

Friant Division Facts

FRIANT DAM

Type	Concrete gravity
Location	San Joaquin River above Friant, 17 miles northeast of downtown Fresno
Groundbreaking Ceremony	November 5, 1939
Basic Construction Period	1939-42 (<i>Outlet gates installed in 1944; spillway drum gates installed in 1947</i>)
Outlets	To the San Joaquin River, Madera Canal and Friant-Kern Canal
Power Plants	Operated by the Friant Power Authority (on the river and canal outlets), and by the Orange Cove Irrigation District (on a water line supplying the Friant fish hatchery)
Named For	The nearby town of Friant, recalling pioneer lumberman Thomas Friant

Dimensions

Structural Height	319 feet (97.23 meters)
Hydraulic Height	296 feet (90.2 meters)
Top Width	20 feet (6.1 meters)
Maximum Base Width	267 feet (81.4 meters)
Crest Length	3,488 feet (1,063 meters)
Crest Elevation	581.3 feet (177.2 meters) above sea level
Total Concrete Volume	2,135,000 cubic yards (1,632,325 cubic meters)
Spillway	Overflow section at dam's center controlled by three 18- by 100-foot gates, including two new rubberized air-filled bladder gates and one drum gate
Elevation, Top of Gates	578.0 feet (176.2 meters)
Spillway Crest Elevation	560.0 feet (170.7 meters)
Maximum Release To River	59,770 cubic feet per second, on January 3, 1997

MILLERTON LAKE

Total Capacity	520,500 acre feet (<i>elevation 578 feet</i>)
Record Maximum Storage	530,452 acre feet, on January 3, 1997(<i>elevation 580.01 feet</i>)
"Dead" Storage	135,000 acre feet (<i>capacity below canal outlets</i>)
"Active" Storage	385,500 acre feet (<i>maximum available for beneficial Friant Division use</i>)
Surface Area At Capacity	4,900 acres (1,983 hectares)
Maximum Length	15 miles (24.1 kilometers)
First Water in Reservoir	October 20, 1941 (<i>after temporary river outlets were closed</i>)
First Controlled Storage	February 21, 1944 (<i>after outlet gate valves were installed</i>)
Named For	The town of Millerton, county seat of Fresno County from 1856-74, the site of which is inundated by the reservoir. Millerton took its name from an earlier nearby military post, Fort Miller, which was named for Army Major Albert S. Miller.

FRIANT-KERN CANAL

Length	151.8 miles, from Friant Dam to the Kern River in Bakersfield, Kern County
Construction Period	1945-51
First Water Release From Friant Dam	July 9, 1949
Capacity	5,300 cubic feet per second in the upper reaches, gradually decreasing to 2,500 c.f.s. at the canal's terminus
Length Lined With Concrete	Approximately 127 miles
Service Area	863,662 acres in Fresno, Tulare and Kern counties

MADERA CANAL

Length	35.9 miles, from Friant Dam to Ash Slough near the Chowchilla River
Construction Period	1940-45
First Water Release From Friant Dam	June 4, 1944
Capacity	1,275 cubic feet per second in the upper reaches, gradually decreasing to 750 c.f.s. at the canal's terminus
Service Area	180,676 acres in Madera and southern Merced counties

Sources: U.S. Bureau of Reclamation and Friant Water Authority