

CASTAIC LAKE

Castaic Lake was built to provide emergency storage during a shutdown of the California Aqueduct to the north, assuring water deliveries to West Branch users. It also provides regulatory storage for deliveries during normal operations and recreational opportunities for Southern California.

HISTORY

Located in the Castaic Mountains, Castaic Lake lies in an area that was historically occupied by Tatavian Indians. Construction of the dam began in 1967. It was completed in April 1972 and the lake opened for recreation a month later.

PUMPED STORAGE

Elderberry Forebay, a small reservoir separated from Castaic Lake by Elderberry Forebay Dam, is located at the upper end of Castaic Lake and provides regulatory storage for Castaic Powerplant. During hours when the value of energy is high, water from Pyramid Lake, located north of Castaic, flows 7.5 miles through the Angeles Tunnel and the turbines of Castaic Powerplant to produce electricity. The water then enters Elderberry Forebay. During hours when the cost of power is low (such as when there is an abundance of renewable energy), water stored in Elderberry Forebay is pumped back into Pyramid Lake. This type of hydroelectric plant configuration is called pumped storage.



RECREATION

Castaic Lake and Lagoon provide many opportunities for recreation. With two boat launching ramps, the upper lake offers visitors a wide range of water sports, such as sailing, water-skiing, power-boating, and fishing. Castaic Lake supports largemouth bass, bluegill, trout, crappie, and catfish.

Castaic Lagoon, located south of Castaic Lake, serves as a recreation area and a recharge basin. Overnight camping is available at the lagoon, which features sandy beaches, grassy picnic areas, a two-lane boat launching ramp, parking, sanitary facilities, and drinking water. Boating in Castaic Lagoon is limited to non-power boats. Visitors may sail, canoe or fish.

For more complete recreation information, call Los Angeles County Parks at (661) 257-4050.



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FOR MORE INFORMATION

Please visit the
California Department of
Water Resources' website at
www.water.ca.gov

For questions, please email
DWR's Public Affairs Office at
paopublications@water.ca.gov



THE STATE WATER PROJECT

The State Water Project is a water supply and conveyance system that includes 26 dams, 36 storage facilities, 21 pumping plants, four pumping-generating plants, five hydroelectric power plants, and more than 700 miles of canals and pipelines.

The State Water Project is funded by the 29 State Water Project Contractors who contract with DWR for water supplies.

Castaic Lake, the terminal reservoir on the West Branch of the State Water Project, was designed and built by the Department of Water Resources. The Castaic Powerplant, designed, built, and operated by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, is located on Elderberry Forebay at the northern end of the lake's west branch.



DAM AND LAKE STATISTICS

CASTAIC DAM	
HEIGHT	425 Feet
LENGTH	4,900 Feet
CREST ELEVATION	1,535 Feet
EMBANKMENT VOLUME	46 Million Cubic Yards

CASTAIC LAKE	
SHORELINE LENGTH	29 Miles
SURFACE AREA	2,240 Acres
STORAGE VOLUME	323,700 Acre-Feet or 105.5 Billion Gallons

CASTAIC LAGOON	
SHORELINE	3 Miles
SURFACE AREA	200 Acres
STORAGE VOLUME	5,560 Acre-Feet or 1.81 Billion Gallons