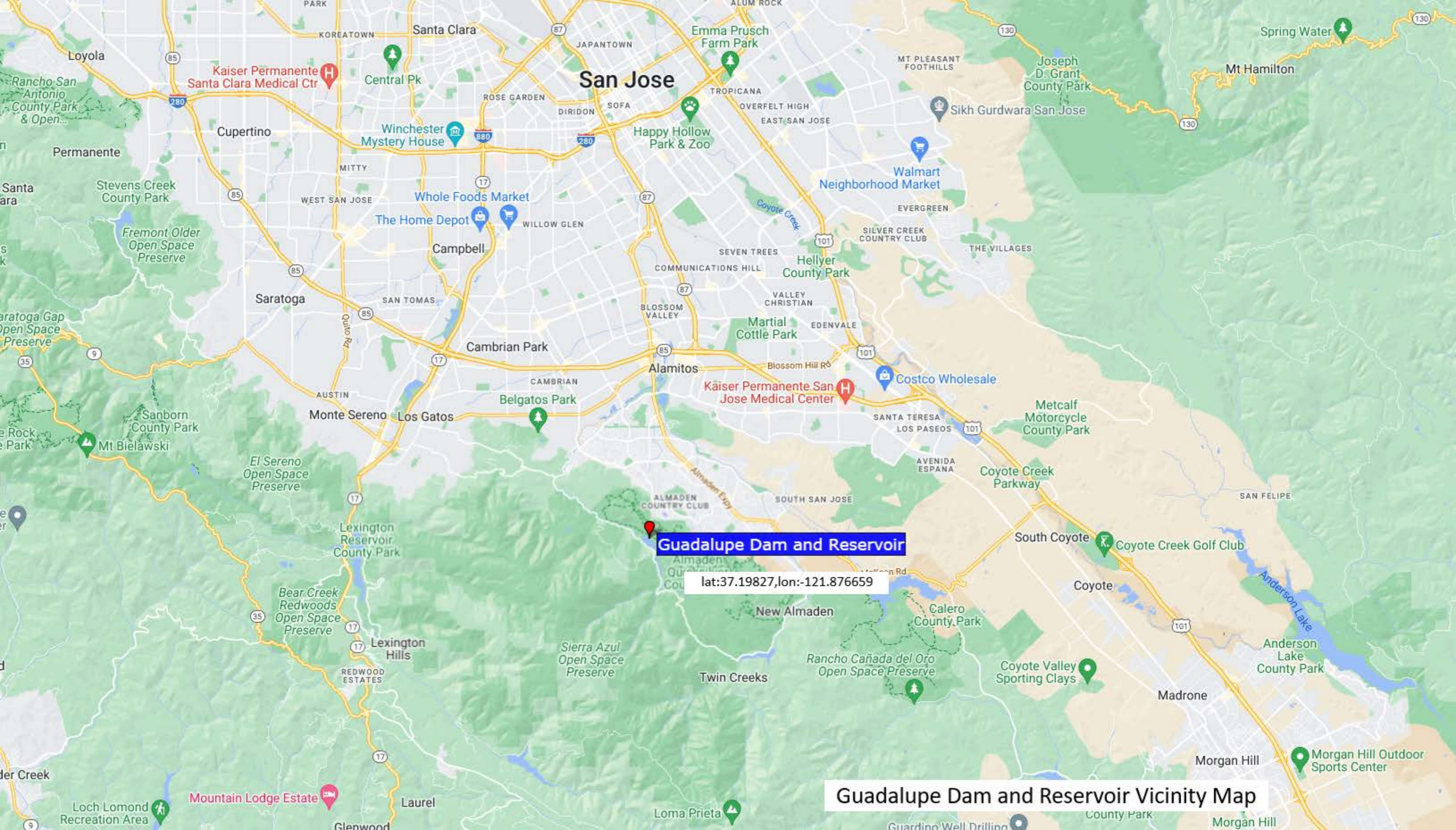




Guadalupe Dam & Reservoir



Guadalupe Dam and Reservoir

lat:37.19827,lon:-121.876659

Guadalupe Dam and Reservoir Vicinity Map

The Santa Clara Valley Water District built the Guadalupe Dam during the Great Depression, completing it in 1935 after acquiring land as the Santa Clara Valley Water Conservation District. The dam and reservoir is one of the six original reservoirs approved for construction by voters in May 1934. The reservoir's surface area is 74 acres. Both are located along Hicks Creek on Guadalupe Creek, a tributary of the Guadalupe River.

The reservoir primarily stores water for recharging groundwater basins. Groundwater is present beneath the surface in soil pore spaces and in fractures of rock formations and supplies and provides nearly half the drinking water each year for Santa Clara County's residents.

Issues facing the dam and reservoir

Guadalupe Reservoir, which can store about 3,415 acre-feet of water, has a critical problem of extensive mercury contamination. It lies about two miles from the now closed New Almaden Mines, once one of the largest mercury producing mines in the Americas, and still feels the effects of the old work, particularly during large runoff events when mercury containing sediments from mine wastes get into the water from the mining areas. The reservoir is impaired because of its level of toxicity.

References

[Santa Clara Valley Water District List of Reservoirs](#)

[Santa Clara Valley Water District Dam & Reservoir Projects](#)

[Guadalupe Dam Seismic Retrofit](#)