FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:
May 15, 2026

CONTACT:
Evan Swerdfeger
(949) 933-4428
ESwerdfeger@fionahuttonassoc.com

State Water Contractors Respond to Increase in State Water Project Allocation from Spring Runoff

Sacramento, CA — Today, the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) increased the State Water Project's allocation by 15%, to a total of 45% of contracted water supplies.

Statement from Jennifer Pierre, General Manager of the State Water Contractors:

"Today's announcement that State Water Contractors will receive 45% of contracted State Water Project supplies is great news for Californians. This is a significant increase, bringing deliveries closer to reflecting the year's hydrology, and giving the agencies across the state that pay for 100% of the project every year more opportunity to support their farms and communities and build resilience against future droughts.

This was a volatile water year, with long dry stretches, short, intense storms, and heat waves melting snow pack in early spring. The water available to us this year came intermittently, in short windows. Despite it all, this year was ultimately an above-average water year, yet the backbone of California's water system — the State Water Project — is still only able to provide 45% of what it was designed to deliver.

This water year has been a preview of our vulnerability in a new era of erratic conditions, and it's clear that we need to do better. As hydrology becomes even more unpredictable, we urgently need more investment in policy, management, and infrastructure that is responsive to real-world conditions so we can make the most of the water we get and can continue providing Californians with a reliable water supply. In addition to continued improvements in real-time operations using our existing infrastructure, the Delta Conveyance Project is a must-build climate adaptation project that will allow the State Water Project to capture these intense stormflows and save them for drier times."

###

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 27 million residents throughout the state and more than 750,000 acres of agricultural land. For more information on the State Water Contractors, please visit www.swc.org.