

California Department of Water Resources NEWS

December 2, 1996

CONTACTS:

- [Pete Weisser](#) -- [w] (916) 653-9712
 - [Jeff Cohen](#) -- [w] (916) 653-0979
-

State Water Project Approves 2.4 Million Acre-Feet for Its Customers in 1997

SACRAMENTO--The Department of Water Resources is initially approving 2.4 million acre-feet (MAF) of entitlement water for long-term State Water Project (SWP) contractors in 1997, it was announced today. SWP supplies are projected to meet at least 70 percent of most SWP contractor's requests. Contractors requested 3 MAF.

The State Water Project (SWP) provides water to two-thirds of California's population.

Water officials cautioned that the forecast is preliminary but assumes below average precipitation for the winter. This amount may be increased during the next five months, depending on rain and snowfall amounts in the Sierra Nevada.

Delivery approvals are based chiefly on the amount of water presently stored in SWP reservoirs, a conservative projection of 1997 runoff, contractor requests and SWP operational constraints.

The SWP's main reservoir, Lake Oroville, with a capacity of 3.5 MAF, currently holds 2.7 MAF or is 77 percent full. An acre-foot is enough water to serve a family of five for more than one year.

Last year at this time, State water officials approved at least 75 percent of requests, or 2.2 MAF of the 2.7 MAF requested under water supply contracts for 1996. The SWP ultimately met 100 percent of 1996 demands, thanks to heavy rain and snowfall in the Northern Sierra.

The Department of Water Resources operates and maintains the State Water Project, provides dam safety, flood control and inspection services, assists local water districts in water management and

water conservation planning, and plans for future statewide water needs.

###

For more on-line information, see [Find DWR Info](#) or return to the [DWR California Water Page](#)