Project Overview

The Sunol Valley Water Treatment Plant in the Sunol Valley treats all the water from the two local reservoirs – Calaveras and San Antonio – before the water can be served to the San Francisco Public Utilities Commission’s 2.6 million customers in four Bay Area counties. Should the Bay Area be cut off from Hetch Hetchy supplies because of an earthquake or other emergency, the treatment plant would need to sustainably treat 160 million gallons of water a day to meet minimum customer demands.

This project is part of the $4.8 billion Water System Improvement Program to repair, replace, and seismically upgrade the Hetch Hetchy Regional Water System’s aging pipelines, reservoirs, and dams.

The Sunol Valley Water Treatment Plant Expansion and Treated Water Reservoir Project added a new water treatment train at the plant, retrofitted existing filters, created a 17.5 million gallon circular balancing reservoir for treated water as it leaves the plant, and other new connections and facilities that enables the plant to treat enough water to meet basic customer demands alone for up to 60 days after a major earthquake.

Construction Schedule

- Construction began: June 2010
- Estimated completion: September 2013
- Construction Cost: $100 Million
- Contractor: Shimmick Construction Company

Project Components:
- 17.5-million gallon circular balancing reservoir for treated water as it leaves the plant
- New treatment train inside the plant
- 1,000 feet of 78-inch diameter pipe connecting the new treated water reservoir to the existing pipe between the plant and the regional transmission system. From the plant, the new pipeline will extend parallel to the plant access road. Where it crosses Alameda Creek, it would be tunneled under the creek to avoid disturbing the riparian habitat.
- All these modifications will boost the overall efficiency of the treatment process, improving reliability and water quality.

By the Numbers:
- 500,000 cubic yards of soil removed to construct the treated water reservoir
- 1,482 soil nails installed to secure the treated water reservoir
- 1,160 piers drilled underneath the treated water reservoir for seismic safety