



# MANAGING CANYON LAKE RESERVOIR



**A vital drinking water source owned and operated by Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District.**

*Canyon Lake, also known as Railroad Canyon Reservoir, serves as a drinking water reservoir for customers of Elsinore Valley Municipal Water District. The lake covers 500 acres and has almost 15 miles of shoreline. It also provides recreational opportunities for thousands of Canyon Lake residents.*

## Managing Lake Levels

EVMWD strives to balance lake levels while protecting drinking water supplies and offsetting the need to purchase expensive imported water. Regulating the level is tricky, given that replenishment is largely dependent on rain and the weather patterns in southern California are unpredictable.

When rain is plentiful, the benefits to the region are great. A full lake means the lake is healthy and allows EVMWD to draw water locally, lessening our dependence on expensive imported water. Sometimes when rains are heavy, the Canyon Lake residents see the lake water rise above the dam's fill level at 1381.76'. When this happens, the dam begins to spill into the San Jacinto River and water flows towards Lake Elsinore.



Canyon Lake Dam, like other dams across the state, has valves that allow water to be drained for maintenance and emergency purposes at its base. These valves do not function as a flood control measure. Rather, EVMWD uses these valves for preventative maintenance.

Regular exercising of these valves help prevent major maintenance problems for the dam and are required to be opened when inspected by the State.

The valves are an integral part of the dam, as water from the reservoir could be drawn down through them in the case of a dam emergency.

Property owners are required to work with the Property Owners Association for guidelines on building docks and other structures near the shore to avoid flood damage.

**Please contact the Canyon Lake POA Planning and Compliance Department at [pnc@canyonlakepoa.com](mailto:pnc@canyonlakepoa.com) or (951) 244-6841 for assistance.**





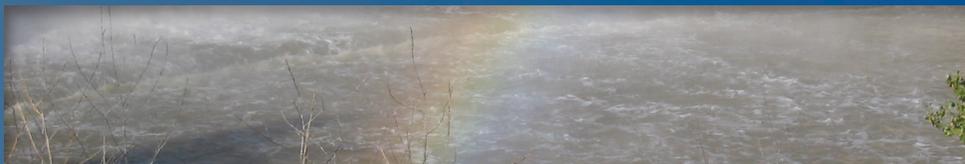
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## Water Sources

The Reservoir is fed primarily by runoff from the **728-square-mile** Lake Elsinore-San Jacinto Watershed, which begins in the San Jacinto Mountains.



## Treatment Plant

Water that flows into the lake is eventually purified at the Canyon Lake Water Treatment Plant. The plant typically runs six months of the year, depending on demand, and can treat up to **5 million gallons a day**. The treated water is delivered to more than **44,000 homes and businesses** in Canyon Lake and Elsinore Valley.



This important local supply is less than the cost of imported water.



### BY THE NUMBERS



**3.9 BILLION GALLONS** – lake capacity



**1,381.76 FEET ABOVE SEA LEVEL** – spillway elevation at Canyon Lake Dam



**5 MILLION GALLONS** – maximum daily water production at Canyon Lake Treatment Plant

*EVMWD is committed to providing our customers with reliable, high quality drinking water each and every day. Our water is tested and treated over 17,000 times each year to ensure it meets some of the highest water quality standards in the world.*

Visit [www.evmwd.com/ccr](http://www.evmwd.com/ccr) for the latest water quality report or contact us at (951) 674-3146.

