

California Department of Water Resources



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AQUEDUCT FISH RESCUE

BYRON---Department of Water Resources personnel, a crew from the California Conservation Corps, and crane operators from the Teichert Construction Company rescued 193 fish today from a dewatered section of State Water Project aqueduct just north of Bethany Reservoir.

The 1,200 foot aqueduct section, near the town of Byron, is being pumped dry so workers can repair a leak discovered June 5.

An 11-member CCC contingent from the Delta Service District moved a seine between two cofferdams, placing netted fish in a crane bucket so they could be relocated downstream.

Of the 193 fish rescued, 143 were catfish. There were 28 striped bass, 14 blue gill, 3 tule perch, and 1 redear sunfish, 1 largemouth bass, 1 inland silverside, 1 black crappie, and 1 prickly sculpin. Only the tule perch and the prickly sculpin are considered to be native species.

Teichert Construction Company crews are working around-the-clock to permanently repair the leak and hope to have the project finished by early July.

The \$3 million repair bill will be paid by the 29 contractors who purchase water from the State Water Project. No taxpayer money will be used.

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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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