



News for Immediate Release

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**DWR OFFERS FREE BUS TOURS TO OROVILLE DAM ON
SATURDAY, MAY 10**

OROVILLE - As part of Oroville's Feather Fiesta Days celebration, the Department of Water Resources will offer free bus tours to Oroville Dam on Saturday, May 10.

Tallest in the nation, Oroville Dam is a key Northern California facility for California's State Water Project. Completed in 1967, the dam created Lake Oroville, with a storage capacity of 3.5 million acre-feet. Lake Oroville is the second largest reservoir in California, surpassed only by Shasta Lake in the federal Central Valley Project. The State Water Project provides a supplemental water source for about 23 million Californians, irrigation supplies to serve about 750,000 acres of farmland, water flows to meet environmental, water quality and fish needs, and flood protection for the Oroville region.

The bus tours to Oroville Dam will begin at 1 p.m. and will run on the hour with the last bus departing at 4 p.m.

Each tour will take about 45 minutes. Tours will originate in downtown Oroville at Montgomery and Oak streets, go out Olive Highway to Kelly Ridge Road, onto Royal Oaks Drive, across the top of the dam, returning to Oroville via Oro Dam Boulevard.

A tour guide will be aboard each tour bus. The tours will include tour guide presentations and videotapes showing Oroville Dam construction. A spin wheel game will be played at the boarding location to entertain tour-takers while they await buses.

Persons wishing to take the tour can sign up at the bus depot in downtown Oroville at Montgomery and Oak streets, starting shortly after noon on May 10. DWR staff will be on hand there to answer questions regarding the lake, tours, and recreational opportunities at

Lake Oroville.

DWR staff from the Oroville Field Division will hand out materials recognizing May as Water Awareness Month in California. The purpose of Water Awareness Month is to raise public awareness of the importance of water in the lives of Californians and encourage wise use of water resources.

Persons wishing more information about the Oroville bus tours on May 10 may call the Oroville Field Division headquarters at (530) 534-2303.

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.

[Back to Top of Page](#)

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