



## Media Advisory

May 28, 2015

**Contacts:**

**Doug Carlson, Information Officer**

(916) 653-5114; mobile (916) 335-2299

**Jennifer Iida, Information Officer**

916) 653-3925

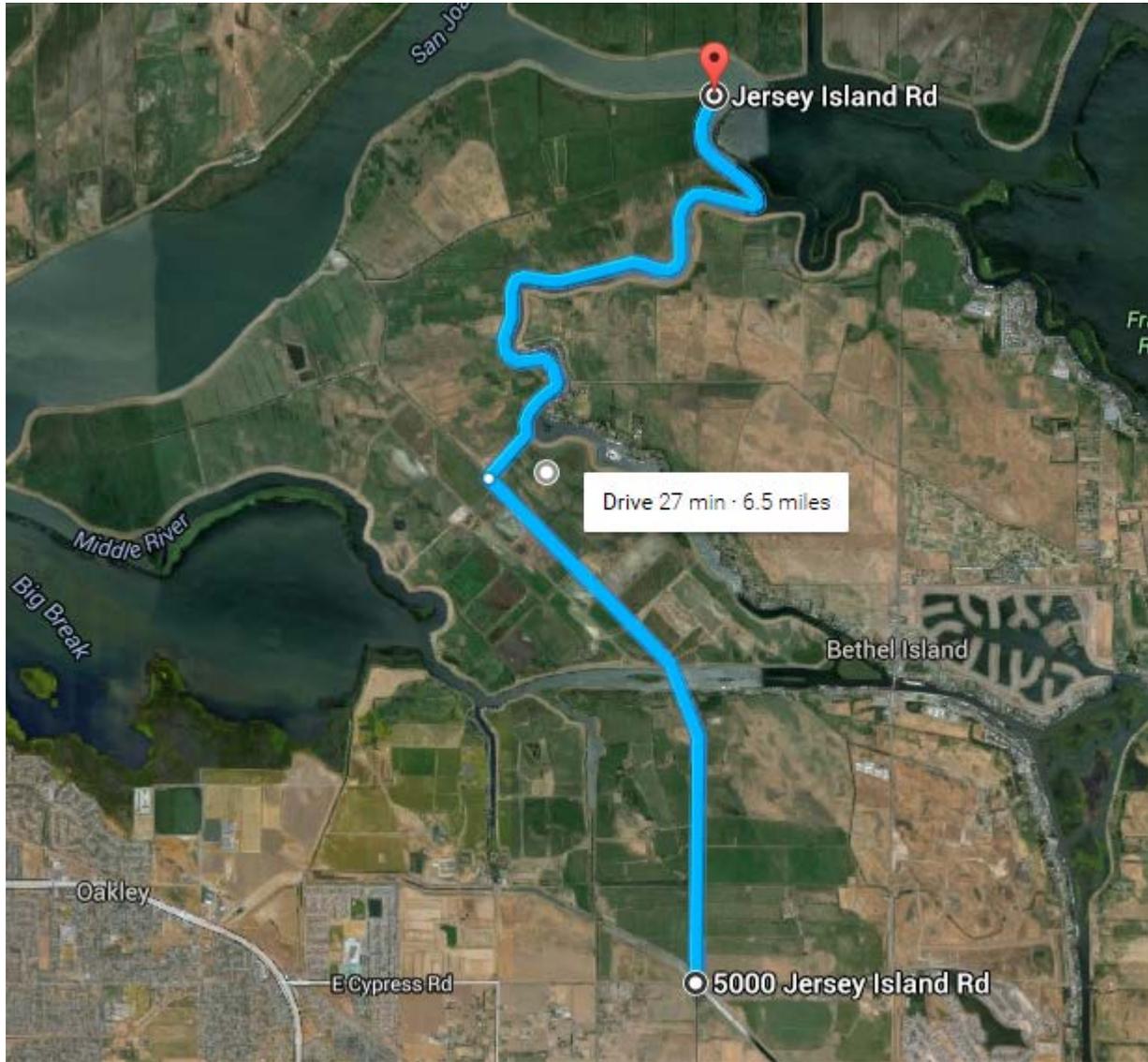
### **Emergency Drought Barrier Construction Nears Completion Ahead of Schedule; DWR To Host Media Visit to West False River Site on Friday**

SACRAMENTO — The Department of Water Resources (DWR) has scheduled a media visit to view the emergency drought barrier on West False River in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. Construction is nearing completion.

