadway. No major impacts are expected for those using the reservoir for recreational purposes.

"New Bullards Bar Dam is in great shape, and this exploratory drilling is not to address any safety concerns," said Yuba Water Agency General Manager Curt Aikens. "Obtaining core rock samples is one of the first steps in designing the secondary spillway, a project that will significantly reduce flood risk in the region and enhance the dam's safety as well."

A secondary spillway would reduce flood risk by having gates lower on the dam, making it possible for Yuba Water Agency to release more water from the reservoir when there is enough downstream channel capacity to handle the flows. This could be done before large, threatening storms, to free up space in the reservoir to hold back the peak of the flows when a storm arrives. Having an alternative spillway would also enhance dam safety by ensuring the ability to release water if a problem occurred with the primary spillway.

The permitting and design phase for the spillway should conclude in 2021, with construction beginning in 2022.

A red-bordered box containing the 'WorldWide Drilling Resource' logo, a small portrait of a man, and contact information for placing display ads.

To place your display ads,
call Ed: 850-547-0102
or e-mail: ed@
worldwidedrillingresource.com

Like what you see? Have a suggestion or comment?

Tell us what you think of

E-News Flash by WorldWide Drilling Resource®

E-mail: e-news@worldwidedrillingresource.com