



## Build Reservoirs in North Coast Quarries (/initiative/4W9Y/build-reservoirs-in-north-coast-quarries)

Reusing the Liddell and San Vicente limestone quarries as water reservoirs could be a cost effective, environmentally responsible, and aesthetically attractive way to store 3.6 billion gallons and double the water storage capacity of the City of Santa Cruz.

*Submitted by JoeBen Bevirt*

### Comments

Fred Martinez 2w, 6d ago

Have you been to these quarries. The terrain is very difficult with sandy loam clay as the base for a dam to sit on. Oh yes, and then there is Fish and Wildlife and all their cronies.

Scott McGilvray 2d, 19h ago

PRO

Quarry storage is a good option, until ground water storage in the aquifer is underway.

Bill Smallman 2d, 17h ago

(comment disabled) NEUTRAL

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Instead of the word "until" , use the words "with the ground water storage aquifer underway". After built, these reservoirs can provide valuable emergency water storage, recreational areas and percolate water into the ground to keep the aquifer full.

Barry Kane 1d, 23h ago

NEUTRAL

Great idea worthy of consideration, we need more water storage for bad rain years and for normal growth that will occur.

Jim Mekis 4w ago

PRO

Cemex has agreed to remediate/restore the old quarry sites, as required by law. It would reduce their costs for doing so to support this proposed re-use, and it would benefit the City.

LeAnne Ravinale 3w, 4d ago

PRO

This seems like a practical approach that "redeems" land that has been adversely impacted by the original development of the quarries. As well, it would appear that state CEQA and EIR approval would be much less difficult than for a new reservoir. It is also especially interesting as connecting to existing water mains seems feasible.

Chris Berry 2w, 6d ago

I like this concept - especially as it would help North Coast ag as well as the City of Santa Cruz -however there are (of course) a few issues which warrant further exploration. Primary among them is where the water is coming from to fill the quarries. My guess is that San Vicente and Liddell don't provide enough "extra" flow in the winter to fill these on a routine basis. Also, water rights acquisition

involving San Vicente Creek will be challenging given it's status as one the last viable coho streams south of the Golden Gate. It will be interesting to see where this could go if it gets any traction.

Jan Karwin 2w ago

This proposal is worthy of further research and evaluation by the panel of experts.

Jude Todd 4d, 15h ago

PRO

This looks like one of the, if not the, best of the big "mega" projects. The quarry is there, the environmentally benign way of getting the water is there, and the project is well considered. This one is definitely worthy of further WSAC consideration.

Steven King 3d, 21h ago

PRO

If these quarries did not exist, i think aquifer storage would be preferable. But, since they do exist, it seems that further exploration of their usefulness as part of a larger system makes sense.

Deb Wirkman 3d, 7h ago

QUESTION

I'm interested in this proposal, but would like to know whether any options are available for lining the quarries that don't involve synthetic chemicals such as polypropylene or high density polyethylene.

Bill Smallman 2d, 17h ago

They can be lined with soil with a high clay content. You want some water to seep into the ground. Reservoirs are not only valuable water storage but also recharge to ground water basin. San Vincente looks like its all rock, so I'm not sure it even needs a liner, but extensive soil borings need to be made for any proposed reservoir, and much of this has been done by the quarry operators and this information is not readily available.

Deb Wirkman 2d, 17h ago

Thanks, Bill.

Leslie Smith 2d, 22h ago

PRO

Sounds reasonable to me

Purea Koenig 2d, 20h ago

PRO

Yes continue to research this idea!

Ron Pomerantz 2d, 10h ago

NEUTRAL

Add this idea to the hopper of plans to investigate further

Bill Smallman 1h, 10m ago

PRO

I like the idea of building the San Vicente Reservoir, and not the Liddell because I think the Liddell does not have much watershed above it, so it would probably need water pumped up to it to stay full. It is also not very aesthetic looking to the environment. Moreover, these reservoirs serve a second purpose to help recharge the ground water basin, and as far as I know, that is not a problem in North County. With that said, I prefer Cemex restoring Liddell and replanting trees. They could have contractors haul in clean fill for free, or charge a dump fee. The conveyor belt could become an alpine coaster or gondola that goes down to Davenport. It looks like the fish are using San Vicente Canyon, so damming this canyon up would have less effect on them. It is nearly impossible replace and replant this canyon because it is all rock with vertical walls. The cracks and tunnels can be plugged up. A pipeline connected to the bike path/utility corridor,

that I advocate, could provide a valuable secondary and/or drought emergency water source for Davenport and Santa Cruz. The lake stocked with fish for those hiker/fisherman types to enjoy!

Bill Smallman 1h, 10m ago

PRO

duplicate, not sure how to delete these.