

# Los Vaqueros Expansion Project

September 2007

Department of Water Resources

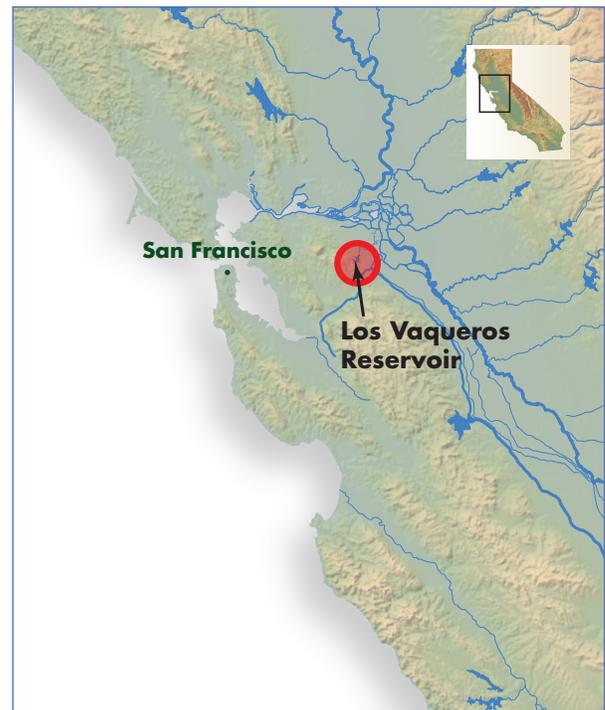
**N**ew surface storage in California will improve water supply and greatly needed flexibility resulting in broad public, environmental and operational benefits.

*With the additional capacity and integrated operation of California's water delivery system, water diversion and deliveries can be timed in ways that improve water quality, restore wildlife habitat, support fishery needs, facilitate conjunctive management and increase flood protection.*

## BROAD PUBLIC BENEFITS:

- Provide 60,000 to 140,000 acre-feet average annual environmental water supply to benefit Delta fisheries, to provide water to wildlife refuges in the San Joaquin Valley, and for other environmentally beneficial uses.
- Allow re-diversion and storage of water released to meet environmental requirements upstream of the Delta.
- Realize flood control benefits to Eastern Contra Costa County and the Delta Region
- Enhance recreation including expanded marina, fishing, hiking, and interpretive center
- As climate change reduces the Sierra snowpack and increases rains at higher elevations, Los Vaqueros Reservoir will capture excessive flows in Delta waterways, increasing water storage for dry periods and reducing downstream flood risks.

Expansion of Los Vaqueros Reservoir from 100,000 acre-feet up to 275,000 acre-feet is currently being evaluated to contribute to protection and restoration of Delta fisheries by providing water for the environment and to improve Bay Area water supply reliability and water quality. The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation is the lead federal agency and the Contra Costa Water District (CCWD) is the lead state agency for the Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Report (EIS/EIR). Funding is provided by Reclamation and the Department of Water Resources.



*Los Vaqueros Reservoir*

## KEY POINTS:

- The future of the Delta is at risk and the Los Vaqueros Reservoir Expansion Project is a critical element of the solution by offering additional Delta conveyance and south of Delta storage.
- Could be implemented immediately, is compatible with possible future Delta salinity regimes and conveyance alternatives and due to its state-of-the-art fish screens, is not affected by restrictions in the recent Judge Wanger decision making it a valuable "no regrets" action to fix the Delta.

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- The project protects drinking water quality and public health, provides a reliable supply of water to the Bay Area, enhances recreation opportunities, provides flood control benefits, and protects the Delta ecosystem and fisheries for current and future generations.
- The project provides benefits at the local, regional, and state level and improves system flexibility in light of regulatory uncertainty, climate change, and other system changes as a result of the ongoing Delta Vision process.

## PROJECT STATUS:

In a March 2004 advisory vote, sixty-two percent of the voters in CCWD's service area voted in favor of the reservoir expansion. This overwhelming support allows the project to continue. The Public Draft EIS/EIR and Feasibility Report are scheduled to be completed in April 2008 and finalized in mid-2009.

