



CALIFORNIA DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES

NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Improvements Begin at Two Lake Oroville State Recreation Area Sites *Bidwell Saddle Dam Trailhead closed starting Monday, July 31*

SACRAMENTO – The California Department of Water Resources (DWR) has begun construction to expand visitor parking lots and improve facilities at the Bidwell Saddle Dam Trailhead at Kelly Ridge Road in Oroville and the Lime Saddle Boat Launch Area in Paradise.

“Lake Oroville offers some of California’s premier opportunities to enjoy the great outdoors. And DWR is committed to maintaining and improving recreation at Lake Oroville,” said DWR Acting Director Cindy Messer. “Expanding parking lots for visitors and improving site facilities at Bidwell Saddle Dam Trailhead and Lime Saddle Boat Launch are just two examples of our long-standing commitment to invest in Lake Oroville recreation sites.”

Construction on the Bidwell Saddle Dam Trailhead will be completed in two phases. On Monday, July 31, construction crews will begin widening the existing gravel lot. The site will be closed during construction of the first phase and is expected to be complete and reopened before Labor Day, September 4. The second phase of construction focuses on improving site amenities. By the time construction work is complete in Spring 2018, visitors can expect running water, additional gravel parking and picnic tables.

Construction has already begun at the Lime Saddle Boat Launch Area in Paradise, which will remain open throughout construction. The project will also be completed in two phases. Construction crews are widening the gravel parking lot to accommodate an estimated 50 vehicles and trailers. In Spring 2018 the gravel lot will be paved and lighting installed.

The projects are set to cost a combined \$2.8 million: \$1.6 million for Lime Saddle improvements and \$1.2 million for Bidwell Saddle Dam Trailhead improvements. Funding is provided through a DWR fund dedicated to recreation at State Water Project facilities. These projects will help offset the temporary closure of the Spillway Boat Ramp and Diversion Pool Day Use Areas.

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