



News for Immediate Release

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DWR OBSERVES WATER AWARENESS MONTH IN MAY

SACRAMENTO -- The Department of Water Resources (DWR) reminds the public that May is "Water Awareness Month," a time to appreciate and carefully use the water resources essential to California's special quality of life.

"Water is vital to California's people, animals, ecosystems and economy," noted DWR Director Mark Cowin. "As warm weather and vacation season arrive, the need is greater than ever to use water wisely and practice water conservation."

DWR, in partnership with the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA), will continue to run the "Save Our Water" program. The program, which was created by Governor Schwarzenegger's 2009 drought declaration, aims to educate Californians about easy ways to conserve water indoors and outdoors. Visit the Web site at www.saveourh2o.org

Sierra snowpack and winter rainfall increased in much of California in early 2010. As May began, Sierra snowpack water content statewide was 143 percent of average. But the state still is recovering from three consecutive dry years. Some major reservoirs lag below average. Lake Oroville, key Northern California storage reservoir for the State Water Project (SWP), was at 61 percent of capacity and 74 percent of average, as of May 4. In addition, restrictions on Delta pumping to protect native fish species limit the amount of water that can be delivered to the San Francisco Bay Area, San Joaquin Valley, Central Coast and Southern California.

Reflecting these conditions, SWP deliveries for 2010 currently are set at 40 percent of the amount requested by the SWP contractors. DWR will continue to evaluate weather and snowpack conditions, and plans to announce a final 2010 SWP allocation at the end of May.

Water Awareness Month originated during California's 1987-1992 drought to help educate consumers on using water resources efficiently.

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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.