

## Department of Water Resources News Advisory

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**For Immediate Release**

### **DWR JOINS MILLERTON LAKE EVENT FOR DISABLED CHILDREN**

SACRAMENTO—For the second consecutive year, Department of Water Resources (DWR) personnel will participate in “Catch a Special Thrill for Kids” at the Millerton Lake Recreation Area near Madera on Saturday, October 12, 2002.

An extraordinary fishing event for disabled children hosted by the Bureau of Reclamation’s South-Central California Area Office and the national “C.A.S.T. for Kids” Foundation, the “catch and release” program has grown this year to accommodate more than 50 pre-registered youngsters. Last year’s inaugural event hosted 40 disadvantaged or disabled kids.

Children participating this year are from Children’s Hospital Central California, Make-A-Wish Foundation of South San Joaquin Valley, and the Fresno County Department of Children and Family Services.

Starting at 8:00 a.m., each child will receive his/her own fishing rod and reel, tackle box, commemorative tee-shirt and cap, meet the boat captains for the day and go fishing for 2 ½ to 3 hours. After the fishing expedition, there will be a free barbecue lunch and an awards ceremony.

DWR’s San Joaquin District Chief Paula Landis will volunteer her services as a boat captain and other DWR personnel will assist with such interactive activities as teaching children about water resources, fisheries, flora and fauna, and outdoor safety.

DWR’s Office of Water Education in Sacramento will provide its computerized “fishing simulator” for youngsters who want to do their fishing on dry land.

Many Fresno and Los Banos area businesses will be donating their time, educational items, equipment, materials, food, beverages, talents and services.