

San Luis Reservoir State Recreation Area

Draft Resource Management Plan / General Plan and
Draft Environmental Impact Statement / Revised Draft Environmental Impact Report

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United States Department of the Interior
Bureau of Reclamation
Mid-Pacific Region
South-Central California Area Office

California Department of Parks & Recreation
Central Valley District

RECLAMATION
Managing Water in the West



Recreation area signage portrays an image and identity for the Plan Area and contributes to the aesthetic experience. The Plan Area viewshed also includes wind turbines along the ridgelines of neighboring Pacheco State Park to the west.

The Merced County Year 2000 General Plan (Chapter VI: Open Space/Conservation) and the Caltrans Officially Designated Scenic Highways list designates SR 152 west of I-5 as a state scenic highway because of its scenic vistas.

According to the Santa Clara County General Plan, 1995–2010, SR 152 is considered one of the most dramatically scenic gateways into Santa Clara County. Policy R-RC(i) 36 of the Santa Clara County General Plan is intended to protect the scenic value of several major county thoroughfares and entranceways through state scenic highway designation, including Pacheco Pass (SR 152 east of Gilroy).

2.9 Recreational Resources

2.9.1 Recreational Activities

The Plan Area is one of the most popular recreation areas associated with the CVP and is noted for boating, windsurfing, camping, picnicking, and fishing. Boating and other water-based recreation is allowed on all three water bodies in accordance with speed limits and access restrictions. Land-based recreation in the Plan Area is focused into five waterside use areas: Basalt, Dinosaur Point, San Luis Creek, Medeiros, and Los Banos Creek (Map 7). A sixth use area is the designated Off Highway Vehicle (OHV) area, which is south of, and separated from, Medeiros Use Area by Gonzaga Road. Additionally, San Luis and O’Neill Forebay wildlife areas offer hunting and hiking opportunities.

Fishing takes place in all three reservoirs. The DFG periodically stocks Los Banos Creek Reservoir with trout. CSP is not involved with the stocking of trout, and there is no known schedule for how often this occurs. Los Banos Creek Reservoir is known primarily for its fishing, although boating (in accordance with the 5 miles per hour [mph] maximum speed limit) and swimming are also popular. Bass fishing derbies are held at all three reservoirs. At O’Neill Forebay, crappie and bluegill are also caught. All fishing derbies require special event permits from both DFG and CSP. Table 2-20 details the primary activities in each of the use areas.

**Table 2-20
Plan Area Primary Activities**

Use Area	Primary Activities
Basalt Use Area	Fishing, camping, hiking, boating, day use
Dinosaur Point Use Area	Fishing, boating, day use
San Luis Creek Use Area	Fishing, windsurfing, swimming, boating, camping, day use, group activities
Medeiros Use Area	Fishing, windsurfing, camping, day use