



Recreation Facilities of the State Water Project: An Inventory

**Department of Water Resources
Central District**

January 1989

Gordon K. Van Vleck
Secretary for Resources
The Resources Agency

George Deukmejian
Governor
State of California

David N. Kennedy
Director
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Lake Oroville Complex

History

The Lake Oroville area is rich in gold mining history. Gold was discovered in 1848 at Bidwell Bar, a large sandbar named after John Bidwell, who became one of California's leading citizens. The resulting rush of gold-seekers created the city of Oroville, county seat of Butte County. Bidwell Bar Bridge materials were shipped around Cape Horn and the bridge erected across the Middle Fork Feather River in 1856. It was the first suspension bridge built west of the Mississippi River. Bidwell Bar is now submerged beneath Lake Oroville, and a new Bidwell Bar Bridge has replaced the original bridge, which has been reconstructed at the Bidwell Canyon Recreation Area.

About the Lake

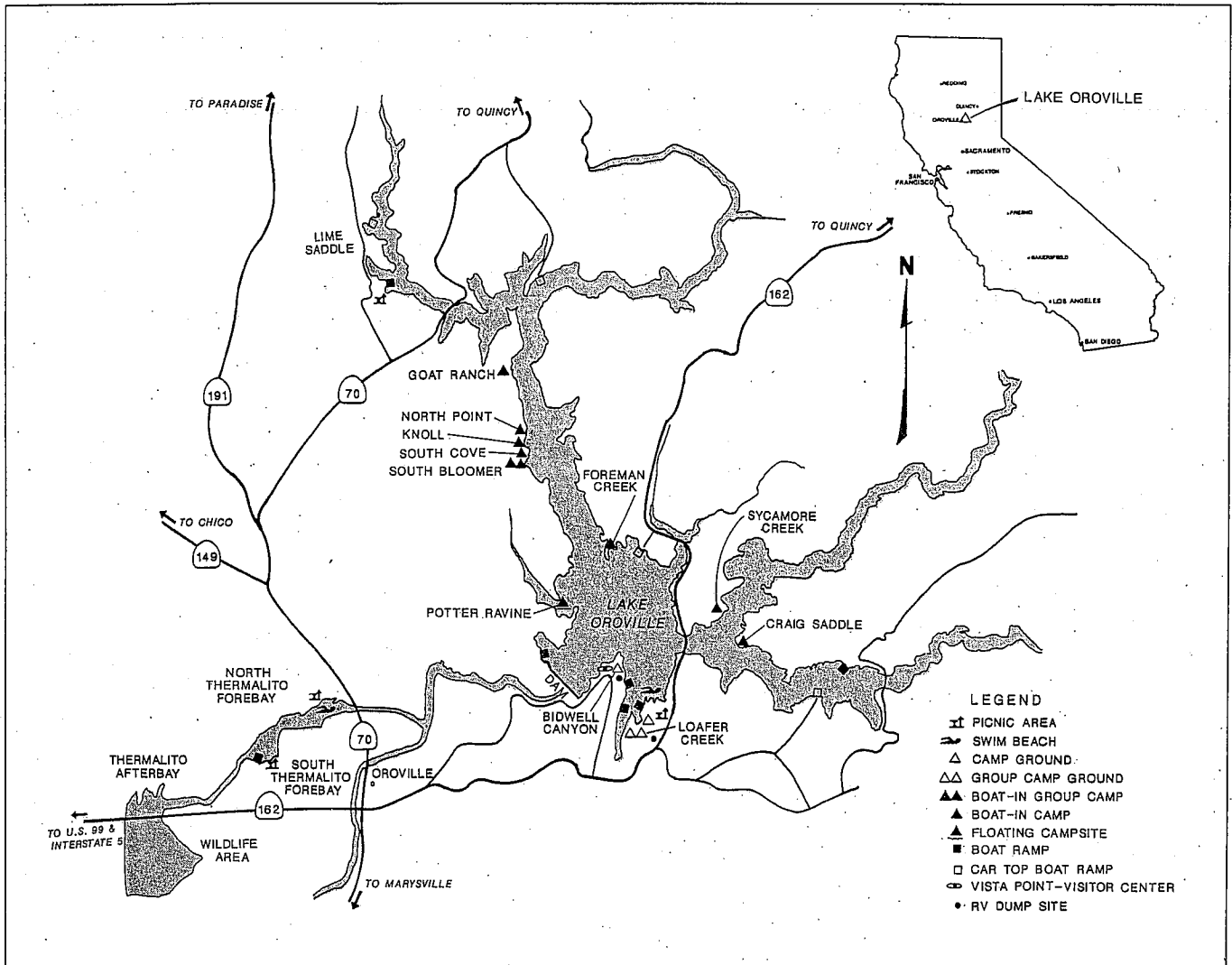
Lake Oroville and Oroville Dam are in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada above the Central Valley. The dam is 1 mile downstream of the confluence of the Feather River's major tributaries. Lake Oroville is 5 miles east of the city of Oroville and about 75 miles north of Sacramento. Major roads nearby are State Highways 70, 99, and 162. Completed in 1967, Lake Oroville is part of a multipurpose project that includes water conservation, power generation, flood control, recreation, and fish and wildlife enhancement.

Operated by the California Department of Parks and Recreation, Lake Oroville State Recreation Area offers camping, picnicking, horseback riding, hiking, sail and power boating, water-skiing, fishing, swimming, and boat-in camping. Limited waterfowl hunting is permitted only on Thermalito Afterbay.

Lake Oroville & Oroville Dam Statistics

Lake Gross Capacity	3,537,577 acre-feet
Surface Area	15,805 acres
Shoreline	167 miles
Maximum Depth	690 feet
Surface Elevation	899 feet
Dam Structural Height	770 feet
Crest Elevation	922 feet
Crest Length	6,920 feet
Volume	80,000,000 cubic yards

Lake Oroville Complex



For more information contact:
 California Department of Parks and Recreation
 Lake Oroville State Recreation Area
 400 Glen Drive
 Oroville, CA 95965
 (916) 538-2200

Lake Oroville Complex

Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife

Lake Oroville Visitor Use*, in Thousands

1968	288
1969	516
1970	483
1971	547
1972	425
1973	513
1974	574
1975	539
1976	463
1977	411
1978	509
1979	641
1980	922
1981	939
1982	684
1983	725
1984	633
1985	771
1986	817
1987	816

*Beginning in 1980, figures include Oroville Wildlife Area.

More than a million fish have been planted in Lake Oroville in the last few years, and both shore and boat fishing are popular. Rainbow trout and large- and small-mouthed bass are most frequently caught, but the lake also has German brown trout, catfish, and salmon. Fishing is permitted all year long with a proper license; there is a "slot limit" regulation for black bass. Shore and boat fishing are also permitted in the North and South Forebays, which have rainbow trout, catfish, and large- and small-mouthed bass.

Wildlife around Lake Oroville includes raccoons, opossums, coyotes, tree and ground squirrels, rabbits, deer, skunks, ring-tailed cats, and many varieties of birds native to the area.

Hunting regulations should be checked with State Park Rangers.

Camping

The Loafer Creek area has 137 family campsites, each containing a parking space, table, and stove. Drinking water, restrooms, hot showers, and laundry tubs are nearby. No hookups for trailers and camper vans are provided at Loafer Creek, but a sanitation dump site is available. Six group camping areas will accommodate up to 25 people each, with a maximum of 6 vehicles per area. Each group area contains 5 tables, 5 tent sites, a large barbeque, a fire ring, a food preparation center, and a storage cabinet. Drinking water, restrooms, and showers are nearby.

The Bidwell Canyon area has 75 sites with hookups for trailers and camper vans and a sanitation dumping station. This facility is open year-round.

Boat-In Camping

Several camps around Lake Oroville are accessible only by boat. Each contains 6 to 10 individual campsites, except for the camp at South Bloomer, which will accommodate groups of up to 75. The boat-in camps have cleared and leveled spots for tents; tables, stoves, garbage cans, and pit toilets are provided at each site. No water is available, so campers must bring their own or bring chemicals to purify the lake water.

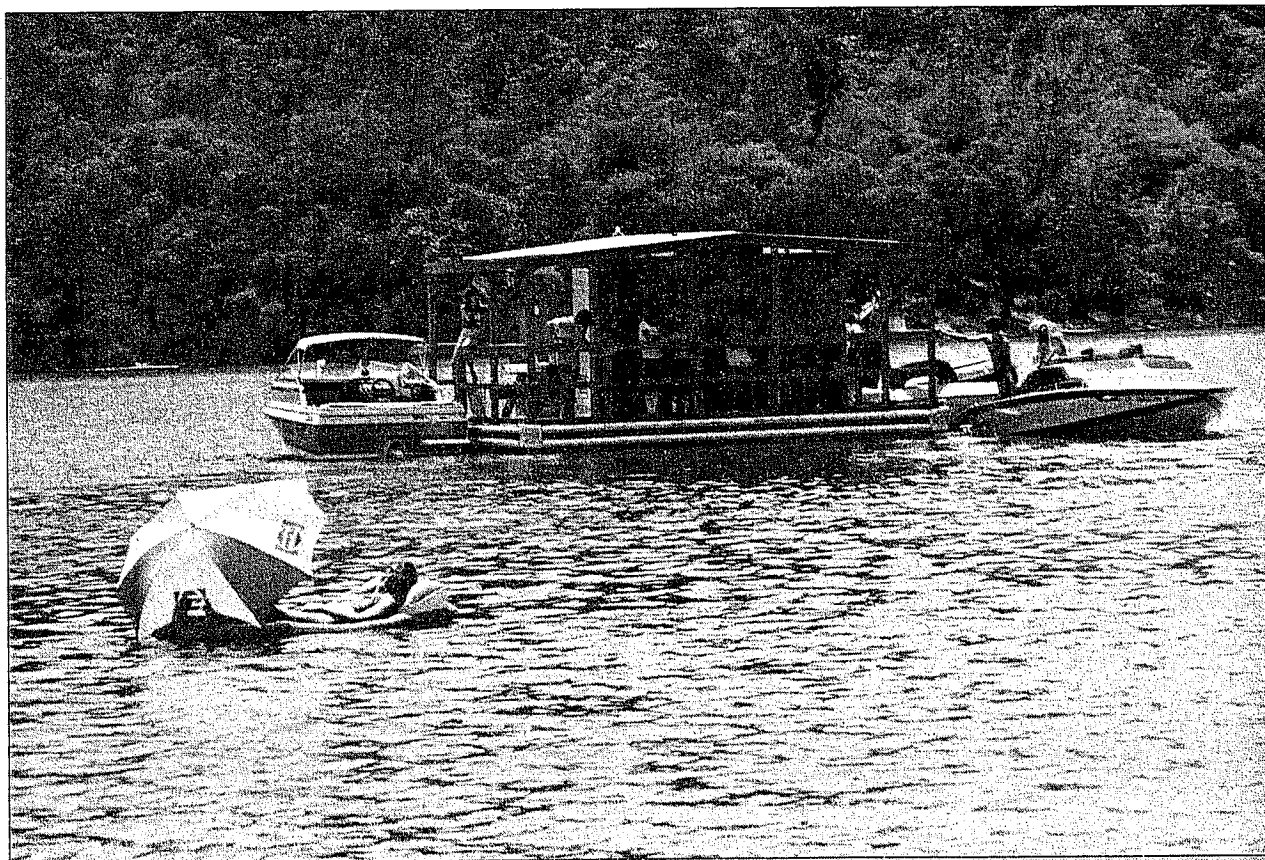
Lake Oroville Complex

Floating Campsites

Four floating campsites are also available. Each 20x24-foot floating platform includes a camp table, two-burner propane cook stove, propane barbeque (campsite rental fee includes propane), food storage locker and cabinets, covered living area, and upstairs deck. A limited supply of drinking water is provided, and a flush toilet with holding tank is part of each campsite. The restroom area includes space for changing clothes. Lockable storage space is also provided on the campsite. Each floating campsite is limited to 15 occupants, and all sites are suitable for handicapped use.

