

**Buchanan Dam and Lake Buchanan**

**OWNER**

Lower Colorado River Authority.

**ENGINEER (Design)**

Fargo Engineering Company.  
U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.  
Lower Colorado River Authority.

**LOCATION**

On the Colorado River in Burnet County, 13 miles west of Burnet. Lake shoreline is in Burnet, Llano, and San Saba Counties.

**DRAINAGE AREA**

31,250 square miles of which 11,900 square miles is probably noncontributing.

**DAM**

Type Multiple concrete arch, gated and gravity sections  
Length 10,987 ft plus 1,700 ft of natural ground  
Height 145.5 ft  
Top width Varies, with the maximum 33.8 ft

**SPILLWAY**

Type 3 sections with tainter gates  
Section 1 (near left or north end)  
Crest elevation 1005.5 ft above msl  
Control 16 gates, each 33 by 15.5 ft  
Section 2 (center)  
Crest elevation 1005.5 ft above msl  
Control 14 gates, each 33 by 15.5 ft  
Section 3 (nearest powerhouse)  
Crest elevation 995.5 ft above msl  
Control 7 gates, each 40 by 25.5 ft  
Section 4 (overflow no control far left or north end)  
Crest elevation 1020.5 ft above msl  
Crest length 1,100 ft

**OUTLET WORKS**

None. Water is released through turbines.

**POWER FEATURES**

3 generating units, each 12,667 kw capacity.

**SPECIAL FEATURES**

A pump-back unit with a capacity of 840 cfs returns water from Inks Lake to Lake Buchanan during off-peak power demand periods. The vertical pump is driven by a 13,500 hp motor.

**STATE AUTHORIZATION**

Permit No. 954 (Application No. 1024) May 15, 1926,  
Permit No. 1259 (Application No. 1345) May 25, 1938, and other permits cover this and other sites on the Colorado River with water rights.

**RESERVOIR DATA (Based on U.S. Geological Survey 1925 topographic maps and Lower Colorado River Authority 1939, with 1965 U.S. Geological Survey corrected msl datum)**

FEATURE	ELEVATION (FEET ABOVE MSL)	CAPACITY (ACRE-FEET)	AREA (ACRES)
Top of gravity overflow	1020.5	992,000	23,060
Sill of 15-ft gates	1005.5	678,000	18,770
Sill of 25-ft gates	995.5	506,000	15,820
Invert to penstocks	937.5	36,800	2,100
Usable capacity	-	955,200	-

**GENERAL**

Project started April 1931  
Work stopped April 20, 1932  
Reconstruction started 1935  
Deliberate impoundment of water began May 20, 1937  
Dam Completed 1938  
First generator in operation January 1938  
General contractor Started by: Fegles Construction Company  
Completed by: Lower Colorado River Authority  
Estimated total project cost \$10,397,475

