

**Los Vaqueros Earth Dam Reservoir**

The Los Vaqueros Project consists of an earthen dam, two pump stations, and 20 miles of pipeline. The dam is 192 feet high, uses 3 million cubic yards of earth, and impounds 100,000 acre feet of water. One pump station can pump 250 cubic foot per second and is located in California's San Francisco Bay-Delta. The other station is an 8000 horsepower transfer pump station. The pipeline is composed of 6 to 8 foot diameter pipes. This \$450 million project is designed to improve water quality for Contra Costa Water District's customers, to provide a 3 to 6 month supply of emergency water storage, and to provide flood control and recreational facilities while protecting natural resources.

The Los Vaqueros Project was the first major water project to be built in northern California in well over a decade. Its success was due to a 13-year effort that centered on an open and collaborative approach to environmental compliance without forfeiture of the District's planning objectives. From the project's inception, permitting agencies and other interested groups have played an active role in the planning process. The District worked cooperatively and professionally with them to identify and resolve key issues. This approach included the maintenance of high environmental standards and open communication with agencies, environmental groups, the public, and the contracting community. In addition, the District instituted dispute resolution panels that included only representatives of the owner and contractor involved, obtained an owner-controlled insurance program, and negotiated one of the first project labor agreements for a public agency in the State of California.

Contact: Gary W. Darling  
Organization: Contra Costa Water District  
Address: P.O. Box H2O  
City: Concord  
State/Province: CA  
Postal Code: 94524  
Country: USA  
Phone No: 925-688-8165  
FAX: 925-798-1452  
URL:  
Email: