

LOS BANOS CREEK DETENTION RESERVOIR STORAGE PROJECT

A multi-agency effort to protect the San Luis Canal, Delta-Mendota Canal, wetlands, and Los Banos from damaging floods while providing supplies for Agriculture, Wildlife Refuges, and Los Banos.

PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS



Increased groundwater recharge as water moves through Los Banos Creek



Riparian ecosystems and wildlife will benefit from increased water flows in Los Banos Creek



Allows regulation of water district and refuge supplies for delivery at key times

PROJECT PURPOSE

The Los Banos Creek Detention Reservoir is designed to protect the San Luis Canal, Delta-Mendota Canal, City of Los Banos and surrounding areas from damaging floods. The San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors Water Authority (Exchange Contractors), San Luis Water District and Grassland Water District (Partners) have identified a need for local dispatchable storage to help manage water supply and meet peak irrigation and refuge needs.

During off-peak season, the Partners will utilize conserved water and groundwater resources to store CVP water resources by exchange in the Reservoir for summer use. If at that time, a particular project does not need the stored water, it will be held longer and diverted to the project partners on their schedules.

PROJECT PARTNERS

- San Luis Water District
- Grassland Water District
- Exchange Contractors
- Central California Irrigation District

PARTICIPATING AGENCIES

- United States Bureau of Reclamation
- California Department of Water Resources
- California Department of Parks & Recreation

PROJECT PARAMETERS

Construction of the project is expected to take approximately six months to complete. Water levels in the Reservoir will need to be dropped for installation of the final stretch of pipeline and the new boat ramp extension. Water releases will begin after Labor Day and will last for about three weeks.

PROJECT TIMELINE

September 2, 2025:

The Park will be closed for the duration of construction activities.

September 2025:

Water will be released from the Reservoir to drop the water level for installation of pipeline and extended boat ramp.

October 2025:

Begin Mobilization.

November 2025 – April 2026:

Construction and installation of all project components.



This project will not result in the diversion of additional water from the Delta, a change in timing of CVP diversions, or the delivery of more CVP water than has been delivered historically.

HAVE QUESTIONS?

**WE'D LOVE TO
ANSWER THEM.**

Give us a call:

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PROJECT PARTNERS



PARTICIPATING AGENCIES



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF
WATER RESOURCES



PROJECT LOCATION AND PARK INFORMATION

Los Banos Creek is an intermittent creek that flows through the Diablo Range in San Benito County. It flows north then east into western Merced County, where it is dammed at Los Banos Detention Dam. The California Department of Parks and Recreation runs the recreational facilities at the Reservoir. The westerly side of the Boat Ramp Parking lot will be used for construction equipment and staging, resulting in fewer parking spaces during the construction period.

Los Banos Creek Reservoir is a popular area for outdoor recreation, including camping, hiking, boating, and fishing. These activities will not be significantly impacted by the project. Raising and lowering levels in the Reservoir related to the project are not expected to have an impact on recreational opportunities at the park.

