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DWR Statement Regarding Independent Forensic Team Memo

SACRAMENTO – Today the Department of Water Resources (DWR) released the following statement regarding the interim memo released by the Independent Forensic Team investigating the Lake Oroville spillways incident:

“Today, the Independent Forensic Team (IFT) published [an interim memorandum](#) summarizing their findings of the Oroville spillways failure and briefed DWR leadership.

Protecting public safety is the state’s top priority, and we are committed to [applying lessons](#) learned from Oroville.

DWR agrees with the IFT that dam owners need to reassess current procedures as visual inspections would not have caught the February failure. The [additional spillway evaluations](#) already underway are the start of that process.

The reconstruction efforts at Oroville will bring the spillway design and construction up to today’s standards to ensure we address the physical causes that led to the February failure.

The IFT’s findings and recommendations are relevant not just for Oroville or DWR but for all dam owners. The IFT’s research will push the entire dam safety community forward to make lasting changes and improvements internationally.

The IFT shared this information ahead of their final report to inform ongoing spillway evaluations at other projects and educate the dam safety community. DWR is grateful for the team’s work and thanks the Association of State Dam Safety Officials and the United States Society of Dams for choosing this independent team of world-renowned experts with specialties in dams and spillways.”

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