

California Department of Water Resources NEWS

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California Aqueduct Water Flow Resumes

GUSTINE--Water flows resumed today in a portion of the California Aqueduct in the San Joaquin Valley one week after flows were interrupted to repair a leak at mile 55 of the 444-mile-long aqueduct and to facilitate repair of a slipout at mile 62.3.

Water deliveries from the State Water Project were not affected because the outage was north of the San Luis Reservoir, which continued to provide water.

The leak detected last Friday (August 8) has been controlled. The slipout at mile 62.3 has been repaired and the embankment stabilized. Both repairs are temporary. Permanent fixes will be done late this year when water conditions are more conducive to the work.

Flows were suspended August 8 after the leak was detected. Water was lowered 12 feet in affected portions of the aqueduct last week. The aqueduct was rewatered gradually, starting on Thursday (August 14). Slow flows of water through the aqueduct resumed today (August 15).

No water leaked from the aqueduct at the slipout site, but oil in groundwater seeped into the aqueduct. Under review by the regional water quality control board, crews from Tosco Oil Company cleaned up the oil and placed protective booms in the aqueduct. Tests indicate that aqueduct water meets quality standards.

DWR engineers suspect that the slipout on the west side of the aqueduct occurred due to high groundwater pressure, problematic geology and a partial de watering of the aqueduct to help control the mile 55 leak.

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.

The State Water Project provides water to approximately 20 million people in California and about 600,000 acres of farmland. About 70 percent of SWP water goes to urban users and 30 percent to agricultural users.

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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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