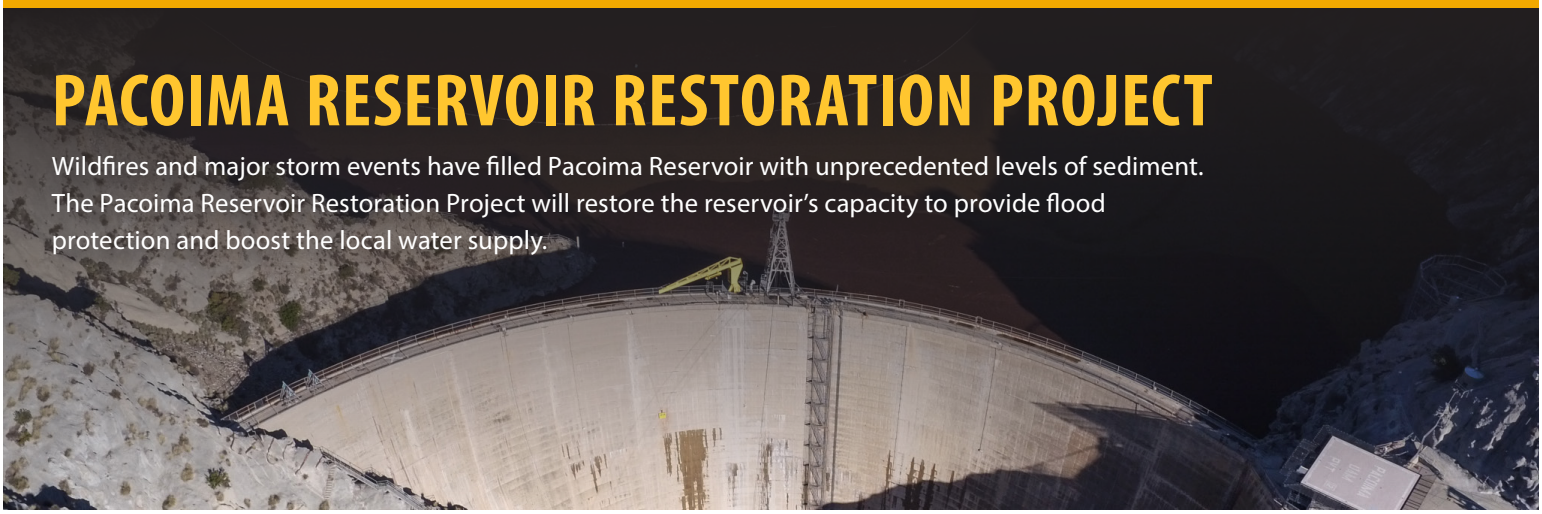
PACOIMA RESERVOIR RESTORATION PROJECT

Wildfires and major storm events have filled Pacoima Reservoir with unprecedented levels of sediment. The Pacoima Reservoir Restoration Project will restore the reservoir's capacity to provide flood protection and boost the local water supply.



WHY THIS PROJECT IS CRITICAL

Over the last 20 years, a series of wildfires have burned the watershed that flows into the Pacoima Reservoir. Post-wildfire erosion in the San Gabriel Mountains has deposited large volumes of sediment in the reservoir, threatening the reservoir's ability to protect downstream communities from flooding and reducing capacity to capture stormwater used for downstream groundwater recharge.

What is Sediment?

Sediment comes from undeveloped hillsides and consists of naturally occurring materials such as rocks, mud, soil and vegetative material. During storms, erosion causes these materials to flow into reservoirs and basins. After a wildfire, burned hillsides lose the plants and ground cover that normally hold soil in place, which causes rain to run off faster and sweep large amounts of sediment downhill.



VEGETATION
Trees, plants, and shrubs all have roots that hold sediment (rocks, mud and soil) in place.



WILDFIRES
When wildfires occur, vegetation is burned away. There are fewer roots to hold sediment in place.



EROSION
Storms carry sediment downhill and into reservoirs and debris basins.

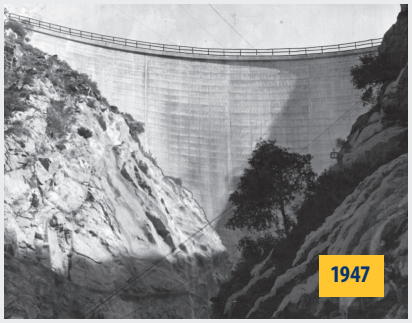
The Marek (2008), Sayre (2008), Station (2009), Sand (2016) and Creek (2017) fires burned 96 percent of the watershed that drains into the Pacoima Reservoir, leading to a substantial sediment buildup. If sediment continues to accumulate, the reservoir will not be able to function as designed, leaving communities vulnerable to flooding.

- The project plans to remove sediment at depths up to 80 feet near the face of the dam.
- An additional 20 feet of sediment accumulation would block or impair the dam's outlet valves, limiting the facility's ability to provide flood control and water conservation releases.
- Pacoima Dam plays a critical role in managing stormwater flows and reducing flood risks for neighborhoods in Sylmar, Pacoima, San Fernando and the northeastern San Fernando Valley.

