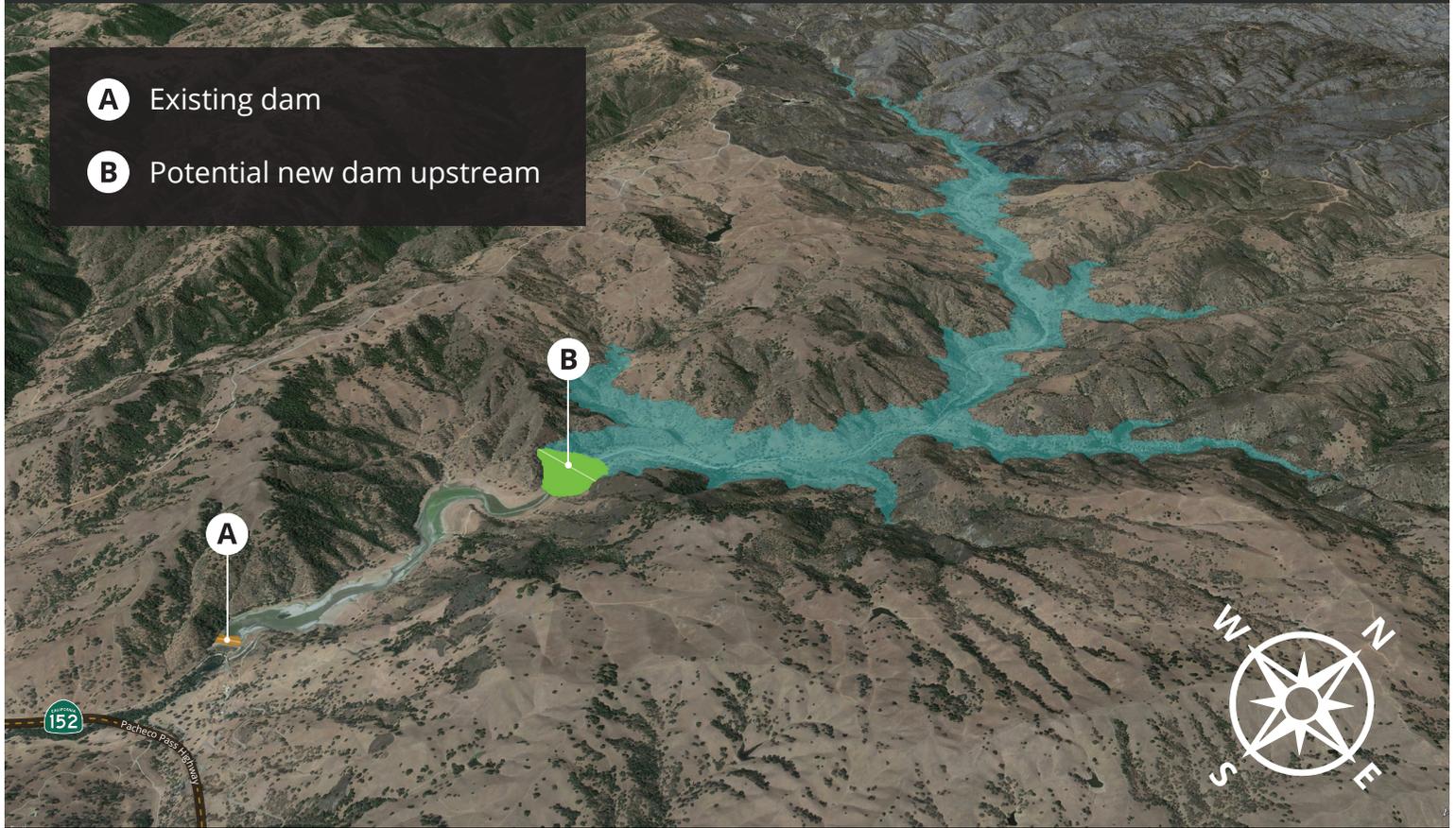


PACHECO RESERVOIR EXPANSION PROJECT

AUGUST 2022



- A** Existing dam
- B** Potential new dam upstream

Project rendering of potential dam and expanded reservoir, looking northwest towards the City of San José.

