

## California Department of Water Resources NEWS

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### CONTACTS:

- [Pete Weisser](#) -- [w] (916) 653-9712
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## Aqueduct Update

A portion of the California Aqueduct near Santa Nella was damaged by a slipout this weekend.

Department of Water Resources engineers suspect high ground water pressure helped cause the slipout. It occurred on the west side of the partly-dewatered aqueduct at mile 62.3 of the 444-mile long aqueduct. Water was lowered 12 feet in that portion of the aqueduct to help control a leak at mile 55.

Slipout repairs can be done in a few days once environmental clearances are obtained.

The slipout occurred where a Unocal pipeline crosses the aqueduct.

Oil and an oily sheen are visible on the water surface in the immediate vicinity of the slipout. Unocal is on site with a cleanup crew and equipment. There is no flow in the aqueduct due to the repair drawdown and the oil has not moved from the slipout area.

DWR engineers said the slide was about 150 feet long.

The Department of Fish and Game and regional water quality officials are monitoring the situation.

The California Aqueduct lies along the west side of the San Joaquin Valley, parallel to Interstate 5. It moves State Water Project water from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta to users elsewhere, including Southern California.

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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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