



San Luis Reservoir State Recreation Area

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Contact Information

(209) 826-1197



Park Hours

6am - Sunset

Max. Trailer Lengths

Trailer: 30 Feet

Camper/Motorhome: 30 Feet



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[Accessible Features \(http://access.parks.ca.gov/parkinfo.asp?park=126&type=0\)](http://access.parks.ca.gov/parkinfo.asp?park=126&type=0)

Blue-Green Algal Bloom Found in San Luis Reservoir (Big Reservoir); Public Urged To Avoid Water Contact

Until further notice, the Department of Water Resources (DWR) is urging boaters and recreational users to avoid direct contact with or use of the water in San Luis Reservoir State Recreation Area's main reservoir. DWR has tested the water and found levels of blue-green algae (cyanobacteria). **DWR also tested the Forebay and found no levels of blue-green algae (cyanobacteria).** The recommendation is based on the potential health risks from the algae.

For more information go to the [DWR news release \(http://www.water.ca.gov/news/newsreleases/2017/062017slr.pdf\)](http://www.water.ca.gov/news/newsreleases/2017/062017slr.pdf).

DANGER

Toxins from algae in these waters can harm people and kill pets and livestock

STAY OUT OF THE WATER UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE. Do not touch scum in the water or on shore.

DO NOT let pets or livestock drink or go into the water or go near the scum.

DO NOT eat fish or shellfish from these waters.

DO NOT use these waters for drinking or cooking. Boiling or filtering will not make the water safe.

For people, the toxins can cause:	For animals, the toxins can cause:
• Skin rashes, eye irritation	• Diarrhea, vomiting
• Diarrhea, vomiting	• Convulsions and death

Call your doctor or veterinarian if you or your pet get sick after going in the water.

For more information, contact: Enter your contact information in this text box



Nestled in the grassy hills of the western San Joaquin Valley near historic Pacheco Pass, San Luis Reservoir State Recreation Area is noted for boating, board sailing, camping, and picnicking. But it's anglers who find the unit's three lakes most inviting.

The area around San Luis Reservoir and O'Neill Forebay is often very windy, and winds can come up quite suddenly. Watch the wind warning lights at the Basalt entrance station, Quien Sabe Point, and Romero Visitor Center. On the forebay, wind warning lights are located at the Medeiros boat ramp and above the South Beach picnic area at San Luis Creek.

Climate/recommended clothing: Summer temperatures here average in the mid-90s and occasionally exceed 100 degrees; but evenings are usually cool and pleasant. Rainfall averages eight to nine inches a year, mostly between November and April. In winter, temperatures seldom go below freezing, and tule fogs are frequent. In the spring, the golden-brown hills are coated with a fleeting green, highlighted by bursts of wildflowers colors.

Location/Directions

On Highway 152, 7 miles West of I-5, or 33 miles East of Highway 101 from Gilroy.

Address for Park Headquarters

31426 Gonzaga Road
Gustine, CA 95322

Office Hours: Monday - Friday 8:00am - 4:00pm. Closed on Saturday, Sunday, and Holidays.

Path of The Padres

The California State Parks staff at the San Luis Reservoir State Recreation Area will again be leading the popular "Path of the Padres" hikes for the public on Saturdays and Sundays starting **February 18th and will run through April 2nd 2017**. These hikes are open to the public, ages 6 years and older, by advance reservation only. **Call 209-826-1197 Monday, Tuesday and Wednesdays from 9-3 for reservations**. There is a fee of \$20.00 per person which includes the park entry fee. Space may be limited, so early reservations are recommended. Scheduled hikes may be canceled if minimum number of hikers is not met or do to weather concerns. The hike begins at the *Los Banos Creek Reservoir* boat launch ramp at 8 a.m. and returns to the ramp about 3:30 p.m.

FREE School Tours for the Path of The Padres

School Tours for the Path of The Padres will start on February 22nd and continue through March 28th, 2017 on Mondays and Tuesdays! School tours are offered for 4th - 8th grade students free of charge. These tours start at Los Banos Creek Reservoir boat launch at 8:00 am. and returns to the ramp by 1:30 pm. Call 209-826-1197 Monday, Tuesday and Wednesdays from 9-3 for reservations.

School tours are currently full for 2017, please check with us in December 2017 for the available 2018 Path of the Padres School tours.

