



News for Immediate Release  
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**DWR Accepts Bids for Jones Tract Pumpout**

SACRAMENTO – The Department of Water Resources (DWR) opened bids Thursday, June 24, 2004, for a contract to dewater Upper and Lower Jones Tracts, flooded by a Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta levee break on June 3, 2004.

Pumping out the inundated island is expected to begin early in July and cost approximately \$4 million.

This action to reclaim the island is being taken to provide uninterrupted emergency assistance as proclaimed by Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger on June 4, 2004.

On June 18, 2004, the Governor asked President George W. Bush to issue a major disaster declaration in San Joaquin County. "State and local agencies estimate the cost of fighting this flood to be nearly \$53 million dollars and growing," said Governor Schwarzenegger. "This emergency continues to represent a severe risk to the State, and federal assistance is needed to protect public health and safety and restore critical infrastructure."

The request specifically asks the President to make funds available to (1) cover emergency response costs; (2) fund efforts to remove debris that threatens lives; (3) restore damaged infrastructure; (4) fund hazard mitigation programs; and (5) provide additional federal funding that may be appropriate.

Meanwhile, an agreement is being drafted between the State and Reclamation Districts 2038 and 2039 that will place the Jones Tract reclamation districts in charge of all contracts subsequent to the pumpout, necessary for island recovery, with continued financial support from the State.

The State has taken this approach to emergency response in order to mitigate threats of future flooding and the impacts that such flooding would have on the State's water supply, transportation infrastructure, and adjacent utilities. It is also the State's desire to restore Upper and Lower Jones Tracts quickly so the affected farmers can return to agricultural

production as soon as possible.

Emergency response to the Jones Tract disaster has been a good example of how local, State and federal government agencies can react efficiently in times of public need.

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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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