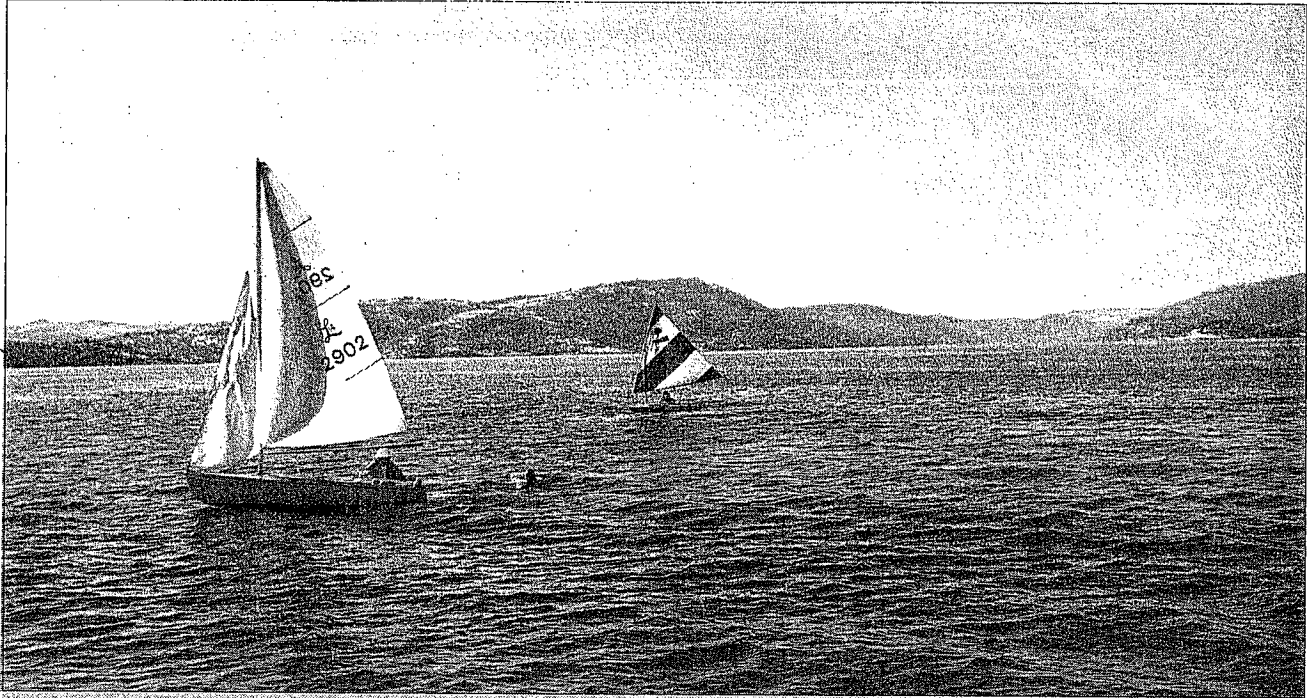
The floating campsites are located in Potters Ravine, about 2-1/4 miles from the Bidwell Canyon Campground launch ramp. A boat is necessary to reach the floating campsites. Boats may be rented at Bidwell Canyon Marina or at Lime Saddle Marina.

Information, brochures, and reservations for the floating campsites can be obtained through Mistix -- 1-800-444-7245, Extension 503. Registration is at the Spillway Launch Ramp Entrance Station; access keys are provided upon registering.



Lake Oroville's environmental floating campsites have been very popular with boaters.
Department of Parks and Recreation Photo

Lake Oroville Complex



Recreation facilities at Lake Oroville provide fun and relaxation for thousands of Californians each year.
DWR Photo

Wildlife Area

Oroville Wildlife Area provides a year-round home for at least 128 species of birds and 12 species of mammals. Common game birds include mourning dove, California quail, ring-necked pheasant, and migrating flocks of band-tailed pigeons. Bird and nature study is excellent during spring.

Flora and fauna of the area are typically valley riparian. Larger trees include Fremont cottonwood, willow, valley oak, and western sycamore. Common ground cover species are yellow sweet clover, western ragweed, and annual grasses.

King salmon, steelhead trout, American shad, striped bass, and channel catfish provide excellent sport fishing. Salmon and steelhead fishing is best in fall and winter; shad and striped bass seasons peak in late spring. Anglers can also fish for largemouth and smallmouth bass, bluegill, crappie, brown bullhead, and carp.

Hunting is permitted in season; only shotguns or bows and arrows are allowed. Pistols and rifles may be used only in the target practice area. Check hunting regulations at area headquarters.

Lake Oroville Complex

Boating

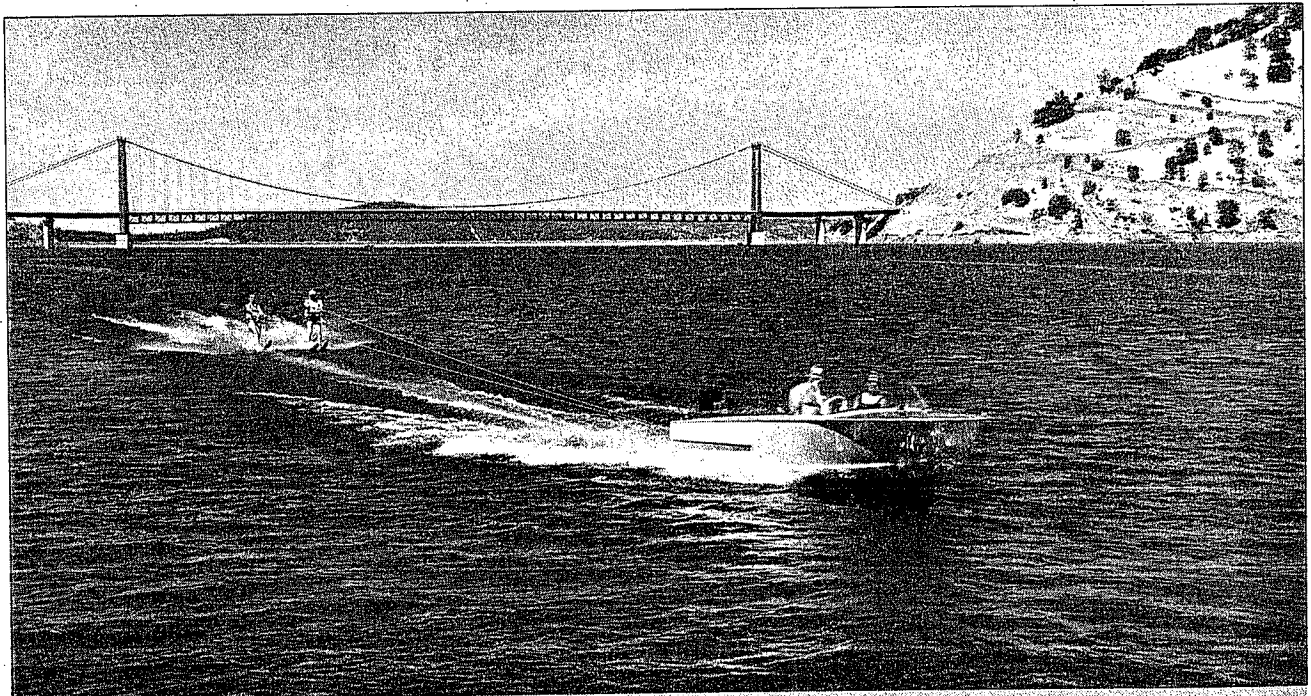
Loafer Creek area has a large paved parking area, 7-lane boat launching ramp, and boarding dock. Across Oroville Dam, at the north end, is the Spillway Launch Ramp, which includes a 13-lane launch ramp, parking, and chemical toilets. Overnight camping for self-contained recreational vehicles is permitted.

Bidwell Canyon Launching Ramp has 7 lanes and plenty of paved parking. Located nearby are a store, snack bar, fuel dock, boat rentals, open mooring, and pumping station for boat holding tanks, all operated by a concessionaire.

Lime Saddle facilities are also concessionaire-operated. Facilities here include paved parking areas, 5-lane boat launching ramp, picnic facilities, and chemical toilets. The marina offers boat docking, gas and oil, fishing and boating supplies, and a snack bar.

A 2-lane boat launching ramp and paved parking area are provided at North Thermalito Forebay, which is reserved for sailboats, canoes, and other nonmotorized boats. Four picnic tables are located near the launch ramp.

South Thermalito Forebay has a parking lot, 4-lane launching ramp, and chemical toilets. Power boating and fishing are the main attractions here.



Skiing on Lake Oroville, with Bidwell Bar Bridge in the background.
DWR Photo 3776-8

San Luis Reservoir Complex

San Luis Reservoir, O'Neill Forebay, and Los Banos Reservoir

History

This area was the ancestral home of the Northern Valley Yokuts Indian tribe, who fished; harvested acorns, seeds, and tule roots; and hunted ducks, geese, tule elk, and prong-horn antelope along the San Joaquin River. With the arrival of the Spanish and other settlers, the Indian way of life disappeared. In 1805, many of the valley Indians were taken to missions, and in 1833 an epidemic, possibly malaria, decimated the tribes. In the 1850s, the settlers drove away or killed the survivors.

San Luis Creek was discovered in the early 1800s by an expedition from the Presidio in San Francisco. The creek was originally christened San Luis Gonzaga, in honor of Saint Aloysius Gonzaga, an Italian Jesuit of the 16th Century.

Los Banos means "the baths", and the creek was named by Padre Arroyo, who found its clear pools good for bathing. The pools were originally called *Arroyo de Los Banos del Padre Arroyo*. Cattle and mining were the basic reasons for the influx of people to the Los Banos area. The first waterworks in the area were built in 1871, when farmers built a canal from the Mendota Dam to Los Banos Creek to irrigate their wheat crops. Other canals were added, eventually totaling 180 miles. Since water has become available for irrigation, crops and orchards have become prominent and productive.

In 1962, President Kennedy led the groundbreaking ceremony for San Luis Reservoir, which was completed in 1967 and filled in 1969.

