



United States  
Department of  
Agriculture

Farm and Foreign  
Agricultural  
Services

Risk  
Management  
Agency

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**BULLETIN NO.: MGR-16-003**

**TO:** All Approved Insurance Providers  
All Risk Management Agency Field Offices  
All Other Interested Parties

**FROM:** Brandon C. Willis /s/ *Brandon Willis* 6/7/2016  
Administrator

**SUBJECT:** Prevented Planting due to Reduced Irrigation Water Allocations for  
California for 2016 Crop Year

**BACKGROUND:**

The USDA and the Risk Management Agency (RMA) have received questions regarding the insurability of prevented planting claims in the State of California for the 2016 crop year.

Recently, RMA obtained information from the Department of the Interior about the on-going drought and the associated water reductions incurred by some California producers for the 2016 planting season.

**ACTION:**

Based on the information provided by the Department of the Interior, the Risk Management Agency concludes that there were insurable causes that resulted in 2016 crop year prevented planting losses related to Central Valley Project water reductions in California, primarily in the counties of Stanislaus, Merced, Fresno, and Kings. However, given the ambiguity in the Department of the Interior information and the associated litigative risks, RMA will reinsure, in accordance with the terms and conditions of the Standard Reinsurance Agreement, prevented planting losses if the approved insurance providers pay the full amount of the claims to producers in accordance with the prevented planting provisions of their 2016 crop policies. This bulletin supersedes information previously issued on this subject by the RMA Davis Regional Office.

**DISPOSAL DATE:**

This Bulletin transmits information and expires when 2016 California claims are complete.