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## **DWR Decreases Water Delivery Estimate**

**SACRAMENTO** – The Department of Water Resources (DWR) today decreased this year’s water delivery estimate from 40 to 35 percent of requested State Water Project water.

The reduced allocation is due primarily to a record dry January and February in Northern California, where key reservoirs capture water to supply millions of Californians. Weather so far in March also has been relatively dry. California normally receives more than 90 percent of its rain and snow from December through April.

Pumping restrictions this winter in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta to protect salmon and Delta smelt also limit the ability of DWR to meet requests for State Water Project (SWP) supplies.

November and December were relatively wet, but between November 1 and February 28, restrictions to minimize harm to native fish prevented DWR from pumping more than 550,000 acre-feet of water from the Delta to store at San Luis Reservoir. San Luis is a critical summer supply pool for the SWP and the federal Central Valley Project. Today the reservoir is 63 percent full.

If DWR did not have to rely solely on its south Delta pumping plant and had a north Delta diversion on the Sacramento River, as proposed by the Bay Delta Conservation Plan (BDCP), the department could have moved water to San Luis Reservoir while meeting existing salmon and Delta smelt protections. The ability to divert that water in the wake of winter storms likely would have led to a higher allocation for SWP water supply contractors this year.

“We reduced pumping this winter to protect fish from reverse flows in south Delta streams that entrain fish and divert them from their migratory routes,” said DWR Director Mark Cowin. “The new intakes and habitat restoration proposed by the BDCP would mitigate this problem. These ongoing conflicts will continue until we fundamentally change the way we convey water from the Delta.”

Last week, the California Natural Resources Agency began releasing draft chapters of the BDCP, which aims to both halt the decline of native fish populations in the Delta and stabilize the delivery of water from the Delta. For more information, visit [www.baydeltaconservationplan.com](http://www.baydeltaconservationplan.com).

The 29 public agencies that buy water from the SWP have requested slightly more than four million acre-feet from the project. Together, these agencies supply water to 25 million Californians and nearly a million acres of farmland.

Today’s water delivery estimate may change if hydrologic conditions improve.

Water content in the snowpack, which begins to melt around the first of April, is 57 percent of normal for the date and 56 percent of a full season’s average.

Reservoir storage will help California cope with dry weather. Lake Oroville in Butte County, the SWP’s principal storage reservoir, is at 109 percent of average for the date (82 percent of its 3.5 million acre-foot capacity). Lake Shasta north of Redding, the federal Central Valley Project’s largest reservoir with a capacity of 4.5 million acre-feet, is at 103 percent of its normal storage level for the date (82 percent of capacity).

Reservoirs will supply most water needs this year, but successive dry years would bring drought conditions to some regions of the state.

The final allocation of SWP water in calendar year 2012 was 65 percent of requested deliveries. The allocation was 80 percent in 2011, 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 restrictions on Delta pumping to protect native fish species – was in 2006.

Electronic snowpack readings are available on the Internet at:

<http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cgi-progs/snow/DLYSWEQ>

Electronic reservoir level readings may be found at:

<http://cdec.water.ca.gov/cdecapp/resapp/getResGraphsMain.action>

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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.*

## California State Water Project Water Allocation: Initial Estimates and Final Deliveries

Year	Initial Allocation (%)		Final Allocation (%)		Year	Initial Allocation (%)		Final Allocation (%)	
	Agriculture	Municipal/Industrial	Agriculture	Municipal/Industrial		Agriculture	Municipal/Industrial	Agriculture	Municipal/Industrial
1968	100	100	100	93	1991	35	85	0	30
1969	100	100	100	100	1992	20	20	45	45
1970	100	100	100	100	1993	10	10	100	100
1971	100	100	100	100	1994	50	50	50	50
1972	100	100	100	100	1995	40	40	100	100
1973	100	100	100	100	1996	75	75	100	100
1974	100	100	100	100	1997	70	70	100	100
1975	100	100	100	100	1998	40	40	100	100
1976	100	100	100	100	1999	55	55	100	100
1977	100	100	40	90	2000	50	50	90	90
1978	100	100	36	36	2001	40	40	39	39
1979	100	100	100	100	2002	20	20	70	70
1980	100	100	100	100	2003	20	20	90	90
1981	100	100	100	100	2004	35	35	65	65
1982	100	100	100	100	2005	40	40	90	90
1983	100	100	100	100	2006	55	55	100	100
1984	100	100	100	100	2007	60	60	60	60
1985	100	100	100	100	2008	25	25	35	35
1986	93	100	100	100	2009	15	15	40	40
1987	59	100	100	100	2010	5	5	45	45
1988	68	100	100	100	2011	25	25	80	80
1989	60	100	100	100	2012	60	60	65	65
1990	72	100	50	100	2013	30	30		

\* % allocation is based on the amount requested by the SWP contractors. Water contractor requests have increased over time with increasing demand and SWP completion.