San Luis Reservoir Complex

San Luis Reservoir, O'Neill Forebay, and Los Banos Reservoir

About the Lakes

San Luis Reservoir and Dam are located on San Luis Creek in the foothills on the west side of the San Joaquin Valley in Merced County, 12 miles west of the city of Los Banos. Major roads in the area are Interstate 5 and State Highways 152 and 33. San Luis Reservoir is part of the San Luis Joint-Use Complex, which serves the California State Water Project and the Federal Central Valley Project. Completed in 1967, the reservoir provides storage for surplus water diverted from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta for later delivery to the San Joaquin Valley and Southern California. There are extensive recreational developments around the reservoir and at O'Neill Forebay, and three wildlife areas are a part of the San Luis State Recreation Area.

Los Banos Reservoir and Detention Dam are on Los Banos Creek, about 7 miles southwest of Los Banos. Access is via Volta, Pioneer, and Canyon Roads. Los Banos Detention Dam provides flood protection for San Luis Canal, Delta-Mendota Canal, City of Los Banos, and other downstream developments.

Operated by the California Department of Parks and Recreation, San Luis Reservoir State Recreation Area offers camping, picnicking, sail and power boating, water-skiing, wind surfing, fishing, hunting, swimming, hiking, bicycling, and waterfowl hunting.

San Luis Reservoir & Dam Statistics

Lake Gross Capacity	2,038,771 acre-feet
Surface Area	12,700 acres
Shoreline	65 miles
Maximum Depth	274 feet
Surface Elevation	544 feet
Dam Structural Height	385 feet
Crest Elevation	554 feet
Crest Length	18,600 feet
Volume	77,645,000 cubic yards

O'Neill Forebay & Dam Statistics

Lake Gross Capacity	56,426 acre-feet
Surface Area	2,700 acres
Shoreline	12 miles
Maximum Depth	40 feet
Surface Elevation	225 feet
Dam Structural Height	88 feet
Crest Elevation	233 feet
Crest Length	14,350 feet
Volume	3,000,000 cubic yards

Los Banos Reservoir & Dam Statistics

Lake Gross Capacity	34,562 acre-feet
Surface Area	623 acres
Shoreline	12 miles
Maximum Depth	78 feet
Surface Elevation	328 feet
Dam Structural Height	167 feet
Crest Elevation	384 feet
Crest Length	1,370 feet
Volume	2,100,000 cubic yards

San Luis Reservoir Complex

San Luis Reservoir, O'Neill Forebay, and Los Banos Reservoir

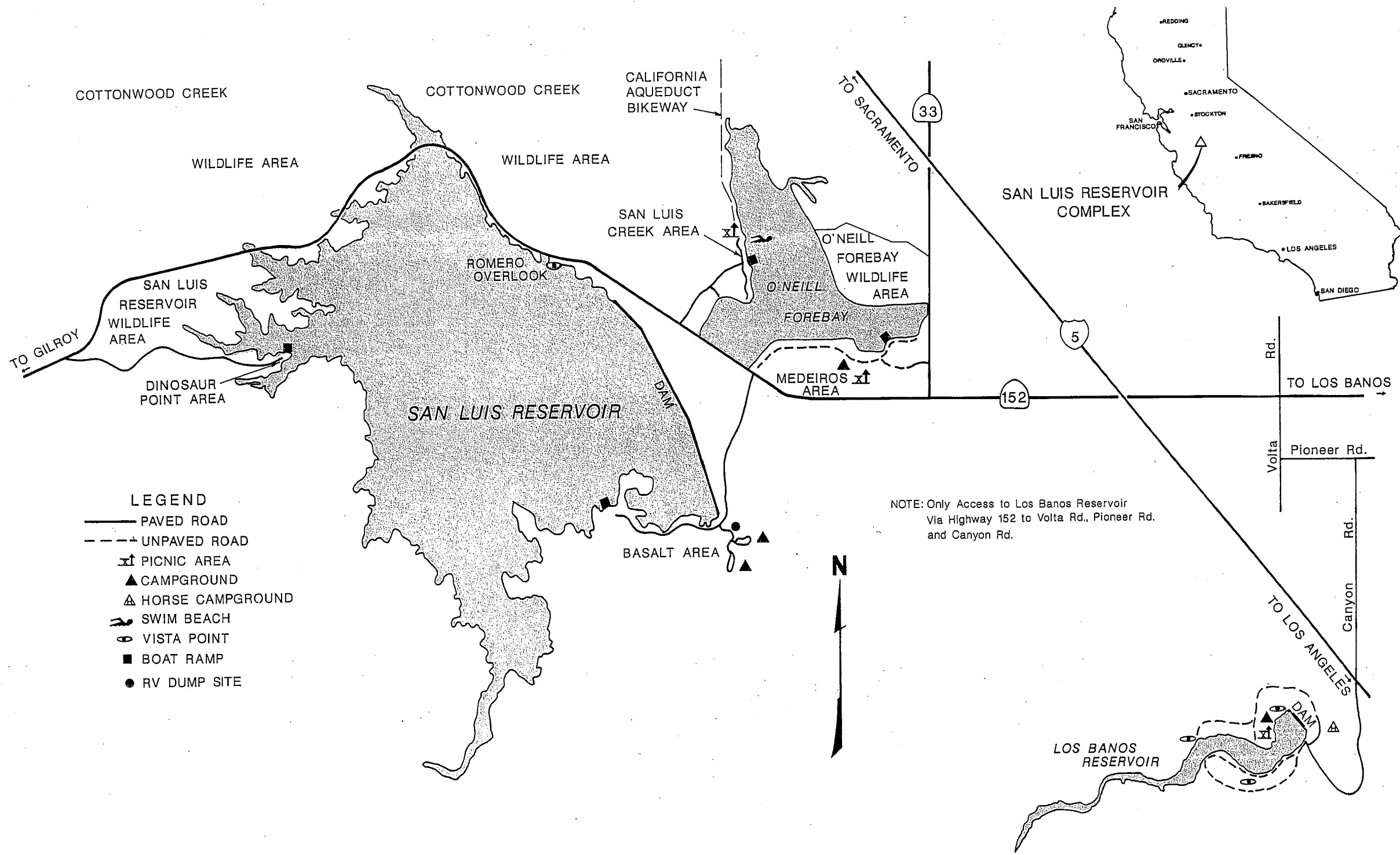
San Luis Reservoir Visitor Use, in Thousands	
1967	33
1968	67
1969	105
1970	251
1971	347
1972	531
1973	167
1974	159
1975	199
1976	153
1977	194
1978	366
1979	331
1980	316
1981	203
1982	206
1983	270
1984	239
1985	282
1986	359
1987	347

O'Neill Forebay Visitor Use, in Thousands	
1973	177
1974	193
1975	203
1976	195
1977	165
1978	333
1979	369
1980	367
1981	393
1982	476
1983	360
1984	192
1985	412
1986	336
1987	396

Los Banos Reservoir Visitor Use, in Thousands	
1973	18
1974	27
1975	34
1976	26
1977	61
1978	72
1979	38
1980	32
1981	29
1982	37
1983	49
1984	68
1985	77
1986	101
1987	103



Running cool at O'Neill Forebay, San Luis Reservoir State Recreation Area.
DWR Photo 4138-44



Department

San Luis Reservoir Complex

San Luis Reservoir, O'Neill Forebay, and Los Banos Reservoir

Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife

Fish in San Luis Reservoir and O'Neill Forebay -- striped and black bass, white and channel catfish, crappie, and bluegill -- are born in the Delta, then come south via the California Aqueduct to mature. Fishing is usually good from late February through the summer, from boats or from shore. Striped bass fishing is best in winter and spring; bluegill and crappie are good in spring and summer. Freshwater clams are the best bait for catfish; anchovies and sardines are most often used for striped bass. All-night fishing is allowed all along the shoreline.

Trout, crappie, bluegill, black bass, and catfish have been planted in Los Banos Reservoir. Black bass fishing is best in spring, and bluegill and crappie are good in spring and summer. Catfishing is better at night at the Medeiros area of O'Neill Forebay. Department of Fish and Game regulations apply at all three reservoirs.

Migratory waterfowl hunting is permitted on most parts of San Luis Reservoir, O'Neill Forebay, and Los Banos Reservoir. Hunting is not allowed within 300 feet of campgrounds, picnic areas, boat launching areas, dikes, and water structures. Hunting (shotguns only) is allowed in season, from sunrise until sunset; Federal and State game laws apply.

Pheasant, quail, and rabbit may be taken at the O'Neill Forebay Wildlife Area, and hunting for deer and feral pigs is allowed in the San Luis Reservoir Wildlife Area. Deer hunting is also allowed in the adjacent Cottonwood Creek Wildlife Area, to the north of San Luis Reservoir.

San Luis Reservoir Complex

San Luis Reservoir, O'Neill Forebay, and Los Banos Reservoir

Camping

At the Basalt camping area, near the south end of San Luis Dam, there are 79 family campsites, each with table, cupboard, and barbeque grill. Water and solar-heated showers are nearby. Some sites can accommodate RVs up to 37 feet, but there are no hookups. A sanitation dump site is provided near the entrance to the Basalt Area. One site near the restrooms can accommodate wheelchairs. Reservations are recommended during the summer for the Basalt area.

The Medeiros primitive camping area, on O'Neill Forebay between Highways 33 and 152, can accommodate up to 500 campers. Drinking water and chemical toilets are provided. Medeiros area use is on a first-come, first-served basis.

At Los Banos Reservoir the 20 primitive camping and picnicking sites have shade ramadas, tables, and stoves scattered along the shoreline. Drinking water and chemical toilets are also provided. A primitive camping area for equestrian groups is also available, which has chemical toilets. Water for campers is available at the park residence nearby, and for horses from dam seepage. Use of all campsites at Los Banos Reservoir is on a first-come, first-served basis.

Boating

Boats are allowed on San Luis Reservoir, O'Neill Forebay, and Los Banos Reservoir from an hour before sunrise until sunset. Waterskiing in a counterclockwise direction is allowed on San Luis Reservoir and O'Neill Forebay.

Wind creates a definite boating hazard on San Luis Reservoir. The area is often windy, and winds can surprise anglers and boaters. Warning lights at Romero Overlook and Quien Sabe Point flash yellow when the wind reaches 15 mph and red (get off the water) when winds exceed 30 mph.

Dinosaur Point Area has a 4-lane concrete launching ramp, boarding dock, toilets, drinking water, and parking area for cars and boat trailers. Four shade ramadas with picnic tables and cook stoves have also been provided.