About the project

A collaboration between Valley Water, the San Benito County Water District and the Pacheco Pass Water District, the Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project is a strategic and long-term investment toward ensuring a more reliable supply of safe, clean drinking water in the face of climate change.

The project will boost Pacheco Reservoir's operational capacity from 5,500 acre-feet to up to 140,000 acre-feet, enough to supply up to 1.4 million residents with water for one year in an emergency. The project will also reduce the frequency and severity of water shortages during droughts, protect our drinking water supply and infrastructure, and improve habitat for fish.

Topics inside



About the reservoir



Project benefits



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Project timeline



Project funding



San Benito County
Water District

PPWD Pacheco Pass
Water District

PACHECO RESERVOIR EXPANSION PROJECT



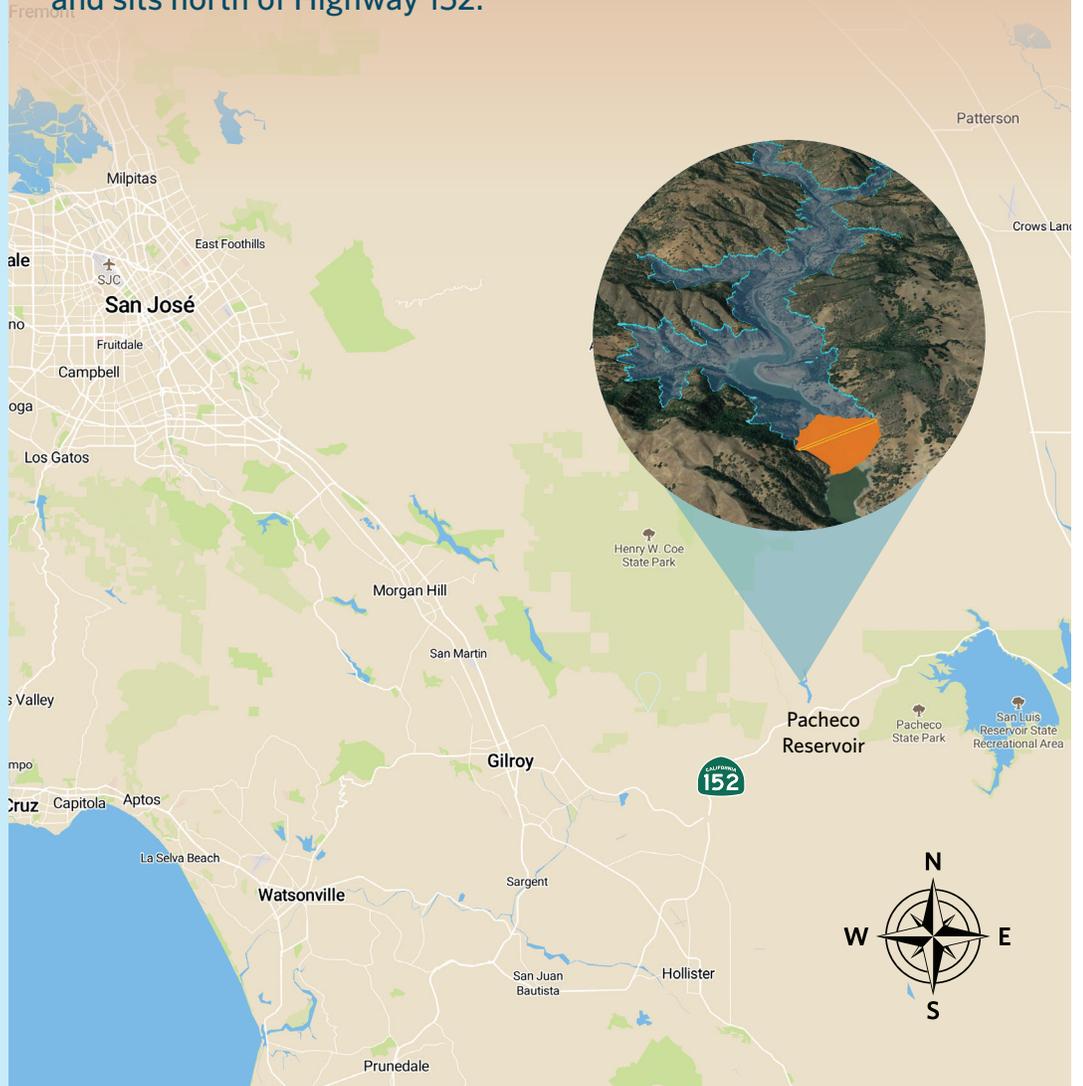
About the reservoir

