

Division of Water Rights Contact Report

Staff: Samuel Cole, WRCE

Person Contacted: Wes Monier with Turlock Irrigation District (TID), Water Accounting and Forecasting

Phone Number: (209) 883-8321

Date & Time: 12/22/2015 at 2:30PM.

Subject: Did New Don Pedro Reservoir spill in 2011?

Summary:

Mr. Monier clarified that New Don Pedro reservoir does not operate in a typical passive spill fashion except in extreme circumstances or emergencies. More specifically, the physical spillway has only ever been used once, in 1997 during a flood stage event. There is a roadway beneath the spillway, which would be compromised if a spill event was to occur.

That said, the intent of asking whether a reservoir has spilled or not is essentially asking whether the reservoir had reached capacity while having more inflow than could be reasonably collected and stored for later use. From November 27, 2010 through September 11, 2011, New Don Pedro reservoir was operated essentially in this manner by incorporating active pre-flood releases to the downstream channel. For example, on April 20, 2011, New Don Pedro was releasing 7,330 cfs while the minimum in-stream fish required releases were only 300 cfs and the reservoir stage was at 795.37 feet, below the flood stage level of 801.9 feet.

The conclusion is that any water that may have been stored for future use in New Don Pedro reservoir prior to or during the period of November 27, 2010 through September 11, 2011, would no longer be available as it would have spilled out through active pre-flood releases to the downstream channel. Water stored before or during this period cannot be used to offset future diversions from the watershed above New Don Pedro reservoir.