

California Department of Water Resources NEWS

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Silverwood Lake Recreation Continues While Construction Progressing On Intake Tower

Construction on the new intake tower is progressing and the lake level is down, but there are still lots of reasons to visit Silverwood Lake.

The boat ramp is open, the campgrounds are filling, and the fishing is hot-- with a record 55 lb. 8-oz. striped bass caught in March! "Things are pretty normal at the lake," says Larry Cermak, park superintendent at Silverwood Lake State Recreation Area. "Visitors can still enjoy every kind of recreational activity available here. And they can call 800-824-6818 to find out the latest on conditions at the lake."

Through the toll-free line, recorded messages (English and Spanish) inform callers about boating, fishing, swimming, camping and more. The call is toll-free to residents from Los Angeles, Riverside, San Bernardino, Inyo and Mono counties. Outside these counties, call 909-782-3203.

With construction on schedule, the lake is now about 40 feet lower than the maximum water surface level and will remain there until early November 1996 when a second drawdown begins. The lake will then drop another 50 feet by December 1. The intake tower construction will be completed by late February 1997, at which time refilling of the lake will start and proceed as rapidly as possible.

"How fast the lake is refilled will depend on the water supply availability," says Chuck Keene, environmental project manager for the Silverwood project. "But our goal is to have the lake back to normal for recreation by Memorial Day 1997."

The Department of Water Resources is building a new intake structure because the existing one may fail during a moderate to large earthquake along the San Andreas Fault. About 15 million Southern Californians depend on water that travels through Silverwood Lake.

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The Department of Water Resources operates and maintains the State Water Project, provides dam safety and flood control and inspection services, assists local water districts in water management and water conservation planning, and plans for future statewide water needs. The State Water Project provides water to two-thirds of California's population.

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