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April 4, 2001

To: Phyllis W. Honor  
Acting Administrator

From: Ronald L. Berryhill */s/ Ron Berryhill*  
Director

Subject: Regional Irrigation Assessment for Cameron, Hidalgo, Willacy and Starr Counties in  
the Lower Rio Grande Valley of Texas

This Regional Irrigation Assessment is being provided in accordance with instructions in the Loss Adjustment Manual, FCIC-25010. The Regional Office Director is required to share information about areas suspected of having inadequate water for irrigation.

Amistad Reservoir is currently at 67 percent of capacity, up from 43.3 percent of capacity last month. Falcon is holding at 18 percent, up from 12.9 percent last month. The combined level of both reservoirs is at about 35 percent of capacity.

Some districts are still restricting water use to one watering and several districts are telling users they can only deliver .7 of a watering. The only district not imposing any restrictions at this time, Harlingen water district, has all the water they need.

The demand for water is low at the current time and moisture conditions in general are adequate for planting. Peak demand periods for water use occur in late May, June and part of July.

Current storage levels are slightly above where they were this time last year and two conditions currently exist that should improve the predictability for the availability of water in the near future: 1) All winter there have been slight increases in district allocations on a month by month basis due to increased stream inflows into both reservoirs. That did not happen last year. And 2) an additional 75,000 acre feet of water currently being held in storage will be eligible for release in May of this year because of a rule change in the allocation laws.

The crops that may be impacted by the suspected lack of irrigation water in this area are corn, cotton, grain sorghum and sugar cane. The suspected lack of irrigation water is a continuation of drought conditions that have persisted in this area for several years.

