Celebrating the 50th Anniversary of Construction of Lake Del Valle

Lake Del Valle was constructed to provide reliable water supplies and flood protection for the Livermore-Amador Valley as well as recreation. Lake Del Valle provides water supply reliability by storing pumped water from the South Bay Pumping Plant when capacity and supplies are plentiful to be used when pumping capacity cannot meet water demands. It also provides reliable water deliveries in the event of South Bay Aqueduct outages or failure of State Water Project facilities upstream. Lake Del Valle also captures and stores local runoff which is used to augment imported supplies by Zone 7 and Alameda County Water District. Lake Del Valle provides flood control by capturing local runoff and reducing the peak flood flows along Arroyo Del Valle, Arroyo de la Laguna and Alameda Creek that might otherwise cause flood damage in the region. Lake Del Valle also provides recreation opportunities such as swimming, fishing, boating, camping, etc.

Constructed between 1966 and 1968, Del Valle Dam is the only flood control dam in the Livermore Valley and is a critical part of the South Bay Aqueduct and the State Water Project. The dam is 235-feet-high with crest at 773 feet above sea level and 880 feet long at the crest and constructed with 4.15 million cubic yards of earth fill. Surrounding the dam is a 5,200-acre recreation area offers picnicking, swimming, boating, fishing, biking, hiking, windsurfing, camping, and horseback riding.

There is one, 84-foot diameter morning-glory style spillway at 745 feet elevation designed to discharge 44,000 cubic feet per second. 77,000 acre-feet capacity with normal storage of 25,000 to 40,000 acre-feet. 39,000-40,000 acre-feet of storage capacity is for water supply purposes and the remainder of the storage capacity is reserved for flood control storage.