



Water-Data Report 2008

## 11436950 Caples Lake near Kirkwood, CA

Sacramento River Basin

LOCATION.--Lat 38°42'27", long 120°02'55" referenced to North American Datum of 1927, in SW ¼ SW ¼ sec.18, T.10 N., R.18 E., Alpine County, CA, Hydrologic Unit 18020129, Eldorado National Forest, on Caples Lake Dam near the center of the earthfill portion, and 1.3 mi east of Kirkwood.

DRAINAGE AREA.--13.5 mi<sup>2</sup>.

### SURFACE-WATER RECORDS

PERIOD OF RECORD.--October 1985 to current year. Unpublished records for water years 1981-85 available in files of the U.S. Geological Survey.

GAGE.--Water-stage recorder since Oct. 1, 1991. Datum of gage is 7,894.0 ft above NGVD of 1929 (levels by Pacific Gas and Electric Company). Prior to Oct. 1, 1991, nonrecording gage read periodically except for Oct. 16, 1986, to Sept. 30, 1987; Dec. 18, 1990, to May 26, 1991; and July 30 to Sept. 16, 1991, when there was a water-stage recorder at same site and datum.

COOPERATION.--Records were collected by El Dorado Irrigation District, under general supervision of the U.S. Geological Survey, in connection with Federal Energy Regulatory Commission project no. 184.

REMARKS.--Lake is formed by one earthfill and one concrete dam at spillway; dam was completed and storage began in 1924. Capacity, 21,580 acre-ft, between gage heights 6.0 and 62.0 ft, top of 3 ft of flashboards; capacity, 19,751 acre-ft, at spillway level. Released water is measured at Caples Creek Release (station 11436999). When gage height is above spillway crest of 59.0 ft, there is leakage or spill which is not measured. Released water is used for power development on South Fork American River. See schematic diagram of South Fork American River Basin available from the California Water Science Center.

EXTREMES FOR PERIOD OF RECORD.--Maximum contents, 22,505 acre-ft, June 28, 29, 2003, gage height, 62.27 ft; minimum, 944 acre-ft, estimated, Sept. 30, 2008, gage height unknown.

EXTREMES FOR CURRENT YEAR.--Maximum contents, 19,300 acre-ft, several days in June and July, gage height unknown; minimum, 944 acre-ft, estimated, Sept. 30, gage height unknown.

**Capacity table (gage height, in feet, and contents, in acre-feet)  
(Based on survey by El Dorado Irrigation District, dated Sept. 30, 1999)**

Gage Height	Contents						
15.0	1,347	30.0	6,086	45.0	12,743	60.0	21,103
20.0	2,665	35.0	8,129	50.0	15,331	63.0	22,338
25.0	4,254	40.0	10,349	55.0	18,122		

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**RESERVOIR STORAGE, ACRE FEET**  
**WATER YEAR OCTOBER 2007 TO SEPTEMBER 2008**  
**DAILY OBSERVATION AT 2400 HOURS**

[e, estimated]

