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### MP Region Water Supply Allocation

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## Informational Release

### Reclamation Announces Increases to Water Supply Allocations for CVP Water Users South of the Delta

The Bureau of Reclamation announces additional increases to the water supply allocations for Central Valley Project (CVP) water service contractors south of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta. These increases are in line with Secretary of the Interior Ken Salazar's commitment to continually monitor and evaluate CVP reservoir levels and water run-off to determine if additional supplies can be made available to CVP water contractors. Reclamation has been in discussions with the National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to ensure that species protections are maintained and flexibly applied, when possible, to allow for increased water supplies. These discussions are ongoing over the course of the water year.

Thanks to continuing heavy storms and snowfall, Reclamation is able to provide an additional 10-percent increase to South-of-Delta agricultural and Municipal and Industrial (M&I) water service contractors; a 5-percent increase had been previously announced on March 22, 2011. Today, according to the California Department of Water Resources, the Northern Sierra 8-Station Index shows precipitation at 145 percent of the seasonal average compared to 95 percent this time last year, and the San Joaquin 5-Station Index shows precipitation at 170 percent of the seasonal average compared to 101 percent this time last year ([http://cdec.water.ca.gov/water\\_cond.html](http://cdec.water.ca.gov/water_cond.html)). As a result, Reclamation expects San Joaquin River flows to be high within the basin, including Vernalis flows, which are expected to be above 21,750 cubic feet per second (cfs) through the end of May. This increase in allocations for South-of-Delta water service contractors assumes that San Joaquin River flows will remain above 21,750 cfs through May and, therefore, that exports will not be constrained by NMFS Reasonable and Prudent Alternative Action IV.2.1 during April or May. The allocations also assume that flood flows will continue to be available at the Mendota Pool for use by CVP South-of-Delta water users through the end of May.

Reclamation uses the 90-percent exceedence model for official allocation purposes, which means that in 9 out of 10 years, more favorable conditions are expected to

occur. A 50-percent exceedence model is also prepared for informational purposes. This year, the water supply available to our contractors in the two forecasts is identical.

The following table provides the allocations by water user category:

Mid-Pacific Region Water Year 2011 CVP Water Supply Allocation Update March 28, 2011									
Water Year Type and Percentage of Average Runoff		North-of-Delta (Percentages of contracted water supply)				South-of-Delta (Percentages of contracted water supply)			
		AG	M&I	R*	WR**	AG	M&I***	R*	WR**
Conservative Forecast (90%)	Below Normal 77% of Average	100	100	100	100	65	90	100	100
Median Forecast (50%)	Below Normal 96% of Average	100	100	100	100	65	90	100	100
5-Yr Average Allocation		76	90	100	100	40	73	100	100
<b>AG = Agriculture M&amp;I = Municipal and industrial R = Refuges WR = Water Rights</b>									
*The allocation shown in the table for wildlife refuges applies to Level 2 water supplies only. A full water supply (including both Level 2 and incremental Level 4 water) to the wildlife refuges would be about 555,500 acre-feet. Level 2 is 422,251 acre-feet which accounts for approximately three-fourths of a full refuge supply.									
**The allocation for water rights contractors is based upon pre-CVP held water rights, and wildlife refuges contractors are based upon pre-established Shasta inflow criteria.									
***Percentage of historic use.									

To summarize:

- Increased to 65 percent: Agricultural water service contractors South-of-Delta are allocated 65 percent of their contract supply of 1.965 million acre-feet, an increase of 10 percent from the update announced on March 22, 2011, and an increase of 15 percent from the initial allocation on February 18, 2011.
- Increased to 90 percent: M&I contractors South-of-Delta are allocated 90 percent of historic use, an increase of 10 percent from the update announced on March 22, 2011, and an increase of 15 percent from the initial allocation on February 18, 2011.
- Unchanged at 100 percent: Agricultural water service contractors North-of-Delta are allocated 100 percent of their contract supply of 443,000 acre-feet.
- Unchanged at 100 percent: M&I water service contractors North-of-Delta are allocated 100 percent of their contract supply of approximately 340,000 acre-feet.
- Unchanged at 100 percent: Sacramento River Settlement Contractors and San Joaquin River Exchange Contractors, who receive their CVP water supply based on a pre-CVP water right, are allocated 100 percent of their contract

supply of 2.2 million acre-feet and 800,000 acre-feet respectively.

- Unchanged at 100 percent: Wildlife refuges (Level 2) North- and South-of-Delta, whose allocations are based on a pre-established inflow trigger to Shasta Reservoir, are allocated 100 percent of their contract supply of 422,000 acre-feet.
- Unchanged at 100 percent: Eastside water service contractors (Central San Joaquin Water Conservancy District and Stockton East Water District), whose water supplies are delivered from New Melones Reservoir on the Stanislaus River, are allocated their full contract supply of 155,000 acre-feet.
- Unchanged at 100 percent Class 1 and 20 percent Class 2: Friant Division contractors' water supply is delivered from Millerton Reservoir on the upper San Joaquin River. The first 800,000 acre-feet of water supply is considered Class 1; any remaining water is considered Class 2. Based upon the California Department of Water Resource's March Runoff Forecast, the Friant Division allocation is 100 percent of Class 1 (800,000 acre-feet) and 20 percent of the contracted supply of 1.4 million acre-feet of Class 2 (280,000 acre-feet).

On March 21, 2011, Reclamation declared the availability of Section 215 water for those Friant Division repayment and long-term water service contractors that enter into a "Temporary Water Service Contract for Surplus Water" with Reclamation. The availability of the Friant Division Section 215 water is a separate action unrelated to the initial water allocation announcement made on February 18, 2011. Section 215 in the 1982 Reclamation Reform Act (Public Law 97-293) defines unusually large temporary water supplies that are not storable for project purposes and, among other measures, allows non-storable water to be applied to lands otherwise ineligible to receive federal water. These conditions are anticipated to last through May; however, contractors must use all water that was approved for rescheduling from Water Year 2010 prior to taking delivery of Section 215 water. The amount of Section 215 water made available will depend on actual hydrologic and operational conditions.

Changes to hydrology and opportunities to exercise operational flexibility of the CVP are factors and conditions that will influence the water supply and allocations as the water year progresses. Water supply updates will be made monthly or more often as appropriate and will be posted at <http://www.usbr.gov/mp/pa/water>.

For additional information, please visit <http://www.usbr.gov/mp/pa/water> or contact the Mid-Pacific Region's Public Affairs Office at 916-978-5100 (TTY 916-978-5608) or e-mail [mpPublicAffairs@usbr.gov](mailto:mpPublicAffairs@usbr.gov).

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