

On Tap

Winter 2013



Lee and Grace Sugimoto with a trout they caught at Los Vaqueros.

The Fishing is Fine at Los Vaqueros!

From veteran fishing enthusiasts to beginning anglers, anyone who enjoys fishing will enjoy a visit to the Los Vaqueros Reservoir. The reservoir offers largemouth bass, striped bass, channel catfish, king salmon, sunfish, carp and regularly planted rainbow trout.

The reservoir's storage capacity was recently increased 60 percent to hold 160,000 acre-feet of water by raising the height of the dam 34 feet. The reservoir now has about 100,000 acre-feet of water in it and filling will continue this winter.



As part of the reservoir enlargement, the marina and other fishing facilities on the south side of the reservoir were moved to higher ground and improved to make them more visitor-friendly. On the north side of the reservoir, near the dam, the watershed's trail system was relocated and a new concrete fishing platform was built near the dam to improve access for anglers.

WHAT YOU SHOULD KNOW BEFORE YOU GO:

Marina Location:

9990 Los Vaqueros Road, Byron, CA

Hours of Operation:

Seven days a week, generally dawn to dusk

Parking Fee at Watershed Entrance:

\$4 per vehicle for CCWD water customers
\$6 per vehicle for others (\$5 for seniors)

Daily Fishing Fee:

\$4.50 per angler (state fishing license required)

Rental Boats:

16-foot fishing boats and 18-foot pontoon boats are available. Fees vary, with half-day rates ranging from \$50 to \$100. All boat fees are half-price Monday-Friday, non-holidays.

Restrictions:

Private boats, dogs, swimming, alcoholic beverages and live bait are not allowed. Smoking is allowed only in designated areas around the marina.

For More Information:

Call the marina at 925-371-2628 or visit www.ccwater.com or www.norcalfishing.com

Install our **LV Web App** on your mobile phone for fishing reports, weather, news and more: www.ccwater.com

Visitors to the south side of the reservoir will find the relocated marina has new boat docks and inviting picnic areas with shade covers and landscaping. As it did before, the marina offers electric boat rentals, wheelchair-accessible and other fishing piers, bait and tackle sales and a modern fish-cleaning station.



The marina staff is knowledgeable, helpful and very friendly. They always know the best fishing spots, and they can advise anglers on the best bait and lures to use for current conditions. They also have an array of rods and reels to lend to first-time anglers and children who want to try their hand at fishing.

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Los Vaqueros Offers More Than Fishing

Fishing may be popular at the Los Vaqueros Reservoir, but it's not the only activity you'll find there. The watershed offers 58 miles of hiking trails, about 12 miles of which are multi-use trails open to bicycles and horses. You'll also find plenty of developed picnic sites, and on the north side of the reservoir, you'll find an interpretive center with informational displays about the area's diverse ecosystem and rich cultural history. The center also offers fun and educational weekend programs throughout the year.

The watershed is open seven days a week, generally from dawn to dusk. For more information about the watershed, visit www.ccwater.com/losvaqueros or call 925-688-8010.

CCWD Customers Are Getting Paid to Lose Their Lawns

When Contra Costa Water District customer Bill Robinson renovated his front and back yards, he found that using water-wise plants allowed him to increase the landscaping around his home while reducing his overall water use.

"I replaced the front lawn with a water-wise landscape and added plants in the backyard where we used to have bare dirt, and we saw a savings compared to what we used to use," said Robinson, a resident of Walnut Creek.

In addition to saving water and money on his water bill, Robinson received a rebate to help cover the cost of re-landscaping his front yard by participating in the water district's Water-Efficient Landscape Rebate Program. The program offers rebates to customers who replace their front lawns or other publicly visible lawns with water-efficient landscaping. By removing a thirsty lawn and installing a water-wise garden, customers can significantly reduce their water use and save money for years.

The rebate is 50 cents per square foot for lawn replaced. The maximum rebate is \$500 for residential customers and \$5,000 for commercial and municipal customers.

The program is open to residential, commercial, and municipal customers in the District's service area, which consists of Clayton, Clyde, Concord, Pacheco, Port Costa, Martinez, Antioch, Bay Point, Pittsburg, Oakley and parts of Pleasant Hill, Walnut Creek and Brentwood.

Projects must be pre-approved to be eligible for a rebate, so be sure to contact the District before you start planning or do any work on your landscape. Complete program details can be obtained by visiting www.ccwater.com/conserves or by calling 925-688-8320.

