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**STATEMENT FROM LAURA KING MOON, ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER OF THE
STATE WATER CONTRACTORS IN RESPONSE TO SWP ALLOCATION PROJECTIONS**

Sacramento, CA – Despite recent rains, the California Department of Water Resources announced today that as of now, water agencies are slated to get only 15 percent of the water they are contracted to receive from the State Water Project in 2009.

“We are in a very tight situation, even with the latest round of storms. Our drought reserves are being depleted rapidly, and we have lost most of our flexibility to move water this year and in coming years, even when it is available. The drought has simply drawn the regulatory noose a little tighter. As a result, water agencies up and down the state will be forced to adopt increasingly restrictive water management approaches, including mandatory conservation, rationing and rate hikes. We need to move forward as quickly as possible with a proactive, comprehensive approach to protect fish as well as the water supply people depend on.”

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The State Water Contractors is a statewide, non-profit association of 27 public agencies from Northern, Central and Southern California that purchase water under contract from the California State Water Project. Collectively the State Water Contractors deliver water to more than 25 million residents throughout the state and more than 750,000 acres of agricultural lands. For more information on the State Water Contractors, please visit www.swc.org.