

California Department of Water Resources

News for Immediate Release

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DWR to Double Water Flows in Four-Day Test of Fish Habitat

Oroville - Beginning at 8 p.m. on August 25, 2002, the Department of Water Resources will more than double water flows from the Fish Barrier Dam into the Feather River, down to the Thermalito Afterbay River Outlet Structure. Beginning at 700 cubic feet per second, the flows will be increased in increments of 200 cfs every two hours until a peak flow of 1800 cfs is reached 2 a.m. Monday, August 26, 2002.

Total water depth will increase a foot or more, so fishermen and other recreationists should exercise extra caution.

At 6 a.m. on Tuesday, August 27, the flows will be gradually decreased by 100 cfs every hour, to 1,000 cfs.

Starting at 1 a.m. on Thursday August 29, the flow will be decreased by 100 cfs every hour, to about 600 cfs by 5 a.m. Six to eight hundred cubic feet per second is the normal release from the Fish Barrier Dam to the Feather River at this time of year.

The purpose of the increased water flows is to evaluate the effect of the amount of water in the channel upon the availability of fish habitat. The test is one of the studies being conducted for the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission relicensing of the Oroville Facilities.

The flow increases from the Fish Barrier Dam will be coordinated with a similar reduction from the outlet. Therefore, total flows below the outlet and withdrawals from Oroville Reservoir will be very close to what they would have been without the test.

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.

Visit DWR 's Website at <http://www.dwr.water.ca.gov/>