



WATERNEWS

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BERTHOUD – Citing a desire to aid agricultural producers and address below-average levels in many local reservoirs, the Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District (Northern Water) Board of Directors declared at its meeting Friday an 80-percent quota for Colorado-Big Thompson Project water. This is an increase of 20 percent from the initial quota set in November 2006.

The 80-percent quota means C-BT allottees will receive eight-tenths of an acre-foot for every unit they own. The 80-percent quota will make available this water year 248,000 acre feet of Project water for agricultural, municipal and industrial users in the District. An acre foot equals nearly 326,000 gallons of water, which is approximately the amount used by two urban families in one year.

On Friday, the Directors discussed that agricultural commodity and crop prices are recovering and that local storage is low because of the continued drought. Several Board members said they believe that additional supplemental water will benefit farmers and the regional economies.

“What an opportunity for the ag sector,” said Director Kenton Brunner.

Water resources engineer Andy Pineda told the Board that in many areas within the Northern Water boundaries local storage is significantly below average. Making more water available from the C-BT Project will help supplement water supplies from local storage.

The initial C-BT quota is set in November each year and revisited the following April. The Board considers snowpack, runoff, available local storage and estimated direct diversions while striving to balance the region’s water needs. In setting the quota, the Board takes into account availability of water within the C-BT Project as well as the needs of its municipal, industrial and agricultural water users.

Northern Water operates and maintains the C-BT Project, a transmountain diversion project, which provides supplemental water to eight northeastern Colorado counties. For more information on the C-BT Project, visit www.ncwcd.org. To reach Northern Water staff after business hours, call Brian Werner’s cell phone at 970-481-2927.
