# Providing Reliable Water Supplies:
# Garvey Reservoir

A recent news story on KCAL/CBS grossly mischaracterized the status and condition of Garvey Reservoir. Accurate information about the status and use of the reservoir, and a planned rehabilitation project, are below.

- Garvey Reservoir has been in service for the past 25 years. It was recently taken offline in March 2025 in preparation for a project to replace the reservoir's cover and liner.
- An issue related to the reservoir's clay liner that occurred in the late 1980s was addressed by installing a robust geomembrane liner system. The reservoir was put back in service in 1999.
- After 25 years in service, the reservoir's cover has reached its normal lifespan, and Metropolitan has developed a project to replace it. An Environmental Impact Report for the project was completed in 2024 and a bid package for the project was advertised in July 2025. The liner and cover replacement is scheduled to be completed at the end of 2027 and the reservoir will be put back in service shortly after at the beginning of 2028.
- Seismic performance of the reservoir's dams was evaluated by Metropolitan and the California Division of Safety of Dams (DSOD) and the dams meet the seismic performance criteria established by the State.

**More on Garvey Reservoir:**

- Garvey Reservoir is located in the City of Monterey Park in Los Angeles County, and was constructed in 1954 with a capacity of 1,600 acre-feet (523 million gallons). It is located in a central portion of Metropolitan's distribution system and receives treated water from the F.E. Weymouth Water Treatment Plant in La Verne. The reservoir provides critical hydraulic flexibility by stabilizing flows within the central portion of Metropolitan's distribution system, helping to ensure reliable deliveries to Metropolitan's member agencies. The reservoir also provides operational flexibility during drought conditions and when pipelines are shut down for maintenance.
- The reservoir was originally constructed with a clay liner overlain by a layer of asphalt. However, following the 1987 Whittier Narrows Earthquake, damage to the clay liner was discovered and the reservoir was taken out of service.
- Between 1995 and 1999, repairs were made and a new multi-layer geomembrane liner was installed on top of the asphalt layer. The reservoir was put back in service at the completion of the liner installation around 1999 and has been continuously in service until March 2025.
- The new geomembrane liner is equipped with a leakage detection system, and ground monitoring wells around the facility were installed for long term monitoring of reservoir performance. Data from this leakage detection and groundwater monitoring system is continuously transmitted to the City of Monterey Park.
- Data from the liner leakage detection and groundwater monitoring system from the past 25 years demonstrate the liner system has performed without issue.

- Seismic performance of the Garvey Reservoir dam was evaluated by Metropolitan and independently by the California Division of Safety of Dams and was found to meet seismic performance criteria.
- The dams that support Garvey Reservoir are inspected monthly by Metropolitan dam safety engineers and annually by the California DSOD. In their 2025 Garvey Reservoir inspection report, the DSOD stated that “the dam, reservoir, and appurtenances are judged safe for continued use”.
- In March 2025, a tear was discovered in the reservoir cover that floats on top of the reservoir water surface, and the decision was made to take the reservoir out of service in preparation for the already planned liner and cover replacement project. All treated water reservoirs require covers to maintain drinking water quality. These covers require periodic refurbishment.
- A bid package to refurbish the reservoir, including replacing the cover and liner, was advertised in late July 2025, with the current plan to complete the project in late 2027 and put the reservoir back in service in early 2028.