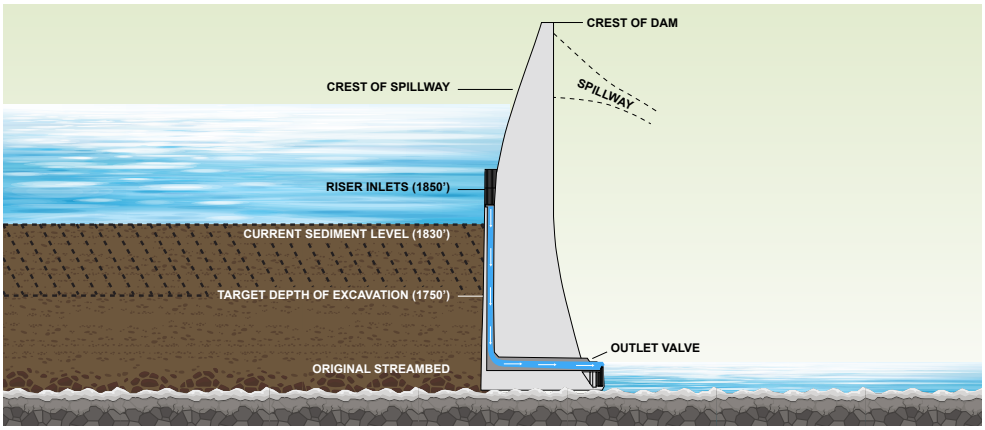
History of Pacoima Dam

The Pacoima Dam is a concrete arch dam located on Pacoima Wash in the San Gabriel Mountains. Originally constructed in 1929, the Pacoima Dam was a marvel of engineering for its time. Standing at 365 feet, it was the tallest arch dam in the United States at the time of its construction.





MARCH 2026 NEWSLETTER



DID YOU KNOW?

During the Northridge Earthquake in 1994, the dam experienced intense shaking that caused minor damage. It remained operational and measures were taken to strengthen the dam post-earthquake.

What We Accomplished This Past Year

Environmental Review Progress

Last year, we advanced the environmental studies needed for the Draft Program Environmental Impact Report (PEIR). The PEIR will evaluate project impacts, haul routes and plans. We anticipate the Draft PEIR will be released in 2026.

Engaging With Our Neighbors

Community questions and concerns shared at past meetings, online, and by email continue to guide our planning work. These include haul route considerations, dust and noise concerns, and requests to protect community resources.

Groundwater & Local Water Supply

The Pacoima Dam is a local water resource for the San Fernando Valley. Captured stormwater from Pacoima Reservoir is sent to spreading grounds that recharge the San Fernando Groundwater Basin, which provides a significant portion of the Valley's drinking water. Sediment buildup reduces this storage space, meaning less stormwater captured, less groundwater recharged and a heavier reliance on imported water. Restoring reservoir capacity will:

- Improve stormwater capture during storm events
- Strengthen local resiliency in drought years
- Support long-term sustainability for Valley communities

STAY INVOLVED

PUBLIC MEETING

We are planning to host a community meeting in 2026 to share updates, answer questions, and gather community feedback.

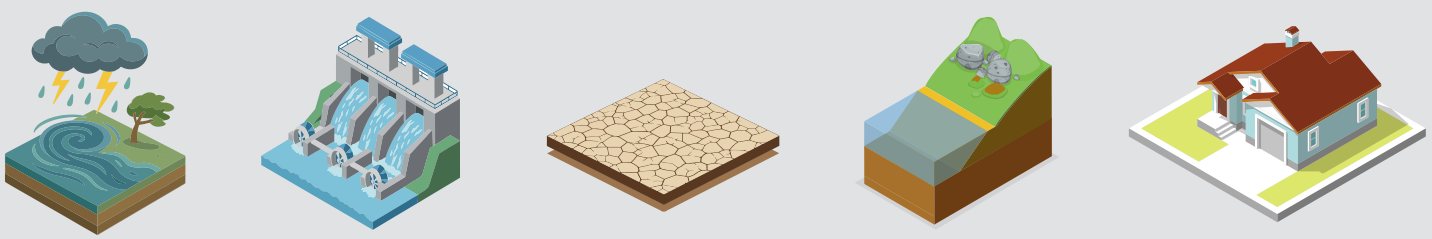
GET UPDATES

Sign up at:
pw.lacounty.gov/projects/pacoima-reservoir-restoration/

CONTACT US

Email:
reservoircleanouts@pw.lacounty.gov

SCAN FOR UPDATES



ANTICIPATED TIMELINE:

The Project will be divided into phases to reduce community impacts.

2026

DRAFT PROGRAM ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT

Upon completion, Public Works will provide public notice of the availability of the Draft PEIR.

There will be a minimum 45 day review period for the public to review the Draft PEIR and submit comments. Public Works will hold a public meeting during this period to receive feedback and comments.

The Final PEIR will be prepared, including responses to comments on the Draft PEIR.

2027

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS REVIEW

Final PEIR and Project Approval under consideration by Board of Supervisors

2028

PHASE 1: SITE PREPARATION/CONSTRUCTION BEGINS

An access road from Little Tujunga Canyon Road to the Reservoir will be restored

2029

PHASE 1: SEDIMENT REMOVAL BEGINS

Up to 1.5 million cubic yards of sediment will be removed over the course of 5 years or less.

There will be controlled releases of water into Pacoima Wash, before the sediment is excavated and hauled to nearby landfills or gravel pits.

2034

PHASE 2: SEDIMENT REMOVAL CONTINUES

An additional 2.2-4 million cubic yards of sediment will be removed over the course of 10 years or less.

This timeline is tentative and subject to change.

Updated March 2026