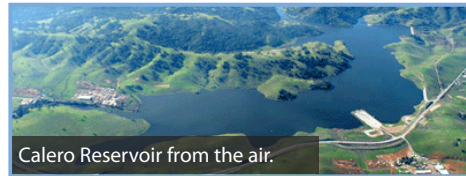


## Frequently Asked

# FAQ

## Questions

### Calero Reservoir



### Why is Calero Reservoir so important to the local drinking water supply?

Calero Reservoir provides water directly to drinking water treatment plants, which treat and test it for safety before distributing it to water retailers who sell it to the county's 1.8 million residents. Calero also captures and stores winter runoff to recharge groundwater basins, helps store water from the nearby Almaden Reservoir watershed and accepts imported water from the federal Central Valley Project.

### Isn't Calero also important for recreation?

The water district built Calero Reservoir to provide a reliable source of clean drinking water. Over the years, the Santa Clara Valley Water District and the Santa Clara County Parks Department have worked together to provide recreation in and around the reservoir compatible with the ongoing need to safeguard clean water. County Parks operates much of the land around Calero Reservoir under a lease agreement with the water district. Recreation uses, though important, must be balanced with the reservoir's primary role as a source of safe drinking water.

#### Drinking water quality

### How is the safety and quality of the water in Calero monitored?

The California Department of Public Health, as part of the permit allowing the operation of Calero as a drinking water reservoir, requires the water district to take regular bacteriological samples of runoff into the reservoir.

### Are there problems with water contamination at Calero?

High levels of bacteria leaving Calero Ranch Stables have flowed into Calero Creek and Reservoir in the past, resulting in a notice of violation from the Regional Water Quality Control Board. An approved contingency plan satisfies the notice of violation and specifies operating procedures for the stables for the duration of its lease through 2010. However, the contingency plan is not acceptable as a long term fix as it does not eliminate the threat of high quantities of bacteria from horse manure reaching the reservoir.

### How do public health guidelines apply?

The California Department of Public Health oversees the quality of water going to drinking water treatment plants. It has set Guidelines for Evaluating Applications for Recreational Use Permits at Domestic Water Supply Reservoirs, covering various activities around domestic water supply reservoirs. The guidelines state that stables or corrals should not be located within the reservoir watershed. If this is not feasible then these uses must be set back at least 1,000 feet from the high water level of the reservoir.

### Isn't the stables operation within 1,000 feet of the reservoir?

The current Calero Ranch Stables operation is inside the 1,000 ft. set back area and therefore not compatible with the public health guidelines. The contingency plan addresses short-term threats to drinking water, but the stable's location in such close proximity to the reservoir presents a serious long-term health and safety problem. In the spring of 2006, the water district and County Parks mutually agreed not to enter into a new lease for stable operations at the current location when the lease expires in November 2010. This decision came after much consideration of the potential impact to the stable operators and boarders and made to allow sufficient time and opportunity for them to seek alternative locations.

### Can there be equestrian use past 2010?

County Parks' Equestrian Stables Feasibility Study will identify equestrian needs in Santa Clara County and evaluate potential sites conducive to an equestrian stable operation.

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## What is Fellows Dike and why does it need to be fixed?

Constructed in 1935, Calero Dam stores local and imported water for groundwater recharge use and directly supplies the drinking water treatment plants. Construction also included a small earthen dike (or small dam) to keep high reservoir levels from flooding an adjacent ranch.

An inspection by the state's Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD) found the dike's condition unacceptable. Geotechnical data shows the original dike foundation adjacent to Calero Creek contains pockets of soil that may liquefy during an earthquake.

DSOD has directed that no water be stored against the dike until it meets state levee certification requirements, meaning that Calero Reservoir can store 2,000 less acre-feet of water. The water storage limitation for Calero Reservoir directly impacts the water district's flexibility to provide a reliable water supply for Santa Clara County residents.

## What is the water district's plan?

The water district conducted a study of Fellows Dike to determine the best alternatives to remove the current restriction on water storage in Calero Reservoir including:

- Upgrading the dike (to meet state certification requirements)
- Breaching the dike (the remaining dike will become part of the reservoir topography)

Following extensive engineering and environmental studies, including lifecycle analysis, mitigations, and future operations and maintenance, the water district determined that breaching the dike is the most cost-effective alternative.

## What are the next steps and when will work begin?

Water district staff expects to recommend the "breach dike" alternative to the board of directors. Once the board takes formal action to select its preferred alternative, staff will prepare and present a detailed design and CEQA analysis of the proposed project to the board for approval. The final step is to advertise the project to bidders, award the construction contract and target construction to begin in summer 2012, contingent on the CEQA and resource permitting process.

## What will happen to the historic structures such as the Bailey-Fellows House?

When the Calero Reservoir is full to the spillway, breaching the dike will inundate the area where the Bailey-Fellows House and other historic structures stand. The listed historic structures, which include the house, two barns, an office building, a barbeque pit, a horse stable, two cottages and a 22,000 gallon redwood water tank, will be relocated to the flat pasture area across from the County Parks ranger station.

## How much will the project cost?

The total project cost is estimated between \$4.6 and \$5.8 million, specifically for:

- \$800K to \$2.2 million for construction that includes a range for soil cleanup costs.
- \$1.9 million for mitigation associated with relocation of historic structures for plans and specifications, including CEQA compliance and construction management.
- \$1.3 million for support services.
- \$300K for future operations and maintenance of historic structures.

## Contact us

For more information, contact Jim Fiedler at (408) 265-2607, ext. 2736, or visit our website at [www.valleywater.org](http://www.valleywater.org) and use our **Access Valley Water** customer request and information system. With three easy steps, you can use this service to find out the latest information on the project or to submit questions, complaints or compliments directly to a district staff person.

