



The City of



## Public Utilities

## FACT SHEET

### Miramar Dam and Reservoir

For 60 years, [Miramar Reservoir](#) has been an integral part of the City of San Diego's drinking water system, and has provided San Diegans with a great recreational area. Plans call for the reservoir to serve as an important part of the City's future Pure Water system as well. To date, Miramar is the last new reservoir built by the City of San Diego

#### History

Miramar Dam and Reservoir were officially dedicated on Sept. 16, 1960, a year after ground was broken for the project. The location previously had been the site of a small reservoir that had served the vast ranch of newspaper publisher Edward W. Scripps.

The dam and reservoir were built as part of the second San Diego Aqueduct project. Water flowing south to the reservoir originates from both the Colorado River Aqueduct and the California Aqueduct.

The earthen embankment dam has a maximum height of 165 feet measured from the downstream toe, and has a base of 1,180 feet (excluding the saddle dam). It was constructed by contractors Einer Brothers Inc. of Escondido and McCammon Construction at a cost of \$1.42 million. Land acquisition and engineering costs were approximately \$730,000. About 950,000 cubic yards of dirt and rock went into the construction. Funds for the project came from an \$11 million water bond approved by voters in June 1958.

When full, the reservoir covers 274 surface acres, reaches a maximum water depth of 114 feet, and has 4 miles of shoreline. Miramar Reservoir has a water storage capacity of 6,682.4 acre-feet.

Miramar Water Treatment Plant, which was completed in 1962 at a cost of \$3.5 million, treats and filters drinking water that is distributed to most of the northern part of the city. The plant was significantly expanded and upgraded in 2010.

Recreational facilities, including picnic area and boat dock, were added at the reservoir in the mid-1960s thanks to \$391,300 in funding from the state's Davis-Grunsky Act.

A few years after Miramar Reservoir was completed, a new residential community, known as Scripps Ranch, was developed.

#### Today

Miramar Reservoir is now surrounded by homes and businesses, and the community has a population of more than 32,400.

Miramar remains an impounding reservoir that is part of the City's municipal water-supply system. Water in the reservoir is pumped into the adjacent water treatment plant before being distributed to customers.



Recreation has become increasingly popular at Miramar Reservoir, where the public enjoys fishing, boating, jogging, biking, picnicking and other outdoor activities. Classes of school children regularly visit the reservoir to learn about fish and biology.

## Future

While the current uses of Miramar Reservoir will continue into the foreseeable future, the reservoir will also become an important part of the City's [Pure Water Program](#).

Pure Water San Diego is the City's phased, multi-year program that will provide one-third of San Diego's water supply locally by the end of 2035. The Pure Water Program will use proven water purification technology to clean recycled water to produce safe, high-quality drinking water.

After water has been purified at the North City Pure Water Facility, it will then be transferred via pipeline to Miramar Reservoir. The Miramar Water Treatment Plant will clean the water again and the water will be distributed to homes and businesses throughout the northern portion of the city.

Once Pure Water comes online, Miramar Reservoir will switch from holding all imported water to holding all purified water from the North City facility.

Miramar Reservoir is located at 10710 Scripps Lake Drive, San Diego, CA 92131. For information about public operational hours and recreational programs, visit [sandiego.gov/reservoirs-lakes](http://sandiego.gov/reservoirs-lakes).

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