



News for Immediate Release

October 6, 2009

Contacts:

Ted Thomas, Information Officer, (916) 653-9712

DWR Applauds Yuba River Accord

SACRAMENTO -- The Department of Water Resources today applauded the Lower Yuba River Accord which provides water for fisheries, farmers and cities.

Governor Schwarzenegger on Sept. 30 presented the Yuba County Water Agency (YCWA) with the 2009 Governor's Environmental and Economic Leadership Award (GEELA) for the landmark accord.

"This is an innovative proposal that demonstrates cooperation and commitment to responsibly manage and protect our natural resources for our people and the environment" said DWR Director Lester Snow, a participating agency in the Accord. "This is a perfect example of the benefits of integrated water resources management."

Increased flows for fish under the Accord are a major benefit to salmon and steelhead in the Yuba River, a prime salmon stream. Farmers also benefit by the YCWA releasing water into the system when fish need it most and local farmers least. By increasing available water supplies in the Delta, the Accord also lessens the impact of the current water shortage south of the Delta.

The Accord was reached in 2008 after lengthy negotiations among the YCWA and 17 other agencies and stakeholders around the state. One result is revised operations of YCWA facilities, including Bullard's Bar Dam on the Yuba River to provide an additional 170,000 acre-feet of water annually for salmon and steelhead.

The GEELA presented to the YCWA is California's highest environmental award.

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.