

**Colorado River Dam and Lake J. B. Thomas**

**OWNER**

Colorado River Municipal Water District.

**ENGINEER (Design)**

Freese, Nichols and Endress.

**LOCATION**

On the Colorado River in Scurry County, 10 miles west of Ira and 16 miles southwest of Snyder. The lake extends into Borden County.

**DRAINAGE AREA**

3,524 square miles of which 2,590 square miles is probably noncontributing.

**DAM**

Type Earthfill  
 Length 14,500 ft  
 Height 105 ft  
 Top width 28 ft

**SPILLWAY (emergency)**

Location (1) Left abutment of dam  
 Crest length 500 ft  
 Crest elevation 2,264.0 ft above msl  
 Cut channel (2) Right end of dam  
 Crest length 1,600 ft  
 Crest elevation 2,267.0 ft above msl

**SPILLWAY (service)**

Type Rectangular drop inlet  
 Conduits 2, horseshoe shaped, each 10 by 10 ft  
 Crest elevation 2,258.0 ft above msl

**OUTLET (service)**

Location Near center of dam  
 Type Concrete pipe, 30-inch diameter  
 Control 24-inch valve  
 Invert elevation 2,200.0 ft above msl

**AUTHORIZATION**

Permit No. 1394 (Application No. 1492) August 19, 1946, authorizes impoundment of 111,000 acre-feet and diversion of 30,000 acre-feet of water annually.  
 Permit No. 1394B changes location of dam and increases storage to 204,000 acre-feet. Also authorizes a dam across Bull Creek with diversion of water to Lake J. B. Thomas.

**RESERVOIR DATA (Based on surveys made in 1948 and 1950)**

FEATURE	ELEVATION (FEET ABOVE MSL)	CAPACITY (ACRE-FEET)	AREA (ACRES)
Top of dam	2,280.0	430,600	-
Crest of spillway (right)	2,267.0	283,600	9,760
Crest of spillway	2,264.0	255,000	9,100
Crest of service spillway	2,258.0	203,600	7,820
Invert of service outlet	2,200.0	1,300	210
Streambed	2,175.0	0	0
Usable conservation storage	-	202,300	-

**GENERAL**

Construction started March 26, 1951  
 Deliberate impoundment of water began July 1952  
 Dam completed September 1952  
 General contractor J. W. Moorman and Son  
 Estimated cost of dam \$1,452,877

