Given all this, design documents prepared in 2018 planned for a 5-year construction period for the Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit Project (ADSRP) starting in 2022. The total project cost was estimated at $576 million.

However, subsequently, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) ordered Valley Water to build the outlet tunnel and complete other related projects within the next three years as a part of the FERC Compliance Project (FOCP), and then begin construction of the embankment replacement. This resulted in extending the total construction duration for FOCP and ADSRP to 10 years. Although Valley Water's initial discussions with FERC centered around addressing the potential impacts resulting from the reconstruction of the dam, the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) has requested that potential impacts related to post-construction dam operations, also be considered. As a result, the five subprojects mentioned above were added to the scope of the ADSRP.

Work is progressing on finalizing the project's design, permitting process and environmental review so that construction can start in early-2026.

Will my water bill increase? If so, when and by how much?

In the fiscal year 2023, preliminary water rates to help pay for the $1.9 billion Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit Project are projected to go up by less than $1 per month for the average Santa Clara County household. Though Valley Water is the countywide wholesaler, it relies on local water retailers to deliver water directly to homes and businesses, in addition to determining their own billing rates. This projection does not account for potential increases due to drought impacts, other projects costs or external factors. Valley Water is rigorously pursuing state and federal grants to help subsidize this project and reduce the impact on ratepayers.

Will the last parcel tax help pay for this increased price tag?

Yes, this project was voter-approved as part of the Safe, Clean Water, and Natural Flood Protection Program. The total funding available from this source for the Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit Project is $54.1 million.

How will water supplies be impacted by this project?

Valley Water will supplement its water supplies through additional imported water purchases and conservation to ensure adequate supplies for groundwater recharge and water treatment plants.

What is Valley Water doing to reduce public safety risks until the new dam is constructed?

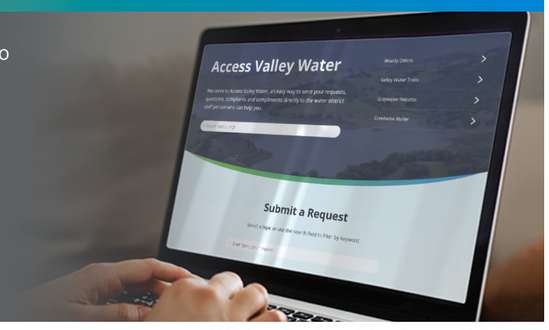
Valley Water continues to work closely with state and federal regulators to maximize public safety. Anderson Reservoir has been operating at levels required by regulators so that if the dam were to slump during an earthquake, the top of the dam would still remain higher than the water levels behind the dam. Valley Water's priority is to compete construction of the new outlet that will allow quick reservoir drawdown, providing greater control over the water levels and increased public safety.

Learn more

Please contact Public Information Representative Jiana Escobar via email at ***jescobar@valleywater.org*** or by calling **408-630-2266.**

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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Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit Project

About the Project

The Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit Project (ADSRP) looks to rebuild the dam in compliance with today's seismic safety standards and regulations. The project will increase the dam's outlet capacities to allow a rapid, controlled reduction of the reservoir levels in an emergency. The spillway capacity will be increased to safely carry water from severe flood events. Valley Water initiated the project in 2012 following a seismic stability evaluation. Then in 2016, additional studies revealed previously unidentified fault lines, extending the length of time to complete the work. In February 2020, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) directed Valley Water to immediately reduce water levels in Anderson Reservoir with the goal to speed up work to replace the dam. Anderson Reservoir is currently limited to 3% capacity.

The ADSRP includes not just constructing the seismic retrofit components to minimize seismic risks, but also conservation measures to minimize environmental impacts and provide environmental benefits, post-construction operations that improve Coyote Creek fisheries conditions, and a long-term adaptive management program.

YOUR TAX DOLLARS AT WORK

Valley Water
Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection

PRIORITY C Protect our water supply and dams from earthquakes and other natural disasters

Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit
Fact Sheet

PRIORITY C Protect our water supply and dams from earthquakes and other natural disasters
PROJECT C1

YOUR TAX DOLLARS AT WORK

Valley Water

Safe, Clean Water and Natural Flood Protection

What is Anderson Dam and Reservoir?

Anderson Dam creates Santa Clara County's largest surface water reservoir—Anderson Reservoir—that stores local rainfall runoff and imported water from the Central Valley Project. With a capacity of nearly 90,000 acre-feet, enough water to supply almost a million people for a year, the reservoir is a critical part of the region's water supply system. The reservoir provides water to drinking water treatment plants and for groundwater recharge. Anderson Dam, located in Morgan Hill, was built in 1950 to the seismic and dam safety standards of the day. Studies have shown a large earthquake could damage the dam, causing an uncontrolled release of water that could inundate cities and rural areas from San Francisco Bay south to Monterey Bay, including much of Silicon Valley.

