

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

Los Vaqueros Expansion

Facts

- 1997 - The District completed construction of the 100,000 acre-foot Los Vaqueros Reservoir
- 2012 - The District will complete construction to raise the dam height and expand reservoir storage to 160,000 acre-feet
- Reclamation and the District are continuing to study alternatives to further expand the reservoir, possibly up to 500,000 acre-feet



Existing Los Vaqueros Reservoir

The ongoing Los Vaqueros Expansion Feasibility Study (study) is a joint undertaking between Reclamation, Contra Costa Water District (District) and the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) authorized by Congress in 2003. The study was included in the Surface Storage Program described in the 2000 CALFED Bay-Delta Program Record of Decision. The CALFED Bay-Delta Program includes a series of interrelated programs to provide comprehensive solutions to the problems of ecosystem quality, water supply reliability, water quality, and Delta levee and channel integrity.

The current study is a collaborative effort to evaluate the feasibility of expanding the existing Los Vaqueros Reservoir to as large as a 500,000 acre-foot reservoir. The expansion would improve water supply reliability and water quality for Bay Area water users, including emergency storage. The size of the reservoir and the source and volumes of water to be conveyed in and out of the expanded reservoir would vary based upon the needs of the potential Bay Area project partners. Currently, water is diverted from the Delta at several locations, including Rock Slough, Middle River, and Mallard Slough, and conveyed to Los Vaqueros Reservoir and other locations within the District.

Objectives

Primary objectives to include:

- Increase reliability of Delta water supplies for municipal, industrial, and agricultural purposes.
- Increase water supply reliability for water providers within the San Francisco Bay Area.
- Enhance water supply reliability and operational flexibility for environmental water management purposes including refuge water supplies within and south of the Delta.

Secondary objective to include:

- Improve the quality of water delivered by Bay Area water providers without impeding primary objectives.

Alternatives Considered

Reclamation, DWR, and the District considered a variety of reservoir expansion and conveyance alternatives from 2005 to 2010. In 2011, after considering public comments on the draft Environmental Impact Statement and Report (EIS/R) and completing the Final EIS/R, Reclamation and the District decided to implement the 60,000 acre-foot expansion while maintaining options for future expansion. Additional alternatives are being formulated to add to the feasibility study.

Alternatives currently under consideration include:

- Expand the reservoir to 275,000 acre-feet and add facilities to convey water to the South Bay Aqueduct, both for environmental water management and water supply reliability.
- Expand the reservoir to 275,000 acre-feet and add facilities to convey water to the South Bay Aqueduct for environmental water management.
- Expand the reservoir to 275,000 acre-feet for water supply and environmental water management.
- Expand the reservoir up to 500,000 acre-feet and add new facilities and/or utilize existing facilities to convey water for water supply, water quality, and/or environmental water management to other participating agencies (e.g., Eastbay Municipal Utilities District).
- No Action

Potential Benefits

(source: Final EIS, Reclamation, 2010 and subsequent studies):

- Increased water supply reliability ranging from 44,000 to 504,000 acre-feet per year in dry periods
- Added emergency water supply storage for Bay Area agencies ranging from 80,000 to 120,000 acre-feet per year
- Increased environmental water supply ranging from 50,000 to 70,000 acre-feet per year
- Improved quality of water delivered to municipal and industrial water treatment facilities

Status

2012 - Complete 60,000 acre-foot expansion

2013 - Complete Draft Feasibility Report and EIS/R

2015 - Complete Final Feasibility Report and EIS/R

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**Los Vaqueros Expansion
Study Website**

www.water.ca.gov/storage/losvaq/



Project Location

Los Vaqueros Reservoir is located in Contra Costa County just west of the San Francisco Bay Delta. Water to fill the reservoir is pumped from several locations in the Delta.