



State Water Project Briefing: Pyramid Dam and Lake Tour

Introduction

The California Water Commission will tour the [State Water Project's](#) (SWP) [Pyramid Dam and Lake](#). The tour will be conducted by SWP's Division of Operation and Maintenance Southern Field Division staff.

Pyramid Dam and Lake are located on Piru Creek, about 14 miles north of the town of Castaic along Interstate Highway 5. Construction on the dam and lake began in 1969. The 386-foot-tall earth and rock dam was completed in 1973 and named after a pyramid-shaped rock carved out by engineers building the old Highway 99. Pyramid Lake spans 1,360 acres with water depths up to 700 feet and 21 miles of shoreline.

Background

The SWP, constructed in the middle of the last century, consists of 36 water storage facilities and 700 miles of rivers, pipelines, and canals, and supplies water to 27 million people and irrigates 750,000 acres of farmland. The system includes 21 pumping plants, powered by a system of power-generation and power-recovery plants. The SWP also operates the world's tallest water lift – the Edmonston Pumping Plant – which pumps water more than 1,900 feet up and over the Tehachapi Mountains into Southern California.

The [Department of Water Resources](#) (DWR) manages the SWP to ensure adequate water supplies are available under various hydrologic and legal conditions while maintaining operational flexibility. DWR also develops, plans and implements the operation of the SWP in coordination with environmental and regulatory agencies to meet fish, water, and environmental requirements for the Feather River and Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

Goal Five of the [Commission's Strategic Plan](#) directs the Commission to receive briefings on the SWP on an annual basis, and to produce a report, as specified by Water Code section 165, that includes findings and, as appropriate, recommendations for DWR and the Legislature. Through these briefings and reports, the Commission aims to improve the public's understanding of decision making within the SWP and create accountability by using previous findings and recommendations to guide subsequent briefings.

Meeting Overview

The Pyramid Lake tour is scheduled to begin no earlier than 12:00 p.m. at the Vista del Lago Visitors Center, Pyramid Lake, 38500 Vista Del Lago Road, Gorman, CA 93243. Start time is

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subject to change. The tour is anticipated to last approximately 30 minutes. Members of the public are responsible for their own transportation.

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