

For immediate release  
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### **District Board declares 70 percent C-BT quota**

LOVELAND The Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District Board of Directors Friday morning unanimously declared a 70 percent quota for the Colorado-Big Thompson Project. They promised to give serious consideration to a maximum 10 percent increase in May if dry conditions persist.

In 46 years of full C-BT operations, the District Board has never set a quota lower than 50 percent. Faced with a succession of dry years, the Board exercised caution.

We have this (C-BT) project because we have dry cycles, said NCWCD Director Emeritus W.D. Farr. Farr has been at every meeting to set quota. This is the first time we've faced being really conservative. This isn't the last time (the Board) will have to make the tough decision.

The 70 percent quota makes available 217,000 acre feet of Colorado River water for agricultural, municipal and industrial users in the District. One acre foot is nearly 326,000 gallons of water, roughly the amount used by two urban families in a year.

The C-BT quota is set to help farmers; ditch and irrigation companies; city water officials; and rural domestic suppliers plan their water supply needs. The Board considers snowpack, runoff and estimated direct diversions, then works to balance the supplemental needs of the region with C-BT reserves.

This job would be real easy if we could accurately predict the future, said Board member Bill Brown. This will remain under study, and we'll give serious consideration to an additional quota if it stays dry.

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