Located on the lower end of North Fork Pacheco Creek, the expanded reservoir project includes the construction of an earthen dam made of rock and soil upstream of the existing dam, a pump station, a pipeline and other supporting items. The expanded reservoir would be filled by a combination of rainfall, runoff from the watershed upstream of the new dam, and imported water supplies.

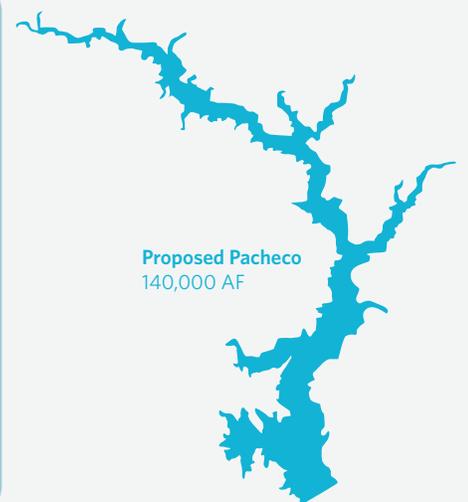
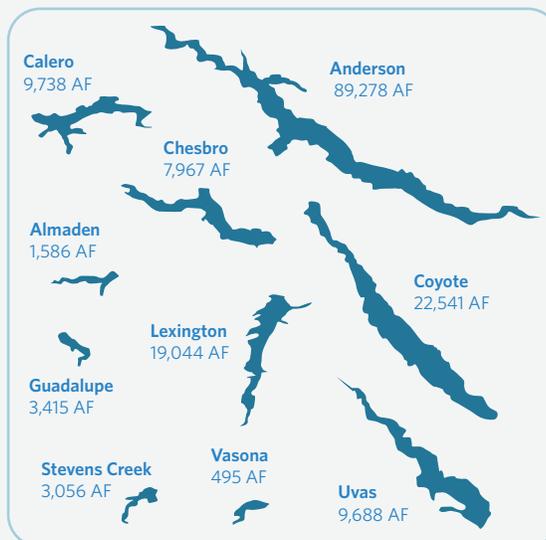
Water released from the reservoir will help threatened fish by keeping the Pacheco Creek flowing, before seeping into the underlying groundwater aquifer as it winds toward where it meets the Pajaro River.

The aquifer fed by Pacheco Reservoir begins at its northern tip in Santa Clara County and extends south into San Benito County. Agricultural users served by the Pacheco Pass and San Benito County water districts pump water from this aquifer.

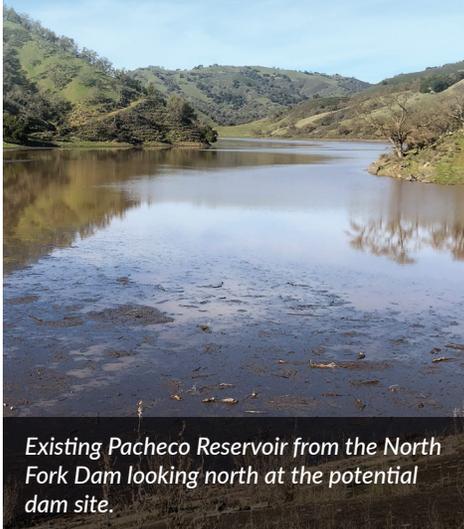
Pacheco Reservoir is located 60 miles southeast of San José and sits north of Highway 152.



