

# Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit Project

WINTER 2024 UPDATE



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Construction of the ADSRP, which consists of building new outlet pipes, spillway removal and construction, in addition to establishing the dam embankment, will begin following the completion of the first phase and once the required permits are granted.

Valley Water has made significant progress in designing the retrofit project, securing environmental permitting, and selecting a contractor. These steps are essential and must be finalized before construction begins.

### Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Needs 3 Extra Months for Review

As Valley Water continues to take important steps with our federal partners, FERC recently issued a new schedule for completing a required environmental document, which will extend the timeline by at least three months. As a result, construction will start about one year later, as crucial earthwork must be completed during the dry months, so rainfall does not impact the work areas at the base of the dam. Despite the need for 3 extra months, FERC still has produced an expedited schedule, and we'll continue to look for ways to shorten the timeline. It is important to take the time necessary to ensure this project is done correctly for public safety and the reliability of our local water supply.

### Coyote Creek Improvements Progressing, New Tunnel Complete

Progress on this project continues with near completion of phase one of the Coyote Flood Mitigation Project, installation of the new Coyote Creek Percolation Dam and completion of the excavation of the new outlet tunnel.



Aerial view of Anderson Dam in Morgan Hill.

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 rapid, controlled reduction of the reservoir levels in an emergency.

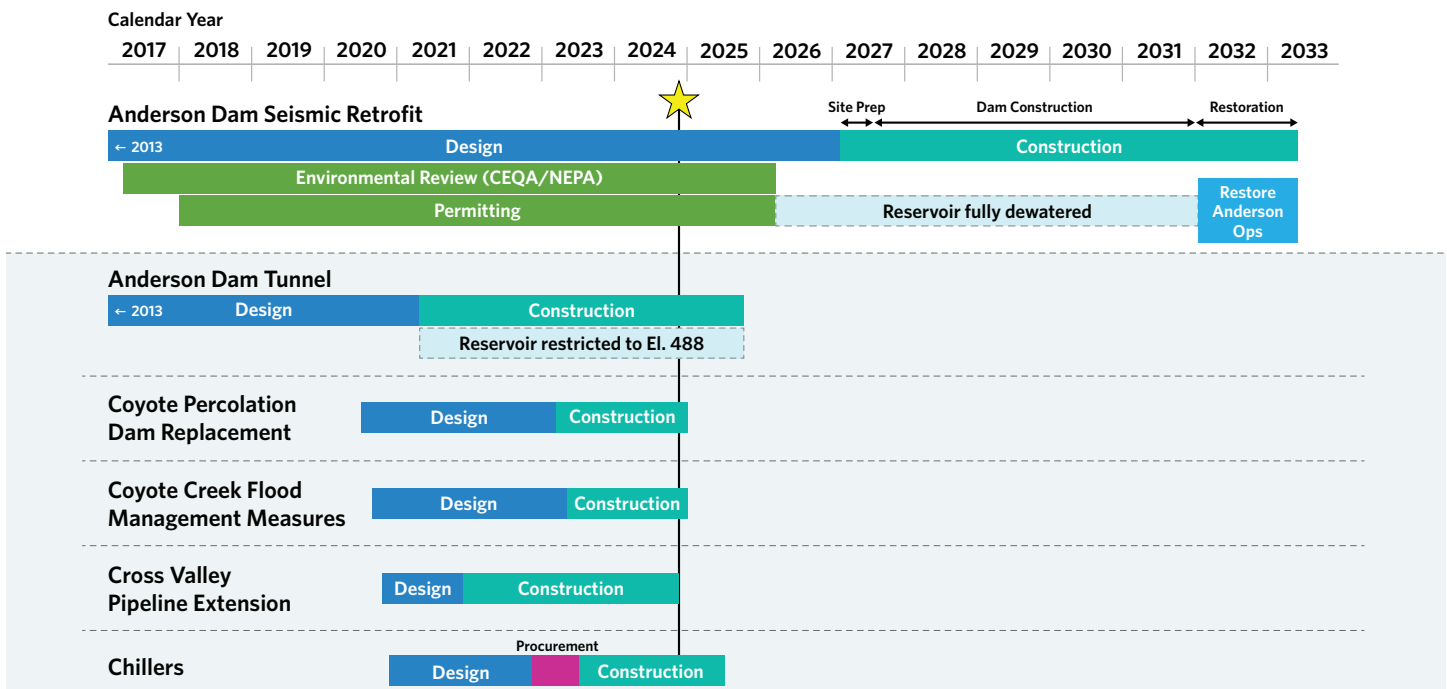


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For more about ADSRP, please visit the [project webpage](#).

## Project Schedule

Valley Water merged ADSRP with restoration measures for the Coyote Creek Watershed under the Fish and Aquatic Habitat Collaborative Effort to best promote a healthy fish population below Anderson Dam. ADSRP includes restoration measures downstream because water released from Anderson Reservoir flows into Coyote Creek. Below is an estimated timeline for ADSRP and the FERC Order Compliance Project.



Combined project schedule: Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit Project (at top) and FERC Order Compliance Project (bottom half).

## What is the cost of the project?

As of 2024, the estimated total cost of the ADSRP has increased to \$1.9 billion. Approximately \$2.3 billion is the current combined cost of the FERC ordered 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.

## Why Do Costs Increase On Big Projects?

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

1. The dam was planned to be seismically stabilized by adding some additional material. However, investigations during the design phase found active faulting under the dam's foundation which meant that the existing dam embankment could 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.
2. The dam spillway was originally set to undergo spot repairs as opposed to a full replacement. DSOD imposed stricter standards for spillway design. This revision to spillway design standards requires removing and replacing the existing spillway and extending the spillway.
3. 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.
4. Complex design changes such as these inevitably lengthen the timeline to complete this massive infrastructure project, which leads to inevitable and unavoidable cost increases. However, staff always explores ways to shorten the timeline and find ways to cut costs throughout the project.

Work is progressing on finalizing the project's design, permitting process and environmental review so that construction can start as early as 2027.

## Highlights



**Location:**  
Morgan Hill, California



**Population Served:**  
Anderson Reservoir supplies drinking water to the nearly 2 million residents of Santa Clara County. The retrofit will provide hundreds of thousands of residents from flooding in the event of a major seismic event.



**Reservoir Capacity:**  
89,278 acre-feet, enough water to supply nearly one million people for one year. Anderson Reservoir is the largest of Valley Water's 10 reservoirs, larger than the other nine combined.



**Dam History:**  
235 foot-high earthen dam, built in 1950.



**Dam Hazard Rating:**  
Rated "High" in its hazard potential classification in the National Inventory of Dams, the highest hazard rating for risk to downstream communities if the dam were to fail.



**Target Date for Completion:**  
Anderson Dam Tunnel Project: October 2025.  
Anderson Dam Seismic Retrofit Project: 2033.



**Cost:**  
\$2.3 billion.



**Funding History:**  
Valley Water was awarded a \$579 million WIFIA loan in February 2023 to help finance the Anderson Project. Valley Water continues to pursue state and federal grant funds to limit the burden on ratepayers.



Anderson Reservoir