



News for Immediate Release

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DWR to Suspend Pyramid Lake Recreation During Repair Project

SACRAMENTO -- The Department of Water Resources (DWR) will close Pyramid Lake to public recreation use beginning Tuesday, February 19, 2008, until Saturday, April 5, 2008. The closure will affect boat ramps at Emigrant Landing and the Vaquero Day-Use Area, as well as all other day-use and picnic areas.

A lake-level drawdown of about 23 feet will begin on Monday, February 18, 2008. The reduced lake level is necessary to remove sediment that has accumulated around the United States Forest Service (USFS) boat dock over the past 34 years. The California Department of Boating and Waterways will also make repairs to the boating launch ramp's east boarding float system.

Sediment removal is scheduled to end on Monday, March 17, 2008, and a refill process will begin – culminating with reopening of the lake and park on April 5.

Located in the Angeles and Los Padres National Forests about 60 miles northwest of downtown Los Angeles, Pyramid Lake and Dam were completed in 1973 as part of the massive State Water Project (SWP), the largest state-built multipurpose water project in the United States. The name comes from a pyramid-shaped rock carved out by engineers building old Highway 99. Today, Interstate Highway 5 passes by the lake and the 18,500 square foot Vista del Lago Visitors Center.

Pyramid Lake stores water for delivery to Los Angeles and other south state coastal cities. It also provides regulated storage for Castaic Powerplant and flood protection along Piru Creek.

Once the sediment removal and repair project is complete, the Los Angeles County Sheriffs Department and USFS will be able to navigate to and from the boat dock during normal low water levels and the boating public will have a new launch ramp boarding float.

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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.

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

