



NEWS FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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DWR Announces Initial Water Delivery Estimate for 2013

30 Percent Projection Expected to Increase with additional Storms

SACRAMENTO — The Department of Water Resources (DWR) today announced an initial allocation of 30 percent of requested deliveries to State Water Project (SWP) contractors in calendar year 2013.

The initial allocation – or water delivery estimate – is always conservative because it is made early in the storm cycle. The state normally receives more than 90 percent of its snow and rain from December through April and today's allocation is expected to increase as more storms roll in.

"This week's storms are giving us an early water supply boost, while at the same time putting our flood center on alert," said DWR Director Mark Cowin.

Today's allocation is largely based on reservoir storage – being boosted by the current storms -- hydrologic history and projections.

Lake Oroville in Butte County, the State Water Project's principal storage reservoir with a capacity of 3.5 million acre-feet, is at 50 percent of capacity, 81 percent of normal for the date.

Shasta Lake north of Redding, the federal Central Valley Project's principal storage reservoir with a capacity of 4.5 million acre-feet, is at 54 percent of capacity, 88 percent of normal for the date.

The mountain snowpack – which normally provides approximately a third of California's water supply as it slowly melts into streams, reservoirs and aquifers in spring and early summer -- today holds 58 percent of average water content for the date.

Just a normal winter will significantly increase today's allocation of 30 percent of the slightly more than four million acre-feet requested by the 29 public agencies (State Water Project Contractors) that supply SWP water to more than 25 million Californians and nearly a million acres of irrigated farmland.

The final SWP allocation this calendar year was 65 percent of requested deliveries. The final allocation was 80 percent in 2011, up dramatically from the initial allocation of 25 percent. The final allocation was 50 percent in 2010, 40 percent in 2009, 35 percent in 2008, and 60 percent in 2007. The last 100 percent allocation – difficult to achieve even in wet years because of Delta pumping restrictions to protect threatened and endangered fish – was in 2006.

Electronic reservoir level readings may be found at
<http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/products/rescond.pdf>

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The Department of Water Resources operates and maintains the State Water Project, provides dam safety and flood control and inspection services, assists local water districts in water management and water conservation planning, and plans for future statewide water needs.