An expanded Pacheco Reservoir will nearly equal the capacity of Valley Water's ten other reservoirs combined.



One acre-foot is 325,851 gallons of water, which is enough to serve the needs of ten people for one year.



Existing Pacheco Reservoir from the North Fork Dam looking north at the potential dam site.

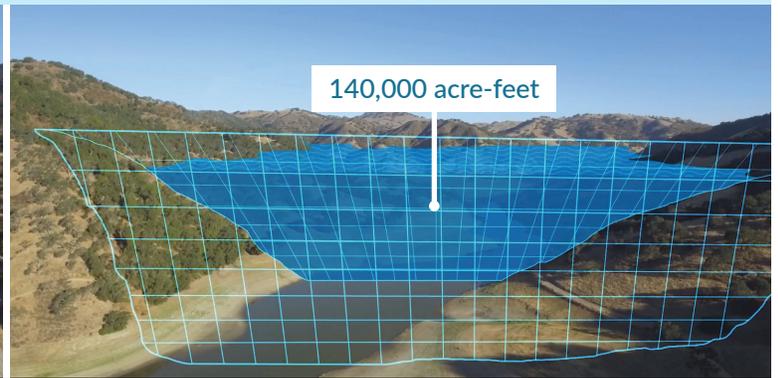
PACHECO RESERVOIR EXPANSION PROJECT



Project benefits



The existing Pacheco Reservoir holds 5,500 acre-feet of water.



A rendering of the proposed expanded reservoir.



Ensuring a more reliable supply of safe, clean drinking water

Climate change is a global reality, and droughts are predicted to be more extreme in the future. The most recent drought in California lasted five years, and there was a significant reduction of water storage in reservoirs across the state. By investing in the Pacheco Reservoir now, our communities will be better prepared with a reliable supply of safe, clean water in the face of extreme droughts and emergencies.

The project will increase storage in Pacheco Reservoir from its current capacity of 5,500 acre-feet to up to 140,000 acre-feet, which would help reduce the impact of water shortages. The increased storage capacity at Pacheco Reservoir will nearly equal the capacity of Valley Water's ten other reservoirs combined.

The enlarged reservoir will capture some runoff from the North Fork Pacheco Creek watershed, but most importantly provide storage for some of Valley Water's and San Benito County Water District's imported water supply that is contracted from the Bureau of Reclamation. That water is fed from the San Luis Reservoir, which lies to the east along Highway 152.



Protecting our drinking water supply and infrastructure

In Santa Clara County, nearly half of all our water is pumped from underground basins.

During droughts and emergencies, there is a greater reliance on these aquifers, but overpumping groundwater could result in subsidence (the sinking of earth's surface), which causes permanent damage to roads, bridges and pipelines. Expanding Pacheco Reservoir would double the amount of water we can store above ground, making us less reliant on our groundwater supply during droughts, which would replenish the groundwater supply and protect overlying infrastructure.



Providing an emergency supply of safe, clean drinking water

Droughts are not the only events that could negatively impact our water supply.

In Santa Clara and San Benito counties, about 40% of our water supply currently comes from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. In the event of an earthquake, Delta levee failure or other major catastrophe, we could lose that water supply for up to 18 months.

By expanding Pacheco Reservoir, we could provide a year's supply of water for up to 1.4 million people in an emergency.



Improving habitat for fish

By expanding Pacheco Reservoir, managed water flows from the reservoir into Pacheco Creek would increase the quality of fish habitat downstream. Water released into the creek will primarily be the rainfall and watershed runoff captured in the reservoir.

The expanded reservoir would provide suitable flow and water temperatures to Pacheco Creek and improve approximately 10 miles of habitat to support the migration and survival of the South-Central California Coast Steelhead.

The project will also commit water supplies for wildlife refuges in Central California.



