

Big Creek Project 2021 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 and 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 precipitation data from the California Department of Water Resources for the San Joaquin Basin and a table with the forecasted lake levels for the Big Creek System for the 2021 water year. We hope 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. These data are 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, FERC license and contractual requirements, 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 rain and snow did we get this winter?

The April 1 statewide average snow water equivalent for the snowpack was 39% of average. The San Joaquin River Basin specifically measures in at 48% of average for April 1. Due to a second year of drought and other factors, the overall runoff forecast for the San Joaquin River Basin into Millerton Lake is only 34% of normal.

Why are Huntington and Shaver Lakes at lower levels at certain points in the season?

This is an extremely dry year and is tracking to be one of the driest on record. As you can see in the lake forecast, there is not enough water to maintain all reservoirs at high levels for the entire recreation season. Most notably, Shaver Lake will remain near its current level for much of the summer season and Huntington Lake will dip below full elevation in late August.

What will be the status of the lakes regarding recreation in 2021?

SCE owns the lands around Shaver Lake and administers recreation sites at that location. Shaver Lake and the facilities operated by SCE are projected to be open for the 2021 season. Other lakes in the Big Creek system are on federal lands and recreation is administered by the U.S. Forest Service. SCE will continue to coordinate with federal, state, and local authorities to provide for the health and safety of the public at project reservoirs. For updates on other recreation areas in the Sierra National Forest, please visit <https://www.fs.usda.gov/main/sierra/home>

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

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: <http://kna.kisters.net/scepublic>

Who can I contact if I have additional questions?

For more information or updates please contact our Government Relations Manager-

Brian Thoburn - (559) 685-3240 - Brian.Thoburn@sce.com

Big Creek Project 2021 Water Year Projection as of 4/19/21

First of Month Reservoir Elevation (feet above mean sea level)										
	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Lake Edison	7577	7575	7572	7574	7578	7575	7567	7561	7562	7560
Florence	7249	7245	7255	7291	7326	7310	7276	7236	7234	7236
Huntington	6906	6910	6924	6945	6949	6949	6945	6920	6915	6914
Shaver	5354	5355	5354	5355	5351	5343	5336	5335	5334	5334
Mammoth Pool	3246	3273	3296	3330	3330	3303	3234	3173	3180	3189
Redinger	1395	1394	1398	1400	1399	1395	1392	1362	1372	1386

First of Month Reservoir Storage Volume (Acre Feet)										
	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Lake Edison	25,570	23,330	20,360	22,070	25,800	22,740	15,300	10,170	11,450	9,420
Florence	6,290	4,740	9,160	33,080	62,730	48,710	21,800	2,000	1,660	2,080
Huntington	36,620	39,940	55,030	81,550	87,750	87,950	81,930	50,730	45,580	44,710
Shaver	101,820	104,220	102,740	103,570	95,610	81,930	69,980	67,850	67,780	67,170
Mammoth Pool	46,740	65,980	85,700	119,950	119,950	92,990	38,890	11,920	14,150	16,970
Redinger	22,460	22,160	23,810	24,680	24,330	22,370	21,460	10,260	13,580	18,850

First of Month Reservoir Percent of Full Capacity										
	March	April	May	June	July	August	September	October	November	December
Lake Edison	19%	17%	15%	16%	19%	17%	11%	8%	8%	7%
Florence	10%	7%	14%	51%	97%	75%	34%	3%	3%	3%
Huntington	41%	45%	62%	92%	99%	99%	93%	57%	52%	51%
Shaver	75%	77%	76%	76%	71%	60%	52%	50%	50%	50%
Mammoth Pool	39%	55%	71%	100%	100%	77%	32%	10%	12%	14%
Redinger	88%	87%	93%	97%	95%	88%	84%	40%	53%	74%



San Joaquin 5-Station

Precipitation Index for Water Year 2021 - Updated on April 19, 2021 10:48 AM

Note: Monthly totals may not add up to seasonal total because of rounding

Water Year Monthly totals are calculated based on Daily precipitation data from 12am to 12am PST