What will the impact on Rosendin Park be?

Due to blasting activities, there will be a full and partial closure of Rosendin Park during the ADSRP construction. A full closure of Rosendin Park is anticipated to last up to four months during the initial blasting work with partial closure of Rosendin Park planned for the remaining efforts. Valley Water anticipates the park closure to last up to three years. Park closures could potentially occur during years four, five and six of the ADSRP construction.

How long will construction take?

Construction of the ADSRP, which consists of building new outlet pipes and removing and reconstructing the spillway and the dam embankment, will begin after the first stage is completed and the required permits are received. ADSRP construction is estimated to start in 2026 and to take seven years.

A critical part of the project schedule depends on the acquisition of environmental permits from state and federal agencies, such as the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS), U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE), U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS), California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW), and the California State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB).

Wildfire Emergency Access

Valley Water is coordinating with CalFire, Santa Clara County Parks, and the City of Morgan Hill regarding any impacts construction would have on an emergency vehicle's ability to access wildfires using emergency evacuation routes. Local jurisdictions do not recognize Rosendin Park as an evacuation route; Dunne Avenue will remain the designated emergency evacuation route throughout construction.

Throughout construction, Coyote Reservoir will retain water for potential aircraft wildfire response.

Anderson Dam

How is Valley Water addressing the concerns about feral pigs?

Valley Water understands the community's concern regarding the presence of the feral pigs and acknowledges the request to work with the community to help improve the situation. Valley Water has received a large number of comments from the public on the Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit Project (ADSRP) Draft Environmental Impact Report and the Draft Petition for Surrender of Exemption regarding the feral pig presence within the vicinity of the project area. Valley Water is currently in the process of addressing the comments that were submitted for these two public documents, including those that addressed the nuisance of the feral pigs.

The increase in feral pig numbers and activity is part of a larger regional issue that is occurring throughout Santa Clara County and the greater San Francisco Bay Area. There is strong evidence through recent documentation, online sources, and agency coordination that the statewide and regional feral pig presence has been and continues to increase over time. In fact, the passage of SB 856 in 2022, relaxing restrictions on feral pig hunting, reflects the statewide growing feral pig population and the need for better management of feral pigs, thus demonstrating that the issue is not restricted to the vicinity of Anderson Reservoir. There are ample access routes by which pigs could have dispersed from Coyote Canyon to neighborhoods adjacent to the reservoir without having to cross Coyote Creek or Anderson Reservoir.

The increased presence of and disturbance caused by feral pigs have been reported in many other areas of Santa Clara County. In 2020, there were news reports of significant feral pig damage at the Coyote Creek Golf Club. This location is four miles northwest of Anderson Dam, and there is no expectation that the presence of feral pigs at the golf course was related to the drawdown of Anderson Reservoir.

Although California Department of Fish and Wildlife (CDFW) could issue Valley Water a depredation and trapping permit, Valley Water is limited on depredation and trapping efforts depending on property boundaries, agency limitations, and use of trapping and depredation equipment. To help with this issue, Valley Water continues to work with other agencies and to research and consider options for region-wide solutions to help address the feral pig issue.

What is the cost of the project and what makes this project so expensive?

As of 2024, the total cost of the ADSRP has increased by $894.41 million to approximately $1.9 billion. Approximately $2.3 billion is the current combined cost of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) ordered Compliance Project (FOCP), which includes Anderson Dam Tunnel Project (ADTP), Cross Valley Pipeline Extension, Coyote Percolation Dam Replacement, Coyote Flood Management Measures, Coyote Creek Chillers Project and the ADSRP.

FERC requiring that the FOCP be implemented before the ADSRP, new FERC and environmental regulatory requirements, and inflation and worker shortages are driving the project costs up.

Why did the cost increase so dramatically?

Several developments over the last 10 years have greatly expanded the scope of the ADSRP and extended the project schedule.

Initially, the dam was planned to be seismically stabilized by adding additional material. However, investigations during the design phase found active faulting under the dam's foundation which meant that the existing dam embankment could liquify and potentially fail during a large earthquake. This led to a change in the design. The project evolved into the complete removal of the existing dam and its replacement with a new dam. This change was approved by federal and state dam regulators, FERC, and the Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD), and by the FERC mandated body of experts, the Board of Consultants.

Additionally, the dam spillway was originally set to undergo spot repairs as opposed to a full replacement. However, after the nation's tallest dam, Oroville Dam, partially failed in 2017 and forced downstream evacuations, environmental damage, and costly emergency repairs, the DSOD imposed stricter standards for spillway design. This revision to spillway design standards requires removing and replacing the existing spillway and extending the spillway through the unlined portion.