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CENTRAL VALLEY PROJECT WATER ALLOCATION INCREASED TO USERS SOUTH OF THE DELTA

The Bureau of Reclamation today announced an update to its Water Year 2000 allocation for the Central Valley Project (CVP). Based on the recent evaluations of Federal storage and the forecasted demands, Reclamation has increased water allocations by 5 percent to urban and agricultural users south of the Delta. This amounts to a 65-percent supply for agricultural water service contractors and 90 percent for urban contractors. Reclamation officials estimate that the increase amounts to 110,000-acre feet, with 90 percent going to agricultural uses. The allocations for the other CVP contractors remain unchanged.

Making the increase possible was water made available by this year's unique demand pattern. However, water users have been made aware that the increased allocation may have an impact on Federal CVP storage in San Luis Reservoir for 2001 depending on hydrologic conditions. This year's Delta operations are not expected to be affected.

The increased allocation is estimated to draw down the CVP portion of San Luis Reservoir to a total of 160,000-acre feet, which is about 72 percent of the 10-year historical average at this time of year. This increase is a part of Reclamation's continuing effort to stabilize water supply while meeting environmental requirements.

The forecast of CVP operations is available on the Mid-Pacific Region's website at:
<http://www.mp.usbr.gov/u/www/cvo/homepage.html>. Updated information will be provided as conditions warrant.

For more information please contact the Public Affairs Office at 916/978-5100 or TDD 916/978-5608.

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