

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – JULY 13, 2001

BOARD INCREASES C-BT QUOTA

LOVELAND – Water users in northern Colorado got a boost Friday.

The Northern Colorado Water Conservancy District Board of Directors Friday approved an additional 10 percent quota for the Colorado-Big Thompson Project. That puts the total C-BT quota at 90 percent for the 2001 water year.

Ag water users told the Board the additional water was necessary to finish this year's crops.

For the 15th time since the project's completion in 1957, the Board fulfilled a request by water users to increase the amount of supplemental water available.

Quota is set in April to help farmers, ditch and irrigation companies, municipal water systems and rural domestic suppliers plan for the summer. The directors balance the supplemental needs of the region with the Colorado-Big Thompson Project's long-term reserves, and if conditions warrant, they may increase quota.

Because C-BT water is supplemental to native supplies, less is made available in wet years and more in dry ones. In an extremely wet year, the C-BT quota might be set as low as 50 percent.

In April 2000, the Board set quota at 70 percent and in June increased it to 100. In 1997, the Board added another 10 percent in July, three months after setting it at 50 percent.

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