

# State determines its only 'unsatisfactory' dam is Oroville's



Crews continue to place structural concrete on the middle chute of the Oroville Dam spillway on Tuesday. (Kelly M. Grow — California Department of Water Resources)

By [RISA JOHNSON](#) | [rjohnson@chicoer.com](mailto:rjohnson@chicoer.com) | Chico Enterprise-Record

PUBLISHED: September 5, 2018 at 4:02 pm | UPDATED: September 5, 2018 at 4:10 pm

OROVILLE — The state Department of Water Resources has determined that Oroville Dam, which is under reconstruction, is the only dam in the state's jurisdiction that is in "unsatisfactory" condition.

The status of state-owned dams is assessed annually by the Division of Safety of Dams, which is a branch of DWR. The state [has 1,246 dams under its jurisdiction](#).

The department anticipates that Oroville Dam's status will change as soon as construction is through, said Erin Mellon, assistant director of public affairs.

The dam falls into the category of "extremely high" downstream hazard potential. This simply means that if the dam were to fail, a considerable loss of life would be expected because the downstream population is greater than 1,000 people.

There are 24 state jurisdictional dams within Butte County. In a state report [dated September 2017](#), they were all listed as satisfactory, with the exception of Oroville Dam which was compromised in February 2017.