



News for Immediate Release

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May is Water Awareness Month in California

SACRAMENTO -- The Department of Water Resources (DWR) urges Californians to observe "Water Awareness Month" in May.

"Water is a vital necessity for California's people, wildlife, ecosystems and economy," stated DWR Director Mark Cowin.

Water Awareness Month originated as a joint effort of DWR and the Association of California Water Agencies (ACWA) during California's 1987-1992 drought to educate the public about water use efficiency and conservation.

Today, ACWA and DWR sponsor the "Save Our Water" campaign, a continuing effort to promote water use efficiency. Created by a 2009 gubernatorial drought declaration, the program educates Californians about easy ways to conserve water, indoors and outdoors. Conservation tips can be found on the campaigns Website at www.saveourh20.org

During May, water agencies throughout California conduct outreach and public education events to deliver the message: "Use Water Wisely." DWR will participate in the following events:

May 5 and 6: Elk Grove Western Festival, Elk Grove Park. Promotion of State Water Project (SWP) recreation and invasive species awareness.

May 12: Feather Fiesta Days in Oroville. This event promotes SWP recreational

opportunities, water safety and invasive species awareness, focusing on the SWP's Lake Oroville, contained by the tallest dam in the nation.

May 19: Jack Splash/Oroville YMCA Kids Fit-N-Fun Day at Lake Oroville's North Forebay. This event puts priority on physical fitness for youngsters, and promotes SWP recreation, education, safety and invasive species awareness.

May 19: Kids Fishing and Fun Day at San Luis Reservoir (Merced County). This is the 23rd annual Kids Fishing and Fun Day, hosted by DWR and California State Parks staff and volunteers. The program provides free fishing for children ages 3 to 15. Venue is San Luis Creek at O'Neill Forebay, near San Luis Reservoir, largest off-stream reservoir in the United States. The only cost is a \$10 per car State Park Day Use Fee. To attend the 10 a.m. -- 2 p.m. event, take the San Luis Creek turnoff from State Highway 152, seven miles West of Interstate 5. For more information, call Jennifer Morgan or Howard Berman at (209) 827-5353

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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.