

Big Creek Project 2026 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 2026 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?

California's 2026 snowpack and snow water equivalent (SWE) are far below normal for April 1. Statewide snowpack is about 18% of historical average, making this the second-lowest April 1 snowpack on record, exceeded only by 2015. In the Southern Sierra, conditions are similarly well below average, with automated sensors showing near-record low SWE despite near-average precipitation for the water year. The San Joaquin River Basin specifically measured in at 28% of average for April 1.

Will all lakes be full this year?

In general, yes. The limited snowpack received in 2025/2026 will result in enough runoff to generally fill the Big Creek system's reservoirs through most of the summer season. While SCE has no planned reservoir and dam maintenance activities that require reservoir level restrictions in 2026, SCE does plan to continue its dam maintenance activities at Huntington Lake. For more information on SCE's activities at Huntington Lake please visit is Big Creek Watershed information page: [Big Creek Watershed](#)

Will there be spill releases from the reservoirs?

In most Water Years, the Big Creek system does not have enough storage to capture all the runoff in an average season. Even in this lower-than-normal Water Year, we will see a period of spill releases from some Big Creek reservoirs. In particular, Mammoth Pool and Redinger Lake will have spill flows occurring from mid-April into early-May. 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://www2.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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