

California Department of Water Resources



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REPAIRED AQUEDUCT BEING REWATERED

BYRON---After repairing an aqueduct leak, Department of Water Resources engineers and Teichert Construction Company crews are refilling a section of State Water Project aqueduct just north of Bethany Reservoir.

Workers started removing temporary rock cofferdams today and by mid-morning the water level in the 1,200 foot dewatered section had already reached a depth of 18 feet as they refill the canal to its normal depth of 28 feet. Full use of the aqueduct may resume as early as Wednesday or Thursday.

“We have maximum resources on the job right now,” said DWR Field Engineer Jim Peddy. He explained that crews are moving as quickly as possible to restore normal deliveries to the South Bay Aqueduct. Those deliveries had been maintained during the repair work by transferring water from the Central Valley Project’s Delta-Mendota Canal and by pulling down the level of Lake Del Valle.

The leak was discovered June 5 after a local rancher reported two previously dry stock ponds had suddenly filled with water.

Repair costs are estimated at about \$3 million and will be paid by the water agencies with long-term contracts to buy SWP water, not the taxpayers.

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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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