

Relax and enjoy your visit to
Vista del Lago Visitors Center
overlooking beautiful Pyramid Lake.

Welcome!

As you walk through the center, you'll first learn how water is an integral part of you and your daily life in the things you touch and do. Then you'll view California's unique topography and how it affects the way water is distributed. Move on to the State Water Project and discover how it was built and how it moves water from region to region. In the Water History Room, follow the development of water from the days of the Spanish missions to today's projects now under way. Current issues in the next room present topics that may affect California's water needs and you.

Both the center and the lake are facilities of the California State Water Project (SWP), the nation's largest state-built water development and distribution system. The SWP serves both urban and agricultural areas in Northern and Southern California, as well as the San Francisco Bay area, the San Joaquin Valley, and the Central Coast. Pyramid Lake receives water that has been pumped over the Tehachapi Mountains by Edmonston Pumping Plant near Bakersfield. After its journey over the mountain range via 10 miles of tunnels, some of the water is diverted into the California Aqueduct's West Branch then pumped by Oso Pumping Plant into Quail Lake. From there the water enters Peace Valley Pipeline to generate electricity



Recreation Opportunities

Pyramid Lake offers recreation such as camping, boating, and fishing. Just below the visitors center is Vaquero Recreation Area, which offers a two-lane boat ramp, beach, picnic areas, restrooms, and parking. There are more recreational opportunities at Emigrant Landing, Spanish Point, Bear Trap, Yellowbar, Los Alamos Campground, and Serrano Island. For details, ask for the Pyramid Lake brochure at the front counter.

Other nearby attractions include Magic Mountain theme park in Valencia (about 30 minutes away), Hungry Valley Off-Road Vehicle Recreation Area (15 minutes), Fort Tejon State Historic Park (20 minutes), Motel Poppy Reserve (30 minutes), and Antelope Valley communities. accommodations are available in nearby

Come Back Again!
Vista del Lago Visitors Center is located along Interstate 5 and is accessible from both directions. Watch for the Vista del Lago exits.

The center is open daily, except Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. There is no admission charge. Phone (661) 294-0219 to make arrangements for school and group tours.

Construction and operation of the Vista del Lago Visitors Center has been made possible through a partnership between the California Department of Water Resources, the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California and the U.S. Forest Service. Funding comes primarily from the State Water Project Contractors that draw water from the West Branch of the Project: the Metropolitan Water District, Castaic Lake Water Agency, and Ventura County Flood Control District.

Visit DWR's Web site at <http://www.water.ca.gov>
If you need this publication in an alternate form please call 1-800-272-8869.

Lobby/Reception Desk

Stop by and say hello to our friendly guides. They can answer your questions and help you find information to take with you.

Parched? Drink from one of the three foundations under the "Water-California's Liquid Gold" neon sign. Water traveled hundreds of miles from Lake Oroville in the north to quench your thirst.

1 Water and You

How much of you is water? Find out on the scales which tell you your weight in water. Discover how plants, animals and our human bodies use water. Why do we at times have periods of drought and other times have an abundance of rain and snow pack? The answers can be found in "Our Liquid Planet" display! How did previous civilizations get and distribute water? Find the answer in our "Ancient Waters" display. You'll also find out about some of the threats to our water supply and the environment.

2 California's Water

Watch a four-minute video presentation, projected on an 8-foot by 3-foot map of the state, and learn about our major water problem: abundant water supplies in the state's north, while most of the population lives in the southern half. What's the solution? Build water distribution systems such as the California State Water Project.

