California Department of Water Resources

NEWS ADVISORY

October 24, 2001

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Workshops on Water Conditions and Drought Preparedness

SACRAMENTO - The Department of Water Resources is holding public workshops to summarize current water conditions and preparations for the possibility that 2002 may be a dry year. The workshops are co-sponsored by the Association of California Water Agencies. All workshops begin at 10 a.m. Dates and locations are:

Thursday October 25

Sacramento
1500 Eleventh Street
(corner of 11th & O Streets)
Auditorium

Tuesday October 30

Tulare
World Ag Expo
4450 South Laspina Street

Tuesday November 6

San Ramon

Marriott at Bishop Ranch
2600 Bishop Drive

Thursday November 8

Los Angeles
Metropolitan Water District
700 North Alameda Street

Tuesday November 13

Redding
Red Lion Hotel
1830 Hilltop Drive

Topics to be covered include implementation of the Governor's Advisory Drought Planning Panel's recommendations, the weather outlook, potential water supply conditions if next year is dry, and actions water suppliers are taking to improve their drought preparedness.

Water year 2001 was California's first dry year following six years of wet to average conditions. Runoff in key Sierra Nevada watersheds - the source of much of California's agricultural and urban water supply - was about 45 percent to 70 percent of average. As a result, the Department's State Water Project contractors and the Bureau of Reclamation's Central Valley Project agricultural export contractors were allocated less than half their requested deliveries. Water users in the Bureau's Klamath Project, one of the State's driest areas in 2001, received only minimal deliveries.

The impacts of a dry 2001 were minimized for most other large water systems by generally good storage in reservoirs and groundwater basins, the legacy of prior wet years. A dry 2002 will result in more widespread impacts due to depletion of stored water during 2001.

For background on droughts and drought preparedness, see: http://watersupplyconditions.water.ca.gov/.

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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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Write or phone the DWR Office of Water Education for more information about DWR's water activities.