



Update on DWR's Division of Safety of Dams

Background

The purpose of the Department of Water Resources' (DWR) Division of Safety of Dams is to protect lives and property from dam failure. What is now the Division of Safety of Dams was created in 1929 in response to the St. Francis Dam disaster in the northern part of Los Angeles County, which killed more than 450 people and destroyed 900 houses, when the dam unexpectedly failed.

Division engineers inspect over 1,200 dams yearly to insure they are performing and being maintained in a safe manner. The Division also review plans, inspects sites for proposed new dams, and oversees construction to ensure each dam is built safely and in accordance with the approved plans.

Dave Gutierrez, Chief of the Division of Safety of Dams, will discuss the state's program, national dam safety issues, and other ongoing projects.

Contact

Sue Sims
Executive Officer
California Water Commission
(916) 653-5544