

## California Department of Water Resources NEWS

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**April 25, 1997**

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### **Aqueduct Bike Ride Scheduled for May 17 in Southern California**

Bicyclists are invited to take part in a special ride along the California Aqueduct in the Antelope Valley area on Saturday, May 17.

The event celebrates the availability for biking of a 28-mile portion of the aqueduct operating road from 165th Street East to Main Street in Hesperia. This mostly-level biking path in eastern Los Angeles County and western San Bernardino County reopened in 1996 after being resurfaced.

"We are indeed appreciative of access to this remarkably beautiful and safe pathway for bicyclists and hikers," said Linda Pluss, Palmdale representative of the Antelope Valley Trails, Recreation and Environmental Council (AVTREC).

The celebratory bike ride is sponsored by the council and the Grapevine Mountain Bike Association in cooperation with the Department of Water Resources.

In addition to the level ride along the aqueduct, for this event more challenging rides are also available--- a 21-mile loop, 43-mile loop or a metric century over the San Gabriel Mountains, with the final five miles along the aqueduct bikepath.

DWR operates the aqueduct, a major feature of the State Water Project. The State Water Project is the largest State-built and operated multipurpose water project in the United States.

The California Aqueduct is a 444-mile long canal for movement of water from the Sacramento-San

Joaquin Delta to other portions of California, including the San Joaquin Valley and southern California.

The State Water Project offers many recreational attractions at its lakes and reservoirs. Most of the aqueduct's service roads are not suitable for biking. DWR encourages biking recreation where it can be done safely.

Biking is allowed along a 57-mile segment of the aqueduct in northern California, from Bethany Reservoir just below the Delta south to O'Neill Forebay, near San Luis Reservoir in Merced County.

Bicyclists can also enjoy a 41-mile bike trail at Lake Oroville in Butte County, the major northern California reservoir for the State Water Project.

Registration for the May 17 bike ride event will begin at 8 am. A mass start is scheduled for 9 am. Helmets are required.

There is a \$5 registration fee for AVTREC members and a \$8 fee for non members. Registration will cover the cost of water, fresh fruit, bagels, coffee, route slips and insurance. A barbecue hamburger lunch will be available for \$7, with a child's hotdog plate available for \$3.

Proceeds from the lunch will go to AVTREC to help establish and preserve Antelope Valley trails. Checks may be sent to AVTREC, PO Box 3580, Quartz Hill, CA 93536-0560. The early entry deadline is May 12.

To reach the event, riders should go south from the intersection of State Highway 138 and 165th Street East toward Crystallaire on 165th about two miles to the event staging area.

For more information on this event, please call an AVTREC representative at (805) 946-1976.

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*The Department of Water Resources operates and maintains the State Water Project, provides dam safety and flood control and inspection services, assists local water districts in water management and water conservation planning, and plans for future statewide water needs. The State Water Project provides water to two-thirds of California's population.*

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