

## Los Vaqueros: Making a Big Thing Better

### Consortium studies benefits of expanding reservoir's size and reach

Nestled among the rolling hills between Brentwood and Livermore, the Contra Costa Water District's Los Vaqueros Reservoir is rising to record levels. The newest dam in the state—expanded in 2012—now holds back enough water to fill a BART train 1.2 million cars long. We're in this position because of saving water through your conservation practices over the recent years and our ability to divert water from recent storms bringing needed rain and snow. This reserve of high-quality water is why you enjoy a reliable supply of high-quality water throughout the year.



Los Vaqueros Reservoir holds more water now than at any point in its history.

The success of a resource like Los Vaqueros has not gone unnoticed. Extended drought and the possibility of state funding specifically for storage projects renewed discussions about Los Vaqueros as a regional resource for water supply reliability. An expansion of this facility could bring new benefits to District customers as well as neighboring agencies. The District recently entered into agreements with other water suppliers to study the benefits of another Los Vaqueros expansion. These studies could see the reservoir grow by up to 72% to 275,000 acre feet, or approximately 90 billion gallons.

Prior to the original construction of Los Vaqueros in 1997, the District often was forced to deliver Delta water with high salt levels. Today, the salty taste is a thing of the past. The promise of Los Vaqueros has consistently been met—even during these past dry years. That's because the District pumps high-quality water, with low salt levels, from the Delta and into the reservoir in the late winter and early spring when snowmelt from the Sierra flows into the Delta and pushes salty water out to the bay. In the late summer and fall, when the snowmelt diminishes and salty water moves back into the Delta, water stored in Los Vaqueros is blended with water we pump from the Delta. These operations ensure customers receive high-quality water regardless of the conditions in the Delta.

In our discussions with other agencies to further expand Los Vaqueros, the District is resolute on several terms. First, any expansion must not diminish the existing benefits our customers receive. That means District customers and the customers of our municipal system partners (City of Antioch, City of Martinez, City of Pittsburg, Golden State Water Company and Diablo Water District) will receive the same or better water quality and water supply reliability as they currently enjoy. Secondly, new partners in Los Vaqueros must pay their fair share of costs for the value of the benefits they receive. Finally, an expanded reservoir must be funded with local, state and/or federal sources without impacting District customers' rates. That means water rates for District customers would not increase as a result of this project.

Our draft supplemental environmental document will be available this summer for public review and the group plans to apply for some of the \$2.7 billion State Proposition 1 money this summer as well. You can follow the progress of this project at [www.ccwater.com/LVStudies](http://www.ccwater.com/LVStudies)

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### POTENTIAL LOS VAQUEROS PARTNERS

Contra Costa Water District  
Alameda County Water District  
Bay Area Water Supply and Conservation Agency  
Byron Bethany Irrigation District  
City of Brentwood  
East Bay Municipal Utility District  
East Contra Costa Irrigation District  
Grassland Water District  
Santa Clara Valley Water District  
San Francisco Public Utilities Commission  
San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority  
Zone 7 Water Agency

## Outdoor Recreation for the Family



Los Vaqueros is known for its excellent fishing.

a free fishing clinic to share the best techniques for current conditions.

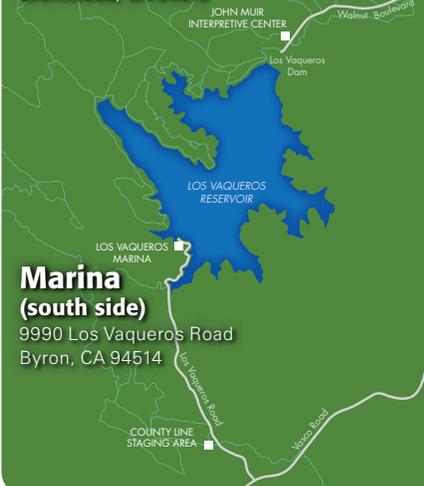
Fishing is popular at the Los Vaqueros Reservoir, but it's not the only activity you'll find there. The watershed offers 55 miles of trails. On the north side of the reservoir you'll find an interpretive center with informational displays about the area's diverse ecosystem and rich cultural history. The center offers fun and educational weekend programs throughout the year. The watershed is open seven days a week, generally from dawn to dusk. For more information about the weekend programs, visit [www.ccwater.com/activities](http://www.ccwater.com/activities).

Anyone who enjoys fishing will enjoy a visit to the Los Vaqueros Reservoir. With numerous fish species and regular fish plants, the reservoir has earned a reputation as one of the Bay Area's premier lake-fishing destinations. Visitors to the south side of the reservoir will find a marina and shade-covered picnic areas. The marina offers electric boat rentals, wheelchair-accessible fishing piers, bait and tackle sales and a modern fish-cleaning station. The staff is knowledgeable, helpful and very friendly. They always know the best fishing spots and, at 9 a.m. on the first Saturday of every month, host

### HOW TO GET HERE

#### Interpretive Center (north side)

19 Walnut Boulevard  
Brentwood, CA 94513



#### Marina (south side)

9990 Los Vaqueros Road  
Byron, CA 94514

**CCWD Board of Directors:**

Lisa M. Borba, President  
Connstance Holdaway, Vice President  
John A. Burgh  
Ernesto A. Avila  
Bette Boatmun

**General Manager:**

Jerry Brown

**Writer/Editor:**

Oliver Symonds



**Don't Miss a Drop!**

Want to find out about local water issues and upcoming events? Like **Contra Costa Water District** on Facebook and follow @CCWD on Twitter.

## See How Water Works!

From a Delta intake and the Los Vaqueros Reservoir to the Contra Costa Canal and an advanced water treatment plant, see how far we stretch your rate dollars to deliver high-quality water. Contra Costa Water District will host all-day tours (lunch included) on May 5 and May 12. There is no cost to attend. Participants must be 18 years or older and live or work in our service area. For reservations, call 925-688-8301. Space is limited.

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Another drought endured. Now what?

# On Tap

Spring 2017

1331 Concord Avenue  
Concord, CA 94520

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WATER DISTRICT



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## Another drought endured. Now what?

With heavy rains this past winter, we are reminded that we live in a Mediterranean climate with cool wet winters and hot dry summers. Although wet years help us forget the dry ones, we must always be ready for changing conditions.

Our customers did a remarkable job sharing the sacrifice during the drought. While conserving water came at a price (like dead lawns, buckets in the shower and more), it also showed us new ways to use water efficiently. Many of our customers made long-term water efficiency improvements, which helped them during the drought, and will continue to help them maintain lower water bills going forward.

Now that we have survived this drought, we'd like to help you continue using water as efficiently as possible.



During the drought, many homeowners converted water-thirsty lawns to drought-tolerant gardens.

### Garden Advice You'll 'Like'

Join this popular water-wise landscaping group for expert advice and seasonal tips.  
 Maintaining Your Water-Wise Landscape

### Lawn-to-Garden Rebate

Receive up to \$1,000 in rebates when you convert your lawn to a water-wise garden.  
[www.ccwater.com/conserves](http://www.ccwater.com/conserves)

### Home Water Audit

Give your home a free water-use checkup to identify leaks and ways to save.  
925-688-8320

### Cash-in on Coupons

Download rebates for mulch, car washes and more! [www.ccwater.com/conserves](http://www.ccwater.com/conserves)

### My Water Report

Track your water use online and receive personalized recommendations (CCWD customers only).  
[www.ccwater.com/MyWaterReport](http://www.ccwater.com/MyWaterReport)