

Title:	California Waterama: The Story of the Feather River Project
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Time	Transcription
00:00:09	[7...SIX...5...4...3.]
00:00:14	[Clock ticking.]
00:00:21	Narrator: Time is running out!
00:00:22	[Music plays.]
00:00:23	[The Statewide FEATHER RIVER PROJECT ASSOCIATION Presents]
00:00:33	[CALIFORNIA WATERAMA Chapter 1]
00:00:38	[The Beginning of California's First State Water Development THE FEATHER RIVER PROJECT]
00:00:44	[We gratefully acknowledge contributions from many hundreds of persons and organizations of the information, material and assistance which has enabled us to produce CALIFORNIA WATERAMA]
00:00:50	[Video cuts to black. Note: Program begins at 00:01:00 after a false start.]
00:01:00	[Clock ticking.]
00:01:07	Narrator: Time is running out!
00:01:09	[Music plays]
00:01:10	[The Statewide FEATHER RIVER PROJECT ASSOCIATION Presents]

00:01:19	[CALIFORNIA WATERAMA Chapter 1]
00:01:25	[The Beginning of California's First State Water Development THE FEATHER RIVER PROJECT]
00:01:30	[We gratefully acknowledge contributions from many hundreds of persons and organizations of the information, material and assistance which has enabled us to produce CALIFORNIA WATERAMA]
00:01:40	Narrator: Water is everybody's business. Your business as a citizen of California. This report to you covers a great state and its abundant but unequally distributed water. It's a report of too much water in some sections, too little elsewhere. As a result, fertile fields may wither and die. Rich agricultural production faces financial disaster. Mighty industries may cease to expand. By providing water in the past, the people of California have made possible an expansion unparalleled in history. Today, Californians want their state to keep it that way by meeting water needs for a three-fold future growth.
00:02:28	Narrator: The Feather River Project will benefit areas representing eighty-two percent of the state's population and an important segment of its agriculture. Fortunately for California, there is enough water in the state for forty to fifty million people and two and one half times our present agriculture, provided this water is conserved and transported to the areas of need. Seventy percent of our water originates as snow or rainfall in the North Coast Mountains and Sierras. The runoff from our streams averages seventy-one million acre-feet per year, much of it wasting into the sea. Runoff varies greatly from year to year, requiring storage reservoirs to save it. California's natural flow is augmented by our rights to five and one third million acre-feet of water imported from the Colorado River.
00:03:22	Narrator: Ellery Lake, near the summit of Tioga Pass, although it lies farther north than the city of San Francisco, is actually the headwaters of the Owens River Aqueduct System of the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power. Gathering up the runoff from over one hundred miles of Eastern Sierra Watershed, enormous siphons carry the water across ravines. Thirty miles of tunnels take it through the mountains. Finally, it cascades into San Fernando Valley to serve the present Los Angeles population of two and one third million people.
00:04:01	Narrator: Just beyond Ellery Lake, across the summit of Tioga Pass, the upper reaches of the Tuolumne River form headwaters of the city of San Francisco's Hetch Hetchy project. A series of dams and reservoirs conserve the water, which is conveyed by pipeline and aqueduct to San Francisco to serve that city and neighboring areas. Power is extracted as the water falls. Like other products of nature, water only attains its true value when it's developed and transported to the places of need. California now has in operation some six billion dollars worth of water and power works, including municipal, irrigation district, federal, and private to serve the needs of its people.

