

## California Department of Water Resources NEWS

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### CONTACTS:

- [Pete Weisser](#), DWR PIO, Office of Water Education -- [w] (916) 653-9712
  - [Ralph Torres](#), Chief, Office of Civil Engineering, DWR Division of Engineering -- [w] (916) 653-7542
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## California Aqueduct Repairs are on Schedule

SACRAMENTO---Two repair projects along the California Aqueduct are on schedule for completion this month, according to State water officials.

By May 15, water flows can resume through the northern portion of the aqueduct, between the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta and San Luis Reservoir. Flows through this stretch were suspended in mid-February after seepage at Mile 55 intensified.

The Mile 55 seepage has been repaired, and repairs at a slipout at Mile 52.4 are nearly complete. Some tasks at Mile 52.4 can be finished after flows resume. Both sites are located in southern Stanislaus County about one mile west of I-5.

At Mile 55, a new waterproof liner was placed at the leak site and anchored in place with a 2-inch thick application of shotcrete. The embankment was widened to increase its stability. These are permanent repairs, fixing a leak temporarily plugged in August 1997. Officials have refilled the 2,000-foot-long aqueduct segment which was emptied in March to provide access for the repairs.

At Mile 52.4, where a slipout occurred in March, about 50,000 cubic yards of material were removed and a series of long steel rods were installed to stabilize a slope above the canal. Slide material in the canal is being removed, and the embankment will be reshaped to its original configuration. In addition, the sideslope will be covered with rock to prevent erosion.

The 444-mile long California Aqueduct moves water from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta to areas of need elsewhere in the State.

While the two sites in the northern stretch of the aqueduct were under repair, State Water Project water needs further south were serviced from San Luis Reservoir, the largest offstream storage reservoir in the nation.

Cost of the repairs are borne by the 29 agencies, known as State Water Contractors, who have long-term contracts for use of SWP water. The SWP is operated by the Department of Water Resources.

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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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