

FARMINGTON Reservoir Project

Farmington Dam is currently operated by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as a 52,000-acre-foot flood-control basin. The Stockton East Water District Farmington Reservoir Project (Project) is a proposed modification to the existing dam that would expand its role beyond flood control to **support long-term water supply reliability, groundwater recharge, and climate resilience** for the lower Calaveras River Watershed, including the critically depleted groundwater basin.

The Project would increase total reservoir capacity to approximately 112,000 acre-feet, dedicating the additional 60,000 acre-feet to municipal and agricultural water supply storage, thereby providing conservation of farmland and allowing for environmental flows on the Calaveras River, while improving the existing 52,000 acre-feet for flood protection.

The proposed project includes key infrastructure and safety upgrades, such as:

- A 40-foot-deep slurry cutoff wall to reduce seepage
- An upstream clay berm to improve dam performance
- Replacement of the existing spillway with a 200-foot-wide ogee spillway
- Foundation improvements and seismic upgrades to meet modern dam safety standards

Role in the Calaveras River Watershed Resilience Plan

The Calaveras River Watershed Resilience Plan (2026) organizes water management actions into tiered strategies. While some near-term actions can proceed with existing infrastructure, all Tier 2 strategies depend on implementation of this Project. Without it, the Watershed's most significant climate adaptation benefits cannot be realized, making this Project critical for long-term climate resilience. The additional storage and operational flexibility provided by this Project supports strategies such as expanded surface water conveyance, groundwater recharge, forecast-informed operations, and floodwater-managed aquifer recharge.

By increasing storage capacity and enabling coordinated water management, the Project positions the Watershed and Stockton East Water District to better withstand drought, flooding, and long-term climate variability, while protecting communities, agriculture, and groundwater resources.

The project will provide multiple regional benefits



New Water Supply: Create 60,000 acre feet annually of permanent water supply storage, benefiting over 315,000 City of Stockton residents and 140,000 acres of agricultural land.



Groundwater Recharge and Sustainability: Increase ability to recharge the overdrawn groundwater basin, reducing groundwater depletion, repelling saline intrusion, and protecting local water supplies.



Flood Management: Retain existing flood control capacity with added operational flexibility during high flow events.



Improved Use of Existing Supplies: Perfect existing water rights and store unused Central Valley Project supplies when available.

**The Calaveras River
Watershed Resilience Plan
identifies this Project as a
foundational component
of the region's long-term
climate adaptation strategy.**