00:04:54	<p>Narrator: The touching watersheds of Los Angeles and San Francisco, although the cities are hundreds of miles apart, remind us that not only in the matter of water, but also in our entire economy, our people are inseparably woven together. Sheep and cattle of the Northern Ranges, products of our fertile fields, vineyards, and orchards all find more prosperous markets because of the steady growth of our population in the Bay Area, Southern California, and in fact throughout the state. Soon, these products reach ever increasing numbers of consumers. Their dollars flow back to benefit and build all sections of the state. The logging industry flourishes in our mountain regions, which by far received the greatest amount of moisture and rainfall. Hundreds of mills prepare the lumber for marketing, then, as needed, the lumber goes to areas all over the state where a rapidly increasing population accelerates the demand for lumber for schools, lumber for business structures, and mile after mile of homes in county after county.</p>
00:06:09	<p>Narrator: Engineers of the State Department of Water Resources, over many years at the expense of some ten million dollars, have studied all water conditions in California, including the runoff of all of our streams. They've estimated underground basin supplies, even the reclamation of sewage wastes and ocean salt water. You might say every drop of water in California has been accounted for.</p>
00:06:35	<p>Narrator: State engineers, aided by world-renowned consultants, have developed the California Water Plan. Eventually, this master plan of three hundred dams and connecting aqueducts will conserve and distribute California's water for the benefit of our growth and development. First authorized unit of the California Water Plan is the Feather River Project, one of the most studied engineering projects ever undertaken by man.</p>
00:07:05	<p>Narrator: Past the foothill town of Oroville the Feather shows a normal spring flow. Reaching from mountain ridge to ridge, seven hundred thirty feet above the deep narrow streambed, the proposed Oroville Dam will rise five miles east of the city. Scarred banks tell of disastrous floods, which roar out of the Feather's mountain watershed, swelling the river to ten times its normal size.</p>
00:07:32	<p>Narrator: Releases from Oroville Dam will flow down the river past the Yuba City Marysville Bridge, one of the few that held against the onslaught of flood waters during Christmas week of 1955. During this worst flood of recent years, three hundred homes were destroyed. More than one thousand badly damaged in the Yuba City area alone. A million acres of rich farmland were inundated with total damage in the Feather River area estimated at one hundred million dollars. Thirty-four persons perished in the Yuba City and Marysville area. In past years, flood losses on the Feather River have exceeded a half billion dollars. That's more than enough to build Oroville Dam, almost a third of the cost of the entire project.</p>
00:08:29	<p>[Clock ticking.] Narrator: So time and water run out in the Feather River area!</p>

00:08:35	Narrator: Time for flood control and water needed for beneficial use on thousands of thirsty acres in the Sacramento Valley. Some farmers only five miles from the river need water as badly as farmers five hundred miles away. To these districts, the Feather River Project will bring half as much water as the allotment to all of Southern California. Then, they may produce crops like adjoining lands in the Peach Bowl with adequate water supplies.
00:09:05	Narrator: On down the Feather, the dangling Nicholas Bridge is a reminder that uncontrolled flood waters may strike again. [Shown: sign reading "ROAD CLOSED TO SACRAMENTO FEATHER RIVER BRIDGE OUT."]
00:09:15	Narrator: Near Verona, the Sacramento River will receive water from the Feather and carry it past the State Capitol toward the Delta. All waters of the Sacramento and San Joaquin valleys mingle here on their way to the sea. With one thousand miles of fresh waterways the Delta has been called the key to the California Water Plan. Dozens of river sloughs lazily carry their burden of water among the delta's levee-rimmed islands. Some of the water is put to beneficial use. Most of it wastes into the sea.
00:09:53	Narrator: Delta towns dating back to the mining days adjoin lands that have been farmed more than one hundred years. There's plenty of land in California, but water makes the wealth. A short distance from Walnut Grove, a cross-channel for Feather River water will be developed southward, bypassing Stockton's deep water ship channel. It will cut across the southern Delta into the edge of the Western Foothills.
00:10:23	[Shown: sign reading "DELTA-MENDOTA CANAL UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR BUREAU OF RECLAMATION."]
00:10:26	Narrator: Near Tracy, the Delta-Mendota Canal gives a preview of how the Feather River Aqueduct will operate. Powerful pumps lift Delta water two hundred feet on its hundred mile journey south along the foothills. At a slightly higher elevation near here, the proposed South Bay Aqueduct of the Feather River Project branches off to serve Contra Costa and South Bay counties.
00:10:53	Narrator: The people of Oakland and neighboring communities solved their immediate water needs through the formation of the East Bay Municipal Utility District, which reaches out to Pardee Dam in the distant Sierras. Electric power is a byproduct of water in such projects. Ninety miles of pipeline across the San Joaquin Valley guides the water to the East Bay area.
00:11:21	[Clock ticking.] Narrator: But time runs out in southern Alameda County!
00:11:27	Narrator: Salt beds along the east shore of the bay remind us of seawater intrusion, which everyday invades another two acres of the lowering groundwater basins in the Southern Alameda County Water District. Salt may destroy this valuable pumping basin unless supplemental water arrives by 1960. We're told new industrial plants in Northern California this year were established

