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STATEMENT FROM FRIANT WATER AUTHORITY ON THE BUREAU OF RECLAMATION'S INITIAL 2021 CENTRAL VALLEY PROJECT ALLOCATION FOR THE FRIANT DIVISION

Today, the Bureau of Reclamation announced the Central Valley Project's initial 2021 water allocation. The Friant Division Class 1 Contractors were allocated 20% (160 TAF) of their contract supply, and Class 2 Contractors did not receive an allocation, reflecting the very dry hydrology thus far in the water year. The large storms in January and early February helped avoid complete catastrophe for this water year, but still were not enough to overcome two consecutive dry years resulting in below-average water storage throughout the state. Despite the low allocation, we do appreciate Reclamation's work to issue this initial allocation early in the year, as it will help districts and farmers plan their operations for the remainder of 2021.

We anticipate that many growers throughout the south San Joaquin Valley and on the Eastside will need to rely heavily on groundwater supplies, just as they did in 2020. This which is likely to further exacerbate the type of regional land elevation subsidence that has so dramatically reduced the capacity of the Friant-Kern Canal and other valley canals. This makes our efforts to increase the availability of surface supplies to the San Joaquin Valley and to fix the Friant-Kern Canal's capacity limitations even more critical and underscores the need for resolving the valley's long-term water imbalance.