



DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

news release

BUREAU OF RECLAMATION
Mid-Pacific Region
2800 Cottage Way
Sacramento, CA 95825-1898

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Jeffrey S. McCracken
(916) 979-2837

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BUREAU OF RECLAMATION ISSUES UPDATED WATER SUPPLY ALLOCATION FOR 1996

Precipitation in March has enabled Reclamation to increase water allocations announced on March 15, 1996. The water allocations are based on conditions as of April 1, 1996, including forecasted inflows to the Sacramento, Trinity, and San Joaquin Rivers. Reclamation's forecasted inflows have a 90 percent probability of exceedence, which means there is a 90 percent chance that 1996 inflows will be greater than the amount used to plan these water allocations. The CVP allocation for 1996 is as follows:

Contractors	Percent Supply		Acre-Feet	
	North of Delta	South of Delta	North of Delta	South of Delta
Agricultural Contractors	100	85	400,000	1,520,000
Urban Contractors	100	100	100,000	220,000
Wildlife Refuges	100	85*	100,000	240,000
Sacramento River water rights and San Joaquin River exchange contractors	100		2,200,000	880,000

* Meets 100 percent of scheduled need.

"Today's announcement demonstrates that the CVPIA and the Bay-Delta Accord can and do work," said Deputy Secretary of the Interior John Garamendi. "The environment, agricultural interests, and California's cities all benefit under the operating plan we've announced." Garamendi added, "It's particularly important to note that virtually all CVP farmers and urban customers will receive full or nearly full deliveries while at the same time we are implementing the CVPIA-mandated salmon rebuilding program and taking major steps to help the wildlife refuges. We're showing how the system can be run and benefit all the stakeholders."

(MORE)

The projected total September 30, 1996, carryover storage for Clair Engle Reservoir, Shasta Reservoir, Folsom Reservoir, and the Federal share of San Luis Reservoir is about 5.1 MAF as compared to about 6.0 MAF last year. The forecasted operations comply with the requirements of the Water Quality Control Plan for the San Francisco Bay/Sacramento - San Joaquin Delta Estuary (Delta), the Endangered Species Act, and the Central Valley Project Improvement Act. Based on the forecasted Sacramento River run-off of 18.6 million acre-feet (compared to 18 million acre-feet in an average year), Reclamation will be able to meet temperature control objectives downstream of the CVP reservoirs for protection of winter-run and other races of chinook salmon.

Reclamation and the Fish and Wildlife Service will use this forecast to meet instream flow and Delta habitat objectives under the provisions of the Central Valley Project Improvement Act. The following table lists principal CVPIA instream flow objectives for major rivers that are met by this allocation.

River	Timeframe	Flow Rate (cubic feet/second)
American River	Fall flows	2500 cfs
Sacramento River	Fall flows	4750 cfs
Stanislaus River	April 1 - May 15	1500 cfs
	Fall flows	350 cfs
San Joaquin River @ Vernalis	April 15 - May 15	7000 cfs
CVP/SWP Pumping	April 15 - May 15	Adjusted to provide a San Joaquin/export ratio of 4:1

The April 1996 allocation meets the Bay-Delta Standards and the Central Valley Project Improvement Act and, at the same time, attempts to minimize supply impacts to water service contractors.

Interior, working with the State of California, developed a plan to "makeup" the water supply impacts by using the flexibility of the State Water Project to pump additional water during October. Interior, in cooperation with the CALFED Ops Group, will determine appropriate restrictions on pumping to assure no adverse impacts to the aquatic resources resulting from the "makeup" operation.

Forecast of CVP operations are available on the Mid-Pacific Region's home page of the Internet at <http://www.mp.usbr.gov>. Allocation information is also available by calling the Grapevine at 800-742-9474 and entering 201. The Bureau of Reclamation's TDD number is 916/ 979-2310.

