



# LAKE HODGES

Our Community's Local Water Supply



## A COMPROMISED RESOURCE

Built in 1918, Lake Hodges Dam is one of the oldest in San Diego County. Its reservoir was built to capture runoff from the largest watershed in the county by the founders of Santa Fe Irrigation District and San Dieguito Water District, prior to forming their respective districts. Historically, 30% of the Districts' supply comes from Lake Hodges. This local water supply helps to keep water rates low, because the Districts can control the costs of treatment with the joint ownership of the R.E. Badger Filtration Plant. The remainder of the District's supply comes from the San Diego County Water Authority. This imported water supply travels several hundred miles from the Colorado River and Sierra Nevada via the Metropolitan Water District of Southern California before being distributed throughout San Diego by the Water Authority.

In 2017, during a routine inspection of Lake Hodges Dam by the State of California Department of Safety of Dams, the dam was identified as a potential hazard due to its deteriorating condition. The City was ordered to lower the level of the lake so that short-term repairs could be made. Additionally, long-term repairs were also identified to maintain the structural integrity of the dam. The short-term repairs were intended to maintain public safety while long-term repairs were identified, developed and implemented. Lowering the lake level constrained the amount of water the Districts were able to use, and an operational plan was developed in conjunction with the City to maximize the amount of local water available.

## LAKE HODGES BASICS

- Owned and solely maintained by the City of San Diego
- Shared Water Rights: Santa Fe Irrigation District, San Dieguito Water District and City of San Diego
- Shared Storage Rights: SFID, SDWD, City of San Diego and San Diego County Water Authority
- Dam Constructed: 1918
- Water Capacity: 30,251 AF
- Max Depth: 115 Feet
- Shoreline: 27 Miles

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## Examples of Deterioration on Dam Face



In Summer 2022, DSOD performed a follow-up inspection and determined that emergency repairs would have to begin immediately because the previously ordered short-term repairs were not complete. Additional concerns for public safety also required that the lake level be lowered even further, which immediately impacted the Districts' ability to use local water. Additional imported supplies from the Water Authority are being purchased to guarantee deliveries to customers.

Emergency repairs are currently underway while a long-term replacement plan is being evaluated. The lake must also stay at a lowered level for public safety reasons, and any inflow from rain or runoff must be released based on DSOD's regulatory order. The long-term replacement for the dam is estimated to take 10-12 years to complete. Both Districts' ability to use local water during that period will be constrained. During winter 2023, approximately 34,000 acre-feet of water, almost 11 billion gallons, was released into an adjoining river. This is the equivalent of two years of local water supply for both Districts. SFID and SDWD continue to work with the City of San Diego on the long-term repairs, including seeking grant funding from the State and Federal Governments.

## WHAT IS THE IMPACT ON CUSTOMERS?

As a result of the loss of local water, SFID developed a new rate structure. This new rate structure, approved in March 2023, will result in some customers seeing a 40% increase in bills.

SDWD will evaluate financial impacts during their 2023 cost-of-service study.

Both Districts will evaluate long-term impacts in future cost-of-service studies as well.

## Cost of Repairs

Final costs for the repair and long-term replacement of the dam are still being fully evaluated. Emergency repairs are estimated to be approximately \$12 million. SFID and SDWD will be responsible for 25% of the total cost, with an approximate 60/40 cost split of that 25%. The San Diego County Water Authority, who holds storage rights will be responsible for 50% of the costs.