

California Department of Water Resources NEWS

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Aqueduct East Branch Repairs Are Scheduled During November

SACRAMENTO---During November, leaks in the East Branch of the California Aqueduct near Palmdale in Southern California are scheduled for repair. The repair sites near Palmdale are more than 300 miles south of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta where the California Aqueduct begins.

The work will take place at three open canal locations along the East Branch, a key facility of the State Water Project. To reduce delivery impacts, the repairs are scheduled during a low demand period. Reservoirs at Silverwood and Castaic are full and capable of making uninterrupted deliveries into southern California. The urgent repair work will continue 24 hours per day and take about three weeks.

In two locations, broken panels will be replaced, cracks and expansion joints sealed, and a new watertight lining applied. Similar but less extensive repairs are necessary at the third site.

In two locations, portions of the aqueduct will be drained to facilitate the work while the new lining is applied. In one spot, the new lining will cover two 500-foot-long sections. In the other, it will cover an area about 1,000 feet long.

Scheduled for completion in late November, these repairs are funded by the SWP water contractors, 29 public agencies with long-term contracts to purchase SWP water.

Full 1999 water deliveries are expected to be made according to officials of the Department of

Water Resources, which operates the SWP.

DWR officials noted that 1999 SWP water deliveries, to date, are greater than during the comparable period in 1998. This is largely attributed to drier conditions south of the Delta this year. As October began, SWP 1999 deliveries totaled over 2.1 million acre-feet, more than 700,00 acre-feet higher than deliveries at this time last year

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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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