

California Department of Water Resources NEWS

March 31, 1998

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April 1 Media Briefing on Aqueduct Repair

A news media briefing on the California Aqueduct repair project at Mile 55 in southern Stanislaus County is scheduled for **1 pm on Wednesday, April 1, at the repair site.** (The site is about a mile west of Interstate 5, near the State Highway 140-Gustine Exit. See directions below.)

The repairs will permanently fix a leak on the east side of the California Aqueduct. The project involves removing water from a 2,000-foot segment of the Aqueduct, placing a new lining along about 1,000 feet of the canal and buttressing an embankment.

Starting at 1 pm, engineers from the Department of Water Resources will brief reporters on the repair project.

At 1:30 pm, a fish salvage is scheduled to begin, with participation by the Department of Fish and Game and the California Conservation Corps. Fish will be netted from the segment being drained and released elsewhere in the Aqueduct.

The repairs are scheduled for completion in mid-May.

Although this northern segment of the Aqueduct is closed while the repairs are made, State Water Project deliveries still can be made, using water stored at San Luis Reservoir, which is downstream from the repair site. In addition excess capacity in the federal Central Valley Project's Delta Mendota Canal is being used to transport some SWP water around the repair site.

The 444-mile California Aqueduct transports water from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta to areas of need, including Central and Southern California.

The aqueduct is a key feature of the State Water Project, the largest State-run water and power system in the nation.

Directions

The repair site is near Interstate 5 in southern Stanislaus County. From Interstate 5, take the Gustine Exit, where State Highway 140 joins I-5.

Drive west to the California Aqueduct, less than one mile. Turn right on the east side frontage road to the aqueduct. Proceed north to Mile 55. Take the bridge just north of Mile 55 to the west frontage road and turn left. Park near the construction trailer on the west side of the aqueduct.

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The Department of Water Resources' Division of Engineering has posted graphics on their Web site which show an [area map](#) as well as illustrations of the [cofferdam and aqueduct liner repair](#).

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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.

For more on-line information, see [Find DWR Info](#) or return to the [DWR California Water Page](#)