



Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion Project

Overview

The Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion Project (Project) is a multi-agency effort pursuant to the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation (WIIN) Act of 2016. Reclamation and Contra Costa Water District (CCWD) are working together as part of a continuing effort to increase the capacity of CCWD's Los Vaqueros Reservoir for improved Bay Area water quality and water supply reliability, increased water supplies for Central Valley Project Improvement Act (CVPIA) refuges, Central Valley Project operational flexibility, flood control benefits, and recreational opportunities.

Background

The current Project is based on a collaborative effort that evaluated the feasibility of expanding the Los Vaqueros Reservoir from the recently expanded size of 160,000 acre-feet to 275,000 acre-feet and adding new conveyance facilities, as part of the Surface Storage Program described in the 2000 CALFED Bay-Delta Program Record of Decision.

The original 100,000 acre-foot Los Vaqueros Dam was completed in 1998. In the first phase of expansion in 2012, CCWD raised the dam height and expanded the reservoir storage to 160,000 acre-feet.



Aerial of Los Vaqueros Reservoir

Reclamation, CCWD, local agency partners, and wildlife refuge managers are working together to advance the project to construction.



Map of Los Vaqueros Reservoir and surrounding area

Water is presently diverted from the Delta at several locations, including Rock Slough, Old River, Middle River, and Mallard Slough, and conveyed to Los Vaqueros Reservoir and other locations within the district.



Wildlife at Los Vaqueros Reservoir



Aerial of Los Vaqueros Reservoir

Objectives

Primary Objectives

- Develop water supplies for environmental water management.
- Increase water supply reliability for Bay Area water providers.

Secondary Objective

- Improve the quality of water deliveries to municipal and industrial (M&I) customers in the Bay Area without impairing the project's ability to meet the environmental and water supply reliability objectives.

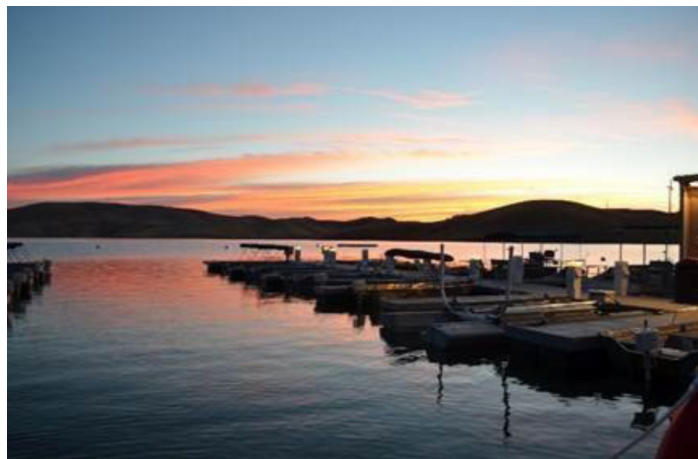
Potential Benefits

- M&I water supply reliability is estimated to be a long-term average 24,000 acre-feet per year; a dry year is 23,500 acre-feet per year.
- M&I emergency water supplies are estimated to equal a long-term average of 148,400 acre-feet per year; a dry year is 144,400 acre-feet per year.
- Incremental Level 4 Refuge water supplies are estimated to be a long-term average of 54,600 acre-feet per year; 25,400 acre-feet in dry years.
- Irrigation water supply would equal a long-term average of 8,700 acre-feet per year; a dry year is 7,400 acre-feet per year.
- CVP operational flexibility benefits are estimated to be an average of 6,000 acre-feet per year; a dry year is 5,100 acre-feet per year.

Pursuant to CVPIA 3406(d)1 and (d)2, Level 4 water is the amount of water required for full development of the refuges based upon the management goals of individual refuges and wildlife areas.

Project Status

- 2022 – [The Project received \\$82 million in Bipartisan Infrastructure Law funding.](#)
- 2021 – [H.R. 5305, provided \\$50 million for construction activities including design & engineering, permitting, and operations agreements.](#)
- 2020 – The Project received \$7.845 million in WIIN Act funding for preconstruction activities and \$4.1 million for construction of Pumping Plant 1.
- 2020 - Released [Final Feasibility Report](#) and [Final Supplement to the Final Environmental Impact Statement \(FEIS\)/Final Environmental Impact Report \(FEIR\)](#)
- 2018 - Released Draft Feasibility Report
- 2017 - [Released Draft Supplement to the FEIS/FEIR](#)



Sunrise at Los Vaqueros Reservoir

Additional Information

Visit two Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion Project webpages here:

<https://www.usbr.gov/mp/vaqueros/index.html>

<https://www.ccwater.com/lvstudies>