

## UPDATE #1

### Toledo Bend Reservoir Water Releases Reduced

March 12, 2016

#### TOLEDO BEND PROJECT JOINT OPERATION

Sabine River Authority of Texas  
450 Spur 135  
Burkeville, TX 75932

Sabine River Authority, State of Louisiana  
15091 Texas Highway  
Many, LA 71449

**(Toledo Bend Reservoir)** Spillway releases from the Toledo Bend Reservoir are continuing to be reduced as lake levels lower in the aftermath of the major rain event which dropped 18 inches of water directly over Toledo Bend. Toledo Bend Reservoir, operated by the Sabine River Authority of Texas and the Sabine River Authority, State of Louisiana reached a record level high of 174.36 feet mean sea level (msl) at 6:00 a.m. on March 10, 2016 due to the rainfall event. **The current gauge reading at 2:00 p.m. Saturday afternoon is 173.23 feet msl.**

Releases through the spillway gates, which protect the integrity of the dam, follow the Guide for Spillway Gate Operation specifically designed for operation of the Toledo Bend Reservoir. **Currently 9 gates are open to 14 feet and one generator is running 24 hours per day for a total release of 134,594 cubic feet per second (cfs).**

Toledo Bend Reservoir is not a flood control reservoir and reaches full pool at 172.0 feet msl. The integrity of the dam is intact and is operating as designed.

Although rainfall from the major rain event has decreased, impacts from the event will include downstream flooding. The National Weather Service (NWS) is forecasting a record flood event for Southeast Texas and Southwest Louisiana. Their latest forecast model shows gauge heights to go over flood stage in Burkeville, Bon Weir, Deweyville and Orange.

The Burkeville gauge reached a peak flood stage of 53.82 feet at 2:30 p.m. Friday afternoon which is over 6 feet above the flood stage recorded in 1989. **The gauge at Bon Wier is forecasted to peak at 43.5 feet on Saturday at midnight which is 5.8 feet above the flood stage recorded in 1989.** NWS forecasts show a slow decrease for both gauges through next week.

**The Ruliff (Deweyville) gauge is forecasted to peak at a new record of 34.5 feet around noon on Tuesday, March 15<sup>th</sup> which will be 5.3 feet above the flood level recorded in 1989.** The water surface reached moderate flood stage (26 feet) on Saturday morning and is forecasted to reach major flood stage (28 feet) on Saturday night climbing to the record peak by Tuesday. **The Orange gauge is forecasted to rise above the flood stage of 4 feet on Monday, March 14<sup>th</sup> and climb to a peak of 7.4 feet by Thursday, March 17<sup>th</sup>. This forecast is 1.5 feet above the flood level recorded in 1989.**

The Sabine River Authority of Texas (SRA-TX) and the Sabine River Authority, State of Louisiana (SRA-LA) want to emphasize the importance of keeping informed and staying safe during this flooding event. Although SRA-TX and SRA-LA are coordinating with local Emergency Management Departments throughout the Lower Sabine River Basin, County and Parish officials handle any evacuation orders. Please contact your local county and parish offices for more information.

For further information on the flooding event contact:

Sabine River Authority of Texas  
Ann Galassi  
(409) 746-2192  
agalassi@sratx.org

Sabine River Authority, State of LA  
Mike Carr or Brian McDonald  
(337) 286-5244  
brian.mcdonald@la.gov