

California Department of Water Resources' Mission...

*To manage the water of California, in cooperation
with other agencies, to benefit the state's people and
protect, restore and enhance the natural and
human environments.*

San Luis Joint-Use Complex



PETE WILSON
Governor
State of California

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Secretary for Resources
The Resources Agency

DAVID N. KENNEDY
Director
Department of Water Resources



History of Construction

On August 18, 1962, President John F. Kennedy led the official groundbreaking ceremonies for the San Luis Joint-Use Complex. The event was the result of a 1961 agreement between California and the U.S. to build the facilities, since both state and federal water projects required the development of the San Luis Dam site for storage of surplus flows pumped from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. The agreement integrated storage, pumping and conveyance facilities for state and federal water operations.

Construction of the San Luis and O'Neill Dams was begun in 1963 and was completed in 1967. Although water was first pumped into San Luis Reservoir for storage on April 12, 1967, it was filled for the first time on May 31, 1969.



B.F. Sisk San Luis Dam impounds the largest off-stream storage reservoir in California.

San Luis Reservoir

Located in the eastern foothills of the Diablo Mountain Range, San Luis Reservoir is the largest off-stream reservoir in the United States. (An off-stream reservoir is a reservoir filled with water pumped from a source other than its natural watershed.)

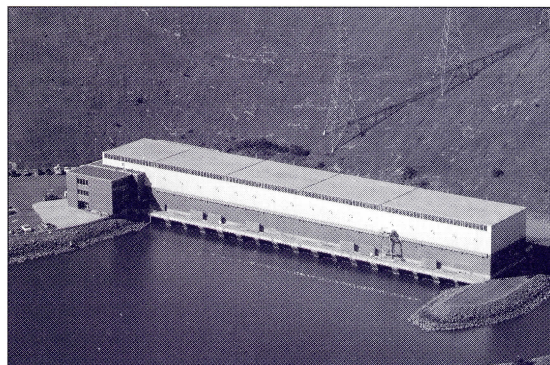
As part of the joint-use complex, the reservoir stores surplus water diverted from the Sacramento-San Joaquin River Delta for subsequent delivery to



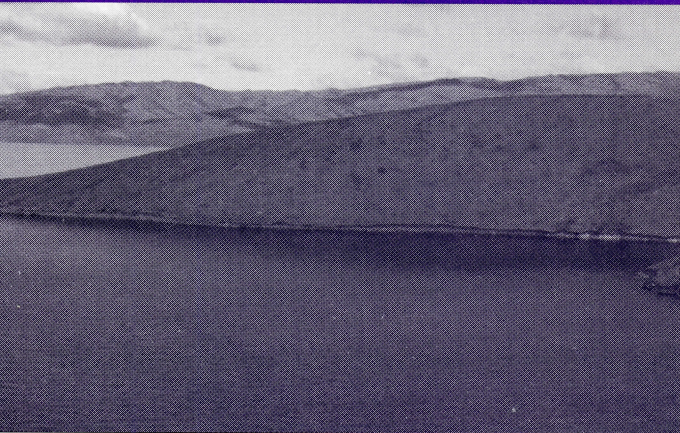
In the San Luis Reservoir, trophy-size striped bass have been caught.

the federal San Felipe Project in San Benito and Santa Clara counties, and to the San Joaquin Valley and Southern California. During winter and spring, surplus water from rainfall and snowmelt flows through the Delta and is pumped into the California Aqueduct (SWP) and the Delta Mendota Canal (CVP). Water then flows to O'Neill Forebay and into San Luis Reservoir via the Gianelli Pumping-Generating Plant. When surplus Delta flows are insufficient to supply the State and federal water project needs, water is released back into the forebay for delivery by the two projects.

The San Luis Reservoir can store a total of 2,027,840 acre-feet, of which 1,062,180 acre-feet is the State's share. (An acre-foot equals 325,851 gallons, approximately the amount an average family uses in a year.)



Gianelli Pumping-Generating Plant pumps into and generates power from releases out of San Luis Reservoir.



