

California Department of Water Resources



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REPAIR WORK UNDERWAY ON AQUEDUCT LEAK

BYRON --- State engineers and crews today worked on a leak in a State Water Project (SWP) aqueduct north of Bethany Reservoir near the borders of Alameda, Contra Costa and San Joaquin counties.

Divers assisted in efforts to plug the leak in a canal segment between Banks Pumping Plant in the South Delta and Bethany Reservoir. Located in rolling hills in rural countryside, the canal conveys water from the SWP pumping plant to the reservoir. From Bethany Reservoir, water then flows into the California Aqueduct.

No housing is located near the canal. The outflow is confined to a natural drainage.

Engineers are evaluating permanent repair options. Crews and engineers have been on scene since the leak was discovered on June 5. SWP repairs such as this one are paid for by the contractors who buy SWP water, not the taxpayers.

The California State Water Project is the largest State-run water and power system in the nation. The 444-mile long California Aqueduct transports water from the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta to many areas of need in the Bay Area, central and southern California.

Since deliveries began in 1962, the SWP has delivered more than 60 million acre-feet of water. The SWP currently

serves about 23 million Californians and provides irrigation water for about 1 million acres of farmland.

No widespread service impacts from the leak are expected since this is a low demand, low-delivery period for the SWP.

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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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