

LITTLEROCK CREEK IRRIGATION DISTRICT

Today and Yesteryear

The Littlerock Creek Irrigation District was formed on March 28, 1892. It originally consisted of twenty-five property owners and comprised 2,200 acres. In 1963 the district signed a contract with the State of California, which gave L.C.I.D. access to water from the State Water Project, and they also annexed approximately 9,000 acres of surrounding lands, which did not have a viable water supply thus increasing the district to its present size of 11,200 acres.

From its formation until around 1980 Littlerock was largely a farming community growing mostly pears along with a few peach orchards. In the early years, irrigation water was a major concern and after a disastrous drought from 1896-1904, the district started looking at ways to store water from Littlerock Creek. In 1916 L.C.I.D. built a small 310 foot long submerged dam at the Garcia Cienega just above the San Andreas fault line, but as pear production continued to increase so did the demand for water. So in 1919 the district teamed up with Palmdale Irrigation District (now Palmdale Water District) and hired John Eastwood to design a dam. Construction began in 1922 and at the time of completion in April 1924, it was the highest multiple-arch dam in the world at 178 feet high from bedrock to crest, with a crest width of 700 feet. The cost was Four Hundred Thousand Dollars (\$400,000). In 1993, after the State of California Division of Dam Safety stated that the Littlerock Dam needed to be reinforced, the two districts entered into a contract for construction. The cost of the reinforcement approached Fourteen Million Dollars (\$14,000,000). Today when you visit the dam as you are approaching looking at the down-stream side, you will see the new reinforced dam. When you get to the up-stream side, you will be looking at the old multiple-arch dam.

With the decline in agriculture and the increase in residential housing starting in the early 1980's, L.C.I.D. saw a change in the type of water it needed to supply going from raw untreated surface water for agriculture to needing more potable clean healthy drinking water. In preparing for this change in water supply systems, the district constructed four deep water wells for residential use and five one million gallon storage tanks. L.C.I.D. also has an agreement with the Palmdale Water District to take, when needed, our State Water Project and Littlerock Dam water, process it through Palmdale's treatment plant, and return it to L.C.I.D. as potable, clean, healthy drinking water.

We at Littlerock Creek Irrigation District strive to bring our customers the highest quality water at the most economical rates. If you have any questions or would like more information, feel free to call L.C.I.D. at (661) 944 2015, or attend our meetings on the fourth Wednesday of each month starting at 7:00 p.m. in our Board Room located at 35141 87th St. East in Littlerock.