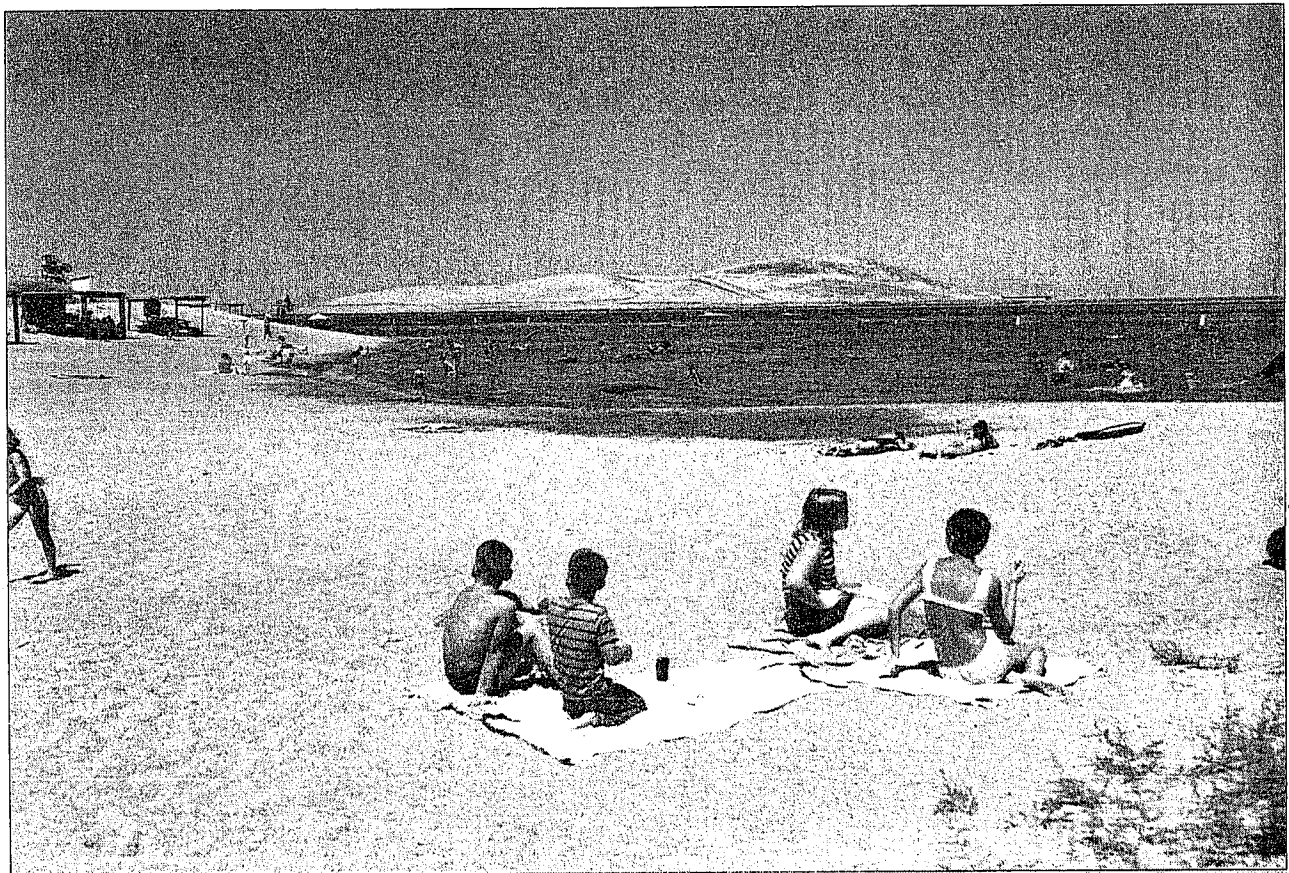
San Luis Reservoir Complex

San Luis Reservoir, O'Neill Forebay, and Los Banos Reservoir

The Basalt Area has a 2-lane concrete launching ramp, boarding dock, toilets, drinking water, parking area for cars and boat trailers, and a fish cleaning facility.

At O'Neill Forebay, the San Luis Creek Area has a 4-lane concrete launching ramp, boarding dock, drinking water, restrooms and showers, parking area for cars and boat trailers, and a fish cleaning facility. Shade ramadas with picnic tables and cook stoves are also available.

A 2-lane paved launching ramp and boarding dock are provided near the camping and day-use areas at Los Banos Reservoir.



Although the area is often windy, the beaches at San Luis Reservoir and O'Neill Forebay are extremely popular.

DWR 3787-7

Pyramid Lake

History

Gold was discovered in 1842 near the area that is now Pyramid Lake and in Santa Feliciana Canyon, downstream of what is now Pyramid Dam. Only Francisco Lopes, owner of Rancho Temescal, a Mexican land grant, and a few scattered ranchers tried to settle the land. Gold-seekers still pan in Piru Creek in search of the precious metal.

During construction of Old Highway 99 in 1933, a large pyramid-shaped rock was cut. "Pyramid Rock" soon became a landmark for travelers between Los Angeles and Bakersfield. The lake and dam, completed in 1973, were named after the rock, which still stands below the dam.

About the Lake

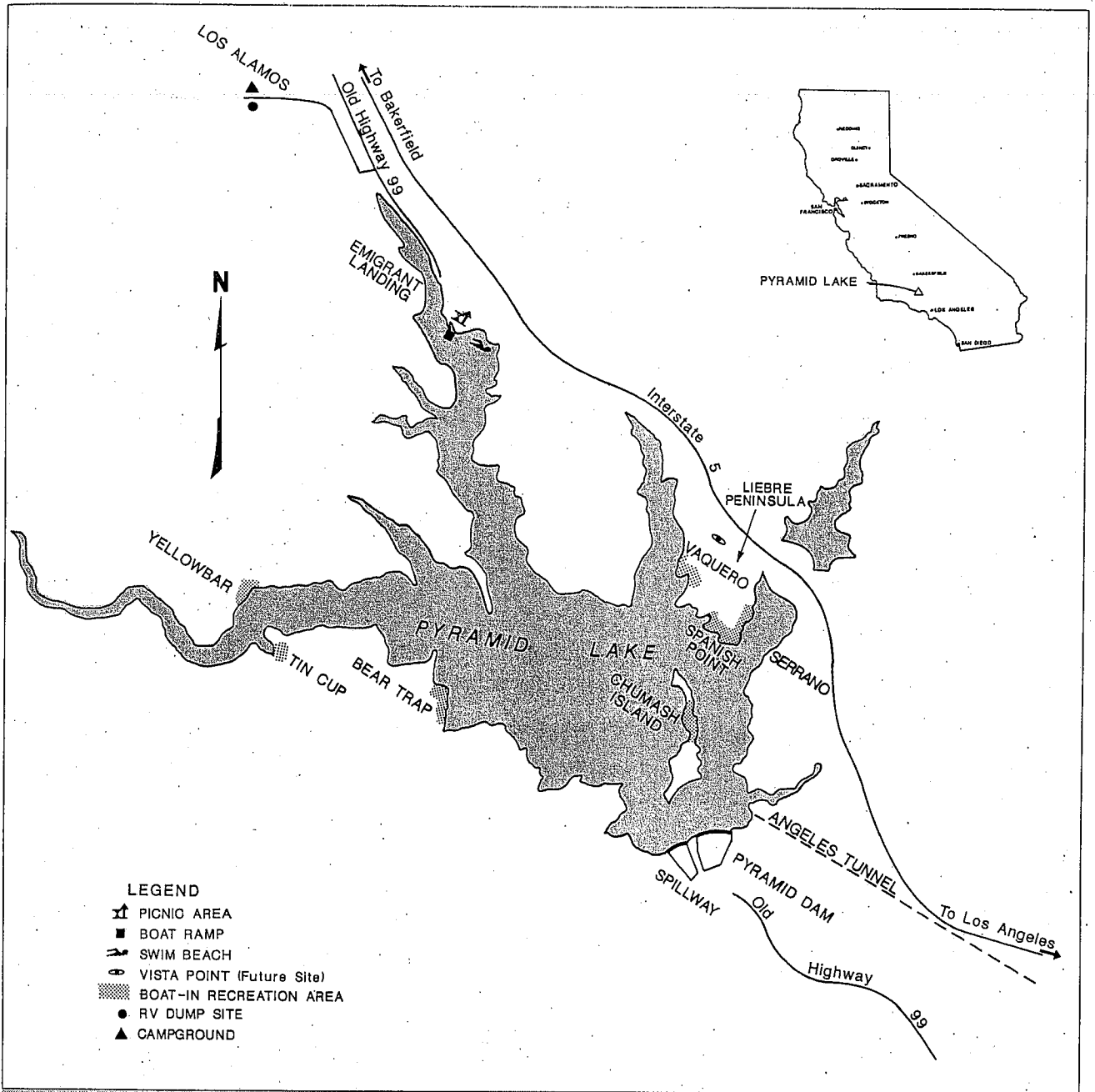
Pyramid Lake and Dam are within the Angeles and Los Padres National Forests, on Piru Creek about 14 miles north of the town of Castaic. The dam is near Pyramid Rock in a narrow gorge that was traversed by U.S. Highway 99, now abandoned. The nearest major highway is Interstate 5, which crosses the easterly arm of the lake. Completed in 1973, Pyramid Lake is a multipurpose facility that provides regulatory storage for Castaic Powerplant, an afterbay for William E. Warne Powerplant, emergency storage for water deliveries from the West Branch, recreational opportunities, and incidental flood protection.

Operated by the U.S. Forest Service, the recreation area offers camping, picnicking, boating, water-skiing, fishing, and swimming. Only facilities at the Emigrant Landing and Serrano areas are accessible by car.

Pyramid Lake & Dam Statistics

Lake Gross Capacity	171,196 acre-feet
Surface Area	1,297 acres
Shoreline	21 miles
Maximum Depth	355 feet
Surface Elevation	2,578 feet
Dam Structural Height	400 feet
Crest Elevation	2,606 feet
Crest Length	1,090 feet
Volume	6,860,000 cubic yards

Pyramid Lake



LEGEND

- ♣ PICNIC AREA
- BOAT RAMP
- ♣ SWIM BEACH
- VISTA POINT (Future Site)
- ▨ BOAT-IN RECREATION AREA
- RV DUMP SITE
- ▲ CAMPGROUND

*For more information contact:
 U.S. Forest Service
 Angeles National Forest, Saugus Ranger District
 30800 Bouquet Canyon Road
 Saugus, CA 91350
 (805) 296-9710*

Pyramid Lake

Pyramid Lake Visitor Use, in Thousands

1974	119
1975	276
1976	330
1977	321
1978	429
1979	294
1980	233
1981	150
1982	329
1983	346
1984	274
1985	286
1986	287
1987	375

Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife

Fish at Pyramid Lake include striped bass, catfish, large mouth bass, trout, bluegill, crappie, and shad. Striped bass and trout fishing are best from November to May; the other species can be caught year-round. Record catches are:

Striped bass	39-1/2 pounds
Catfish	25 pounds
Large-mouth bass	12-1/2 pounds
Trout	12 pounds
Bluegill	2 pounds
Crappie	5 pounds

All of the record catches have been by anglers on shore.

Hunting is not allowed within one-half mile around the lake within the National Forest.