Day	Oct	Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep
1	14,400	13,900	12,300	12,000	11,400	10,800	10,300	11,100	16,700	19,300	e15,700	6,550
2	14,400	13,900	12,200	11,900	11,400	10,800	10,300	11,200	16,800	e19,300	e15,300	6,250
3	14,400	13,800	12,200	11,900	11,400	10,800	10,300	11,300	17,000	e19,300	e15,000	5,940
4	14,300	13,700	12,200	12,100	11,400	10,800	10,300	11,400	17,100	e19,300	e14,700	5,630
5	14,300	13,700	12,200	12,200	11,300	10,800	10,300	11,400	17,300	e19,300	e14,400	5,300
6	14,300	13,600	12,200	12,200	11,300	10,700	10,300	11,400	17,400	e19,300	e14,000	4,970
7	14,300	13,500	12,200	12,200	11,200	10,700	10,300	11,600	17,500	e19,300	e13,800	4,640
8	14,300	13,500	12,200	12,200	11,200	10,700	10,300	11,700	17,600	e19,200	e13,500	4,310
9	14,300	13,400	12,100	12,200	11,100	10,700	10,300	11,800	17,800	e19,200	e13,300	3,990
10	14,200	13,400	12,100	12,200	11,000	10,700	10,300	12,000	18,000	e19,100	e13,000	3,670
11	14,200	13,400	12,100	12,200	11,000	10,700	10,300	12,200	18,100	e19,100	e12,800	3,360
12	14,200	13,300	12,000	12,200	10,900	10,600	10,200	12,400	18,300	e19,100	e12,500	3,050
13	14,200	13,300	12,000	12,200	10,900	10,700	10,300	12,500	18,400	e19,100	e12,200	2,750
14	14,200	13,200	12,000	12,200	10,900	10,600	10,300	12,800	18,500	e19,100	e12,000	2,450
15	14,200	13,200	12,000	12,100	10,800	10,600	10,400	13,300	18,700	e19,100	e11,800	2,170
16	14,200	13,100	12,000	12,000	10,800	10,600	10,400	13,600	18,800	e19,100	e11,500	1,890
17	14,100	13,100	12,000	12,000	10,800	10,600	10,400	14,100	18,800	e19,100	e11,200	1,610
18	14,100	13,000	12,000	11,900	10,800	10,600	10,500	14,600	18,900	e19,100	e11,000	1,340
19	14,100	13,000	12,000	11,900	10,700	10,500	10,500	15,000	19,000	e18,900	e10,700	e1,260
20	14,100	12,900	12,100	11,800	10,700	10,500	10,500	15,600	19,000	e18,700	e10,400	e997
21	14,100	12,800	12,000	11,800	10,700	10,500	10,500	15,800	19,100	e18,500	e10,100	e995
22	14,100	12,800	12,000	11,700	10,800	10,500	10,500	16,000	19,200	e18,300	9,640	e991
23	14,000	12,700	12,000	11,700	10,800	10,400	10,500	16,100	19,200	e18,100	9,360	e985
24	14,000	12,600	12,000	11,600	10,800	10,400	10,500	16,200	19,300	e17,900	9,080	e977
25	14,000	12,500	12,000	11,600	10,800	10,400	10,500	16,200	19,300	e17,600	8,780	e970
26	14,000	12,500	12,000	11,500	10,800	10,400	10,600	16,300	19,300	e17,300	8,470	e960
27	14,000	12,400	12,000	11,600	10,800	10,400	10,600	16,300	19,300	e17,100	8,160	e956
28	14,000	12,400	12,000	11,600	10,800	10,400	10,800	16,400	19,300	e16,800	7,830	e952
29	14,000	12,400	12,000	11,500	10,800	10,300	10,900	16,400	19,300	e16,400	7,510	e946
30	13,900	12,300	12,000	11,500	---	10,300	11,000	16,500	19,200	e16,100	7,190	e944
31	13,900	---	12,000	11,500	---	10,300	---	16,600	---	e15,900	6,880	---
<b>Max</b>	14,400	13,900	12,300	12,200	11,400	10,800	11,000	16,600	19,300	19,300	15,700	6,550
<b>Min</b>	13,900	12,300	12,000	11,500	10,700	10,300	10,200	11,100	16,700	15,900	6,880	944
<b>Gage height, in feet, at end of month</b>	47.34	44.15	43.44	42.35	40.97	39.87	41.46	52.30	56.82	---	32.00	---
<b>Change in contents, in acre-feet</b>	-500	-1,600	-300	-500	-700	-500	+700	+5,600	+2,600	-3,300	-9,020	-5,936

	Calendar Year 2007	Water Year 2008
<b>Max</b>	21,600	19,300
<b>Min</b>	10,400	944
<b>Change in contents, in acre-feet</b>	-1,200	-13,456

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