	at the rate of one every day.
00:11:55	Narrator: The Santa Clara Valley Water Conservation District provides storage for local runoff to recharge underground basins. But increased demands on the valley's four thousand pumps now cause overdrafts. Feather River water is needed to replenish the basins. Santa Clara Valley is a leading world producer of processed fruit. Are we going to allow our farms to go out of production for lack of water?
00:12:26	Narrator: This land in San Benito County is such an example. In a few years, people crossing Pacheco Pass may see in this valley a huge lake impounding over two million acre-feet of water when the San Luis Reservoir is completed as a part of the Feather River Project.
00:12:49	Narrator: The San Luis Regulating Reservoir is the heart of the entire Feather River Project from this section to our southern border. [Shown: map of Feather River Project.]
00:13:01	Narrator: This service area must have new supplemental water to grow. In Fresno County, the Westlands District, famous for its melons, is a region of vast farms and large-scale agriculture. It's an area of big machinery.
00:13:21	Narrator: Here goes twenty-five thousand dollars worth of equipment just smoothing the land for next year's planting. Outstanding in this fine quality land are harvests of seed, cattle feeding, and cotton operations. But pumps are now being set at six hundred feet or more and wells are being drilled to more than two thousand feet; beyond the economic limits, say many farmers.
00:13:47	[Clock ticking.] Narrator: So time runs out in Fresno and farther south in Kern County!
00:13:54	Narrator: At the Bakersfield crossroads, factory products and merchandise move north. Lumber, hay, livestock, fruit, and vegetables roll south. Every effort is made to extract the maximum production from Kern's shrinking wells.
00:14:13	Narrator: At the lower end of the cotton furrow, runoff is carefully collected and pumped back on the fields to conserve every drop. Today, Kern farmers pump more water annually than the entire San Joaquin Valley pump just twelve years ago in the area south of Merced. Farmers' costs become prohibitive as they go deeper and deeper for less and less water.
00:14:43	Narrator: Unless Feather River water arrives soon, one third of this high-income production will disappear. This would mean a loss of seventy million dollars annually to the economy of our state.
00:15:04	Narrator: The desert portions of Kern, Los Angeles, and San Bernardino counties need Feather River water. The trend is for industries to move to the desert, particularly defense plants like the aircraft factories in Antelope Valley.

	As elsewhere in the state, more industries and people, added to agricultural activity, caused desert water to be mined out faster than it is replenished.
00:15:34	Narrator: In remote areas residents still haul water. This rancher will haul one thousand gallons a day in his truck to supply his eleven thousand new poults. Another desert family is making its third ten mile trip for the day.
00:15:55	[Clock ticking.] Narrator: Time is running out in Los Angeles!
00:15:59	Narrator: The population of the county grows at the rate of six hundred new people everyday; two hundred thousand every year. As more people turn on more faucets, Los Angeles uses water at twice the rate of the city's daily consumption in 1940. Only the far-sighted planning of city fathers years ago satisfies the water needs of Los Angeles today.
00:16:24	Narrator: But overpumping brings on a water crisis that can be averted by new Feather River water. [Shown: cross-section of Los Angeles Central Basin.] Red areas of this cross-section of the Los Angeles Central Basin show wells dropping an average of ten feet per year. The accompanying saltwater invasion of the West Basin is being checked by a costly method of putting down wells and injecting freshwater to hold back ocean brine. When supplemental water replaces overdrafts, salt water will no longer enter.
00:17:00	Narrator: Nearby is Long Beach, harbor city of conventions and oil production. To expand their water system for three hundred thousand persons, voters recently approved a seven million dollar bond issue.
00:17:16	Narrator: Underground water supplies are being pumped in quantities not expected to be needed until 1975. The state's tideland oil revenue may augment funds for the development of our water resources, including the Feather River Project. Seems logical to take the revenue from a depleting resource to develop another and greater one: water for the future.
00:17:42	Narrator: Supervisors at Ventura County say unless new supplemental water reaches them soon, the loss in agricultural production could be greater than flood damage in the Feather River area. Pumps tapping the widespread Oxnard Basin have drawn freshwater down to thirty feet below sea level. Salt water moves in and lemons, lima beans, and other crops for which Ventura County is famous are in danger of being wiped out.
00:18:15	Narrator: Despite conservation measures, some people are running out of water in the middle of showers.
00:18:23	Narrator: In the uplands, this grower's orchard has dropped eighty percent below its former yield of walnuts. There is no water in the well and natural rain moisture has evaporated.
00:18:37	[Clock ticking.] Narrator: Time ran out in Orange County!

