



News for Immediate Release

August 6, 2009

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DWR Will Conduct Controlled Burn to Improve Operation of Weir

SACRAMENTO -- The Department of Water Resources (DWR) will conduct a controlled burn of grass and weeds in the West Sacramento area on either Thursday, August 13 or Friday, August 14 in preparation for a sediment removal project at the Sacramento Weir.

Atmospheric conditions will determine the starting date to reduce the impact to neighboring communities. The burn will begin between 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. and is part of a regularly scheduled maintenance procedure to enhance the proper operation of the Sacramento Weir.

“Over the years sediment builds up in front of the weir affecting its ability to divert water properly during heavy run-offs and needs to be cleared every 10 to 15 years or so,” says Russell Eckman, DWR Superintendent of Maintenance. “We need to clear away the vegetation and to remove and properly dispose of the sediment. And the most effective and efficient method is to burn it.”

About seven acres approximately a half mile north/northwest of West Sacramento will undergo the process over a 48-hour period. DWR representatives will be on-site during the burn to ensure the public’s safety. All the necessary permits from the appropriate agencies have been obtained and are on file for inspection.

During the burn itself the public will likely see plumes of white to light gray smoke. The area’s fire agencies are aware of the upcoming procedure and understand that is it a controlled burn.

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.