



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

## NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### **DWR Launches Salmon Spawning Improvement Project**

**SACRAMENTO** – The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) launched a Feather River salmon spawning improvement project today in the City of Oroville. The project will be completed by the end of August, in anticipation of the salmon spawning season that commences in September. DWR fishery biologists have identified key spawning areas in which 5,000 cubic yards of spawning gravel will be placed. Located behind the Municipal Auditorium, the area lost much of its spawning gravel as a result of last winter's high river flows. Heavy equipment vehicles such as dump trucks, bulldozers, and excavators will be used in the river channel to complete the project.

The Department conducted a similar spawning improvement project in 2014. In anticipation of future high flow events that would require similar gravel replacement, DWR stockpiled a supply of the material near the Feather River Fish Hatchery.

The area is a popular spawning location so DWR biologists expect the newly placed gravel to get high use. Adult salmon need clean spawning gravel in order to dig their nests, called "redds," where they will then lay their eggs. This project will improve and increase the spawning habitat available to the salmon, thereby increasing the number of salmon produced.

"Immediately after we completed the gravel project in 2014, we saw a dramatic increase in the number of spawning redds in this area. It was wildly successful," said Jason Kindopp, DWR Feather River fishery biologist. "I can't wait to see what happens this time."

State and Federal fish and wildlife agencies have assisted with obtaining the environmental permits for this project and it is now ready to go.

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