

News Release

RECLAMATION

Managing Water in the West

**Mid-Pacific Region
Sacramento, CA**

MP-12-143

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For Release On: August 17, 2012

Oil Release on Sacramento River Below Shasta Dam

REDDING, Calif. – In the early afternoon of Wednesday, August 15, the Bureau of Reclamation received reports of the presence of an oil sheen on the Sacramento River between Shasta Dam and Keswick Reservoir. Crews investigated and found that hydraulic oil had been discharged from the Shasta Dam spillway valve operating system into the river. The system was immediately shut down to prevent any further discharges. Reclamation is determining the amount of oil that was released.

“We are coordinating with the appropriate state and local agencies to provide information as soon as it becomes available,” stated Brian Person, Area Manager for Reclamation’s Northern California Area Office. “We are also working with the California Department of Fish and Game on containment and cleanup of the oil on Keswick Reservoir.”

The oil spill has been contained within Keswick Reservoir by the placement of an oil-absorbent boom across the reservoir near the Keswick boat launch. The boom is containing and collecting the oil to prevent further downstream movement. The type of oil that spilled is generally used around waterways and presents no threat to human health. Crews are working to collect and properly dispose of the oil.

To aid in the cleanup effort, the Keswick boat launch will be closed to the public through Monday, August 20; it is expected to reopen on Tuesday, August 21. Individuals recreating on the reservoir should stay clear of the boom and containment area.

For additional information, please contact Pete Lucero, Public Affairs Officer.

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