

News Release

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BUREAU OF RECLAMATION ANNOUNCES INITIAL WATER ALLOCATIONS FOR WATER YEAR 2000

Sacramento, CA--Reclamation today announced its initial Water Year 2000 allocation for the Central Valley Project (CVP), noting that 70 percent of its contractors will receive 100 percent allocation.

Reclamation prepares two forecasts – one for dry conditions (90 percent exceedence) and one for average conditions (50 percent exceedence). This announcement of the available water supply is based on an update of the California Department of Water Resources' conservative February 1, 2000, water supply forecast. Reclamation will update this allocation in March 2000.

Reclamation traditionally expresses the allocations as a percentage (see Allocation Summary Table) of the contract total for each of the contract categories as follows:

Water Rights Settlement, and Exchange Contractors: These contractors are located north and south of the Delta along the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers. They generally have water rights independent of the CVP system. The total contract amount is approximately 3.1 million acre-feet. Their initial allocation for both dry and average forecasts is 100 percent.

Wildlife Refuges: These are State and Federal refuges located both north and south of the Delta. The total amount is 404,221 acre-feet. The initial allocation for both dry and average forecasts is 100 percent.

Urban Contractors – North of the Delta: Contractors on the American River and other contractors have contracts for 250,000 acre-feet. The initial allocation for both dry and average forecasts is 100 percent.

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Agricultural Service Contractors – North of the Delta: These north-of-the-Delta agricultural contractors have contracts totaling 400,000 acre-feet. Their initial allocation for both dry and average forecasts is 100 percent.

Urban Contractors – South of the Delta: The initial allocation for all south-of-the-Delta urban contractors under both the dry and average forecasts is 75 percent (120,000 acre-feet).

Agricultural Service Contractors – South of the Delta: These south-of-the-Delta agricultural contracts total 1.9 million acre-feet. Their contracts for obtaining CVP water and the difficulty of transferring water through the Delta make their supplies the most vulnerable. The initial allocation under the dry forecast is for 50 percent (1 million acre-feet) and under the average forecast is 50 percent (1 million acre-feet).

Stanislaus River Contractors: These two contractors can receive water from New Melones Reservoir after Reclamation has fulfilled its legal duties for water quality and in-stream fishery needs. Their contracts total 155,000 acre-feet. The initial allocation is 26 percent (41,000 acre-feet) under dry conditions and 58 percent (90,000 acre-feet) under average conditions.

Friant: These contractors draw water from Millerton Reservoir. Their contract total is 2.2 million acre-feet of Class 1 and Class 2 water. The contractors also have access to the Class 2 water when it is available. The initial allocation for Class 1 water is 60 percent (480,000 acre-feet) under dry conditions and 100 percent (800,000 acre-feet) under average conditions.

Reclamation has initiated specific actions in cooperation with other State and Federal agencies within the CALFED Bay-Delta Program to improve south-of-the-Delta allocations. For example, Reclamation has worked closely with the State in obtaining a joint point of diversion (JPOD) permit which will allow use of State pumping facilities to pump CVP water in March and April, and Reclamation is working through the CALFED process to acquire additional water supplies south of the Delta. JPOD can increase water supply allocations to south-of-the-Delta agricultural service contractors from the current 50 percent to as much as 60 percent, presuming that 2000 is an average water year. In addition, acquiring additional water supplies can improve water quality conditions in San Luis Reservoir and potentially further increase allocations to 65 percent. Reclamation intends to continue to focus efforts through the CALFED process in the coming months to address the long-term challenges of balancing the need to export to south-of-the-Delta contractors and environmental requirements.

In addition to implementing tools to increase this year's allocations, Reclamation continues to focus efforts on overcoming the long-term difficulties in exporting water to its south-of-the-Delta contractors. "In the future we cannot necessarily count on the use of specific tools to increase

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water reliability. As a result, it is imperative we work through the CALFED process and achieve a more reliable water management system. We have to start implementing the CALFED Program if we want to achieve a long-term fix," said Lester Snow, Reclamation's Mid-Pacific Regional Director. Reclamation and the other Federal agencies in CALFED remain committed to working closely with the State to resolve both short-term and long-term water reliability and operational flexibility issues. Reclamation and the other CALFED agencies plan to execute a Record of Decision and start implementing the CALFED Bay-Delta Program later this year.

Throughout the precipitation season, updated information will be provided as conditions warrant. The forecast of CVP operations is available on the Mid-Pacific Region's website at www.mp.usbr.gov. Allocation information is also available by calling the Grapevine at 1-800-742-9474 and entering 24. Reclamation's TDD number is 916/978-5608. For more information on Friant deliveries, please call Tony Buelna at 559/487-5117.

Allocation Summary Table

Contractors	Dry Water Year 90 Percent Exceedence		Average Water Year 50 Percent Exceedence	
	Percent Supply	Acre-Feet (rounded to nearest 100K)	Percent Supply	Acre-Feet (rounded to nearest 100K)
Agriculture				
North of Delta	100	400,000	100	400,000
South of Delta	50	1,000,000	50	1,000,000
Urban				
North of Delta	100	250,000	100	250,000
South of Delta	75	120,000	75	120,000
Wildlife Refuges	100	404,221	100	404,221
Sacramento River Water Rights and San Joaquin River Exchange	100	3,100,000	100	3,100,000
Stanislaus River	26	41,000	58	90,000
Friant				
Class 1	60	480,000	100	800,000
Class 2	0	0	0	0

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