

California Department of Water Resources NEWS

November 23, 1998

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Take A Break From Holiday Driving And Visit A Real Water World

SACRAMENTO -- You know the drill for holiday driving. The road is long, the kids are fidgety, and the leftover turkey is calling you from the tinfoil-covered plate in the back seat.

Why not take a break from holiday travel by pulling into one of several State Water Project visitors centers in California.

For families on the go, three centers offer a variety of displays, videos, and even computer games for the youngsters, all helping you appreciate the history and current operation of the nation's largest State-run water system. Each is open 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. daily except Thanksgiving, Christmas, and New Year's Day.

Starting in the northern part of the State at Lake Oroville, the SWP system sends water to the San Francisco Bay Area, Central Valley, and Southern California. The system includes more than 600 miles of aqueducts.

LAKE OROVILLE VISITORS CENTER

At Lake Oroville, about 70 miles north of Sacramento, the visitors center features a combination of historical and contemporary exhibits on such subjects as Native Americans, the settlement of the region with the help of pioneer African American guide Jim Beckwourth, and the building and operation of Oroville Dam. Lake Oroville, the State Water Project's primary reservoir, is

located near the city of Oroville, off State Highway 70.

ROMERO AT SAN LUIS RESERVOIR

Farther south, in the San Joaquin Valley, you can spend some time at San Luis Reservoir's Romero Overlook visitors center, located on State Highway 152 just west of Interstate 5. Exhibits and videos here feature the construction and operation of the Reservoir which is jointly used by the federal Central Valley Project and the State Water Project. On your way to and from the center, you can appreciate the impact water deliveries have had on the arid western side of the San Joaquin Valley.

VISTA DEL LAGO AT PYRAMID LAKE

If you're going to travel along California's main north-south highway-- Interstate 5-- to or from metropolitan Los Angeles, be sure to visit the state-of-the-art Vista del Lago visitors center at Pyramid Lake in northern Los Angeles County. Here you'll find our most elaborate facility with the latest graphics, activities, and computer displays on the history and operation of the State Water Project, and the importance of water in daily life.

Any of these centers can offer parents and kids a fun and educational break from the holiday driving tedium.

For further information call:

Lake Oroville Visitors Center - (530) 538-2219

Romero Overlook Visitors Center (San Luis Reservoir) - (209) 827-5353

Vista del Lago Visitors Center (Pyramid Lake) - (805) 294-0219

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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](#)