

California Department of Water Resources NEWS

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Aqueduct Bike Ride Scheduled For May 20 In Southern California

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 20.

This is the "Fourth Annual Aqueduct Bike Ride" held each May along a portion of Aqueduct operating road, 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 Oasis Road. Four routes are available to bike riders: Easy, flat out-and-back 21-mile route along the aqueduct; 34 mile hilly loop; 43 mile hilly loop, or scenic metric century mountain loop. The Aqueduct bike ride (21 flat miles) begins at 9 a.m. All riders choosing other routes should start at 8 a.m. Riders should have the wind at their backs on their return to the staging area.

This bike ride is sponsored by the Antelope Valley Trails, Recreation and Environmental Council (AVTREC), in cooperation with the Department of Water Resources. AVTREC is a 501 (c-3) non-profit organization dedicated to the acquisition of trails in the Antelope Valley area.

For DWR, the event 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 20 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), go south on Oasis Road one mile to the Aqueduct. From I-15, take Highway 18 (Palmdale Road) about 17 miles west to Oasis Road. Go south on Oasis one mile to the aqueduct.

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

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 will go to AVTREC to help establish and preserve Antelope Valley trails. Checks may be sent to AVTREC, P. O. Box 3531, Quartz Hill, CA 93536-0580. The entry deadline is May 17, for late entries add \$5.

For more information on the Antelope Valley biking event, please call an AVTREC representative at (661) 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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