

Information Regarding Available Irrigation Water

Davis Regional Office

In accordance with Section 6, Insurable Farming Practices, paragraph 84 I and J, of the 2014 Loss Adjustment Manual Standard Handbook (FCIC-25010), the Risk Management Agency, Davis Regional Office (RO) is providing information it has gathered, regarding the availability of irrigation water in California Counties.

California:

California is suffering through one of the worst droughts in recent history. Virtually all irrigation districts in the state will have reduced irrigation supplies due to drastically reduced snowpacks and streamflows. For information regarding Modoc and Siskiyou Counties and the Klamath basin please review the Spokane RO's regional irrigation information.

As a result of unique environmental issues and complexities involved with the irrigated lands located south of the Delta that receive part or all of their irrigation water from the Central Valley Project (CVP) and State Water Project (SWP), the following information has been gathered for lands located in the CVP and SWP that are located in portions of Stanislaus, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Kings, Tulare and Kern Counties.

The Bureau of Reclamation and the California Department of Water Resources has determined the following:

1) As of April 1, 2014 data indicates CVP agricultural water service contractors south of the Delta are allocated 0 percent;

<http://www.usbr.gov/newsroom/newsrelease/regionlist.cfm?region=3&Year=2014>

2) As of April 18, 2014 data indicates SWP agricultural water contractors south of the Delta are allocated 5 percent;

<http://www.dwr.water.ca.gov/swpao/deliveries.cfm>

3) Additional increased water allotments may occur after the final planting date for some spring crops for either the CVP or SWP.

The Bureau of Reclamation routinely provides updated informational releases on their website at <http://www.usbr.gov/mp/PA/index.html>. The California Department of Water Resources provides updated informational releases on their website at <http://www.dwr.water.ca.gov/swpao/deliveries.cfm>. The 2014 CVP and SWP water allocations are based on the hydrological conditions that indicate that the October (2013) – March (2014) period will be one of the driest on record. The California Department of Water Resources reports the statewide snowpack is only 25% of historical average.

Additionally, the Central Valley Improvement Act of 1992 reallocated water on an annual basis for the Delta's environmental restoration purposes and mandated allocation for wildlife refuges on an annual basis. The listing of Winter Run Salmon and Delta Smelt under the Endangered Species Act has also resulted in reduced allocations. The amount of available water supplies that policyholder's would receive with historically normal weather and environmental conditions, including rainfall, snowpack and stream flows is relevant when assessing any submitted claims. In recent years AIPS have considered the amount of irrigation water that can be expected under normal conditions to be approximately 50% for CVP water users and approximately 55% for SWP water users. As indicated above the appropriate authorities have concluded the precipitation, snowpack and stream flow data for 2014 indicates this will also be a drier than normal year.

The above is for informational purposes only and may be helpful to AIPs when considering any claims that may be submitted. If you should have any questions regarding the information contained in this assessment, please contact the Davis Regional Office.