

PANOCHE WATER DISTRICT

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March 26, 2021

Subject: Updated water supply forecast

Dear growers,

On March 23rd, the Bureau of Reclamation announced the 5% 2021 CVP water allocation to the District “is not available for delivery until further notice.” It is unclear when, or even if, the allocation will again be available for this year’s irrigation season. To help growers respond to Reclamation’s action, the District has prepared a water supply forecast for each grower reflecting the quantity of 2020 Rescheduled water on individual accounts as well as providing an estimate of currently known supplemental supplies that may be available for allocation to growers. These estimates are enclosed with this letter.

At this time, we continue to believe individual rescheduled supplies are secure in San Luis Reservoir. Reclamation’s rescheduling guidelines require that this be the first project water used and you will see that usage accounted for in your monthly water supply statement as you irrigate. It is also important to remember the Rescheduled water will incur a 1% per month loss beginning in April and, so to, these losses will be reflected in your monthly statements.

As for supplemental water, the District has some currently under contract; however, these supplies could also be at risk of future regulatory decisions due to the ongoing, severely dry conditions. As a result, we provide the enclosed estimate of potential supplemental supply for informational purposes only to help inform your planning. We will update growers’ statements on a monthly basis as water is delivered to the District. If at such time it becomes clear that these supplemental supplies are secure, the District will then allocate the balance to individual accounts for usage.

The District continues to work to source additional supplemental supplies. Costs for these potential supplies will be high, around \$1,000 per acre-foot or more, and, as such, the District will make these additional supplies, if available, on a subscription basis so that each grower has the opportunity to make an independent decision.

We recognize how difficult the current circumstance is for everyone and are working diligently with the Board of Directors to develop and implement actions aimed at mitigating the effects of this latest drought. Upcoming, I anticipate the Board to further relax the District’s internal water quality standards to make more groundwater available for conveyance through the District’s systems. We will continue to keep you apprised of changes as they occur and, as always, encourage you to reach out to your customer service representatives, Sandra Reyes and Josh Marquez, for information and support. And, you can always reach out to me directly at any time. We wish everyone the best through these trying times... pray for rain.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Ara Azhderian', is written over a light blue circular background.

Ara Azhderian

Reclamation Updates Central Valley Project 2021 Water Supply Allocation

Media Contact: Mary Lee Knecht 916-978-5100 mknecht@usbr.gov

For Release: Mar 23, 2021

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — Today, the Bureau of Reclamation announced an update to the initial Central Valley Project 2021 water supply allocation for agricultural water service contractors south-of-Delta. Allocation amounts are based on an estimate of water available for delivery to CVP water users and reflects current reservoir storages, precipitation, and snowpack in the Central Valley and Sierra Nevada.

"Although conservative hydrologic data was used to develop the initial CVP water supply allocation, inflow projections to CVP reservoirs have decreased from February forecasts, which further constrain available water supply," said Regional Director Ernest Conant. "After careful consideration of water management options, we are adjusting the allocation for south-of-Delta agricultural contractors. As always, we will continue to monitor hydrology as the water year progresses and continue to look for opportunities for operational flexibility."

Northern California has about 51% of average precipitation for this time of year; statewide average snowpack levels are at 63% of average. Ongoing dry conditions will require the coordination of federal, state and local agencies. Today, the California Department of Water Resources, which operates the State Water Project, is expected to announce a reduction in its anticipated water supplies.

Due to worsening hydrologic conditions, Reclamation is announcing the following update to the initial 2021 CVP water supply allocation:

- Agricultural water service contractors south-of-Delta allocation of 5% of their contract supply is not available for delivery until further notice.

There are no updates to other CVP allocations at this time.

As the water year progresses, changes in hydrology and opportunities to deliver additional water will influence future allocation decisions. Water supply updates will be made as appropriate and posted at <https://www.usbr.gov/mp/cvp-water/index.html>.