



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DWR Observes Water Awareness Month

SACRAMENTO – As 2013 emerges as a dry year, the Department of Water Resources encourages Californians to observe May as “Water Awareness Month.”

“We are reminding everyone to make conservation a daily habit,” said DWR Director Mark Cowin. “Water is essential for our farms, businesses, and communities and we must manage its use appropriately.”

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 campaign’s 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 4 and 5: Elk Grove Western Festival, Elk Grove Regional Park. Promotion of State Water Project (SWP) recreation, the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP), and conservation.

May 7 – 10: ACWA Conference, Sacramento Convention Center. The DWR booth will highlight the “Save Our Water” campaign. A new feature – expected to launch May 1 – on the SOW website is Sprinklers 101. It will provide homeowners and landscape professionals with helpful information and a host of online resources.

May 9 – 12: Dixon May Fair, Dixon Fairgrounds. DWR will highlight the BDCP and SWP recreation.

May 11: 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 14: El Dorado County Farm Bureau Farm Day at the El Dorado County Fairgrounds. Offered to students and teachers free of charge, the event targets 3rd grade students and emphasizes conservation and the agricultural importance of water in the state.

May 15: State Scientist Day, State Capitol – West Steps. Aimed at 3rd – 6th grade students, the DWR booth will provide an activity for students emphasizing conservation and the agricultural importance of water in the state.

May 18: Kids' Fish, Swim & Fun Day at San Luis Reservoir (Merced County). This is the 24th 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 or Howard at (209) 827-5353.

May 18: Jack Splash/Oroville YMCA Kids Fit-N-Fun Day at Lake Oroville's North Forebay. This event, scheduled from 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., puts priority on physical fitness for youngsters, and promotes SWP recreation, education, safety and invasive species awareness.

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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.