

California Department of Water Resources NEWS

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DWR Completes Aqueduct Repair Job Near Patterson

The Department of Water Resources today announced completion of a \$1.6 million, 40-day project to repair leaks in the California Aqueduct near Patterson, southwest of Modesto.

Cracked and displaced aqueduct panels were repaired or replaced and a rubberized geomembrane was applied over existing concrete panels. The membrane was protected and anchored in place with a two-inch-thick layer of shotcrete.

The repairs near the Sperry Avenue Bridge near Patterson mitigated several leaks in the aqueduct which transports State Water Project (SWP) water south from the Delta.

A 5.5-mile aqueduct segment (Pool 7) was drained during November to allow it to be cleaned and repaired. This was one of the larger dewaterings in aqueduct history.

As the aqueduct segment was drained, an estimated 15,000 live fish---mostly striped bass and catfish---were rescued by California Conservation Corps members, working under DWR and Department of Fish and Game supervision. The fish were released elsewhere along the aqueduct.

The aqueduct segment has now been refilled with water. SWP diversions from the Delta, which had been virtually nil since the start of the project in November, can now resume to refill storage in the San Luis Reservoir, south of the repaired aqueduct segment.

The Department of Water Resources operates and maintains the State Water Project which provides water to two-thirds of California's population.

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