Facility Names

The William R. Gianelli Pumping-Generating Plant, located between San Luis Reservoir and O'Neill Forebay, is named for a former director of the California Department of Water Resources (1967-73). He is credited with completing the initial phase of the State Water Project, which included the first deliveries of water to southern California.

B.F. Sisk San Luis Dam, which retains San Luis Reservoir, was so named to acknowledge the role of former Congressman Bernard Sisk of Fresno, who has been a prime supporter of the Central Valley Project and California water development. He introduced the federal legislation authorizing the San Luis Unit of the Central Valley Project.

Recreation

On O'Neill Forebay, you can boat, wind-surf, fish, swim, and water ski. Camp sites are available along the O'Neill Forebay shoreline and at the Basalt area, which also has a boat launching ramp and a picnic area near the south end of Sisk Dam. On the west end of the reservoir, you will find the Dinosaur Point Boat Launching area.

Since wind conditions can change rapidly, boaters should heed wind warning lights mounted on the roof of the visitors center and on shores of

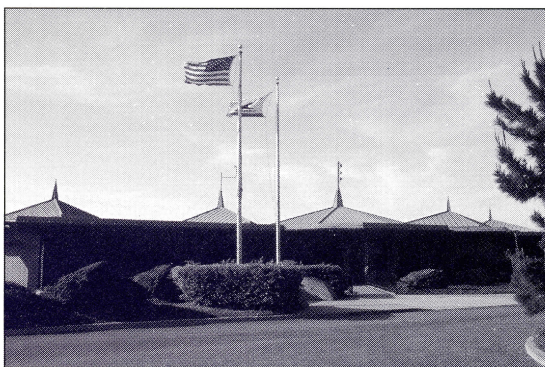
both O'Neill Forebay and San Luis Reservoir. A yellow light means you should exercise great care; a red light signals danger—you should stay off or get off of the reservoir.



Swimming is a popular sport at O'Neill Forebay.

Visitors Center

In the Romero Visitors Center, pictures, graphic wall displays, movies, slide shows, and videotape presentations tell the story of the State Water Project, the federal Central Valley Project—and how they are combined at the San Luis Complex. Telescopes at the center offer spectacular views of the area. The visitors center, staffed by Water Resources guides, is open daily from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. There is no charge for your visit.



Romero Visitors Center, located in Santa Nella, receives about 200,000 visitors a year.



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DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES
REPROGRAPHICS

The State Water Project

The State Water Project is a water conservation and conveyance system that includes 23 dams and reservoirs, 17 pumping plants, four pumping-generating plants, six hydroelectric power plants, and more than 660 miles of canals and pipelines (including Coastal extension that is under construction.)

San Luis Joint-Use Complex

The San Luis Joint-Use Complex serves the California State Water Project and the Federal Central Valley Project. The complex is operated and maintained by the California Department of Water Resources, which paid 55 percent of the construction costs. The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, builder and operator of the Central Valley Project, constructed the complex and paid the remaining 45 percent of the cost.

This joint-use complex includes O'Neill Dam and Forebay, B.F. Sisk San Luis Dam, San Luis Reservoir, William R. Gianelli Pumping-Generating Plant, Dos Amigos Pumping Plant, and a 103-mile portion of the California Aqueduct.

The San Luis Complex is located off Highway 152 near the Pacheco Pass.

Reservoir and Forebay Statistics

San Luis Reservoir

Gross capacity	2,027,840 acre-feet
Federal capacity	965,660 acre-feet
State capacity	1,062,180 acre-feet
Shoreline	65 miles
Surface area	12,520 acres
Maximum depth	274 feet
Length of dam	18,600 feet
Height of dam	385 feet
Dam crest elevation	554 feet MSL

O'Neill Forebay

Gross capacity	56,430 acre-feet
Shoreline	12 miles
Surface area	2,700 acres
Maximum depth	40 feet
Length of dam	14,350 feet
Height of dam	88 feet
Dam crest elevation	233 feet MSL

