

California Department of Water Resources NEWS

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CONTACTS:

- Linda Pluss, AVTREC - (805) 947-1324
 - [Lonnie Long](#), DWR, Chief, Southern Field Division - (805) 257-3610
 - [Pete Weisser](#), DWR PIO - (916) 653-9712
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Aqueduct Bike Ride Set For May 15 In Antelope Valley

HESPERIA---Road and mountain bicyclists are invited to take part in a special ride along the California Aqueduct in the Antelope Valley area of Southern California on Saturday, May 15.

This will be the "Third Annual Aqueduct Bike Ride" held in May along a portion of the Aqueduct operating road. The route will go from Oasis Road to 165th Street East, near the community of Llano. The ride traverses portions of eastern Los Angeles County and western San Bernardino County.

This year's ride will start at a new location, Oasis Road, in order to have the wind at the riders' backs on their return to the staging area. In previous years, the route began at 165th Street East and went to the community of Hesperia.

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. DWR operates the State Water Project, including the California Aqueduct.

For DWR, the bike ride 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 15 event will begin at 6:30 a.m. at the Oasis Road starting point. From Palmdale on Highway 138, go to Highway 18 (about 10 miles past 165th Street), south on Oasis Road one mile to the Aqueduct. From Highway I-15, take Highway 18 (Palmdale Road) about 17 miles west to Oasis Road. Go south on Oasis 1 mile to the Aqueduct.

The easy 21-mile round trip Aqueduct bike ride will begin at 9 a.m. All rides begin and end on the Aqueduct bike path. Four rides are available, including a basic flat ride on the Aqueduct bike path. Riders may choose to bicycle on through scenic mountain roads of various distances, up to a metric century. Riders choosing longer courses must depart at 8 a.m.

The registration fee of \$15 includes four food stops, water, route slips, insurance and a pasta lunch. The luncheon will be held at the staging area from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. 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 who are unable to complete the ride to the staging area.

Proceeds from this event will go to AVTREC to help establish and preserve Antelope Valley trails. Checks may be sent to AVTREC, PO Box 3531, Quartz Hill, CA 93536-0580. The entry deadline is May 8. For late entries, add \$5.

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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