

Alamo Dam News



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U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Los Angeles District



Alamo Stats

- In early March 2024 the lake elevation was 1124.5 ft NVGD.
- The target elevation of the lake per the Water Control Manual is 1125 ft NVGD.
- Dam releases have continued to be baseflow only, around 25 cfs.
- Monitor real-time lake elevation and stream flows at <http://resreg.spl.usace.army.mil/pages/alamo.php>.

Alamo Dam News is an unofficial publication of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). This online publication is produced quarterly with the purpose of providing its readers information about the work USACE completes at Alamo Dam. Editorial views and opinions expressed are not necessarily those of the Department of the Army. Mention of specific vendors does not constitute endorsement by the Department of the Army or any element thereof.

Is the Corps going to make a release?

There are currently no plans to make any releases from Alamo Dam other than baseflow releases of around 25 cfs. There is work

planned at Alamo this summer, but large releases will not be a part of that work.



Alamo Dam Outlet Works. The flow shown here is about 500cfs above the normal base flow amounts. Photo Courtesy of Jim Boyd

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Upcoming work at the Dam

Work has resumed on the bulkhead gate replacement project. The bulkhead is used to seal off the only tunnel through the dam in the event maintenance is required or there is an emergency. We are hopefully just months away from having a brand new bulkhead gate onsite! Once the gate is onsite at Alamo, contractors will be launching the gate from the main boat ramp to attempt installing the new gate. There will be lots of barge and boat traffic around the dam during this time. We are currently an-

tipating an early summer timeframe for installation. If the gate is installed successfully the contractor will then complete an inspection of the dam's only conduit (tunnel through the dam). We've been working towards completing this inspection for the past five years. There is no other work planned at the dam during the 2024 calendar year.

Alamo Dam Look Ahead to 2025

Once 2025 rolls around, Alamo is going to be a busy place. We were lucky to get lots of funding through the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law's last year of funding. We are currently working towards awarding contracts to repair the spillway access road, fabricate three new service gates and three new emergency gates to go in the conduit, refurbish the hydraulic system within the dam, replace the elevator within the dam, replace the A-Frame bulkhead gate installation structure, update the 1960's master plan, and complete the Water Control Manual. Contract work on all these projects will likely start in early 2025. Most of the work will occur on top of the dam or within the dam's control tower. The Corps will do our best to avoid disruptions at the boat ramp during any in water work windows. We do not anticipate completing any major releases of water as a part of any of these projects.



Door to the elevator on Alamo's first floor. Photo courtesy of Long Troung.

Alamo Water Control Manual and Master Plan

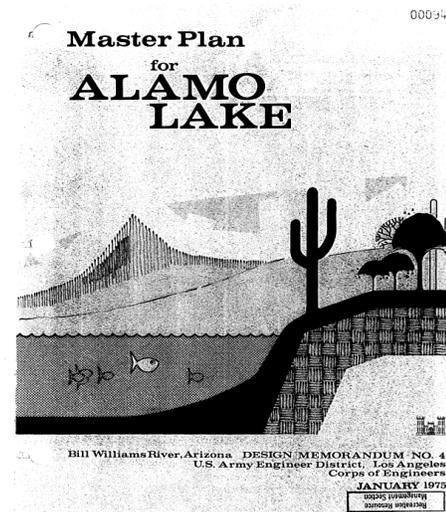
The Corps will be picking up work on the Water Control manual for Alamo this coming fall along with starting to update our 1970's era Master Plan for the project area.

The Water Control Manual guides how the Corps holds water in the lake and releases water downstream. We originally started work on the Water control Manual around 7 years ago. Since then, there have been some bumps in the road, but we are now on track to cross the finish line. We anticipate having the Water Control Manual's draft Environmental Impact Statement (NEPA) sent out for public review in early 2025. If you received this newsletter via email, you will receive notice of the draft Environmental Impact Statement being available for review and comment.

The Master Plan guides how the Corps manages the land under our ownership surrounding the project. The Master Plan for Alamo was created in the 1975 and has not been updated since. Once we have our contractor on board, we will begin revising the original plan. One of the first tasks the contractor will take on is gathering public comments regarding how the Corps should manage the land around Alamo. A public scoping meeting will be a part of that process. The scoping meeting will hopefully happen at Alamo sometime in the late winter of 2025. We are not anticipating there will be any significant, immediate changes to how the land around Alamo is used and managed due to the updated master plan. We do anticipate the updated

Master Plan will reflect the current land use and management with small tweaks to assure the Corps is meeting the needs of the project, the public, and the resources of the area.

Cover of the original Master Plan. Photo courtesy of SPL document repository.



Agency Spotlight: Arizona Game and Fish Department

The Arizona Game and Fish Department (AGFD) has been hard at work installing structures that provide habitat for fish in Alamo Lake. Fish habitat additions are an important component of the AGFD's Alamo Lake Fisheries Management Plan which focuses on maintaining high numbers of Largemouth Bass, Black Crappie, and Channel Catfish. Structures include Georgia cubes and Mossback crappie towers, which offer fry and smaller fish species cover from predators while creating key hunting locations for larger sportfish. These structures also collect algae, aquatic plants, and other organic matter which support healthy aquatic food webs. To date, the AGFD has installed a total of 190 structures located throughout the lake at depths between 30 and 50 feet below the surface, offering ideal habitat throughout the seasons.

Building and installing habitat not only benefits fish in Alamo Lake, but our community as well. The AGFD depends on volunteers to help with these projects. The most recent event occurred on November 18th, 2023 where a group of over 20 volunteers and staff built and sunk structures around the lake. Vol-



Volunteers with AZGFD staff installing habitat. Photo courtesy of AZGFD.



Volunteers building habitat on the shore of Alamo Lake. Photo courtesy of AZGFD.

unteers included college students, local business owners, and teachers. Volunteers truly play a critical role in the AGFD's mission to conserve and protect wildlife, and this project is a shining example especially as these structures can last up to 25 years in the water supporting many future generations of fish. If you are interested in participating in events like this at Alamo Lake, please email nbailey@azgfd.gov or pham@azgfd.gov, or visit <https://www.azgfd.com/about-arizona-game-fish/employment-volunteering/azgfd-volunteer-program/> for other volunteer opportunities in your region.

Stay up-to-date on Alamo Dam!

The Corps has an email list to distribute updates, newsletters and other documents to anyone interested in staying up to date on Corps' actions at Alamo Dam.

If you are interested in being on the Alamo Dam email distribution list or have question or comments, please email: AlamoDamSPL@usace.army.mil.