

California Department of Water Resources NEWS

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Water Supplies Open Window for State Aqueduct Repairs

Record rains have provided enough water to fill the San Luis Reservoir and led the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) to curtail pumping at the south Delta pumping plant. The curtailment has allowed DWR to repair a leak in a section of the California Aqueduct, DWR announced today. Stephen Kashiwada, Deputy Director of DWR, says the Department discovered seepage at the Stanislaus County site last August and made temporary repairs, scheduling permanent repair work to be performed from April 15 to May 15 of this year. "Due to increased seepage over the past couple of weeks, our engineers decided that the permanent repairs need to be performed immediately, rather than April 15," he said.

The Stanislaus County job is a leak repair resulting from soil distress beneath the aqueduct. DWR has drained some water from that reach to allow crews to begin repair of the leak. The repair work is scheduled to take about 60 days, but water deliveries will continue from the San Luis Reservoir, which is downstream from the repair work. Kashiwada emphasized that the extended outage will have little impact on State Water Project deliveries.

"There is plenty of water in the San Luis Reservoir to satisfy water demands until the repair is completed," said Kashiwada. The San Luis Reservoir holds two million acre feet of water.

DWR is also repairing a three-mile section of the aqueduct's East Branch near Lancaster. That job should be finished by March 20.

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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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