



# Soulajule Reservoir Expansion

## Benefits

**Ongoing Reliability.** Though not as productive as the watershed at Kent Lake, the Soulajule watershed is quite productive, making for a reliable additional drought supply.

**Flexibility.** The additional water supply would blend seamlessly with Marin Water's existing supplies.

**Ongoing Operating Cost.** The initial capital cost is estimated at ~\$485M, which is significant but still the lowest of the major storage projects evaluated. The capital cost is somewhat offset by extremely low operating costs, and the very long lifetime of the project – easily 100+ years.

## Disadvantages and Challenges

**Social.** The project would impact private lands due to inundation from the enlarged reservoir. Some property owners have indicated that this would make their existing ranching operations unviable.

**Implementation.** While construction of the project is fairly straightforward, implementation would likely exceed 10 years due to complex technical and environmental requirements, as well as likely litigation.

**Reliability.** Like any storage project, this project provides value only if there is enough rainfall to fill the enlarged reservoir between dry years. A conveyance project could provide synergistic benefits by helping overcome that weakness.

Built in 1979, Soulajule is the newest of Marin Water's reservoirs. This expansion project proposes to raise the existing dam at Soulajule to increase the capacity of the reservoir by 20,000 acre-feet, to a new total capacity of about 30,500 acre-feet. Rainfall would fill the new storage, which would serve as an emergency drought reserve.

This project would make Soulajule's total capacity nearly equal to Kent Lake, the largest of Marin Water's seven reservoirs. In total, this project would yield about 5,000 acre-feet of water per year.



*This map shows the location of the Soulajule Reservoir in west Marin. Built in 1979, Soulajule is the newest of Marin Water's seven reservoirs.*

