

## California Department of Water Resources NEWS

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## State Water Project Deliveries Top 60 Million Acre-Feet

SACRAMENTO---California's State Water Project has now provided more than 60 million acre-feet of water since deliveries began in 1962.

This was announced today by Thomas M. Hannigan, Director of the Department of Water Resources, which planned, built and operates the State Water Project. Deliveries at the end of 1999 topped 57 million acre-feet. Year 2000 deliveries so far are at 3 million acre-feet.

The SWP in a typical year provides about 3 million acre-feet of water to 29 public agencies with longterm contracts to buy SWP water. About 70 percent of the water serves cities. Approximately 30 percent goes for agricultural use. SWP water is estimated to provide a portion of the water used by about 20 million Californians and irrigates about 600,000 acres of farmland.

"This is the 40th anniversary of the 1960 bond issue victory that funded construction of the SWP," said Hannigan. "The State Water Project is one of the best investments the people of California ever made."

The voter-approved \$1.75 billion bond issue and interest that initially funded the project are being repaid by agencies with longterm SWP water contracts.

Hannigan spoke at a VIP reception at the State Library, hosted by State Librarian Kevin Starr, honoring two new books about California water issues: DWR's "California State Water Project Atlas" and the Water

Education Foundation's book entitled "Water And The Shaping of California."

Largest State-built multipurpose water project in the nation, the SWP includes 32 storage facilities, 17 pumping plants, three pumping-generating plants, five hydroelectric power plants and about 660 miles of canals and pipelines. Among its features are Oroville Dam---at 770 feet the tallest dam in the nation---and the Edmonston Pumping Plant, which powers water some 2,000 feet over the Tehachapi Mountains in a single lift. San Luis Reservoir, the SWP's joint storage facility with the federal Central Valley Project, is the largest offstream storage reservoir in the United States.

The SWP's main purpose is to provide supplemental water supplies. It serves Northern California, the San Francisco Bay Area, San Joaquin Valley, Central Coast and Southern California.

In addition to water supplies, the SWP provides flood control, power generation to help move its water through the SWP system, recreation at SWP lakes, fish and wildlife enhancement and water quality improvement in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta.

The SWP Atlas is a 194-page multicolor reference book describing in text and illustrations major features of the SWP. The SWP Atlas is available for public purchase at a price of \$50, plus 7.75 percent sales tax and a \$5 per book shipping charge. Information on ordering copies may be obtained by calling the DWR Publications Unit at (916) 653-1097. Orders with checks payable to the Department of Water Resources can be mailed to:

California Department of Water Resources  
PO Box 942836, Room 338  
Sacramento, CA 94236-0001  
ATTN: Imaging and Records Management

The SWP made its initial deliveries in 1962 to water agencies in Alameda County. In 1965, service began to the Santa Clara Valley Water District. In 1968, service was extended into the central and southern San Joaquin Valley, and in the early 1970s deliveries began to Southern California.

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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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