

## California Department of Water Resources NEWS

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## **Aqueduct Bike Ride Scheduled for May 16 in Southern California**

HESPERIA---Bicyclists are invited to take part in a special ride along the California Aqueduct in the Antelope Valley area on Saturday, May 16.

This is the second year a special bike ride has been scheduled in May along a 28-mile portion of the Aqueduct operating road, from 165th Street East, near the community of Pearblossom, to Main Street in Hesperia, near Silverwood Lake in San Bernardino County. The ride traverses portions of eastern Los Angeles County and western San Bernardino County.

This bike ride is sponsored by the Antelope Valley Trails, Recreation and Environmental Council (AVTREC) and the Grapevine Mountain Bike Association, in cooperation with the Department of Water Resources.

For DWR, the event is one of several special events in May, which is celebrated as Water Awareness Month in California. Water Awareness Month draws public attention to the vital role water plays in California life.

Registration for the May 16 event will begin at 6:30 a.m. at the starting point, about two miles south of the intersection of State Highway 138 and 165th Street East on 165th Street. A mass start is scheduled at 8 am.

In addition to the Aqueduct bike path ride, additional rides will be offered, including a 21-miler, a 43-miler and a metric Century.

There is a \$5 registration fee for AVTREC members and an \$8 fee for non members. Registration will cover the cost of water, fresh fruit, bagels, coffee, route slips and insurance.

A luncheon will be held at the staging area after the biking event. The luncheon, which costs \$7, features barbecued hamburgers, western beans and potato salad.

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 entry deadline is May 8. For late entries, add \$2.

Three massage therapists from Avalon Massage Therapy in Lancaster are volunteering their services to the bike riders.

Participants must wear helmets and be prepared to do their own bike repairs. Support vehicles will be available to return riders to the staging area.

The Department of Water Resources operates the Aqueduct, a 444-mile long canal which is the major water transport feature of the State Water Project (SWP). The SWP is the largest State-built and operated multipurpose water project in the nation.

In addition to providing water for urban and agricultural uses, the SWP offers many recreational attractions at its lakes and reservoirs, including boating, camping and fishing.

While many of the SWP's Aqueduct service roads are not suitable for biking. DWR encourages biking recreation where it can be done safely.

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

For more information on the Antelope Valley biking 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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