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Northern Water Board Approves Additional C-BT Water Supplies for 2010

BERTHOUD – The Northern Water Board of Directors announced an increase in Colorado-Big Thompson Project water supplies for the 2010 water year.

At its meeting today, the Board set the C-BT Project quota at 80 percent, a 30 percent increase from the initial quota the Board set in October 2009. The initial 50 percent quota became effective at the beginning of the water year, Nov. 1. A quota of 80 percent means that each unit of C-BT water will yield eight-tenths of an acre foot.

“Eighty percent will give those who do have the demand the chance to use their allotment contracts to the best of their abilities,” said Board member John Rusch during discussions.

The 30 percent addition passed on a 6-4 vote. The 80 percent quota will make available a total of 248,000 acre feet of C-BT Project water. C-BT allottees - those water users within Northern Water boundaries who own units of C-BT water - include municipalities, domestic water districts, industries and farmers.

The Board reassesses the initial quota each April, based on updated data and information, including snowpack, water available in local storage, soil moisture conditions, runoff and estimated seasonal demand within Northern Water’s boundaries. In determining the quota, the Board also considers the need to maintain C-BT Project storage reserves. The Board strives to utilize the supplemental water supply provided by the C-BT Project to complement the supplies available from native sources to ensure adequate regional water supplies through the current water year.

About Northern Water

Northern Water is a public agency created in 1937 to contract with the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation to build the Colorado-Big Thompson Project, which collects water on the West Slope and delivers it to the East Slope through a 13- mile tunnel that runs underneath Rocky Mountain National Park. The Northern Water boundaries encompass portions of eight counties and a population of approximately 830,000 people.