- WHO:** Paul Marshall, Chief of DWR's Bay-Delta Office, will be available to discuss the project and its benefits. Credentialed media representatives only.
- WHAT:** Site visit, orientation and video/photo availability on the emergency drought barrier project.
- WHEN:** Noon on Friday, May 29, 2015. See additional information below.
- WHERE:** On Jersey Island 0.4 miles east of West False River confluence with the San Joaquin River. See map below.
- WHY:** The visit will give media representatives up-close views of the nearly completed emergency drought barrier on False River. Due to safety concerns and requirements, access is controlled; unescorted media visits are not allowed.
- HOW:** Media *must access Jersey Island using Jersey Island Road* all the way to the island's northeast corner near the ferry landing; see map below. Media will be escorted in your own vehicles from the northeast corner of Jersey Island west along Jersey Island Road to the site. Due to safety concerns, media vehicles will be conveyed in a group to a parking area near the emergency barrier. Media are requested to arrive at the assembly point by 11:15 a.m.

Please Note:

- Jersey Island Road intersects with E. Cypress Road in Oakley. Drive north on Jersey Island Road from that intersection, stay left at a "V" before the bridge (follow the yellow center divide lines), cross bridge onto Jersey Island, drive 1.3 miles from bridge to an intersection, turn right (watch for guide there) and follow Jersey Island Road to assembly point. Total time and distance from E. Cypress Road to assembly point: 6.5 miles, 27 minutes.
- Sacramento media may wish to approach Oakley using Highway 160 rather than I-5 and Highway 4 from the east due to road construction and potential delays east of Discovery Bay.
- The speed limit on Jersey Island levees is 15 mph.
- The giant garter snake, an aquatic endangered species, is found throughout California's Central Valley, and visitors may come across them on the levee, its natural habitat. Visitors should avoid this non-dangerous snake and inform on-site personnel if a snake has been harmed.
- Sturdy shoes must be worn. Tennis shoes, sandals and similar footwear may result in injury at the construction site.
- DWR will provide media kits that will include a press release.



**Route from intersection of Jersey Island Road and East Cypress Road in Oakley, CA to media assembly point on Jersey Island. Media should assemble by 10:15 for a convoy escort to construction site.**

# FAQ: 2015 Emergency Barrier at West False River

---

## What's happening here?

*In this time of extreme drought, in order to help deter the tidal push of saltwater from San Francisco Bay into the central Delta, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) installed an emergency, temporary rock barrier across West False River, a Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta channel. The barrier helps keep saltier water to the west and protects water quality for people who live in the Delta; for Contra Costa, Alameda, and Santa Clara counties; and for those who rely on the State Water Project and Central Valley Projects.*

*During construction, sheet piles and basketball-sized rocks were placed at the site. The temporary barrier spans this approximately 750-foot wide channel between Jersey and Bradford Islands.*

*State and federal water and wildlife officials on the Real-Time Drought Operations Management team selected this single project site to install an emergency barrier in 2015 for its ability to help protect water quality while posing the least harm for threatened and endangered fish.*

## What about boat traffic?

*Unfortunately, the barrier temporarily blocks boat passage. However, it is marked with warning signs, lights and buoys, and alternative boating routes are available. For a map showing the barrier location, see DWR's [April 15 press release](#) on the project.*

## How long was it in construction and when will it be removed?

*Project construction began in early May and is expected to end in early June. To avoid the flood season and harm to migratory fish, the barrier will be removed by November 15. Some on-land work may extend until November 30.*

## How does this help with the drought?

*Two types of water project operations that help keep water in the Delta from getting too salty are 1) releasing more water from reservoirs and 2) pumping less water out of the Delta. During drought, water is in very short supply, and this summer there will be very little Delta exports to reduce. In coordination with water project operations, the West False River emergency barrier slows increases in Delta salinity intrusion, helping water managers to conserve water in upstream reservoirs against extended drought.*

## Where can I find more information?

*Please see [DWR's emergency drought barriers webpage](#) and visit [saveourwater.com](http://saveourwater.com) for easy water-saving tips.*

