

**Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit Project  
Water Supply  
Frequently Asked Questions**

**Q: How is the lowering of water levels at Anderson Reservoir going to affect our drinking water supply?**

Anderson Reservoir will not be used for Santa Clara County's water supply for an estimated 10 years. In a normal year, Anderson provides about 26,000-acre-feet per year, enough to supply the water needs for 52,000 families. Valley Water monitors groundwater conditions and public water usage to determine our water needs.

**Q: What are the other sources of drinking water that will be used once Anderson Reservoir is empty?**

Valley Water brings in water from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta through both the Central Valley and State Water Projects. Valley Water works with other agencies to secure this water supply, including the Department of Water Resources and the Bureau of Reclamation. We also work with the Semitropic Water Storage District in Kern County, where we store water. Valley Water often stores water in San Luis Reservoir during a wet year and uses it the following year. The other major water source is the local groundwater basins within Santa Clara County, which are currently in very good condition and can store more water than all 10 of our surface water reservoirs combined.

**Q: Is there a change to the taste and odor of the water coming out of the tap if groundwater is used?**

For some community members, there may be a noticeable change when groundwater is used compared to surface water. Local groundwater has higher hardness than surface water due to the presence of harmless minerals like calcium and magnesium. Hard water is safe to drink, but can cause scaling in teapots and residues on glass and plumbing fixtures. Water retailers and Valley Water regularly monitor water quality and must meet state and federal standards to deliver water regardless of its source.

**Q: Is there going to be enough water for Santa Clara County while water from Anderson Reservoir is unavailable for a decade?**

Yes. Severe or extended droughts are a challenge even with Anderson Reservoir available. But Valley Water has diverse water supplies, the ability to refill our groundwater aquifers and back-up plans to provide safe, clean water to Santa Clara County.