



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Risk
Management
Agency

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TO: Ross J. Davidson
Administrator

Via: e mail

FROM: Bill Murphy /S/ Bill Murphy
Director

SUBJECT: Regional Irrigation Assessment for Davis Region

This Regional Irrigation Assessment is provided in accordance with instructions in the Loss Adjustment Manual, FCIC-25010. The Regional Office Director is required to share information about areas suspected of having inadequate water for irrigation with regional insurance providers.

Arizona: Most of Arizona is experiencing moderate to extreme drought conditions. Statewide snowpack levels range from 35% to 90% of normal and reservoir levels are below last year's levels for most reservoirs. The San Carlos Irrigation & Drainage District, located in Pinal County is only at 10% of normal storage capacity. Most of Arizona is experiencing moderate to extreme drought conditions. Based on a review of data available, Pinal and Maricopa Counties are identified where the availability of water for irrigation is uncertain.

California: The water situation in California has improved over the past two weeks. As of April 1, 2003, the statewide snow pack was 70% of normal. However, recent storms have increased the snow pack to 87% of normal as of April 15, 2003, and most reservoirs are at 100% of average.

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's Central Valley Project (CVP) has allocated 100% of their contracted allotment to land areas located north of the Delta. Land areas, south of the Delta will receive 65% of their contracted allotment, which is what they normally receive under normal water conditions. The Friant Division of the CVP (which supplies water for the east side of the San Joaquin Valley) has allocated 100% of contracted water to Class 1 water users and allocated 0% to Class 2 of contracted water users.

The State Water Project (SWP), which supplies water to agricultural water contractors in the southern San Joaquin Valley has announced that they will deliver 70% of contracted water supplies compared to expected deliveries of 75% of contracted water supplies in normal years. This will have a huge impact on agriculture water users. In the past two years, growers have collected prevented planting payments because SWP was unable to deliver 100% of their scheduled water allotment due to dry conditions during the winter to the agriculture water contractors located in the San Joaquin Valley. Since the growers traditionally had received 100% of their SWP allotments the amount of indemnified prevented planting acres (assuming all other policy conditions were met) was the difference between the amount of water they received against their historical water allotment. The California Department of Water Resources has conducted a study that states, in effect, on average, the SWP will only be able to deliver 75% of the scheduled water allotment for all producers. For more information check

<http://swpdelivery.water.ca.gov> for the State Water Project Delivery Reliability Report.

An irrigation assessment is also considered for portions of Modoc and Siskiyou counties that are located in the Klamath basin, due to below normal levels of rain and snowpack this year.

Nevada: Most of Nevada is experiencing moderate to extreme drought conditions. Statewide snowpack levels range from 41% to 82% of normal and reservoir levels are below last year's levels for most reservoirs. Additionally, streamflows are below average. The Rye Patch Reservoir, which services agricultural lands in Pershing County is only at 15% of capacity and it is anticipated that stream flows into the reservoir will only be 14% of normal. Based on a review of data available, Pershing County is identified where the availability of water for irrigation is uncertain.

Utah: Utah is again experiencing a below normal snowpack across the state. Across the state snowpacks are less than last year. In the north, snowpacks are about 60% to 75% of average and in the south snowpacks range from 54% to 77%. Storage in 41 of Utah's key irrigation reservoirs are at 53% of capacity and snowmelt streamflows are expected to be much below average across the entire state of Utah this year.

Our office will continue to track summaries of the streamflow forecast probabilities, reservoir supplies, and SNOWTEL data from the Water and Climate Center of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service and inform the Administrators Office of any deteriorating conditions. We encourage insurance providers to notify the Davis Regional Office immediately of any other counties or areas of suspected water shortages.

Please contact our office at 530-7923-5870 if you have any questions.