

California Department of Water Resources NEWS

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Lake Oroville Rises to Summer Recreation Levels

OROVILLE--As summer nears, Lake Oroville is reaching ideal levels for boating and other water recreation, State water officials today reported.

The second largest reservoir in California, Lake Oroville is open for public use, including boating, fishing and camping. With 167 miles of shoreline, Lake Oroville has a surface area greater than 15,000 acres.

"Lake Oroville is in great shape for summer recreation," said Rolland Williams, Sr., Chief, Oroville Field Division, Department of Water Resources. "Lake Oroville is at an optimum level for summer fun and water storage, but with a good safety margin to absorb runoff from storms and snowmelt."

Recreational attractions include boating launching ramps, horseback riding trails and cycling on a 41-mile mountain bike trail which crosses the crest of Oroville Dam. Houseboats and floating campsites are available for those wishing to spend lots of time on the water.

In recent years, the Department of Fish and Game has planted more than 1 million fish in Lake Oroville. Anglers can fish for chinook salmon, trout, bass, catfish, bluegill and crappie.

Lake Oroville is the reservoir created by Oroville Dam, a key facility in the State Water Project. Completed in 1967 and rising to 770 feet at its crest, Oroville Dam is the tallest earthfill dam in the United States.

Lake Oroville has a gross storage capacity in excess of 3.5 million acre-feet.

Among reservoirs in California, it is second in size only to Lake Shasta, which holds a maximum of 4.5 million acre-feet and is operated by the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation.

Lake Oroville will remain at a relatively high level throughout the summer, due to an ample water supply. Outflows will be adjusted to meet operational, fishery and water quality needs, and to accommodate inflow.

By summer's end, the reservoir level will be lowered to provide flood protection during next winter, when most rain occurs in the Feather River basin.

For further information on recreation opportunities at Lake Oroville, please contact the Department of Parks and Recreation, which operates the Lake Oroville Recreational Area at (530) 538-2200.

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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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