



News for Immediate Release  
July 13, 2004

**Contacts:**

- [Don Strickland](#), Information Officer, (916) 653-9515
- [Ted Thomas](#), Information Officer, (916) 653-9712

**Pumping Increased at Jones Tract**

SACRAMENTO – Department of Water Resources officials reported today that four 42-inch pumps are now at work removing water from Upper Jones Tract. Each pump is removing 50,000 gallons per minute from the 12,000 acre farming island that comprises Upper and Lower Jones Tract, inundated by a break in the Middle River levee June 3. The first pump went into operation yesterday and three more were added by 8:30 last night.

Meanwhile, Ford Construction Company, Inc., of Lodi, which has a \$3,853,000 contract to dewater the island by mid-October, is beginning installation of four 42-inch and two 30-inch pumps on Lower Jones Tract. When all 10 of the submersible diesel-powered hydraulic pumps are running, they will combine to pump a half-million gallons per minute.

Only essential personnel are being allowed into the pumpout area, but DWR is making videotape available, on request, to television news operations. Still photos are posted on DWR's Web site for use by print media:

[Levee Break Pictorial](#)

Newspersons desiring updates or interviews at the DWR Incident Command Post should call Bill Burkhard at (209) 598-7579

Water quality monitoring will continue throughout the pumping operation. Middle River remains closed to recreational boaters near the breach repair and the pump stations. Motor vehicle traffic on the Jones Tract levee roads is limited to those who have essential business in the area.

---

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](#)

---

Visit [Archived News Releases](#) or return to the [DWR Home](#)

Contact the [DWR Office of Water Education](#) for more information about DWR's water activities.