

NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Bidwell Boat Ramp Extension Project Completed and Boat Ramps Reopening on Lake Oroville

(Alternative heading): Lake Oroville Low Water Ramp Update

A Department of Water Resources project to extend the Bidwell Canyon stage 3 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.

Construction-related cleanup work continues this week in the Bidwell Stage 2 ramp parking lot. The contractor is expected to complete cleanup work and demobilized by Friday.

The boat ramp extension project at Bidwell Canyon will now allow for boat launching and retrieval on a 3-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 FERC license is issued to DWR, the Oroville Field Division plans to extend the Bidwell ramp another 135 feet, down to elevation 640 feet as spelled out in the Settlement Agreement Recreation Management Plan.

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 on December 10, 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.