

Big Creek Project 2024 Water Year Outlook

Southern California Edison values its relationship with the local community and understands the importance of the lakes in the Big Creek system to those enjoying the many recreation opportunities in the area. To help facilitate our partnership with the community, SCE has prepared answers to frequently asked questions. Included with this list is a table with the forecasted lake levels for the Big Creek system for the 2024 water year. SCE hopes this helps the community plan for a safe and enjoyable recreation season.

How does SCE forecast the levels for the lakes in the Big Creek system?

The six main lakes on the Big Creek system (Lake Thomas Edison, Florence Lake, Huntington Lake, Shaver Lake, Mammoth Pool Reservoir and Redinger Lake) are fed by snowmelt. Every year, SCE conducts snow surveys and compares the results with government data to determine the amount of water in California's snowpack. This data is put into models to estimate when and how much water will be coming into the reservoirs. SCE uses the models to balance the predicted available water with dam safety constraints, FERC license requirements, contractual obligations, recreation needs, maintenance requirements and forecasted energy demand to develop a plan for each lake. While SCE strives to operate pursuant to its annual plan, forecasts are not guaranteed to be precise and deviations from the projected lake levels may occur.

How much snow did we get this winter?

The April 9 statewide average snow water equivalent for the snowpack was 109% of average. The San Joaquin River Basin specifically measured in at 101% of average for April 1. 2024 has been right at an average snowpack.

Will all lakes be full this year?

In general, yes. The snowpack will result in enough runoff to fill the systems reservoirs through most of the summer season. However, one notable impact to recreation will be at Huntington Lake later in the season. Due to downstream water demands and ongoing maintenance work, Huntington Lake will not remain full through the month of September. Huntington will likely be lowered to 70% capacity beginning around September 9th.

Will there be spill releases from the reservoirs?

The Big Creek system does not have enough storage to capture all the runoff in an average season so yes, we will see a period of spill releases from some reservoirs. In particular Mammoth Pool and Redinger Lake will have spill flows occurring from late April into early June. Details for spill releases for Redinger Lake and associated boating flows will be posted at the water flow website listed below.

Where can I find more information about water conditions and lake levels?

For snowpack information visit the California Cooperative Snow Survey Program site: <https://snow.water.ca.gov>

For current water conditions and hydrology information, see the Department of Water Resources Data Exchange Center website: <http://cdec.water.ca.gov>

Up-to-date lake levels for the Big Creek Project and flow information can be found on SCE's public water flow and levels website: <https://www.kisters.net/scepublic/>

Who can I contact if I have additional questions?

For more information or updates, please contact our Government Relations Manager:

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Big Creek Project 2024 Water Year Projection as of 4/24/2024

First of Month Reservoir Elevation (feet above mean sea level)										
	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Lake Edison	7,580	7,588	7,613	7,630	7,628	7,622	7,614	7,599	7,599	7,580
Florence	7,247	7,261	7,312	7,327	7,327	7,289	7,289	7,292	7,281	7,247
Huntington	6,917	6,917	6,949	6,949	6,949	6,949	6,949	6,931	6,920	6,917
Shaver	5,329	5,334	5,342	5,363	5,360	5,360	5,351	5,348	5,348	5,329
Mammoth Pool	3,285	3,331	3,331	3,330	3,330	3,315	3,292	3,302	3,300	3,285
Redinger	1,392	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,400	1,389	1,400	1,400	1,392

First of Month Reservoir Storage Volume (Acre Feet)										
	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Lake Edison	29,013	38,360	74,170	102,360	98,710	87,870	74,560	52,450	52,330	29,013
Florence	5,540	12,360	50,340	63,810	63,810	31,120	31,490	33,380	25,250	5,540
Huntington	47,510	47,100	87,490	87,790	87,790	87,790	87,790	63,710	50,840	47,510
Shaver	57,095	66,770	81,130	120,500	113,870	113,940	97,100	90,520	91,710	57,095
Mammoth Pool	75,984	120,680	120,660	119,930	119,930	104,760	82,740	92,080	90,090	75,984
Redinger	21,202	24,770	24,770	24,770	24,770	24,770	20,150	24,770	24,770	21,202

First of Month Reservoir Percent of Full Capacity										
	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Lake Edison	23%	31%	59%	82%	79%	70%	60%	42%	42%	23%
Florence	9%	19%	78%	99%	99%	48%	49%	52%	39%	9%
Huntington	53%	53%	98%	98%	98%	98%	98%	71%	57%	53%
Shaver	42%	49%	60%	89%	84%	84%	72%	67%	68%	42%
Mammoth Pool	63%	100%	100%	100%	100%	87%	69%	77%	75%	63%
Redinger	83%	95%	95%	95%	95%	95%	77%	95%	95%	83%