Following a disaster, each water agency should initiate a preliminary damage assessment of their facilities. The following steps may help perform a damage assessment.

As soon as possible for major water facilities (and later for all other facilities), each agency should:

1. Determine the need to repair, replace, or abandon a facility.  
   Estimate the cost(s) to restore a facility.
2. Consider the potential effects of aftershocks and, if appropriate, evacuate facilities in danger of collapse, and notify local authorities.
3. Mobilize field crew(s) to close and tag damaged facilities and equipment.

The following FACILITIES DAMAGE CHECKLIST summarizes the facilities to be evaluated.

SURFACE RESERVOIRS

\_\_\_\_\_\_ Check for seepage, leaks, cracks, landslides, embankments slump, broken inlet-outlet pipes, piezometer, underdrains.

\_\_\_\_\_\_ Notify State Division of Dams (through WEROC to MARS network) if  
problems are encountered.

\_\_\_\_\_\_ Lower water levels to reduce the possibility of structural failure.

WELLS

\_\_\_\_\_\_ Check for power disconnect.

\_\_\_\_\_\_ Test for contamination.

\_\_\_\_\_\_ Check for failure of pumps or motors.

\_\_\_\_\_\_ Check for physical damage.

TREATMENT PLANTS

\_\_\_\_\_\_ Check if power is on and condition of mechanical and electric equipment.

\_\_\_\_\_\_ Check quality of outflow.

\_\_\_\_\_\_ Check for chemical spills or release.

\_\_\_\_\_\_ Check the need for emergency purification.

\_\_\_\_\_\_ Check for structural damage.

**This model form/template must be customized to meet your Agency’s needs.**

TANKS

\_\_\_\_\_\_ Check for evidence of failure of sub-base

\_\_\_\_\_\_ Check for leaks, cracks, broken inlet-outlet pipes, underdrains

\_\_\_\_\_\_ Check for buckling

PUMPING AND GENERATING PLANTS

\_\_\_\_\_\_ Check transformers for damage and test capacity

\_\_\_\_\_\_ If generators are water cooled, check for adequate water storage and provide make up water

\_\_\_\_\_\_ Check for power disconnect

\_\_\_\_\_\_ Check for structural damage

PIPES

\_\_\_\_\_\_ Check air and vacuum valves

\_\_\_\_\_\_ Check for leaks, breaks, pressure loss in lines, cross-connections between water and sewage, overflow into streets, watercourses

\_\_\_\_\_\_ Check mechanical couplings

Source: California Department of Water Resources, 1984