Camping

San Luis Reservoir State Recreation Area has four campgrounds: Basalt, San Luis Creek, Medeiros, and Los Banos Creek. All campgrounds are open year round.

Basalt Campground

The only campground located near San Luis Reservoir, Basalt has 79 developed family campsites in a shaded, wind-protected valley. Some sites will accommodate trailers and motor homes up to about 30 feet. Each site has a fire ring and table with water faucets nearby. New restroom facilities offer hot pay showers and flushable toilets. A dump station is available to registered campers. Reservations can be made year round.

San Luis Creek Campground

One of two campgrounds on the O'Neill Forebay, San Luis Creek has 53 sites that offer water and electric hook-ups. Some of the sites border the shoreline. The campground has very little shade and is in an open area susceptible to wind. No flush toilets or showers are available. Each site has a level pad, fire ring, and a table. Some sites will accommodate trailers and motor homes up to about 30 feet. A new 5 mile accessible walking trail follows the O'Neill Forebay shoreline and connects the campground to the North Beach day-use area. A dump station is available for registered campers. All boats must be removed from the water by sunset. Reservations can be made year round.

Medeiros Campground

The Medeiros primitive campsites are located along the southern shoreline of O'Neill Forebay. A limited number of fire rings, shade ramadas, and tables are available. Drinking water is available in 3 locations. There are no flush toilets or showers, however chemical toilets are available. All boats must be removed from the water by sunset. Medeiros campground is available on a first - come first - serve basis.

Los Banos Creek Campground

Twenty primitive camping/day-use sites are located along the shore of Los Banos Creek Reservoir. Each site has a shade ramada, fire ring, and table. Drinking water and chemical toilets are available. Most sites cannot accommodate trailers or motor homes because of limited turn around space. Limited parking exists and the park may close once the sites are occupied. Boaters are allowed to beach their boat. Boating is prohibited after sunset. Los Banos Creek campground is available on a first-come first - serve basis. Los Banos Creek is subject to winter and/or road closures because of water release from the reservoir.

Group Camping

Two group campgrounds are available at the San Luis Creek Area along the shoreline of O'Neill Forebay. Both sites offer shade ramadas, tables, fire rings, flushable toilets, and hot pay showers. Group Camp A can accommodate 60 people and 15 vehicles. Group Camp B can accommodate 30 people and 10 vehicles. Boats must be removed from the water by sunset. These group campsites are available only by reservation.

About the Park

San Luis Reservoir was constructed as a storage reservoir for the federal Central Valley Project and the California State Water Project. It stores runoff water from the Delta that would otherwise flow into the ocean. The water arrives through the California Aqueduct and the Delta-Mendota Canal, and is pumped from the O'Neill Forebay into the main reservoir during the winter and spring. The Los Banos Creek Reservoir was built to prevent storm runoff from flooding the canals.

A [visitor center \(http://www.water.ca.gov/recreation/locations/sanluis/sanluisvisitor.cfm\)](http://www.water.ca.gov/recreation/locations/sanluis/sanluisvisitor.cfm) at the Romero Overlook provides full information on the reservoirs and water projects through audio-visual and printed materials. Telescopes are also available for viewing the area. The Romero Visitor Center is administered by the CA Dept. of Water Resources.

Long before the dams and canals were built, this land was the home of the Northern Valley Yokuts, native Americans who harvested seeds, acorns, and the roots of the tules that grew in the marshes of the sluggish San Joaquin River. There were also fish, geese, and ducks for food, as well as huge herds of pronghorn antelope and tule elk on the plains. With the coming of the Spanish, though, this way of life disappeared. Many of the valley people were taken to missions around 1805, and an epidemic, possibly of malaria, decimated the human population of this area in 1833. In the 1850s, the survivors were killed or driven off by Euroamerican settlers.

Pacheco pass was named for Francisco Perez Pacheco, who settled here in the 1840s. The pass was used by Native Americans, Spanish soldiers and missionaries, Mexican ranchers, and gold miners, as well as more recent travelers. In 1856, Andrew Firebaugh improved the pass and made it a toll road, with a toll house two miles west of the summit. He had hardly finished when the Butterfield-Overland stages began using the road as part of their route from San Francisco to Missouri.

The first water works in the area were constructed in 1871, when farmers built a canal from Mendota Dam to Los Banos Creek to irrigate their wheat crops. Many canals were added over the years, until they totaled 180 miles in length. Ground was broken in 1962 for the San Luis Project, which created the current reservoirs. Today, Los Banos area farmers cultivate alfalfa, grapes, tomatoes, melons, corn, cotton, beans, sugar beets, fruits, nuts, and raise dairy and beef cattle.

