

## CRITERIA FOR RESERVOIR RECREATION PROJECTS IN CALIFORNIA STATE PARK SYSTEM

*Prepared by Newton B. Drury, Chief, California Division of Beaches and Parks, and published in NEWS AND VIEWS, January 1957. Although written expressly for the California State Park System, these Criteria might serve in whole or in part to aid others in formulating policy on reservoir recreation projects.*

1. While reservoir projects are primarily recreational and need not necessarily possess outstanding qualities of natural landscape, they should afford an agreeable environment for recreation, free from intrusions that detract from public enjoyment. Landscape quality may well be taken into account in establishing priorities.

2. They should be of statewide importance by reason of terrain, size, location and public need.

3. They should include sufficient land suitable for recreational development and be contained within a logical boundary.

4. Reservoir projects may, or may not, contain all of the features of a natural park. They are suited for active use of the water area for boating, swimming, water skiing, fishing, and in some cases ice skating. Their shores are adapted to all or part of a public use in camping, picnicking, sightseeing, hiking, nature study, riding, and winter sports, involving no major modification to the land. Extensive introduction of artificial features such as golf courses, playgrounds, zoos, swimming pools and other features more commonly developed in city, community and neighborhood parks should be avoided.

5. Reservoir projects may include developments to facilitate their use, such as boat docks and floats, launching ramps and lifts, boat rental and repair buildings, log booms, buoy markers, swimming beaches and bathhouses, concession buildings for meals and lodging, observation buildings, picnicking and camping structures, parking areas, roads and trails, and related development to meet public need.

6. Reservoir projects may be managed and operated to allow, under special authorization, an orderly use of the water surface for boat races and events, boat cruising, water skiing, swimming and fishing.

7. The development of a reservoir project may be in proportion to public need and anticipated or actual use, and to the time of year and length of use of the water surface by reason of water drawdown.

8. Recreational development and use of a reservoir project is secondary to the primary purpose for which the reservoir was created. Control of the recreational use of the water surface should be under the jurisdiction of the agency responsible for the recreation management.

9. Reservoir projects may be managed under a general use principle where an orderly and proper utilization of the natural resource may be accomplished. Since reservoir projects differ from natural park areas in concept of use, it is not intended to withdraw all lands from economic use that are important to the recreational land unit, but such economic use should not defeat the recreational purpose.

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entire expansion for the California State Park  
system. These efforts might serve as a model or  
be part of an effort to formulate policy on  
reservoir recreation projects.

1. While reservoir projects are primarily recreational and need not necessarily possess outstanding qualities of natural land scope, they should afford an agreeable environment for recreation. From time to time, it is desirable that certain types of public enjoyment. Landscape quality may well be taken into account in establishing priorities.
2. They should be of statewide importance by reason of scenic value, location and public need.
3. They should include sufficient land suitable for recreational development and be contained within a logical boundary.
4. Reservoir projects may, or may not, contain all of the features of a natural park. They are suited for active use of the water area for boating, swimming, water skiing, fishing, and in some cases for skating. Their shores are adapted to all or part of a public use in camping, picnicking, sightseeing, fishing, etc. They may also include water sports, involving no major modification to the land. Extensive introduction of artificial features such as golf courses, playgrounds, pools, swimming pools and other features more commonly developed in city communities and neighborhood parks should be avoided.
5. Reservoir projects may include developments or facilities that are not such as boat docks and floats, launching ramps and lifts, boat rental and repair buildings, log houses, booby houses, swimming beaches and bathhouses, concession buildings for meals and lodging, observation buildings, picnicking and camping areas, parking areas, toilet and waste, and related developments to meet public needs.
6. Reservoir projects may be managed and operated to allow under special authorization, an orderly use of the water surface for boat races and events, boat cruising, water skiing, swimming and fishing.
7. The development of a reservoir project may be in proportion to public need and anticipated or actual use, and to the time of year and height of use of the water surface by reason of water drawdown.
8. Recreational development and use of a reservoir project is secondary to the primary purpose for which the reservoir was created. Control of the recreational use of the water surface should be under the jurisdiction of the agency responsible for the recreation management.