

# Outdoor Recreation



San Luis Reservoir State Recreation Area is located approximately 10 miles west of Los Banos on Highway 152. Originally built as a storage reservoir, San Luis Reservoir receives water from the Delta and the Delta-Mendota Canal. Most visitors come for the great fishing, boating, sun bathing and picnicking. In fact, record-setting fish have been caught in this area.

San Luis Reservoir consists of three lakes: San Luis Reservoir, O'Neill Forebay and Los Banos Creek. Day use hours are sunrise to 10 pm and boating is sunrise to sunset.

O'Neill Forebay is located north of the highway and offers boat ramps, covered picnic areas with BBQ pits-including five group areas, beaches for sun-bathing and water play and grassy areas to throw your line in the water or just enjoy the view.



San Luis Creek is located south of the highway and features two boat ramps as well as areas for fishing and 200 picnic sites. Los Banos Creek offers great fishing, areas to swim and sunbathe and boating.

There are four campsites, all of which are open year-round. San Luis Creek has 53 campsites, Basalt has 79 improved sites,

Medeiros has undeveloped sites along the shoreline, some with shade coverings and fire rings,

and Los Banos Creek has 20 primitive campsites. There are two group camp-grounds at



San Luis Creek along the shoreline of O'Neill Forebay. One can accommodate 60 people and the other 30 people. It is always advisable to contact the State Park office directly for information about availability.

Another service of the State Park system is guided tours. One of the most popular is the Paths of the Padres. The Park Rangers and do-



cents also offer tours to groups with advance notice. Another unique tour option is a Windmills Tour that offers a contrast of the



windmills of the past with the windmills of today.

Various groups utilize the park resources

throughout the year and many are open to the general public. One event is the South Bay Soaring Society who operate most weekends in the spring through the summer at Los Banos Creek, with their main event being in April. This radio-controlled glider

club is based out of San Jose and is involved with slope soaring, thermal duration, aero-tow and scale soaring. Visitors are welcome to watch from the South Rim area at Los Banos Creek.



Other special events include Renaissance Faires, Kids Fishing Days and Kite Days. During the Renaissance Faire several hundred people reenact the time period with costumes, food and games and the public is welcome to attend.

Kids Fishing Days allows youngsters to participate in fishing and other activities to expose them to this sport, and Kite Day is a spectacular sight as hundreds of colorful kites soar over Pacheco State Park just north of San Luis Reservoir.



Waterfowl hunting is allowed in season at all three lakes.

Forebay Golf is a 9 hole public golf course in Santa Nella, approximately 10 miles west of Los Banos. Here you can play a round of golf, use the driving range or take a lesson.



There is also a restaurant and bar as well as a Pro Shop. The course is open 7 days a week.

Photos Lee Scencenbaugh

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