Flood risk reduction

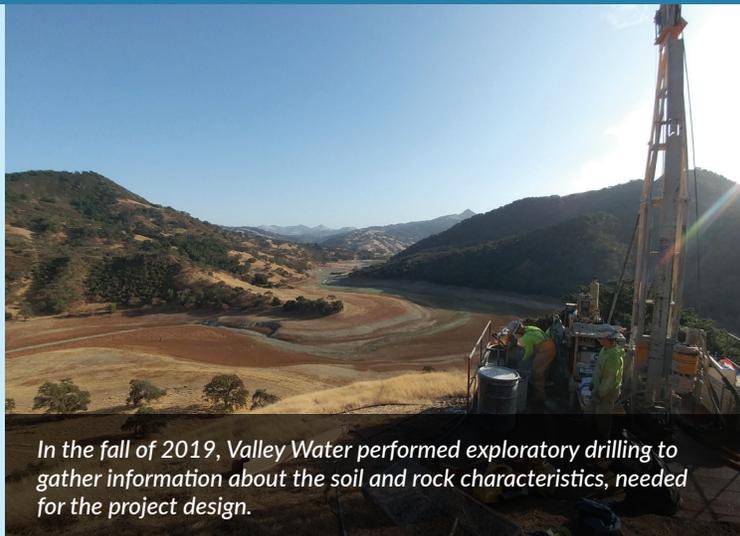
The expanded Pacheco Reservoir will incidentally reduce flood risk along Pacheco Creek and downstream Pajaro River by holding back peak flows, offering some relief to disadvantaged communities in Dunneville, Watsonville and Pajaro.

PACHECO RESERVOIR EXPANSION PROJECT



Opportunities for engagement

Valley Water will host public meetings as the project progresses through its planning, design, environmental studies and permitting, as well as construction phases. To receive the latest information about the project or upcoming meetings, please sign up on the project's webpage at valleywater.org/pachecoexpansion.



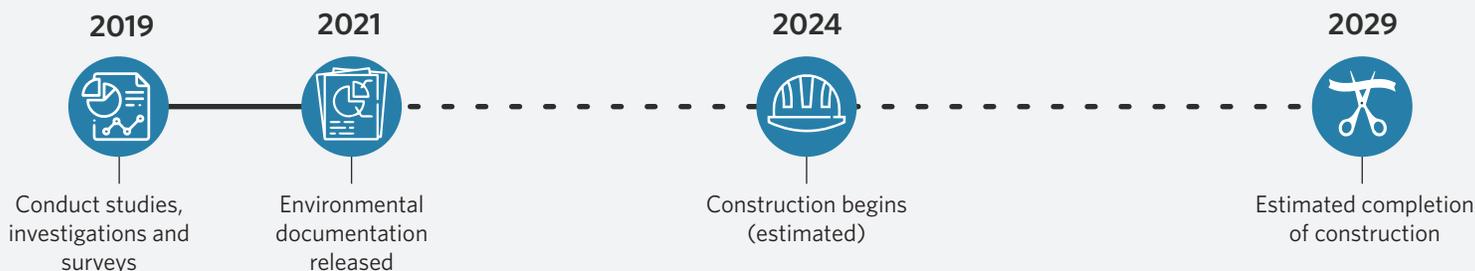
In the fall of 2019, Valley Water performed exploratory drilling to gather information about the soil and rock characteristics, needed for the project design.



Project timeline

Valley Water is presently conducting studies, investigations and surveys to design and evaluate feasibility and potential environmental impacts.

Construction is anticipated to begin in 2024. Preliminary estimates indicate construction of the Pacheco Reservoir Expansion Project will take at least five years.



Project funding

Valley Water, the Pacheco Pass Water District and the San Benito County Water District collaborated to secure \$496 million in funding from California's Proposition 1 Water Quality, Supply and Infrastructure Improvement Act of 2014. The Act, passed by California voters, provides for \$7.5 billion in general obligation bonds, including \$2.7 billion for investments in surface and groundwater storage projects. The \$496 million in funding was conditionally approved in July 2018 and accounts for about 20% of the estimated \$2.5 billion project cost. Valley Water is also seeking federal funding and exploring other avenues to reduce the cost of the project to ratepayers.

CONTACT US

To find out the latest information on Valley Water projects or to submit questions or comments, use our **Access Valley Water** customer request system at access.valleywater.org.

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