Numerous species of birds have been seen around Pyramid Lake. Several are rare -- common loon, horned grebe, cinnamon teal, immature bald eagle -- and for the last 3 years, a pair of golden eagles has been sighted. Other bird species include: great blue, night, and green heron; kingfisher; ring-necked duck; bufflehead; and osprey. In the late 70s and early 80s, four condor frequented the lake, but the Forest Service last sighted them in the area in March 1987.

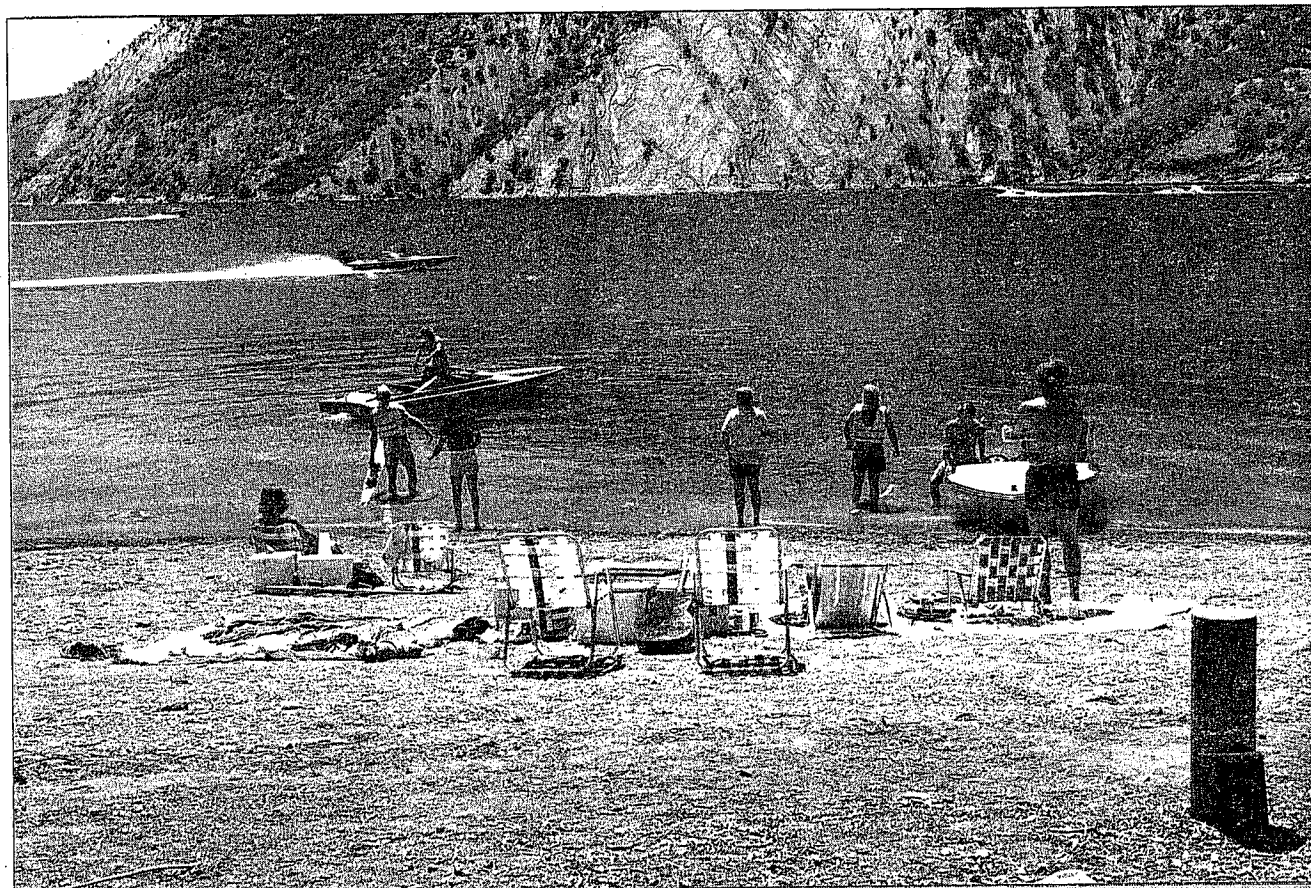
Wildlife in the Pyramid Lake area includes rabbits, bobcats, coyotes, deer, mountain lions, and bears. Visitors to the Yellowbar Area have been seen hand-feeding the deer. During July, August, and September since 1983, three bears have been intruding the area as soon as the entry gates are closed for the day.

Pyramid Lake

Camping

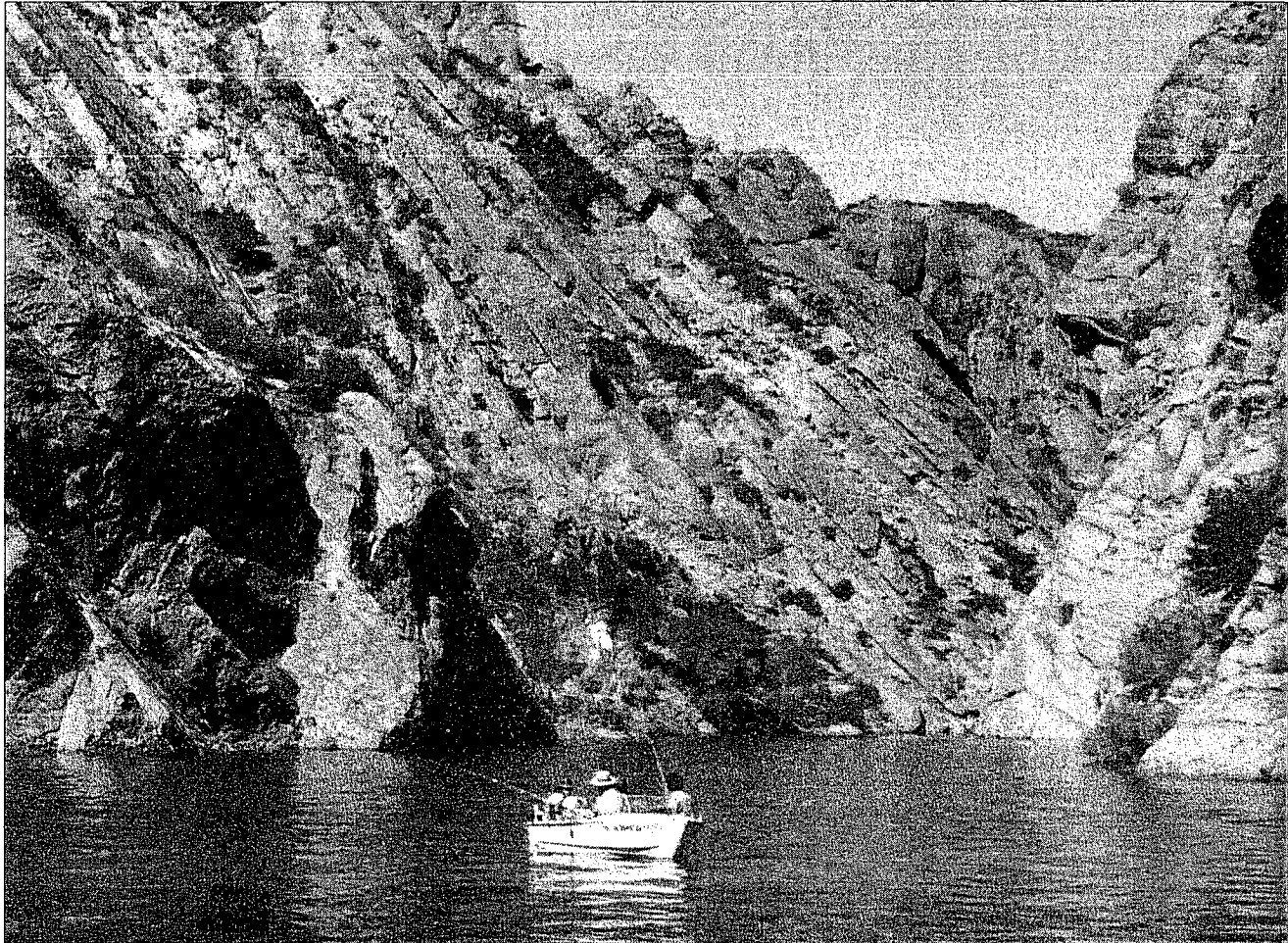
Los Alamos Campground has 93 family campsites, each containing a parking space, concrete table, and fire ring with a flip-over grate. Drinking water and restrooms are nearby. No hookups are provided for trailers and camper vans, but a sanitation dump site is available. Three group camping areas accommodate up to 25 people each. Each group area contains 4 tables, a large stove, and a large fire pit. Drinking water pumped from a well is stored in an 80,000-gallon water tank.

On Piru Creek, Hard Luck Campground consists of 22 family campsites.



Spanish Point is the scene of this outing at Pyramid Lake.
DWR Photo 4937-1

Pyramid Lake



Because of the steep, rugged slopes around Pyramid Lake, many areas are accessible only by boat.
DWR Photo

Pyramid Lake

Boating

Because of the steep slopes and rugged terrain around the lake, six recreational developments are accessible only by boat; Emigrant Landing and Serrano areas may be reached by car. Future development on Liebre Peninsula, including an Interstate 5 interchange and the Vista del Lago visitor facility (planned jointly by the Department of Water Resources and the U.S. Forest Service), will open the Spanish Point area to cars.

Emigrant Landing area has four parking areas, with a total of 183 boat parking stalls, 235 single parking stalls, and an 8-lane boat launching ramp, boarding dock, and public dock with 19 boat slips. In addition, there are 6 restrooms, 55 shade ramadas with two picnic tables and a stove at each, and a swim beach more than 300 feet long. The administration building and adjacent helicopter pad are also within the Emigrant Landing area. A concessionaire has a permit to sell gas, food, and bait and to rent fishing boats and overnight moorage.

The Serrano area has parking for about 40 cars, a dock with 4 sections, a restroom, and 6 shade ramadas each with a table and stove. The Serrano area is accessible by car via the Old Ridge Route and a dirt fire service road.

There are two floating restrooms on the lake. Facilities at the boat-in areas include:

<i>Yellowbar</i>	Restroom, dock with 5 sections, 11 ramadas (2 tables and 1 stove each).
<i>Bear Trap</i>	Restroom, dock with 4 sections, 4 ramadas (2 tables and 1 stove each).
<i>Spanish Point</i>	Restroom, beach area, 12 ramadas (2 tables and 1 stove each).
<i>Vaquero</i>	Restroom, 3 bench-type seating areas with one stove each.
<i>Tin Cup</i>	2 tables, 2 stoves.
<i>Chumash Island</i>	Portable restroom.

Castaic Lake

History

Located in the Liebre Mountains southeast of the Angeles National Forest, Castaic Lake is the site of a prehistoric Indian settlement. Artifacts dating to 3000 B.C. have been excavated, and some are on display in the Castaic Dam Visitors Center. The name *Castaic* is derived from the Tatavian Indian word "Kashtuk" or eyes. Pronunciation has changed as first Spanish, then English-speaking settlers moved into the area.