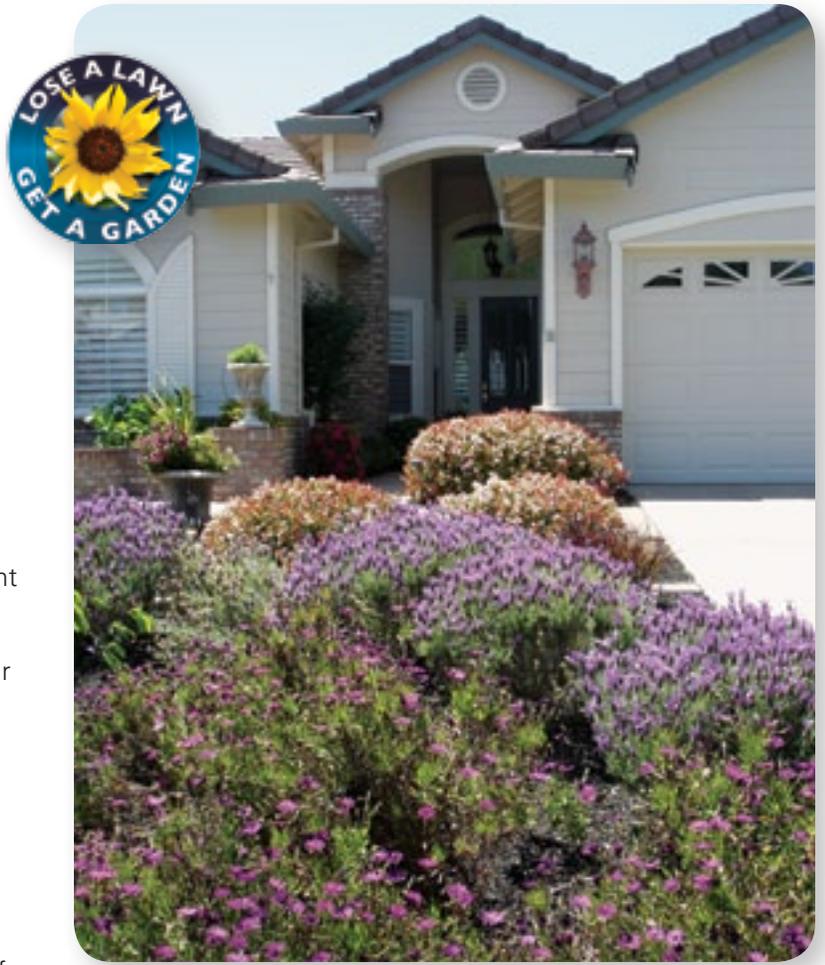
Learn More About Water-Wise Landscapes

Sunday, May 5, 2013

You can learn a lot about water-wise landscaping at the Ninth Annual Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour on Sunday, May 5, from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. This free, self-guided tour will feature 40 East Bay gardens that conserve water, are pesticide free, provide wildlife habitat and contain 60 percent or more native plants. The Contra Costa Water District is a sponsor of this event.

This is a great place to get ideas for your landscape before the spring and summer gardening seasons. The event includes talks by landscapers and other experts, and this year there are two-day companion plant sales at native plant nurseries in the region. Registered tour participants will receive a tour guide booklet that includes schedules, locations and other information.

To learn more about the tour and to register, visit www.ccwater.com/conserves and click on the "Bringing Back the Natives Garden Tour" feature.



The re-landscaped Robinson home in Walnut Creek.

East Contra Costa County Regional Partnership Focuses on Water Management

A partnership of 12 agencies in East Contra Costa County has received a \$452,000 state grant to improve regional water management. Called the East County Water Management Association, the partnership has been working since 1995 to efficiently address common water management challenges in the region.

Members of the partnership are Contra Costa Water District, City of Antioch, City of Pittsburg, City of Brentwood, Town of Discovery Bay, Diablo Water District, East Contra Costa Irrigation District, Delta Diablo Sanitation District, Ironhouse Sanitary District, Byron-Bethany Irrigation District, Contra Costa County Flood Control and East Contra Costa County Habitat Conservancy.

Through this regional partnership, members have collaborated with stakeholders and other agencies to develop the East Contra Costa County Integrated Regional Water Management (IRWM) Plan. The IRWM Plan focuses on improving water resource management in the 350-square-mile region between the ridge lines of Mt. Diablo and the waterways of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

The East County group has been instrumental in securing significant grant funding from bonds approved by voters in Propositions 50, 84 and 1E. Over the past six years, the region has received \$28.2 million in state grants for recycled water, conservation, ecosystem restoration, and water quality improvements. For more information, visit www.eccc-irwm.org.