Office of Emergency Services
County of Tuolumne

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PRESS RELEASE

Use of the Don Pedro Reservoir Controlled Spillway Confirmed

At 10:25 a.m., Turlock Irrigation District (TID) confirmed that the Controlled Spillway at Don Pedro Reservoir will be opened today at 3:00 p.m. Deconstruction of Bonds Flat Rd. has begun and TID power customers will be de-energized in low lying areas. A Temporary Flight Restriction (TFR) for general aviation and Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) below 4,000 ft. and within a 2 nautical miles of the Don Pedro dam have been issued starting at 3 p.m. today and ending at 3 p.m. tomorrow for the safeguard of emergency personnel. As part of the plan to use the controlled spillway, the portion of Bonds Flat Road within the spillway channel itself will be removed to avoid the release of roadway material into the Tuolumne River and facilitate restoration of that road segment sometime this summer. As of this morning, TID and Don Pedro Recreation Agency staff has closed the launch ramps at Don Pedro Reservoir and are not allowing any recreational boating on the lake until further notice.

For whatever period Bonds Flat Road is closed, all through traffic that would normally use Bonds Flat Road will need to plan on using alternate routes. The only major alternate routes available will be Highway 49 to Highway 132 or La Grange Road (J-59) to Highway 132. Travelers are reminded that: 1) repairs to the James E. Roberts Bridge on Highway 120 will continue to require periodic nighttime closures; and 2) Marshes Flat Road from Highway 49 to the top of Kelly Grade has been closed indefinitely due to storm damage. Provided with this press release is a map highlighting the location of recommended alternate routes and closures.

The County will issue press releases throughout the day with updated information pertaining to the Controlled Spillway.

Additional information on both Don Pedro Reservoir and the James E. Roberts Bridge can be obtained at the following links:

Don Pedro Reservoir – www.tid.org/flows
James E. Roberts Bridge - www.dot.ca.gov/dist10/JamesRobertsBridge/index.htm

Issued: February 20, 2017, 11:30 a.m.
    Ethan Billigmeier, Tuolumne County OES

Update *as of 2/20/17 at 1045*

ADVISORY: DON PEDRO CONTROLLED SPILLWAY GATES WILL OPEN TODAY AT 3 P.M.

<u>Media Advisory:</u> Joint Stanislaus County Office of Emergency Services-Turlock Irrigation District media briefing to be held at C.C. Wright Hall located at 247 E. Canal Drive in Turlock at 1 p.m. today.

Due to the size and magnitude of the current storm, forecasts project Don Pedro Reservoir exceeding its maximum capacity of 830 feet. Therefore, Turlock Irrigation District will open the Controlled Spillway Gates at Don Pedro Reservoir today at 3 p.m. Landowners, growers and those living along the Tuolumne River, out of an abundance of caution, should undertake necessary steps to protect their property and livestock as Tuolumne River levels will rise quickly.

Due to the rapidly increasing inflows to Don Pedro Reservoir, TID has been coordinating with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to open the Controlled Spillway Gates prior to reaching 830 feet. Use of the Controlled Spillway Gates prior to 830 feet is designed to minimize downstream impacts along the Tuolumne River.

The structural integrity of Don Pedro Dam and Controlled Spillways aren't in question and aren't a factor in the early release. The Dam and spillway structures undergo regular inspections and testing.

TID will provide frequent updates throughout today and through the duration of the event. TID is partnering with the Stanislaus County Sherriff's Office, which is also providing regular updates via their website at www.scsdonline.com/info/press-releases-via-nixle.html.

Scheduled Electrical Outages: In the interest of electrical safety near the River, TID and Modesto Irrigation District began de-energizing power lines along the Tuolumne River channel earlier today. Power will be restored when safe.

Bonds Flat Road Closure: In anticipation of utilizing the Controlled Spillway Gates at Don Pedro Reservoir, Bonds Flat is closed beyond Fleming Meadows and Blue Oaks campgrounds to public access to ensure the safety of the public and spillway operations.

Register for Emergency Alerts: Those in Stanislaus and Merced counties are encouraged to register for emergency notifications from their respective county; Stanislaus County residents at StanAware.com and Merced County residents at CountyofMerced.com/alert.

Additional Information: TID will continue to provide updates as necessary. Please visit tid.org/flows for more information. You can also view Don Pedro levels and Tuolumne River releases at tid.org/water/hydrological-data. For information about River water level and flows at 9th Street in

Modesto, visit the National Weather Service page at
http://www.c6y7y7566y7nrfc.noaa.gov/graphicalRVF.php?id=MDSC1.

- Register for Emergency Alerts from your County
    - Stanislaus County: StanAware.com
    - Merced County: CountyofMerced.com/alert
- General Emergency Information:
    - http://www.stanemergency.com/
- How to obtain sandbags:
    - In Stanislaus County: http://www.stanemergency.com/naturalDisasters/weather.shtm
    - In Merced County: http://www.co.merced.ca.us/DocumentCenter/Home/View/2680

Detours in Red

Yosemite — 120

120 — Groveland

Marshes Flat Rd CLOSED

108 — Sonora
Lime Kiln Rd.
Jacksonville Rd.
49
120 — James E. Roberts Memorial Brige

49 — Coulterville
132

Don Pedro Reservoir

132 — La Grange Rd.

Bonds Flat Rd. CLOSED as of 2/20/2017

La Grange Rd. (J59)

Required for Large Trucks

120 — Oakdale

132 — Modesto

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