

California Department of Water Resources



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ENGINEERING AWARD FOR STATE WATER PROJECT HIGHLIGHTS DWR'S WATER AWARENESS MONTH

SACRAMENTO---Recognition of California's State Water Project as one of the 20th Century's greatest engineering achievements will highlight Water Awareness Month this May for the Department of Water Resources.

DWR designed, built and operates the State Water Project, the largest state-run multipurpose water and power project in the nation.

On May 22, the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) is scheduled to honor the SWP as one of the greatest engineering achievements built during the 20th Century. In California, only the Golden Gate Bridge rates a similar honor for engineering excellence.

"America's engineers have selected California's State Water Project as one of the greatest engineering marvels of an entire century," said DWR Director Thomas M. Hannigan. "This award honors the visionary men and women who designed and built this great, innovative, and durable water project.

"For four decades, the State Water Project has reliably served California. Since starting deliveries in 1962, the SWP has supplied more than 60 million acre-feet of water to areas of need, providing supplemental water for cities and farms.

"Today the SWP serves 23 million Californians and provides water to irrigate 1 million acres of farmland."

"The SWP helped California's economy grow into the world's seventh largest. It safeguards the environment, provides flood protection in Northern California and offers a variety of recreational attractions at its lakes and reservoirs."

Key features of the SWP include Oroville Dam---tallest in the nation---the

444-mile long California Aqueduct, San Luis Reservoir---largest offstream storage reservoir in the US---eight hydroelectric powerplants, and 17 pumping plants, including the A. D. Edmonston Pumping Plant, which powers water almost 2,000 feet up and over the Tehachapi Mountains, where the SWP crosses the mountains into southern California.

The ASCE award will be presented in a ceremony on Tuesday, May 22, at the Sacramento Convention Center. ASCE President Robert Bein, an engineer from Irvine, will give a plaque honoring the SWP to DWR Director Hannigan.

Special guests will include some of the engineers who designed, built, and operated the SWP---now members of the DWR Alumni Club---as well as former DWR Directors.

This is the 14th year that DWR---along with other water agencies in California---has observed Water Awareness Month. The month draws attention to the vital role water plays in California.

"Wise water use and conservation are always good practices, especially after an unusual winter in which some watersheds received less than average precipitation," noted Hannigan. "Water agencies throughout California are doing a good job of water conservation."

In observing Water Awareness Month during May, DWR plans a full schedule of special events, including free tours on May 12 of the powerplant at Oroville Dam and a May 19 kids fishing day at O'Neill Forebay near San Luis Reservoir in Merced County.

Here is the statewide schedule of DWR's special events for Water Awareness Month:

May 5

Creek Week, Sacramento. DWR exhibits will be shown from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. at the Sacramento Science Center, 3615 Auburn Boulevard.

May 9-11

DWR will display exhibits on SWP use of power and DWR's expanded electrical marketing role to help California

meet current energy needs. Spring Conference of the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA), South Lake Tahoe.

May 12

Hyatt Powerhouse tours at Lake Oroville. Visitors can tour the powerplant under Oroville Dam. Bus tours will be provided from two locations:

1. upper overlook between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m., and
2. downtown Oroville at Montgomery and Myers Streets, between 1-4 p.m. For information, call (530) 534-2303.

May 12

Southern Field Division staff will take part in Castaic Lake Water Agency's annual open house at Rio Vista Water Treatment Plant in the Santa Clarita Valley of southern California.

May 12-13

Southern Field Division staff will host a booth at the 5th annual Water Awareness Fair to be held by the Palmdale Water District.

May 17

DWR staff from San Joaquin Field Division will take part in the Bakersfield Street Fair.

May 18

Kern County students will be given a tour of DWR's A. D. Edmonston Pumping Plant, south of Bakersfield, and have an opportunity to learn about water safety, water conservation and water supply issues. For information, call (661) 858-5500 at DWR's San Joaquin Field Division.

May 19

The 12th annual Kids Fishing Day will be held at O'Neill Forebay near San Luis Reservoir in Merced County. Sponsored jointly by DWR and the State Department of Parks and Recreation, this event is held between 8 a.m. and noon. This event is open to anglers age 15 and under. Fish will be stocked in the forebay. Prizes will be awarded. Admission to San Luis Creek State Recreation Area, site of the event, will be \$2 per car. For information, call Eva McClelland at DWR's San Luis Field Division at (209) 827-5353.

May 22

ASCE award ceremony at the Sacramento Convention Center, starting at 10 a.m. (This event is by invitation only.)

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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.

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