

Media Release

For Immediate Release

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Reservoir continues to capture flood waters

Barnett Reservoir officials said Thursday they will continue to hold more water than it releases through the dam, using storage space in the 33,000-acre lake to mitigate flooding at Jackson and other downstream locations on the Pearl River.

Following a conference call with the National Weather Service, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and other local, state and federal agencies, the Pearl River Valley Water Supply District will continue releasing 44,000 cubic feet per second (CFS) through the dam.

The NWS's Lower Mississippi River Forecast Center predicts a peak flow of between 57,000 and 60,000 cubic feet flowing into the reservoir following record rains that fell throughout the Pearl River Basin on Tuesday.

By holding the excess, reservoir general manager John Sigman said the lake should provide ample storage and prevent major flooding in Jackson. The lake was at 296.77 feet above mean sea level at 9 a.m. Thursday, up nearly half a foot since Wednesday.

The Lower Mississippi River Forecast Center models predict the lake should not exceed 297.5 feet despite maintaining the 44,000 cfs release, but that further rainfall could modify that prediction.

Based on PRVWSD's plan, the National Weather Service is forecasting a Saturday crest of 35.5 on the Pearl River at Jackson, which causes moderate street flooding in South Jackson. Houses begin flooding at a river level of 36.2 feet.