



News for Immediate Release  
March 21, 2006

**Contacts:**

- [Rick Ramirez](#), Relicensing Team, (916) 657-4963
- [Don Strickland](#), Information Officer, (916) 653-9515
- [Ted Thomas](#), Information Officer, (916) 653-9712

**DWR Hosts Oroville Facilities Relicensing Agreement Signing**

OROVILLE – The Department of Water Resources (DWR) today hosted a signing ceremony for the Oroville Relicensing Settlement Agreement. The event marks the culmination of a six-year collaborative process between DWR and more than 40 stakeholder groups representing hundreds of interests, to benefit environmental, recreational, cultural, land use and operations resources.

“This settlement agreement reaffirms that consensus is the best way to address complex resource questions,” said DWR Director Lester A. Snow. “I am very pleased that we were able to reach agreement with so many interested stakeholders and regulatory agencies on a balanced solution that recognizes and protects the many benefits of the Oroville facilities.”

Attending the ceremony were Secretary for Resources Mike Chrisman, directors from the Departments of Parks and Recreation and Boating and Waterways, Oroville Mayor Gordon Andoe, and representatives from local organizations, recreation and environmental groups, water agencies and federal and state agencies.

“This agreement proves that environmental and developmental resources can both be protected as our state prepares for new challenges over the next 50 years,” said Secretary for Resources Mike Chrisman.

During the ceremony, DWR presented the city of Oroville with a symbolic Project Supplemental Benefits Fund check in the amount of \$61,270,000. Total cost of the settlement agreement to DWR has been estimated nearly \$1 billion over 50 years, with nearly half of those funds targeted for recreational purposes.

The signed agreement will now be filed with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) for its consideration in issuing a new operating license for the Oroville Facilities.

DWR's existing 50-year federal license to operate the Oroville Facilities (Oroville

Dam, Hyatt Powerplant, Thermalito Diversion Powerplant, Thermalito Pumping-Generating Plant, and ancillary facilities) will expire in January 2007. Obtaining a new 50-year license with reasonable terms and conditions will allow these multi-purpose State Water Project facilities to continue providing reliable power, water supply, recreation, flood control, and environmental enhancement benefits to millions of Californians.

-30-

---

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 Public Affairs Office](#) for more information about DWR's water activities.