



Update on State Water Project facilities: Ronald B. Robie Thermalito Pumping-Generating Plant (Butte County) and Dos Amigos Pumping Plant (Merced County)

Background

Consistent with its statutory responsibility to review the construction and operation of the State Water Project (SWP) in Water Code §165, the Water Commission will receive a briefing on the cleanup and investigation activities at Ronald B. Robie Thermalito Pumping-Generating Plant and ongoing repair activities at the Dos Amigos Pumping Plant.

On November 22, a major fire broke out at the Ronald B. Robie Pumping Generating Plant near Oroville. There were no injuries, but the facility suffered extensive electrical and structural damage. The Commission was briefed on the incident in December 2012. At this meeting, Dave Duval, Chief of DWR's Division of Operation and Maintenance, will provide an update on the incident assessment, clean-up and repair efforts at the plant.

The Dos Amigos Pumping Plant, located about 10 miles south of Los Banos on 1-5, has six pumps that provide the largest pumping capacity (15,450 cfs) of all State Water Project plants. On January 3, 2013, a heavy equipment truck's front-right tire collapsed a paved section into a sinkhole alongside a Control Building. The cause of the sinkhole was not immediately evident but subsequent work has revealed joint separation at the pipe joints between the encased steel pipe and concrete pipe transition in the discharge lines. DWR is working to stabilize and seal the discharge lines to meet the operational targets for this year's water deliveries. Once the geotechnical information is analyzed a more comprehensive repair project may be required.

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