00:18:42	Narrator: The county Water Works Association issued a rationing order during completion of an additional feeder line for the Metropolitan Water District Reservoir serving the county. Though the shortage was quickly overcome, it shows how critical the water supply is in an area whose population increased by one hundred thousand last year.
00:19:03	Narrator: Into the bone dry Santa Ana riverbed, Metropolitan pours eight hundred acre-feet of water per day to replenish the underground basin at a cost to the Orange County Water District of nearly ten thousand dollars daily. Metropolitan brings the water all the way from Parker Dam and Lake Havasu through its Colorado River Aqueduct, largest domestic water line in the United States today. Boosted by pumps on the first leg of its two hundred fifty mile journey across desert wastes and through ninety miles of tunnels, the water reaches a maximum height of sixteen hundred feet before it finally comes to rest in Lake Mathews in Riverside County.
00:19:47	Narrator: From this region, it flows by gravity to eighty-two cities and large unincorporated areas, serving the needs of more than six million people in southern California. Funds for purchase of this replenishment water are raised by a levy of three dollars and ninety cents per acre-foot for all water pumped by cities, industries, and agriculture, a costly effort to halt saltwater intrusion into the underground basin which, in places, is one hundred feet below sea level.
00:20:17	[Clock ticking.] Narrator: Time runs out in San Bernardino and Riverside counties, where supervisors, sharply aware of the need for supplemental water, support the Feather River Project Association. Freeways expand to meet the growing traffic, but typical grower says his wells went down nine feet last year. As elsewhere, many orange groves give way to subdivisions. Alfalfa makes room for factories and heavy industries. California grows at the rate of five hundred thousands new people every year, enough to populate the whole San Diego area. To keep pace with the zooming population, we're told three hundred thousands new jobs must be provided every year.
00:21:02	[Clock ticking] Narrator: Time is running out in San Diego County!
00:21:10	Narrator: All over the city signs urge residents to conserve the liquid gold. A visit to the principal storage for local runoff, El Capitan, provides the reason. El Capitan is down to less than three percent of its one-hundred-three thousand acre-foot capacity. Had not the Navy in World War II recognized the need for supplemental water from the Colorado River, the city could have dried up in 1949.
00:21:40	Narrator: Thanks to water which helped to make the expansion possible, San Diego's assessed valuation has increased since the war from two-hundred and seventy million to over one billion dollars. Truly, water makes the wealth.
00:21:56	Narrator: San Diego's Otay is designated as the terminal reservoir for the Feather River Project. Even if the project is kept on its construction timetable, it

