



Public Utilities

FACT SHEET

Barrett Reservoir and Dam

General Information

Barrett Reservoir is one of nine reservoirs maintained by the City of San Diego's Public Utilities Department. Located at the confluence of Cottonwood and Pine Valley creeks, Barrett is approximately 35 miles east of downtown San Diego.

The reservoir collects rainfall runoff water that is transferred to Lower Otay Reservoir before being treated by the City's Otay Water Treatment Plant and distributed to the public. Barrett has a water storage capacity of 34,805.5-acre feet. The dam is 171 feet high above the riverbed and 746 feet long.

Located in a remote area of San Diego County and closed to the public for many years, access has been offered on a limited basis by reservation only since 1994.

History

Barrett Reservoir is named for George Barrett, who homesteaded the valley in the 1870s.

The first dam at the Barrett site was built in the 1890s as part of the Cottonwood-Otay System by the Southern California Mountain Water Company. The 20-foot-high dam fed water into the original Dulzura Conduit that connected to Lower Otay Reservoir.

In 1913, the City of San Diego purchased the Barrett-Dulzura-Otay portion of the Southern California Mountain Water Company for \$2.5 million. In 1919, construction began on Barrett Dam, which was completed in 1922.

Recreation

Access to the Barrett Reservoir is by **reservation only**. Fishing season is from May through September, and waterfowl hunting takes place from mid-October through January. Boats (by reservation), kayaks and float tubes are allowed. The recreation area includes barbecue areas, picnic tables and public restrooms.

More Information

Barrett Reservoir is located at 19886 Japatul Lyons Valley Road, Jamul, CA 91935. For more information, including reservation details, visit www.sandiego.gov/reservoirs-lakes.

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