Public benefits of the Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project

Provides Santa Clara, San Benito, Santa Cruz and Monterey counties

- Emergency water reserve
- Reduced flood flows
- Ecosystem improvements
- Drinking water
- Irrigation and industrial

Enhances operational flexibility for Santa Clara Valley Water District and San Benito County Water District through integration with San Luis Reservoir supplies.

Increases incremental Level 4 water supplies for wildlife refuges located south of the Delta.

Improves habitat for threatened steelhead
- Improves more than 10 miles of habitat for South-Central California Coast steelhead
- Provides suitable flow and water temperature for steelhead spawning and rearing
- Helps protect the South Central Coast steelhead population from drought-induced loss

Protects public safety and regional economies
- Improves Santa Clara County's emergency water supply reserves in the event of catastrophic Delta levee failure
- Reduces peak 100-year flood flow releases from dam to Pacheco Creek by 61 percent
- Expands groundwater recharge for medium- and high-priority subbasins subject to the Sustainable Groundwater Management Act of 2014

Reduces the effects of climate change
- Expands existing reservoir to maximize the capture and storage of rainfall
- Increases local surface storage capacity in Santa Clara County by 90 percent
- Contributes to economic and environmental resiliency associated with chronic drought events

Provides more than 80 percent of water to public benefits that include:

- South-of-Delta Wildlife Refuge water supplies
- Expanded habitat area for the threatened South-Central California Coast steelhead
- Reliable, cold water supplies for spawning and rearing of threatened steelhead
- Protection from subsidence due to over-reliance on groundwater during chronic drought
Public benefits of the Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project

By the numbers

Existing reservoir:
- Total storage: 6,000 acre feet
- Operational capacity: 5,500 acre feet
- Emergency supply: Not provided
- Surface area: 192 acres
- Dam height: 100 feet (approx.)
- Regional groundwater recharge: Zero
- Steelhead habitat: Inadequate flow and temperature

Proposed reservoir:
- Total storage: 140,000 acre feet
- Operational capacity: 140,000 acre feet
- Emergency supply: 87,000 acre feet (approx.)
- Surface area: 1,385 acres
- Dam height: 325 feet (approx.)
- Regional groundwater recharge: 4% increase in critical years
- Steelhead habitat: Suitable flow and temperature

Pacheco Creek Watershed:
- Total area: 168 square miles
- Reservoir catchment area: 66 square miles
- Reduces 100-year flood flow peak by more than 4,000 cfs

A smart, long-term investment for Central Coast and South Bay communities. Paid for by state and local funding.

The Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project is an innovative on- and off-stream reservoir that makes smart use of water supplies for emergency response, contributes toward ensuring the long-term survival of threatened South-Central California Coast steelhead and assists in optimizing habitat conditions in Central California wildlife refuges.

CONTACT US
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