



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Boat Ramps Reopening at Lake Oroville

Bidwell Boat Ramp Extension Completed

SACRAMENTO – A California Department of Water Resources (DWR) project to extend the Bidwell Canyon stage three boat ramp more than 100 feet farther into Lake Oroville was completed in January. After allowing for concrete curing time, State Parks' crews opened the three-lane concrete boat ramp to the public on Monday, January 18.

Construction-related cleanup work continues this week in the Bidwell Stage two ramp parking lot. The contractor is expected to complete cleanup work and demobilize by Friday.

The boat ramp extension project at Bidwell Canyon will now allow for boat launching and retrieval on a three-lane concrete ramp down to lake elevation 665 feet. The concrete ramp now extends to elevation 660 feet, about 16 feet lower than it previously did. During the drought conditions last summer, boaters were forced to use only gravel ramps by mid-August when all concrete ramps became dewatered. With the new ramp extension in place, boaters would have been able to continue to launch on concrete through most of October.

The project will improve safe access to Lake Oroville for emergency responders and law enforcement, marina operators, the public and State Parks and DWR operations and maintenance staff during drought conditions. After a new Federal Energy Regulatory Commission license is issued to DWR, the Oroville Field Division plans to extend the Bidwell ramp another 135 feet, down to elevation 640 feet.

With Lake Oroville rising rapidly because of the recent heavy rains, the lake is now more than 47 feet higher than its low point of elevation 649.5 feet above sea level on December 9, 2015. The lake is expected to rise about another 25 feet in the next

week. Rising lake levels will allow for the Spillway concrete boat ramp to be opened by Friday and Lime Saddle Boat Ramp is expected to be open sometime this weekend.

Questions about boat ramp availability should be directed to State Parks officials, who manage the Lake Oroville State Recreation Area, at (530) 538-2200.

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While the early winter rain and snowpack are promising, this may yet prove to be a fifth consecutive year of drought in California. To learn about all the actions the state has taken to manage our water system and cope with the impacts of the drought, visit Drought.CA.gov. Every Californian should take steps to conserve water; find out how at SaveOurWater.com.

