

EXHIBIT

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**April 17, 1981 Bureau of Reclamation
Press Release**

WATER AND POWER RESOURCES SERVICE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 17, 1981

Acting with the concurrence of Secretary of the Interior James G. Watt, the U. S. Water and Power Resources Service said today that release of some 98,000 acre-feet of water from Stampede Reservoir has been initiated for Truckee River fishery purposes.

Service Regional Director Michael A. Catino, Sacramento, said the fishery releases--largely for the endangered Cut-throat expected to continue into June.

Completion of the fishery releases will leave about 50,000 acre-feet in Stampede storage, ample to cover the expected demand for 5,000 to 10,000 acre-feet of municipal and industrial water needed from Stampede this year.

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The fishery releases are being made at the request of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service for sufficient water to attract spawners from Pyramid Lake into the Truckee River. Optimum level releases for fishery would actually be about 60,000 acre-feet higher, but dry conditions this year in the Eastern Sierras dictate release of the lesser, minimal amount.

Catino said the Federal watermaster was alerted Friday to begin the fishery releases as soon as possible.

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