About the Lake

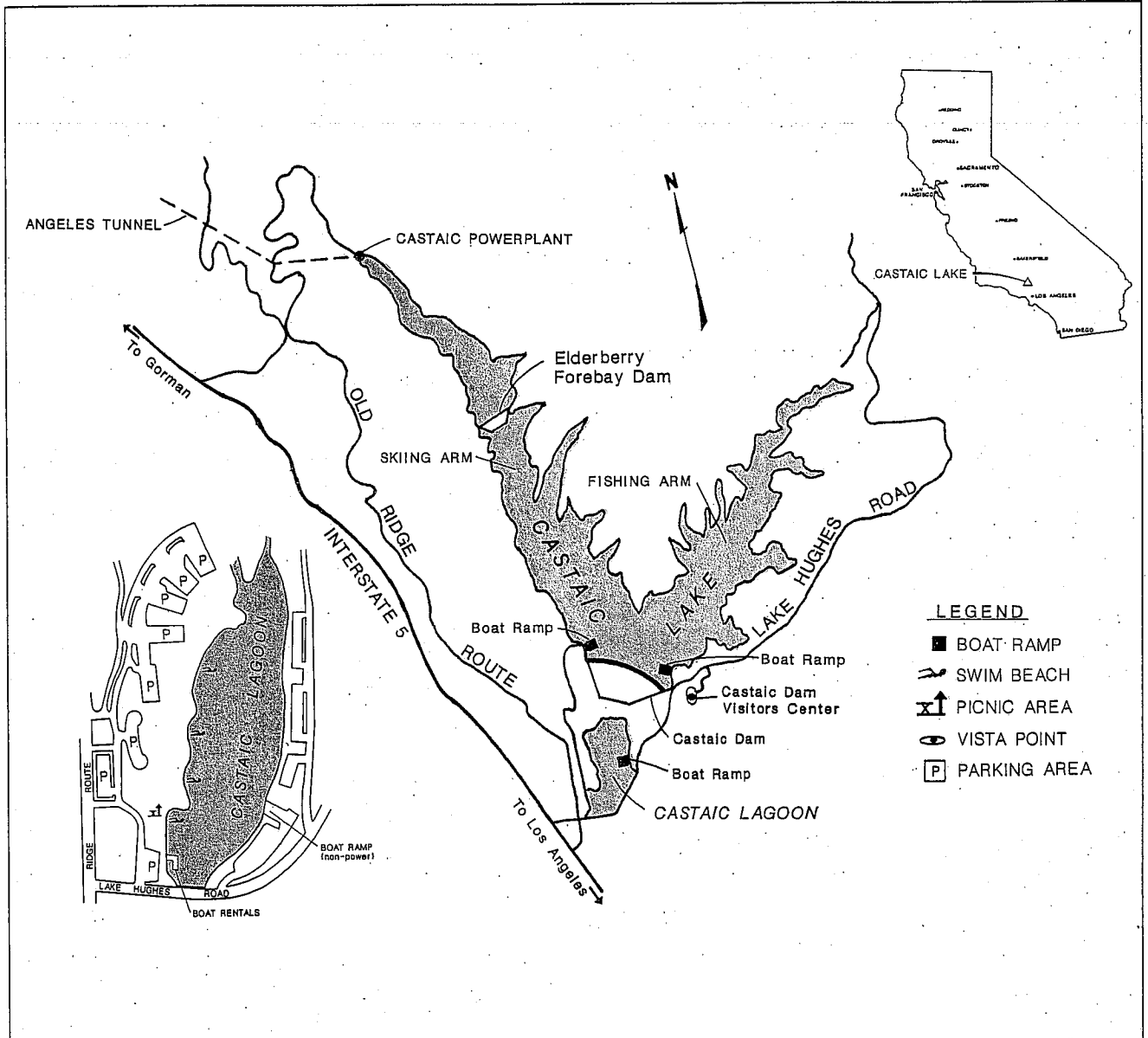
Castaic Lake and Dam are located at the confluence of Castaic Creek and Elizabeth Lake Canyon Creek, 45 highway miles northwest of Los Angeles and about 2 miles north of the community of Castaic. The nearest major roads are Interstate 5 and Lake Hughes Road. Castaic Lake was completed in 1972 to provide emergency storage in the event of a shut-down of the State Water Project to the north, act as a regulatory storage facility for deliveries during normal operation, and provide recreational development and fish and wildlife enhancement. Castaic Lagoon, downstream of the dam, provides a recreation pool with a constant water surface elevation 1,134 feet and also functions as a recharge basin for the downstream water basin. The lagoon provides an additional 3 miles of shoreline and 197 surface acres.

Operated by Los Angeles County Department of Parks and Recreation, Castaic Lake State Recreation Area offers fishing, boating, water-skiing, sailing, picnicking and swimming.

Castaic Lake and Dam Statistics

Lake Gross Capacity	323,702 acre-feet
Surface Area	2,235 acres
Shoreline	29 miles
Maximum Depth	330 feet
Surface Elevation	1,513 feet
Dam Structural Height	425 feet
Crest Elevation	1,535 feet
Crest Length	4,900 feet
Volume	46,000,000 cubic yards

Castaic Lake



*For more information contact:
 County of Los Angeles
 Department of Parks and Recreation
 Castaic Lake State Recreation Area
 32132 Ridge Route Road
 Castaic, CA 91310
 (805) 257-4057*

Castaic Lake

Fishing, Hunting, and Picnicking

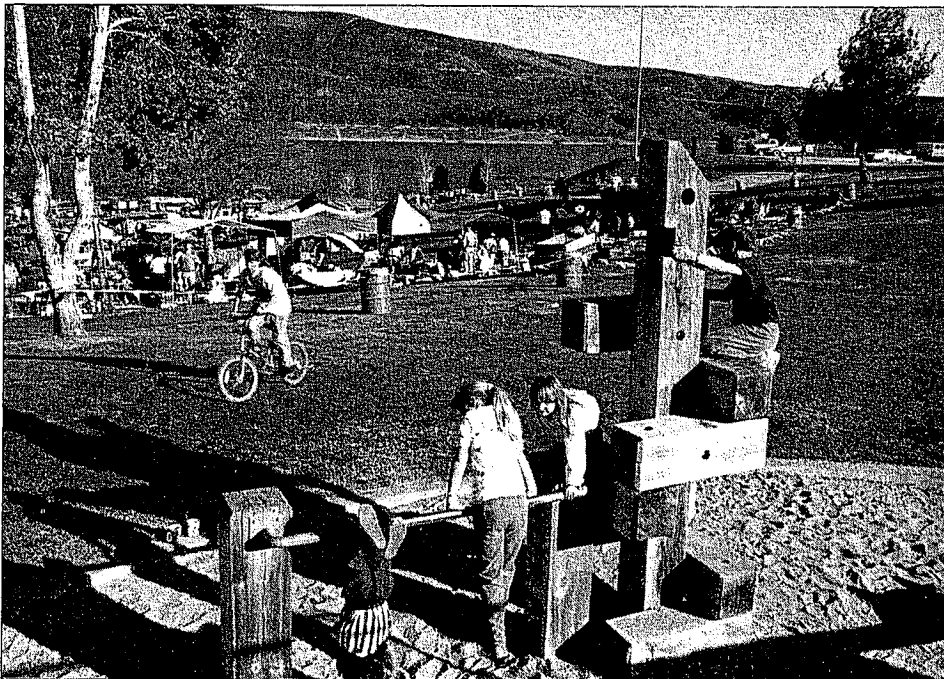
Castaic Lake
Visitor Use,
in Thousands

1972	232
1973	358
1974	1,056
1975	1,013
1976	964
1977	833
1978	1,084
1979	985
1980	1,054
1981	1,267
1982	972
1983	875
1984	846
1985	903
1986	1,098
1987	1,270

Fishing is one of the most popular activities at Castaic Lake. Both the lake and lagoon are stocked regularly with trout by the Department of Fish and Game. Other species caught in the area include large- and small-mouth bass, catfish, and crappie. Fishing is allowed 24 hours a day on the east shore of the lagoon and from sunrise to sunset on the main lake.

No hunting is allowed at the present time at Castaic Lake.

Picnic facilities are available throughout the recreation area, but are most heavily concentrated in the 80-acre development around Castaic Lagoon.



Children enjoy the playground at Castaic Lagoon (left) during a recent chili cook-off (in background). The young man in the photo to the right is justly proud of his catch from Castaic Lake.
DWR Central District Photos

Castaic Lake

Camping

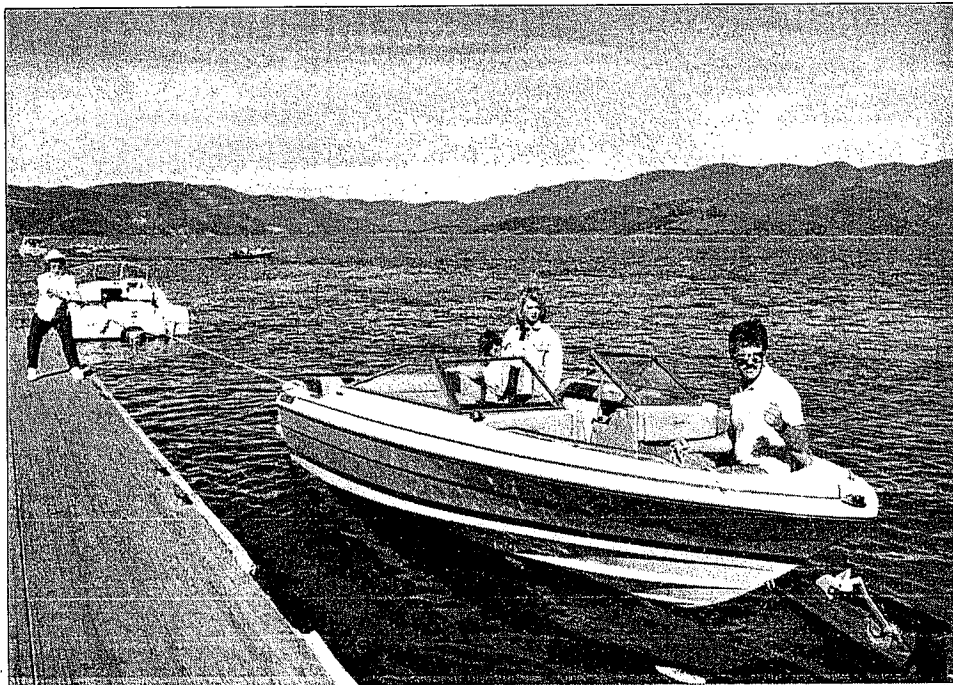
Campsites are still being developed at Castaic Lake. When completed, there will be RV and tent camping. Group camping is available now; reservations can be made at the park office. Camping facilities are also available in nearby Angeles National Forest.

Boating

Castaic Lake forms a V-shaped body of water, with about 2,235 surface acres. The west arm is the waterskiing and fast boating arm. The east arm is for fishing, sailing, and slow boating.

The left abutment launch ramp at the east end of the dam includes an 18-lane launch ramp, parking area, and chemical toilets. At the west end of the dam, there is a 6-lane launch ramp and picnic facilities.

