

# Loch Lomond prepares to open for fishing

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Loch Lomond Reservoir will be open for fishing for the first time in five years April 8, a day Santa Cruz city officials are already dreading.

Opening day and the first weekend "won't be too serene," because of large crowds, said Bill Kocher, Santa Cruz Water Department director.

Kocher said roadblocks will be set up, and only 230 cars will be allowed in at one time.

"We'll turn a deaf ear" to anybody who wants to get in when the

park is full, said Kocher, adding that the roadblocks will be kept up through the first weekend.

The reservoir, in the Santa Cruz Mountains above Lompico, is a major source of water for Santa Cruz. When the water level slipped below the level of the boat dock during the drought, the park was closed.

While fishing is allowed, "we don't go out of our way to encourage it," Kocher said.

Since the announcement that the reservoir would be reopened, Kocher said he's received a flood of calls inquiring about the fishing.

Before now, Kocher said, "I didn't understand the passion the people had for fishing."

There have been a few changes from the way things were when Loch Lomond was last open: Drinking is banned, in compliance with a city ordinance that bans alcohol in city parks, and anglers will be urged to catch and release, especially the larger bass, which are spawning.

The drinking ban had also been urged by residents of the narrow Lompico roads that lead to Loch Lomond.

"It's tough enough going down that hill with a boat trailer stone

sober," Kocher said.

Loch Lomond has been known primarily for trout fishing, with some bass, bluegill, catfish and several other types of fish. Kocher said the bass fishing is expected to be particularly good this year.

Kocher said there is a chance the reservoir will be closed in July, as water is pumped out for domestic use, but that decision won't be made until summer.

The reservoir will be open at 6 a.m. daily. On opening day, cars will be let in beginning at 5 a.m. The site of the roadblock has not been determined.