

ICMA 2008 Awards Descriptive Narrative

Graham Reservoir & Sports Complex — Submission for Community Partnership



1. Problem Assessment:

Secure reserve water supply is essential to every community. The City of Mountain View receives the majority of its water from the Hetch Hetchy Water System, importing water from the Yosemite Valley more than 250 miles away. The water provided to Mountain View residents and businesses represents the highest quality of available water, originating directly from the Sierra Nevada snowmelt. In the event of an emergency or disruption to the Hetch Hetchy water transportation system, the City seeks to ensure the availability of the same reliable, safe, and quality water for its residents.

Faced with the ongoing challenges of emergency preparation, the City aimed to increase the water supply reliability and also provide additional emergency water storage. Given a lack of undeveloped land, this task presented the City with a unique problem to find the appropriate facility to house the needed reservoir. At the same time, the Mountain View-Whisman School District (MVWSD) had initiated steps to begin rehabilitating its athletic fields at the Graham Middle School Site. Recognizing the potential partnership, the City negotiated with the MVWSD for joint use Graham Middle School's playing fields. In exchange for the right to construct a buried reservoir below the playing field, the City agreed to construct and maintain new athletic fields over the top of the reservoir to be used by the City and the School District. To the benefit of both parties, the Graham Reservoir and Athletic Field project now facilitates the delivery of essential services to City residents in the event of a natural disaster or emergency, and simultaneously enhances the recreational amenities available to students and community members.

2. Program Implementation and Costs:

In January 2005, the City began the construction of an 8 million gallon reservoir and 10,000gmp pump station within and next to a school site. The School District and the City both benefited from new athletic fields to be used by students during the day and by City residents after-hours. The City gains much needed water storage capacity in its system providing additional storage capacity in the event of a water supply disruption and for added fire fighting capabilities. A groundwater well was incorporated to provide an additional water supply source as well.

In both design and budgeting implementation, the project meets the needs of the community. By separating the project into three bid packages, the City and District took advantage of the school's Summer break, expediting the project and allowing for use of the facility to mitigate impact on the school throughout the construction process.

The combined project budget was \$18,984,000 with \$17,714,000 dedicated to the Graham Reservoir and Playfields, and \$1,270,000 for the construction of the Water Well. The District helped fund the project by providing \$1,000,000.



3. Tangible Results/Measurable Outcomes of Program:

This project meets a critical need for water storage. Not only is the City well equipped to provide water during emergency situations to residents and fire crews, but the project has also set an innovative and entrepreneurial precedent for community partnerships. The lives of Mountain View residents are enriched in countless ways, enhancing the community in both the short-and long-run. Through this partnership, students, and residents enjoy the immediate benefit of a new all-weather rack and athletic fields while also having the assurance that in the event of emergency, the City is more than adequately prepared to supply water.

Perhaps what is most striking about this project is the high degree of cooperation and inter-agency planning. In addition to the physical reservoir, ground well and athletic fields created through this partnership, this project cultivated an environment in which innovation and collaboration generated a win-win for the District and the City. Working together, the City's objectives of increasing the water supply and providing emergency water storage aligned with District's need to rehabilitate its facilities in an efficient manner. The maximization of resources has produced the ideal outcome for both parties while strengthening the relationship and potential for future partnerships. The value of the reservoir and field combination has since been recognized widely for its thoughtful planning and demonstrable leadership in multi-use development. This project has clearly demonstrated Mountain View's leadership to pursue developments that utilize partnerships and community assets.

In this project, two public entities, both working to serve the community through education and provision of infrastructure—collaborated to achieve mutual goals together. This resulted in a powerful model for future partnerships in Mountain View and elsewhere. Accordingly, this project has been honored with numerous awards, recognitions, and international interest in Mountain View—further reinforcing the extent of this successful partnership.



In addition to being widely recognized in local media and community publications, the Graham Reservoir & Sports Complex has received numerous honors including:

Awarding Organization: *American City & County Magazine*
Award Received: *2006 America's Crown Community Award*
Recognized at NLC Convention in December 2006

Awarding Organization: *CELSOC Engineering Excellence Awards Banquet*
Award Received: *Honor Award, National Finalist Status for National ACEC Awards*

Awarding Organization: *American Society of Civil Engineers– San Francisco*
Award Received: *Environmental Outstanding Project of the Year Award*

Awarding Organization: *American Public Works Association (APWA)*
Award Received: *Second Place Merit Award*

4. Lessons Learned During Planning, Implementation and Analysis of the Program:

This cooperative partnership truly embodies the ICMA principles, not simply within the City organization, but between organizations and in our community at-large. It encouraged cooperation, collaboration, participative democracy (including Public meetings over the course of three years), and joint planning for Mountain View residents. Together with the School District, the City engaged in creative thinking, planning, and building to make this joint venture a reality. Most notably, this project provides the tools for future cooperation and a partnership model that can be shared to enrich communities. The success of the Graham Reservoir & Sports Complex hinged upon the support of City Council and the School District, both offering essential direction from conception to completion.

Serving the best interests of the community, this project resulted in efficient and effective service delivery for emergency water supply and much-needed recreational space. The project demonstrated innovative, multi-participant involvement between local government and the School District to improve the quality of life for residents.



Graham Reservoir & Sports Complex: Pre-construction

Graham Reservoir & Sports Complex: During Construction



Graham Reservoir & Sports Complex: Final

