

Davis Regional Irrigation Assessment

In accordance with Section 6, Insurable Farming Practices, paragraph 40F, Irrigation Assessments, of the 2010 the Loss Adjustment Manual Standards Handbook (FCIC-25010), the Risk Management Agency Regional Office will assist in a clearinghouse capacity for information concerning regional irrigation assessments in order to identify areas, water districts, aquifers, reservoirs, and other water sources where inadequate irrigation water is suspected. The following is a listing of states and counties meeting the criteria as reported by the Davis Regional Office:

Arizona: No irrigation assessment is being called for the State of Arizona.

California: An irrigation assessment is being called for irrigated lands that receive part or all of their irrigation water from the Central Valley Project (CVP) and the State Water Project (SWP) located in portions of Stanislaus, Merced, Madera, Fresno, Kings, Tulare and Kern Counties; and Modoc and Siskiyou counties of the Klamath Basin.

The Bureau of Reclamation routinely provides updated public informational releases on their website. The 2010 CVP water allocation is based on the hydrologic conditions and the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) runoff forecast. As of June 1, 2010, agricultural water service contractors south of the Delta are allocated 45 percent, up from the 40 percent allocation made on May 4, 2010. However, the additional increased water allotment occurred after the final planting date for some spring crops.

The SWP of the DWR, which supplies water to agricultural water contractors in the southern San Joaquin Valley, increased their allotment to 30 percent of contracted water supplies on April 22. On June 22, the SWP announced the final allocation to increase allotments to 50 percent. However, the additional increased water allotments occurred after the final planting date for some spring crops.

According to the Bureau of Reclamation, Klamath Basin Area Office, the Klamath Basin is expecting water shortages. Measured precipitation in Klamath Falls since the beginning of this water year, October 1 through February 28, has only been about 45 percent of average. The reduced precipitation has resulted in extremely low inflows into Upper Klamath Lake (UKL). UKL is the primary source of water for 180,000 acres of irrigated agriculture. The low inflows into UKL have resulted in record low lake elevations and water storage. UKL is currently 1.9 feet or 150,000 acre feet below the required lake elevations currently needed to begin irrigation deliveries around the first of April. The March 15th snowmelt runoff forecast from NRCS estimates that April through September inflows will be only about 310,000 acre feet, or about 60% of

average. The low estimated inflows coupled with the current large storage deficit in Upper Klamath Lake have greatly curtailed surface water supplies available for irrigation this year.

For purposes of prevented planting based on the information provided in this document, AIPs should use 45% of the historic allotment for the CVP and 45% of Table A allotment as a baseline for the amount of water a producer can expect to receive in normal conditions. This information may be helpful to approved insurance providers when adjusting prevented planting claims. Table A water is defined by the SWP as the maximum amount of water delivered to each contractor if water is available and if the contractors request their full allotments.

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

Nevada: An irrigation assessment is being called for irrigated lands in Pershing County. According to the Water and Climate Center of the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service, the water precipitation is 69 percent of average for the lower Humboldt River Basin and stream flows are expected to be only 42 percent of average. The Rye Patch Reservoir, which provides the irrigation water for Pershing County, is only at 27 percent of average. According to the Pershing County Water Conservation District of Nevada, the initial estimate on the allotment from the Rye Patch Reservoir will only be 0.4 acre feet/acre compared to a full allotment of 3.0 acre feet/acre.

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 Administrator's Office of any deteriorating conditions.

If you should have any questions regarding the information contained in this assessment, please contact the Davis Regional Office.

This assessment is being provided for information purposes only. Approved insurance providers will make their own claim determinations based on the individual policyholder's agronomic situation relative to available irrigation water. This information is not a factual determination on the part of the Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, the Risk Management Agency, or the Davis Regional Office.

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