

Information Regarding Available Irrigation Water

Davis Regional Office

In accordance with Section 6, Insurable Farming Practices, paragraph 40F(2), of the 2012 the Loss Adjustment Manual Standards Handbook (FCIC-25010), the Risk Management Agency, Davis Regional Office (RO) is providing information it has gathered, regarding the availability of irrigation water in certain California Counties.

California:

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 16, 2012, data indicates CVP agricultural water service contractors south of the Delta are only allocated 40 percent;

<http://www.usbr.gov/newsroom/newsrelease/regionlist.cfm?region=3&Year=2012>

2) As of April 16, 2012, data indicates SWP agricultural water contractors south of the Delta are allocated only 60 percent <http://www.dwr.water.ca.gov/swpao/deliveries.cfm>

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

The Bureau of Reclamation routinely provides updated public informational releases on their website at www.usbr.gov/mp. The 2012 CVP water allocation is based on the hydrologic conditions and the California Department of Water Resources (DWR) runoff forecast which they conclude current stream inflows through March are only 55 percent of the historical average and the statewide snowpack is only 64% of the 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 the 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 dry years, RMA understands AIPs have considered the amount of irrigation water that can be expected under normal conditions to be approximately 55% of the full allotment for CVP and SWP water users and as indicated above the appropriate authorities have concluded precipitation, snowpack, and stream flow data for 2012 indicates this will also be a dryer than normal year.

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