Day - Use

Group Picnic Sites

Five group picnic sites are scattered along the O'Neill Forebay shoreline throughout the North Beach and South Beach day-use areas at San Luis Creek. Both day-use areas have plenty of shade and grass. Each site has a large shade ramada, a large BBQ grill, and several cement tables. Group picnic sites 1 through 4 are located on North Beach. North Beach has a designated swim area. Dogs are prohibited on North Beach. Boats are not allowed to beach. Group picnic area 5 is located on South Beach, where boats can be beached. Dogs must remain on a leash and under immediate control of its owner at all times. Flushable toilets and drinking water are available on both beaches. Each site is available by reservation. Reservations and cost inquires can be made by calling the park office at (209) 826-1197.

San Luis Creek Day Use Area

North and South Beach day-use areas have about 200 picnic sites with shade ramadas, tables, and BBQ grills. Both day-use areas have plenty of shade and grass. North Beach is the only designated swim area within San Luis Reservoir State Recreation Area. Lifeguards are not on duty.

Boating Safety

San Luis Reservoir State Recreation Area consists of three lakes: San Luis Reservoir, O'Neill Forebay, and Los Banos Creek Reservoir. Each lake is susceptible to sudden changes in wind and weather conditions. Wind warning and lake closure lights are used on San Luis Reservoir and O'Neill Forebay to alert boaters of the current wind conditions. On San Luis Reservoir, watch for the 3 wind warning and lake closure lights near the Basalt entrance station, Quien Sabe Point, and Romero Visitor Center. On the O'Neill Forebay, wind warning lights are located near the old Medeiros boat ramp and above the South Beach area.

Amber lights signify caution conditions for winds or other concerns.

Red lights indicate the lake is closed to boating and all vessels are required to immediately vacate the lake when the red lake closure lights are on.

<u>Condition</u>	<u>Light Color</u>
Okay	All lights off
Use caution	Amber
Closed to boating	Red

Current wind conditions can be viewed at:

Boaters should also be aware of the lake hazards during water drawdown on O'Neill Forebay and San Luis Reservoir.

Boating hours are from 6am until sunset. All boats must be off the lake and out of the closed day-use areas by sunset.

All boating regulations and laws are fully enforced. Vessel inspections can occur at any time for compliance with all applicable laws, rules, and/or regulations (authority CCR 4662). If you would like a free vessel inspection to ensure you have the required safety equipment, please ask a State Park Ranger for an inspection before you launch.

Please visit the [Cal Boating \(http://www.dbw.ca.gov\)](http://www.dbw.ca.gov) website for more information regarding California boating laws.

O'Neill Forebay

The only boat ramp on the O'Neill Forebay is at the San Luis Creek area. All boat traffic on the O'Neill Forebay shall move in a counterclockwise direction around the special marker buoys in the center of the lake. Extreme shallow areas exist along the entire southern shoreline, the Catfish Flats area, and the Mud Flats area. Boats are prohibited at North Beach. Certain areas of O'Neill Forebay have speed restrictions.

San Luis Reservoir

Boaters can launch at Dinosaur Point and the Basalt boat ramps. Extreme shallow areas and other hazards exist, especially during water drawdown. Certain areas of San Luis Reservoir have speed restrictions. All boats must remain at least 500 feet from the dam and intake structure.

Los Banos Creek Reservoir

A 5 mph speed limit is in effect on the entire Los Banos Creek Reservoir year round. Boats can be beached overnight, although boating is prohibited after sunset. Boaters should be aware of shallow areas and other lake hazards. Boaters should also be aware of swimmers near the boat ramp and the campground areas. Los Banos Creek is subject to winter/road closures because of water release from the reservoir. *Please see website link for closure information.

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[O'Neill Forebay Rentals \(http://oneillforebayrentals.com/\)](http://oneillforebayrentals.com/)

Lake Elevations

[San Luis Reservoir \(http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/queryDaily?s=SNL&d=today\)](http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/queryDaily?s=SNL&d=today)

[O'Neill Forebay \(http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/queryF?s=ONE\)](http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/queryF?s=ONE)

[Los Banos Creek Reservoir \(http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/queryF?s=LBS\)](http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/queryF?s=LBS)