Castaic Lagoon is open to rowboats, inflatables, sailboats, and boats with electric motors only. There is a 2-lane launch ramp on the east shore of the lagoon.



A family launches for a day on Castaic Lake (left), while the fellow at right enjoys the wind and waves.
DWR Central District Photos

Silverwood Lake

History

In 1776, Father Francisco Garces was the first man to keep a diary of his journey through the Cedar Springs area. Enroute from the Colorado River to Mission San Gabriel, he followed the Mojave Indian Trail up Sawpit Canyon to the summit.

In 1826, Jedediah Smith, the first American to make the trip to California overland, also followed the old Mojave Indian Trail. He was a trapper looking for beaver, and news of his travel route and findings influenced later trappers and traders.

In 1843, Captain John C. Fremont traveled up the Cedar Springs route and over the mountains. He named the river "Mojave River".

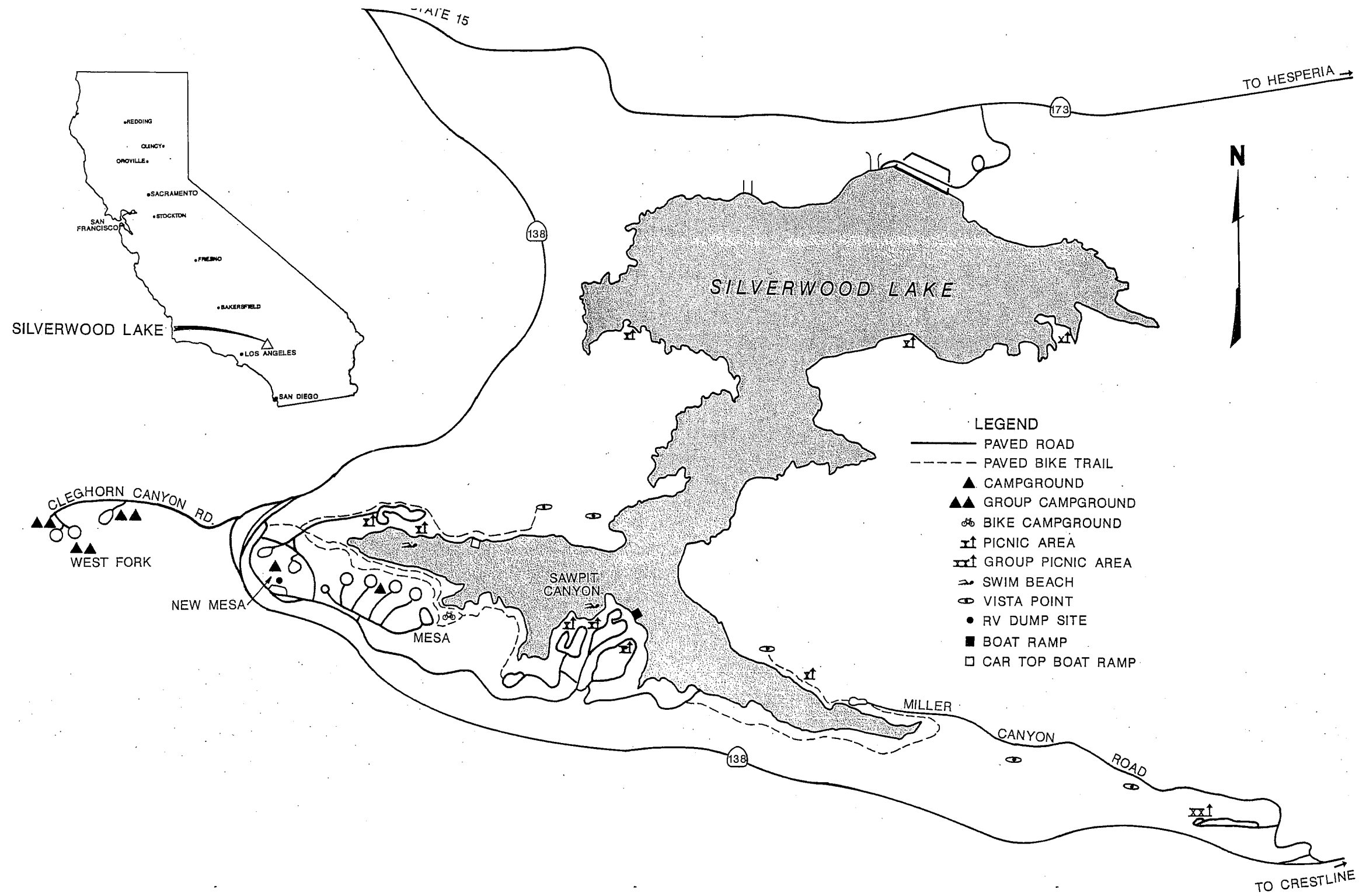
About the Lake

Silverwood Lake and Cedar Springs Dam are within San Bernardino National Forest, on the West Fork Mojave River. The complex is 30 highway miles north of the city of San Bernardino, near the junction of State Highways 138 and 173. Silverwood Lake, a multipurpose project completed in 1971, is a major water source for agencies serving the surrounding mountain and desert areas. Some 2,400 acres of recreation land surrounds Silverwood Lake.

Operated by the California Department of Parks and Recreation, the Silverwood Lake State Recreation Area offers camping, picnicking, boating, water-skiing, fishing, swimming, bicycling and hiking.

Silverwood Lake and Cedar Springs Dam Statistics

Lake Gross Capacity	74,970 acre-feet
Surface Area	976 acres
Shoreline	13 miles
Maximum Depth	166 feet
Surface Elevation	3,353 feet
Dam Structural Height	249 feet
Crest Elevation	3,378 feet
Crest Length	2,230 feet
Volume	7,600,000 cubic yards



Silverwood Lake

Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife

Silverwood Lake Visitor Use, in Thousands

1972	216
1973	377
1974	426
1975	426
1976	412
1977	375
1978	531
1979	485
1980	570
1981	590
1982	610
1983	440
1984	544
1985	588
1986	731
1987	769

Several brushy areas were left uncleared when the lake was filled to provide fish habitat. Trout, large-mouth bass, catfish, and bluegill planted by California Department of Fish and Game are flourishing. A California fishing license is required, and all Fish and Game regulations are enforced.

The diverse habitats around the lake are reflected in the variety of wildlife. Beavers, mule deer, and raccoons are occasionally seen in wooded areas along streams. The area's widespread chaparral is home to mountain and California quail, ground squirrels, desert woodrats, and white-footed mice. Predators include coyotes, bobcats, ring-tailed cats, great horned owls, and western rattlesnakes.

Nearly 130 species of birds have been observed around the lake, which also offers refuge to many migratory waterfowl -- Canada geese, common mergansers, ruddy ducks, and bufflehead. Osprey and bald eagles are sometimes seen in winter. Great blue herons, snowy egrets, and American avocets live near the shore, while common loons and eared and western grebes inhabit the open water.

Camping

There are 95 family campsites in the Mesa area, each with table, barbeque grill, fire ring, and parking for a trailer and its towing vehicle. A sanitation dump site is also provided. There are 7 campsites for bicyclists, and 5 campsites have been modified for wheelchair accessibility. Restrooms, showers, and laundry facilities are nearby.

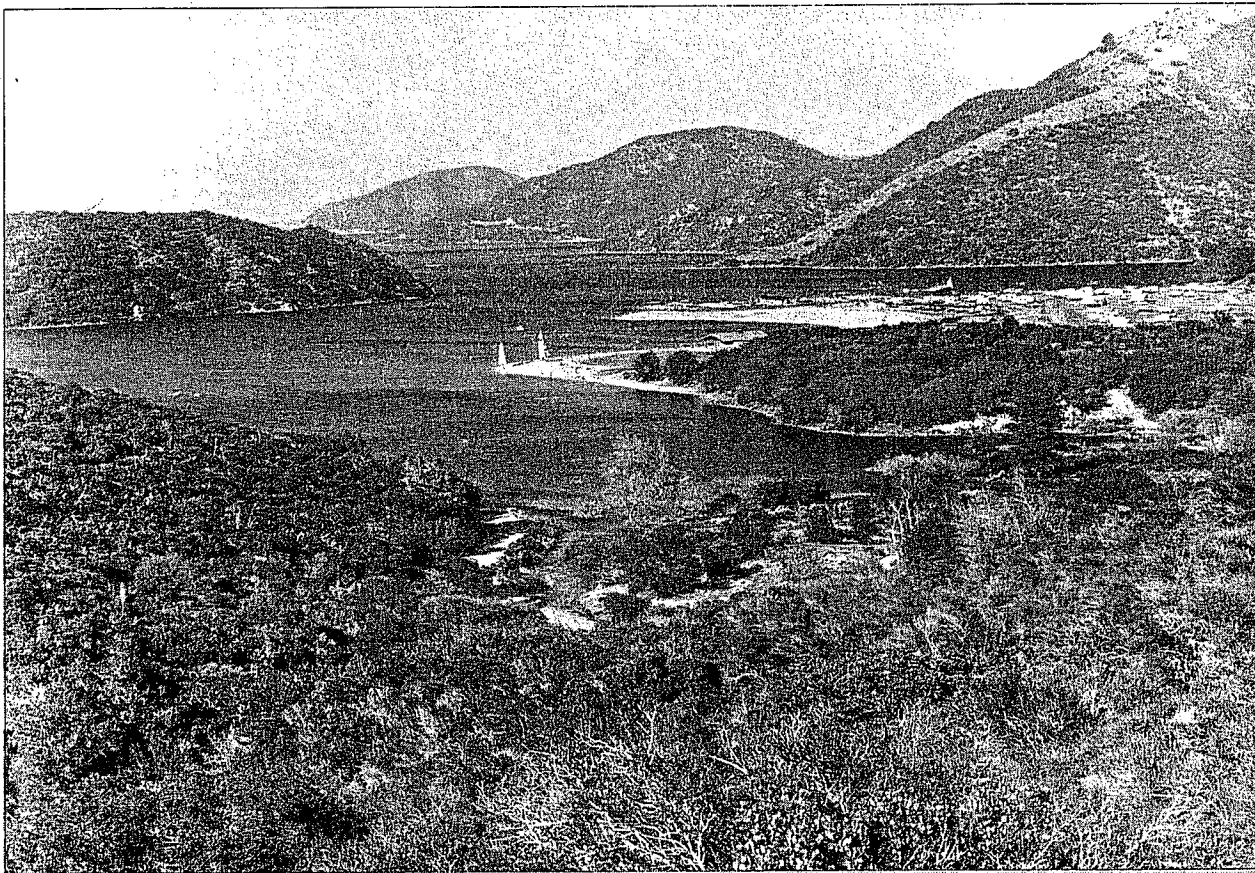
New Mesa Campground contains 41 family campsites, with paved parking spaces, tables, fire rings, and barbeque stoves. Restrooms have flush toilets and hot showers.

In the West Fork area, three group camps can accommodate 120 people and 30 cars each. Barbeques, restrooms, and showers are provided.

