

## California Department of Water Resources NEWS

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### **State Water Project Allocations Increase to 90%**

SACRAMENTO -- Because of improved water conditions, the Department of Water Resources is approving the delivery this year of at least 90 percent of State Water Project contractors requests.

••Projections of better runoff from the snowpack will enable the project to deliver a total of 2.5 million acre-feet to the 29 contractors that provide 20 million Californians with drinking water and irrigate one million acres of farmland.

Above-average Sierra snowfall in February helped boost the initial basic allocation by 15 percent from 2.2 million acre-feet.

Officials said the Department is allocating water as soon as it becomes available to help water contractors plan their operations for 1996.

• Delivery estimates are based primarily on water in storage, environmental requirements, and rain and snow runoff projections. Allocations are reviewed monthly as snowpack and runoff information is analyzed and are finalized by May.

About 60 percent of the water goes to urban areas in the San Francisco Bay Area, the San Joaquin Valley, and Southern California. Forty percent is allocated to agriculture, mostly in the southern San Joaquin Valley.

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