



May 18, 2009

United States
Department of
Agriculture

Risk Management
Agency

Davis, California
Regional Office

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TO: William Murphy
Acting Administrator

From: Nancy Beaumont /s/
Director

Subject: Davis Regional Irrigation Assessment

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 within our region suspected of having inadequate water for irrigation with regional insurance providers.

Arizona: An irrigation assessment is being called for portions of Graham and Pinal Counties that are located in the Upper Gila River Basin and for Pinal County. Snowpack levels for the for the water year remains well below normal in all basins. The statewide snowpack is at 56 percent of average. Forecasts call for spring streamflow forecasts of less than 50 percent of median for the state.

The San Carlos Irrigation and Drainage District (SCIDD), located in Pinal County is only at 42 percent normal storage capacity. Inflows to the San Carlos reservoir are forecasted to be 39 percent of median for the spring. Estimates are that the SCIDD will only allocate up to 1.28 acre ft./acre compared to an estimated average allocation of 2.0 acre ft./acre. The insured crops grown in the SCIDD and the Upper Gila River Basin are barley, corn, cotton, ELS cotton, grain sorghum, and wheat with cotton having the greatest amount of acreage grown. Alfalfa is also grown in the SCIDD and the Upper Gila River Basin.

California: An irrigation assessment is being called for irrigated lands in Glenn and Colusa counties located in the Sacramento Valley. Additionally, an irrigation assessment is being called for irrigated lands that receive part or all of their irrigation water from the Central Valley Project and the State Water Project located in portions of Stanislaus, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Kings, Tulare and Kern Counties.

The statewide water content as of April 1 is 80 percent of average snow water equivalence. The statewide water year runoff is forecasted to be about 71 percent of average. Streamflow forecasts for the Northern Sierras are 65 percent, 75 percent for the Central Sierras, and 65 percent for the Southern Sierras. California's major reservoirs are below average levels. Shasta Reservoir, which provides water for the Central Valley Project (CVP) is at 63



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percent of capacity. Lake Oroville, which provides water for the State Water Project (SWP) is at 56 percent of capacity.

The U.S. Bureau of Reclamation's Central Valley Project (CVP) has allocated 15 percent of their contracted allotment to agricultural land areas located north of the Delta in Glenn and Colusa Counties. Agricultural land areas, south of the Delta will receive 10 percent of their contracted allotment, compared to the 55 percent contracted allotment, which is normally received under normal water conditions. The Friant Division of the CVP (which supplies water for the east side of the San Joaquin Valley) has allocated 90 percent of contracted water to Class 1 water users and allocated 0 percent to Class 2 of contracted water users.

The State Water Project (SWP) of the California Department of Water Resources, which supplies water to agricultural water contractors in the southern San Joaquin Valley, has announced that they will deliver 30 percent of contracted water supplies compared to expected deliveries of 53 percent of contracted water supplies in normal years.

Due to the forecasts of reduced snowpack and streamflows local irrigation districts located in the Central and Southern San Joaquin Valley may experience below normal levels of irrigation water supplies this year. The primary crops affected by the reduced allocations are ELS cotton, cotton, tomatoes, dry beans, wheat, and coarse grains.

Nevada: An irrigation assessment is being called for irrigated lands in Pershing County. Water year precipitation is 80 percent of average for the lower Humboldt River basin and streamflows are expected to be only 59 percent of average. Water storage in the Rye Patch Reservoir, which provides the irrigation water for Pershing County, is only at 23 percent of average. Estimates are that the allotment from the Rye Patch Reservoir could be as low as 1.00 acre ft./acre compared to a full allotment of 3.0 acre ft./acre. The insured crops grown in Pershing County are forage production, forage seeding, forage seed, barley and wheat.

Utah: No irrigation assessment is being called for the state of Utah.

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.