

California Department of Water Resources NEWS

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CONTACTS:

- [Pete Weisser](#), Office of Water Education - (916) 653-9712
 - [Leslie Harder, Jr.](#), Chief, Division of Engineering, DWR - (916) 653-8055
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California Aqueduct Repairs Are Complete

SACRAMENTO---State water officials today announced completion of major repairs along the West and East Branches of the California Aqueduct in southern California.

Both branches are part of the State Water Project which transports water from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta to areas of need, including southern California.

About \$5 million worth of repairs were done to repair damage to canal lining and pipeline sections on the West Branch near Gorman. These repairs were carried out after damage was discovered during routine inspections last December. Repairs on the West Branch were completed by February 24. Another \$5 million worth of repairs were completed on the East Branch near Lancaster. This work consisted of relining damaged canal lining which had cracked and settled over time. These repairs were completed by March 4.

Repair costs are funded by the water agencies with longterm contracts to purchase State Water Project water.

With completion of repairs, water movement has resumed through both branches after an interruption of about 10 weeks. While repairs were done, deliveries were made out of other portions of the aqueduct and from the SWP's nearly-full southern California storage reservoirs.

Aqueduct repairs such as these typically are done during mid-winter when water supplies are plentiful and deliveries can be made from storage supplies already on hand in reservoirs near the

affected areas.

Under the direction of DWR's Division of Engineering, the repairs were performed by private contractors. The repairs on both the West and East Branches were completed ahead of schedule.

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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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