

## California Department of Water Resources NEWS

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## **A Whole Year's Worth of Recreation - Central California -**

Now that it's summer, most people are done planning their trips to "get away from it all." Still, you might want to know a little secret that the California Department of Water Resources wants to share:

State Water Project lakes provide a whole year's worth of recreation.

From the jewel-like upper Feather River lakes in the north to Castaic Lake in the south, the nation's largest state-run water conservation and delivery system has lots of recreation action to offer.

In California's **San Joaquin Valley**, within a half-day drive of most Bay Area cities, anglers can plumb for trophy-size striped bass at **O'Neill Forebay**, the placid basin lying at the foot of **San Luis Reservoir**. Other activities here include boating, swimming, waterskiing, and windsurfing. There are two boat launches, and a picnic area near the dam, named for a leader in Central Valley water development, Representative B.F. Sisk.

The wind here can get pretty strong, so boaters and windsurfers are advised to watch for wind-warning lights mounted atop the visitors center and on the shoreline. If conditions are too rough, they can visit the popular center (no charge; 9-5 daily) to see videotaped stories of the State Water Project and Central Valley Project, as well as displays and publications. There are telescopes on the balcony for spectacular views of the Diablo Mountains and the fifth largest off-stream reservoir in the country.

This will be the 29th summer that San Luis Reservoir has been providing a recreation bonus to northern and central California. Recreation operators are the State Park System and California Fish and Game.

Within the Bay Area itself is **Lake Del Valle** near Livermore. Completed in 1968, the lake offers places

to picnic, swim, boat, fish, hike, windsurf, camp and ride horses. The recreation operator, East Bay Regional Park District, has developed a 5,200-acre state recreation area to complement the lake's 700-acre surface.

A seasonal tip: fishing at Lake del Valle is best in the winter, when Fish and Game regularly plants trophy-size trout.

Year-round campsites for families and groups can be reserved by calling (510) 562-2267. Picnic areas for large groups can be reserved (at least two weeks in advance) by calling (510) 636-1684.

There's interesting history behind the park's Diablo Range environment. It was settled by Ohlone Indians long before Spanish missionaries and explorers came to California. Arrowheads and grinding stones have been recovered. The park also has trails and building foundations from the Mexican period.

The lake itself helps supply water to the South Bay via the South Bay Aqueduct and also provides flood control for Livermore Valley.

From the Sierra to Southern California, the State Water Project includes facilities for anglers, boaters, campers, hikers, cyclists, RVers, picnickers and sight seers. For a free copy of the State Water Project Recreation Guide, with a map listing recreation opportunities at 12 lakes, fishing opportunities along the California Aqueduct, and phone numbers to call for more information, contact DWR's Office of Water Education at (916) 653-6192 or write Office of Water Education, Department of Water Resources, P.O. Box 942836, (Room 1104-1), Sacramento, CA 94236-0001.

The State Water Project provides water to two-thirds of California's population. The system includes 29 storage facilities (including lakes and reservoirs), 18 pumping plants, four pumping-generating plants, five hydroelectric plants, and more than 600 miles of canals and pipelines. The Department of Water Resources operates and maintains the State Water Project, as well as providing dam safety and flood control and inspection services, assisting local water districts in water management and water conservation planning, and planning for future statewide water needs.

## **KEYS TO STATE LAKES - Central California -**

### **SAN LUIS RESERVOIR**

**Little-known fact:** In 1962 President Kennedy broke ground for this massive lake and key storage facility for the State Water Project.

**Getting There:** About two hours from most south Bay Area locations. Take Highway 101 south

to Highway 152, then east to the reservoir or forebay. To the east is Santa Nella and Interstate 5. From Central Valley locations, take Interstate 5 to Highway 152, then go west.

**More Info:** For a free brochure, call (800) 272-8869. For the park, call (209) 826-1196.

## LAKE DEL VALLE

**Little-known fact:** The recreation area was once part of land granted by Mexico to families named Sunol and Bernal.

**Getting There:** From the Bay Area or Central Valley, take Interstate 580 to the North Livermore Avenue exit in Livermore. Drive south through Livermore until the road becomes Tesla Road. Turn on Mines Road to Del Valle Road's right fork and proceed to park entrance.

**More Info:** (510) 373-0332.

**Hearing impaired?** You can call the California Relay Service (voice) at (800) 735-2922 for information about any State Water Project facility.

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