Silverwood Lake

Boating

A 6-lane launching ramp, boarding docks, and parking for 177 vehicles with boat trailers are located at Sawpit Canyon. A concessionaire operates a snack bar; rents boats, paddle boats, and boat slips; sells fishing tackle and other supplies; and provides boat tours of the lake. In addition, a car-top boat launching area is located near the Cleghorn picnic area in the Cleghorn Arm of the lake.



Sailboating is just one way people relax at Silverwood Lake.
DWR 4716-25

Silverwood Lake



Thousands enjoy the beaches at Silverwood Lake each year. This group is at the Sawpit Canyon area.
DWR 4716-27

Lake Perris

History

The valley that now contains Lake Perris was once the home of a band of Indians, usually numbering between 100 and 300, who roamed the area gathering acorns, mesquite, screw beans, seeds, wild fruit and berries, roots and greens. They hunted deer, mountain sheep, raccoons, rabbits, birds, and other animals. There are few traces of the Indians today, although archaeologists from University of California at Riverside have recovered arrowheads, pottery fragments, stone mortars for grinding food, and a variety of bone tools. A few pictographs and petroglyphs are barely visible on some of the surrounding hills.

Two hundred years ago, Captain Juan Bautista de Anza led the first overland immigrants from Mexico through the area that is now Lake Perris. They saw a fertile valley, watered by springs and a small river that ran into San Jacinto Lake. Now the river has been diverted and the lake and several of the springs are dry.

About the Lake

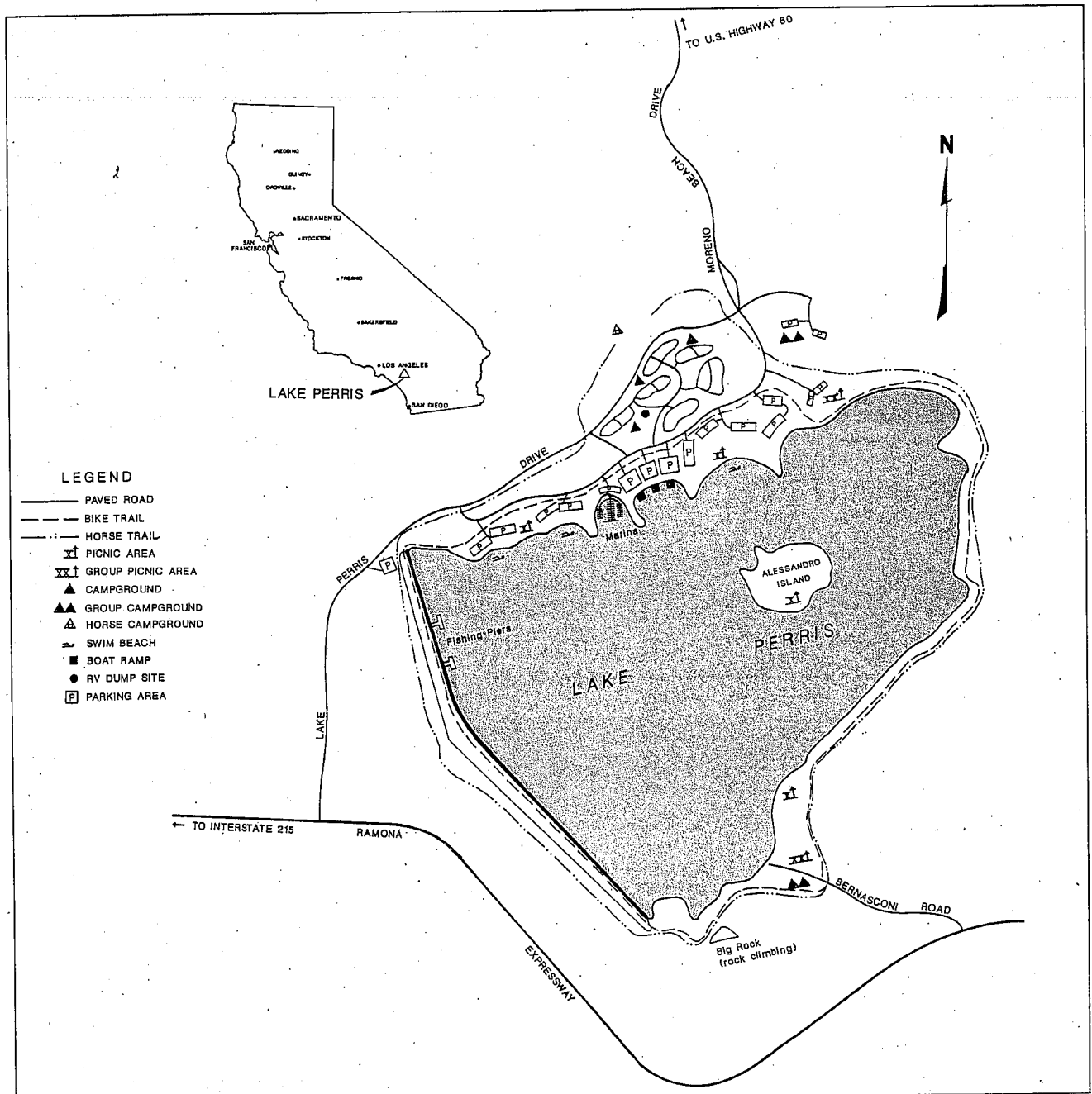
Lake Perris and Perris Dam, the terminal storage facility of the State Water Project, are in northwestern Riverside County, about 13 miles southeast of the city of Riverside and 5 miles northeast of the town of Perris. The nearest major roads are Ramona Expressway, Interstate 215 and U.S. Highway 60. Completed in 1974, Lake Perris is a multiple purpose facility providing water supply, recreation, and fish and wildlife enhancement.

Operated by the California Department of Parks and Recreation, Lake Perris State Recreation Area offers camping, picnicking, horseback riding, sail and power boating, water-skiing, fishing, swimming, hiking, bicycling, hunting, and rock climbing. A marina and waterslide are operated by a concessionaire.

Lake Perris & Perris Dam Statistics

Lake Gross Capacity	131,452 acre-feet
Surface Area	2,318 acres
Shoreline	10 miles
Maximum Depth	110 feet
Surface Elevation	1,588 feet
Dam Structural Height	128 feet
Crest Elevation	1,600 feet
Crest Length	11,600 feet
Volume	20,000,000 cubic yards

Lake Perris



For more information contact:
 California Department of Parks and Recreation
 Lake Perris State Recreation Area
 17801 Lake Perris Drive
 Perris, CA 92370
 (714) 657-0676

Lake Perris

Lake Perris Visitor Use, in Thousands

1974	713
1975	788
1976	880
1977	782
1978	1,462
1979	1,044
1980	1,186
1981	1,467
1982	1,714
1983	1,623
1984	2,065
1985	1,970
1986	1,770
1987	1,545

Fishing, Hunting, and Wildlife

Lake Perris was the first lake in Southern California to be stocked with Alabama spotted bass. Planted rainbow trout, channel catfish, and Florida bluegill abound in the lake. There is also a large population of crayfish (crawdads) in Lake Perris. For catfish, the best areas are the southwest corner of the dam and the east end of the lake; mackerel and night crawlers are the best bait. For bass, try the area around Alessandro Island and use water-dogs or crawdads. Trout respond to shad and can be taken along the dam. Marshy areas and the area around the marina are best for bluegill. Shore fishing is allowed all night, but vehicles must park in the designated area below the dam; day-use parking areas may not be used.

As for hunting, only shotguns may be used in the areas designated for hunting blacktailed jackrabbits, brush and cottontail rabbits, mourning dove, valley quail, ducks, and geese. Shooting is prohibited in other areas of the park.

The hills around Lake Perris provide habitat for mule deer, coyotes, bobcats, weasels, skunks, and badgers. Hawks and owls are frequently seen hunting for mice, moles, ground squirrels, kangaroo rats, and other rodents. More than 100 species of birds have been spotted around the area. Many are migratory. The bike trail offers an easy way to see some of the birds and other wildlife of Lake Perris. Early morning or dusk are best. Rangers lead hikes during spring and early summer.

Camping

The family campground has 167 sites for tent campers and 264 paved sites for recreational vehicles up to 27 feet. Each site has a table, grill, and parking for two vehicles. Water and restrooms with hot showers are nearby. These facilities are designed to accommodate wheelchairs. The RV sites have hookups for water, electricity, and sink water disposal. A sanitation dump site is located near the campground entrance.

The group campground has six areas, which accommodate 25 to 100 people each. Shade ramadas, tables, restrooms with hot showers, and campfire ring are provided at each area. The Bernasconi Group Campground has three areas that will accommodate 25 to 80. This campground has tables, grills, and chemical toilets.

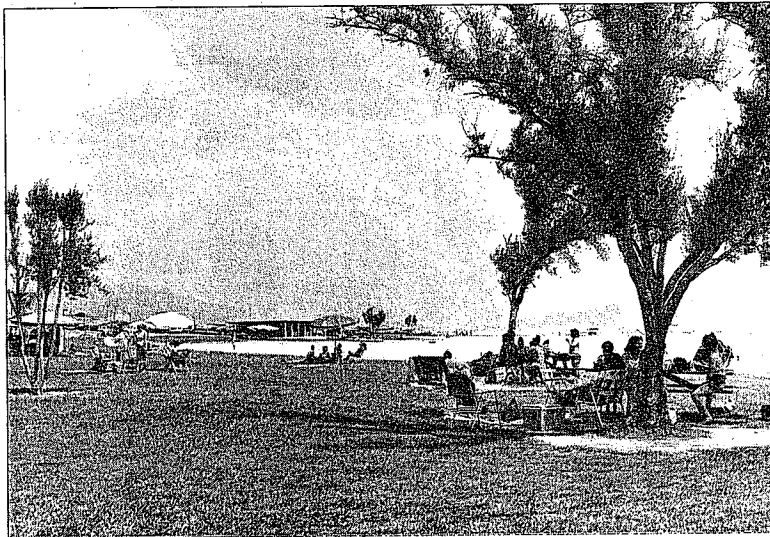
The primitive horse camp, with corrals, water troughs, picnic tables, campfire rings, drinking water, and chemical toilets, will accommodate groups of up to 50, with ample parking for vehicles and trailers.

Lake Perris

Boating

Boat launching ramps are located on the north side of the lake. Sailboats and windsurfers should park and launch in the sail cove area near the westerly parking area and the north end of Perris Dam. A concessionaire operates a marina, which offers boat slips, dry storage, a gas dock, coffee shop, and boat repair. The marina store carries bait and tackle, boating and camping supplies, and snacks. Fishing boats, hobie cats, sailboards, jet skis, and paddle boats are available for rental.

Alessandro Island -- a day-use, boat-in-only area -- has picnic tables under shade ramadas, with cooking grills nearby. Maximum lake speed is 35 mph, and all travel on the lake must be counterclockwise.



Picnics are popular on the beach at Lake Perris.
DWR Photo 5006-6

This aerial view of Alessandro Island also shows Perris Dam in the background.
DWR Photo 4613-26

