

June 24, 2002

For immediate release:

LOVELAND -- The water supply outlook is grim as Colorado faces the worst drought in the state's documented history.

The Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District will conduct two public meetings June 28 to talk about the situation with allottees of the Colorado-Big Thompson Project.

The first meeting will be at 9:30 a.m. Friday at the Fort Collins Holiday Inn I-25 Holidome. The other will be at 2:30 p.m. Friday at the Weld County Southwest Building, at the I-25 and Highway 119 exit on the northeast corner.

NCWCD continues to monitor and forecast water supplies and plan for 2003, and the picture is far from pretty.

Based on 2002 water use and average precipitation, District engineers estimate that a 50 percent quota for the Colorado Big-Thompson Project in 2003 will be the best-case scenario. More likely quota will be between 30 and 50 percent.

This year the District Board of Directors set quota at 70 percent and expected to have roughly the same amount available in 2003. As the drought worsened, the number dropped. A 50 percent or less quota for 2003 -- or 155,000 acre feet -- may be all that is possible.

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