Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion Project

Background

The Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion Project (Project) is a joint investigation between the Bureau of Reclamation and Contra Costa Water District (District) 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.

Los Vaqueros Reservoir

The current Project is based on a collaborative effort that evaluated the feasibility of expanding Los Vaqueros Reservoir from the recently expanded size of 160,000 acre-feet to 275,000 acre-feet and adding new conveyance facilities. The expansion could improve water supply reliability and water quality for San Francisco Bay Area water users, including through 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, Old River, Middle River, and Mallard Slough, and conveyed to Los Vaqueros Reservoir and other locations within the District.

For additional information, please visit:
https://www.usbr.gov/mp/vaqueros/index.htm l
https://www.ccwater.com/lvstudies
Objectives

Primary Objective

- Increase reliability of Delta water supplies for water providers within the Bay Area to help meet Municipal and Industrial (M&I) water demands during drought periods and emergencies.
- Develop water supplies for environmental water management that supports fish protection, habitat management, and other environmental water needs.

Secondary Objective

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

Potential Benefits

- M&I Water Supply Reliability = long-term average 24,000 acre-feet per year; dry year 23,500 acre-feet per year.
- Wheeling of Central Valley Project/State Water Project water deliveries through screened intakes to provide environmental benefits.
- Level 4 Refuge supplies = long-term average 54,600 acre-feet/year; dry year 25,400 acre-feet per year.
- Increase storage capacity in Los Vaqueros Reservoir by an additional 115,000 acre-feet per year. New conveyance link to South Bay Area agencies makes available emergency supplies of up to 148,400 acre-feet.

Facts

- 1997 - The District completed construction of a 100,000 acre-foot Los Vaqueros Reservoir.
- 2012 - The District completed 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 to 275,000 acre-feet.

Project Status

- 2017 - Complete Draft Supplement to the Final Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report
- 2018 - Complete Draft Feasibility Report
- 2020 - Complete Final Feasibility Report and Final Supplement to the Final Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report

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