



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DWR to Begin Upgrading Seismic Safety at Perris Dam; Southeast Part of Lake Perris Recreation Area to Close to the Public

SACRAMENTO – Access to the southeast side of the Lake Perris State Recreation Area in Riverside County will be closed to the public beginning Wednesday October 15 as the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) begins work to upgrade the seismic safety of Perris Dam. The closure will impact the Bernasconi area of the lake, and will remain in effect for the duration of the project.

During the three-year construction period, access to hiking trails, undeveloped campsites, and rock climbing on the southeast side of Lake Perris will be closed. In addition, the road on top of the dam will be closed.

Lake Perris State Recreation Area will remain open for boating, fishing and other recreational activities. Other facilities, including picnic areas, beaches, and campgrounds will continue to be available during the construction period.

In 2005, DWR identified potential seismic safety risks in a section of the foundation of Perris Dam. DWR lowered the lake level to ensure maximum public safety until dam repairs are made and the reservoir has been further drawn down to meet drinking water demands during the prolonged drought. Boating has continued during and after the drawdowns.

DWR is working closely with state and federal fish and wildlife agencies to protect wildlife and environmentally sensitive areas during construction, and is working closely with the California Department of Parks and Recreation to minimize recreation impacts to the public.

Lake Perris, located between the communities of Moreno Valley and Perris, is the southernmost State Water Project Facility and the southern terminus of the California Aqueduct. The Lake Perris State Recreation Area is one of California's most popular recreation destinations.

Normal construction hours will be from 7:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. Notice will be provided to interested parties of any significant schedule changes and of scheduled blasting hours. Impact to visitors should not be significant.

Updates on construction progress and its impacts will be posted to DWR's Lake Perris remediation project Web site at <http://www.water.ca.gov/lakeperris/>.

Recreational questions may be addressed to the California Department of Parks and Recreation at 951-940-5600.

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The Department of Water Resources operates and maintains the State Water Project, provides dam safety and flood management 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