	<p>may take fifteen years to deliver Feather River water to fill it. So, in areas from Oroville to the Mexican border, [Clock ticking] we've observed many places in which time runs out in the race to provide indispensable supplemental water from the Feather River.</p>
00:22:25	<p>Narrator: Inability of the 1957 Legislature to reach agreement on legal problems and appropriations led many citizens to feel the Feather River timetable is about as frustrated in progress as this clock. [Shown: Clock with hands moving in opposite directions.]</p>
00:22:38	<p>Narrator: The purpose of the Feather River Project Association program is to acquaint Californians with water needs and solution of problems so that the project construction timetable can go forward again. To that end, southern Californians boarded the special train to attend the project's groundbreaking ceremony in June. Hundreds of project boosters represented towns and areas along the way, including Antelope Valley water leaders who sponsored the train.</p>
00:23:10	<p>Narrator: At Sacramento, members of the state Legislature and the governor joined them.</p>
00:23:20	<p>Narrator: The twenty-two car train soon arrived in the Feather River Canyon, where the four hundred passengers saw the white mark signifying the center line of the great dam. Many exhibited signs naming scores of communities that need Feather River water and want action on the project.</p>
00:23:39	<p>[Music plays.] Narrator: There was lively music by the Antelope Valley High School Band.</p>
00:23:54	<p>Narrator: Dedicating the site, one speaker referred to the bright-eyed youngsters of the band as the ones who, with their children, would be the project's main beneficiaries. At Oroville Station later, train passengers were joined by several thousand residents and others who had made the trip by automobile. A half dozen high school bands enlivened the impromptu parade.</p>
00:24:18	<p>Narrator: The Oroville Chamber treated three thousand visitors to a barbeque. Visitors from all parts of the state sat down together, making friends. It has been said if all the people could sit around the table, our water problems would be solved.</p>
00:24:34	<p>Narrator: Grover Shannon, President of the Feather River Project Association, said, "This preliminary event was wonderful. It will be even more wonderful," he added, "when the lawmakers passed legislation and provide funds to commence construction of the Oroville Dam."</p>
00:24:52	<p>Narrator: Visitors saw the Chamber's model of the three-and-one-half million acre-foot reservoir and powerhouse which will generate four hundred thousand kilowatts of electricity. As principal speaker, Governor Goodwin Knight reviewed water problems and the project benefits. "Let the dirt fly," Knight concluded as</p>



	<p>he triggered the detonation symbolizing start of preliminary work at the dam site. And the dirt is flying. The Department of Water Resources, using the multimillion-dollar urgency appropriation, is starting relocation of the highway and railroad and testing rock footings for the dam.</p>
00:25:28	<p>Narrator: Meantime, legislative committees representing every area of the state are diligently at work to untangle complex legal and water rights problems to assure permanent and equitable distribution of our state's unused waters.</p>
00:25:45	<p>Narrator: Another committee evaluates general water problems, while its subcommittee concentrates on methods of financing the Feather River and other projects. There is no question of the ability of this great state to do its part to finance the Feather River Project and accept its responsibility for future water development. California has come of age.</p>
00:26:05	<p>Narrator: You can help your legislators by keeping abreast of water developments through the news and information services of the Feather River Project Association. Directors of the association, supported by cities, counties organizations, and individuals, meet in various parts of the project for two days each month. By sharing views, they contribute to the solution of water problems.</p>
00:26:29	<p>Narrator: FRPA is the only citizens organization dedicated to unanimity and agreement over the entire length of the project. Unified action by the people will restore the project to its original timetable, will get the project out of the word pouring stage and into the cement pouring stage. Delaying the project may cause rationing in some areas within two years and, if water is shut off, some places may revert to desert.</p>
00:27:00	<p>Narrator: Instead, we must conserve wasted surplus and send supplemental water for the present Feather River water to the many areas of need.</p>
00:27:13	<p>Narrator: Water for our state expansion. [Music plays.] Water for everyday needs of people all over the state. Water for agriculture. Water for industry. Water for workers' jobs. Water development will improve fishing. Yes, everything from recreation to water in our home faucets, not only for the present but for future generations. This is our state's challenge to every citizen. Join in our program of water development to make possible our threefold growth by going forward as one state.</p>
00:27:59	<p>[THE END Produced by the State-wide FEATHER RIVER PROJECT ASSOCIATION TECHNICAL SERVICES BY TELEFILM Inc. California relief map copyright by Aero Service Corp., Philadelphia]</p>
00:28:05	<p>[Fade to black.]</p>
00:28:15	<p>[END.]</p>