Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project

Increased Water Storage, Habitat for Endangered Species, Public Safety

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

- Providing habitat for endangered species
- Increasing water storage capacity
- Improving flood protection
- Safe and reliable drinking water
- Expanding groundwater recharge

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

Provides optimum habitat management water supply during below normal water years for wildlife refuges located south of the Delta.

Protecting threatened fish species such as steelhead trout
- 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.

Improving public safety and regional economies
- Improves Santa Clara and San Benito counties’ 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.

Increasing water storage capacity
- Expands existing reservoir to maximize the capture and storage of rainfall.
- Increases local surface storage capacity in Santa Clara and San Benito counties by 90 percent.
- Contributes to economic and environmental resiliency associated with chronic drought events.

Provides over 80% of water to public and environmental benefits:

- South-of-Delta Wildlife Refuge water supplies.
- Expands 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 in groundwater during chronic drought.
Public benefits of the Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project

**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 to building a reliable water supply and protecting our environment.

The Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project is an innovative on- and off-stream reservoir that makes smart use of water supplies for emergency response, contributes towards assuring 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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