



State Water Project Briefing: Castaic Dam and Lake Tour

Introduction

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

Located about 45 miles northwest of Los Angeles, Castaic Dam and Lake were constructed between 1965 to 1974. Castaic Lake provides water storage and recreational opportunities for Southern Californians. Castaic Lagoon, located south of the lake, also provides recreation and serves as a recharge basin for downstream groundwater aquifers.

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 Castaic Lake tour is scheduled to begin no earlier than 1:00 p.m. at the Castaic Lake State Recreation Area, Castaic Lake Drive, Castaic, CA 91310. Start time is subject to change. The tour is anticipated to last approximately 30 minutes. Members of the public are responsible for their own transportation.

Agenda Item: 12

Meeting Date: November 19, 2025

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