



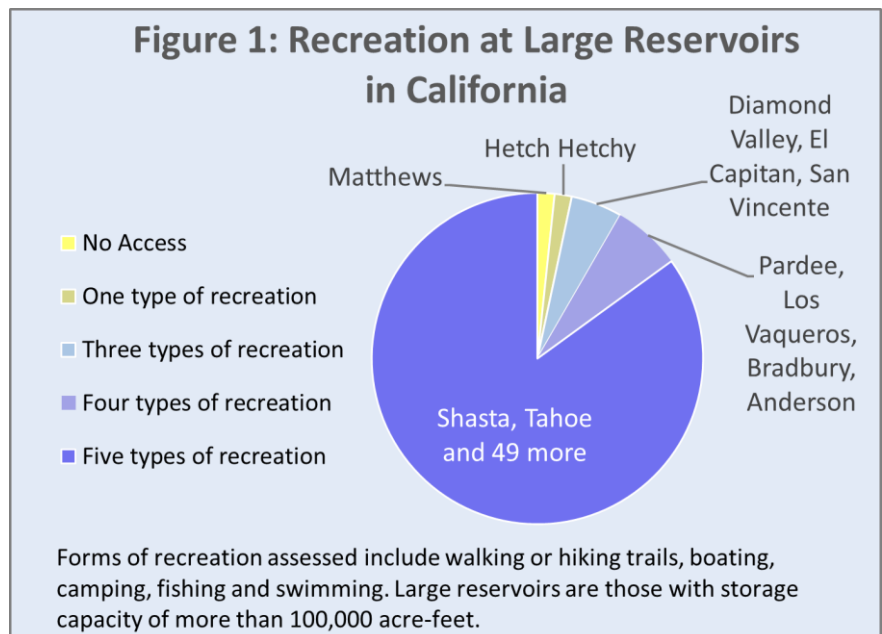
Hetch Hetchy and Recreation at Large Reservoirs in California September 2024

There are 60 reservoirs in California which store more than 100,000 acre-feet of water.¹ The vast majority of these **large** reservoirs provide five types of recreation - camping, fishing, boating, swimming and hiking trails.

Recreation at Hetch Hetchy Reservoir, however, is limited, in spite of the expectations of Congress when it passed the Raker Act allowing Hetch Hetchy Valley to be dammed and flooded.² Hiking trails are available, including the spectacular path to Wapama Falls and beyond, but camping, fishing, boating and swimming are prohibited.

Hetch Hetchy Reservoir and Lake Matthews are the only large reservoirs in California which prohibit fishing and boating. Also, 54 of the 60 large reservoirs allow camping, an activity available at Hetch Hetchy only for backpackers. See Figure 1 and Table 1.

San Francisco stores water in 9 reservoirs - 4 in the Sierra Nevada and 5 in the Bay Area. Supplies delivered directly from Hetch Hetchy Reservoir have a rare exemption and do not require filtration. Water released from San Francisco's Bay Area reservoirs provide about 30% of total supply and is filtered at treatment plants in Sunol and Daly City. These Bay Area reservoirs, all under 100,000 acre-feet in capacity, allow no public access.³



58 out of 60 large reservoirs in California allow both fishing and boating. Only Hetch Hetchy Reservoir in Yosemite National Park and Lake Matthews in Riverside County do not.

The National Park Service manages Hetch Hetchy Reservoir in accordance with the Raker Act and other statutes. The Raker Act prohibits swimming in the reservoir and includes other limited measures to protect water quality, but expressly precludes the National Park Service from considering San Francisco's filtration exemption in its management of Hetch Hetchy Reservoir. Nevertheless, until 2024 the National Park Service specifically used San Francisco's filtration exemption as rationale for prohibiting fishing and boating at Hetch Hetchy. In May 2024, the National Park Service changed this rationale, and is currently citing the NPS Organic Act and the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act as justification for retaining its prohibition on fishing and boating at Hetch Hetchy.⁴

Restore Hetch Hetchy respectfully asks the National Park Service to permit fishing, boating and camping at Hetch Hetchy. These activities would allow all visitors to fully appreciate the Hetch Hetchy canyon as well as provide hikers, campers, fishermen and climbers practical access to the streams feeding Hetch Hetchy and the granite monoliths surrounding the reservoir. The public deserves more opportunities for recreation at Hetch Hetchy.

Table 1: Recreation Types Allowed at Large Reservoirs in California

Name	Volume (acre-feet)	Trails	Camping	Boating	Fishing	Swimming	Name	Volume (acre-feet)	Trails	Camping	Boating	Fishing	Swimming
Shasta	4,661,860	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Cherry Valley	273,500	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Oroville	3,520,000	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Union Valley	266,369	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Trinity	2,760,870	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	San Vicente	245,000	X	X	✓	✓	✓
Don Pedro	2,300,000	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Terminus	235,205	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
San Luis	2,118,380	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Schafer	230,000	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Berryessa	1,854,819	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Hell Hole	207,000	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Isabella	1,202,000	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Bradbury	206,900	✓	✓	✓	✓	X
Almanor	1,142,964	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Buena Vista	205,000	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Folsom	1,120,000	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Pardee	198,000	✓	✓	✓	✓	X
Exchequer	1,100,000	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Spicer	193,000	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Pine Flat	1,091,700	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Eastman	185,256	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
New Bullards Bar	1,010,000	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Crowley	183,465	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Diamond Valley	800,000	✓	X	✓	✓	X	Mathews	182,000	X	X	X	X	X
Tahoe	744,600	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Pyramid	171,000	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Havasu	646,200	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Los Vaqueros	160,000	✓	✓	✓	✓	X
Clear	584,050	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Imperial	160,000	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Millerton	555,500	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Mendocino	155,500	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Nacimiento	470,000	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Salt Springs	142,000	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Warm Springs	449,000	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Edison	140,000	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Camanche	417,000	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Camp Far West	137,280	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Clear	378,000	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Shaver	135,568	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Hetch Hetchy	360,360	✓	X	X	X	X	Courtright	134,342	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Indian Valley	359,000	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Anderson	134,000	✓	X	✓	✓	✓
Black Butte	354,000	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Wishon Main	133,600	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
San Antonio	350,000	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Perris	132,614	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
New Hogan	348,598	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Mammoth Pool	122,175	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Castaic	323,700	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Hidden	116,727	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Casitas	283,727	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	El Capitan	112,800	✓	X	✓	✓	X
Stampede	280,100	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Bucks	105,605	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Whiskeytown	276,117	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	Englebright	103,000	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

¹ Mojave, Twitchell, Prado, Farmington and Seven Oaks Dams are capable of holding more than 100,000 acre-feet, but they are principally flood control structures and do not normally store water.
² See [Keeping Promises: Providing Public Access to Hetch Hetchy Valley, Yosemite National Park, Restore Hetch Hetchy](#) (2021).
³ Access to trails at San Francisco’s Crystal Springs Reservoir is available only by reservation for docent-led hikes.
⁴ See [Yosemite Superintendent’s Compendium](#) (2024).