

**PYRAMID LAKE AND DAM STATISTICS**

**Lake**

Gross capacity..... 171,200 acre-feet  
Shoreline.....21 miles  
Surface area..... 1,300 acres  
Maximum depth.....355 feet

**Dam**

Volume.....6,860,000 cubic yards  
Length.....1,090 feet  
Height of dam.....400 feet  
Elevation.....2,606 feet



*Our Mission*

To sustainably manage the water resources of California in cooperation with other agencies, to benefit the state's people, and to protect, restore and enhance the natural and human environments.



**PYRAMID LAKE**



**FOR MORE INFORMATION**

Visit DWR's Website at [water.ca.gov](http://water.ca.gov)

For questions or for this publication in an alternate form, email [PAOPublications@water.ca.gov](mailto:PAOPublications@water.ca.gov)

## PYRAMID LAKE

Pyramid Lake Recreation Area, operated and maintained by Rocky Mountain Recreation Company under permit from the California Department of Water Resources, is located in the Angeles National Forest about 60 miles northwest of downtown Los Angeles. Pyramid Lake provides regulated storage for Castaic Powerplant, flood protection along Piru Creek, which it dams, and recreational opportunities, such as boating, fishing, swimming, and day use picnic areas. For overnight camping, the Los Alamos Campground is conveniently located less than two miles from Pyramid Lake.

## THE STATE WATER PROJECT

Planned, designed, constructed, and operated by the California Department of Water Resources (DWR), the State Water Project (SWP) is the largest state-built, multi-purpose water project in the United States.

The SWP consists of 36 storage facilities, 26 dams, 21 pumping plants, four pumping-generating plants, five hydroelectric power plants, and approximately 700 miles of canals, tunnels, and pipelines.

The SWP's main purpose is to provide a water supply—that is, to divert and store water during wet periods and distribute it to areas of need during dry periods—in Northern California, the San Francisco Bay Area, the San Joaquin Valley, the Central Coast, and Southern California. Other project purposes include flood control, power generation, recreation, fish and wildlife enhancement, and water quality improvements to the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

A \$1.75 billion bond measure approved in 1960, provided initial funding for the SWP, and payments received from 29 contracting agencies are paying off the bonds. These 29 urban and agricultural water agencies have long-term contracts for the delivery of SWP water.



## POWERPLANTS

William E. Warne Powerplant, owned and operated by the Department of Water Resources, is located on the Gorman Creek arm of the lake. The powerplant, which can generate up to 358 million kilowatt-hours a year, helps meet the Project's need for electricity.

Water flowing from Pyramid Lake through the 7.2-mile-long Angeles Tunnel spins the turbines in Castaic Powerplant, a cooperative venture of DWR and the City of Los Angeles Department of Water and Power.

## BOATING

The lake is open year-round to boating and offers four unique picnic areas with spectacular views of the lake that are only accessible by boat. Each boat-in site offers shaded picnic shelters, tables, and restrooms. Three of the sites are equipped with courtesy docks. Emigrant Landing has a multi-lane launch ramp, an invasive species vessel inspection station, and marina with boat rentals.

Boating speed limits differ in parts of the lake. Fishing boats and kayaks are often seen in the canyons where power boats are restricted to low speeds. High speeds for waterskiing are allowed on the main body of the lake.

The reservoir's water levels can change every day since Pyramid Lake provides regulated storage for Castaic Powerplant.

## FISHING

The facility offers some of the finest fishing opportunities for small and largemouth bass, striped bass, trout, catfish, crappie, and bluegill. Shoreline fishing areas are offered at Emigrant Landing.

## BEACH

There are two beaches open during the summer season located at Emigrant Landing and Vaquero Day Use Area. Both areas offer a wide sandy beach to relax and enjoy the sun and have adjacent picnic areas with spectacular views.

## CAMPING

Los Alamos Campground includes 93 sites with fire rings and picnic tables, and is available for tents and RVs. There are three group sites that can accommodate up to 40 people per site. Restrooms and community spigots providing fresh drinking water are located throughout the campground. A dump station with potable water is available free of charge to all overnight guests. All campers have first priority to the lake, but must have a current camp tag.

## VISITORS CENTER

Overlooking the beautiful Pyramid Lake, Vista del Lago Visitors Center offers educational exhibits about California's water, the State Water Project, how ancient civilizations moved water, natural habitat, and water treatment. You can also gain knowledge about the earth and how ocean currents affect the weather.

The center offers FREE admission and is open daily from 9am to 5pm from Monday to Friday except Thanksgiving, Christmas and New Years. Located off Interstate 5, north of Santa Clarita, take the Vista del Lago exit. For information, call (661) 944-8740.

## INFORMATION

For information on fees, hours, day use, and camping, please contact the Rocky Mountain Recreation Company at (661) 777-2242 or visit [www.rockymountainrec.com](http://www.rockymountainrec.com)

*(Top to bottom) Scenic view of Pyramid Lake from Vista del Lago Visitors Center's balcony. Outside view of center located 30 minutes north of Santa Clarita. Inside view of the center's water and Delta exhibits. Visitors enjoy picnic at Pyramid Lake.*