3 State Water Project

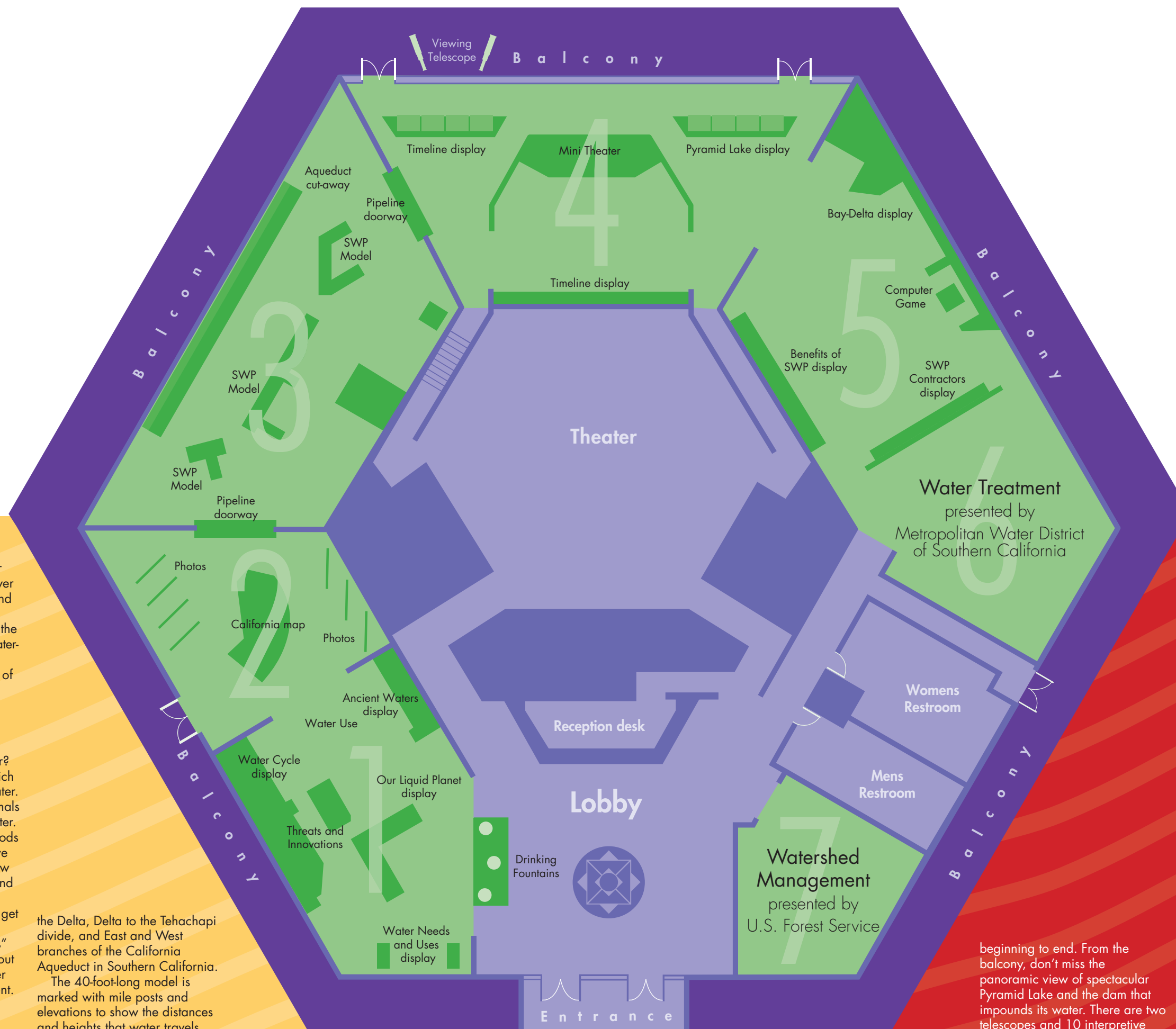
Enter the realm of the SWP through a simulated section of pipeline used to carry water. Walk around the 3D model of the Project, divided into three major sections: Lake Oroville to

the Delta, Delta to the Tehachapi divide, and East and West branches of the California Aqueduct in Southern California.

The 40-foot-long model is marked with mile posts and elevations to show the distances and heights that water travels through the SWP's complex system of pumping and power plants, canals and pipelines to reach its destinations. See the "Big Tools" used to construct the Project and the size of the California Aqueduct at one of its widest points along its 444-mile path.

4 Water History

Follow the history of water-related events that have shaped California's past and present and that will form its future. Next take an aerial journey, by video, of the State Water Project from



Bay-Delta. The SWP contracting agencies are repaying the cost, plus interest, of financing, building, operating, and maintaining the SWP. These 29 urban and agricultural water agencies have long-term contracts for the delivery of State Water Project water.

6 Water Treatment

What happens to water before you drink it? Learn how water is treated and impurities removed by the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, a contracting agency of the SWP. A huge interactive wall map shows the three aqueducts that bring water into Southern California, as well as some of the region's groundwater basins.

7 Watershed Management

Step into a forest filled with the sounds of a running stream and wildlife. The Angeles National Forest and adjacent Los Padres National Forest are watersheds that provide water for Pyramid Lake. Learn about these valuable resources and why it's important to protect them.

Theater

The center has a multipurpose theater for screening videos, films, and slides. Check at the front counter for availability.

beginning to end. From the balcony, don't miss the panoramic view of spectacular Pyramid Lake and the dam that impounds its water. There are two telescopes and 10 interpretive display panels on the balcony.

5 Current Issues

Water issues, critical to California's growing population and economy, change rapidly. This room features exhibits that will be changed periodically to keep visitor's informed of current topics that may affect them.

You will find exhibits on the SWP Contractors, Benefits of the SWP, and Experience the



Check out the many interesting and educational exhibits and displays throughout the center - and enjoy the view of beautiful Lake Pyramid from the balcony!